Ranjit Singh was one such ruler who gave revenue free grants to the individuals and institutions of contemporary religious systems irrespective of his own religious affiliation. He not only patronized various creative and professional classes but also gave endowments even to the helpless, the physically challenged and downtrodden. His lavishness and munificence were remarkable. Even on his deathbed, he bestowed large sums to the persons of religious character.¹

To begin with the religious individuals and institutions, Golden Temple, the premier institution of Sikhism, received number of grants from Ranjit Singh. Though Lahore was the capital of the State of Ranjit Singh but Amritsar and the Golden Temple were frequently visited by him. Immediately after the conquest of Amritsar, Ranjit Singh formed a committee of prominent Sikhs and citizens to look after the affairs of the sacred shrine. Misar Chhaju Mal was appointed the collector of customs at Amritsar. The income from octroi was gifted to Darbār Sāhib by Ranjit Singh.² His first visit recorded in the Umdat ut-Tawarikh took place around Diwali day in 1809 when he distributed gold and silver and cows and horses among the people.³

On the Baisakhi in 1814, for example, the Maharaja bathed in Sri Amritsar Sahib and made an offering of 5,000 rupees at Darbār

¹ Kahan Chand Khanna, ‘Court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh’, Manuscript, MS, M/ 7/3993, p.19, Punjab State Archives, Patiala.
After the conquest of Kashmir, the Maharaja visited Amritsar to express his gratitude. He offered 1,000 rupees at Harmandir Sahib and the Akal Bunga. Occasion of Sankrant was marked by visit of Ranjit Singh to the holy place. On the said occasion on 13th January 1816 after the taking bath in tank at Harmandar Sahib the Maharaja offered charities and nazrs before the Granth Sahib.

During his visit to the Darbar Sahib in August 1835, an order for the preparation of a marble floor for the Holy place and its parkarma was issued by him. Bhai Gurmukh Singh was given 11,000 rupees for its preparation. A bejewelled gold umbrella, 500 gold coins for gold work, a carpet, one rumala along with an offering of 2,500 rupees was offered at the shrine. On the Sankrant of Jeth (May) 1836, Ranjit Singh made an offering of 5,100 rupees to the holy place and he also ordered all the princes and nobles and other eminent individuals associated with the State, to make offerings at Darbar Sahib on the said occasion. Similarly, on the Sankrant of Baisakh in 1838, he by way of sankalp, gave 5,000 rupees, an elephant with a silver seat, horse with gold saddle and eleven pitchers of gold.

Even the individuals attached to the Golden Temple received munificent grants. Sham Singh, Jassa Singh and Makhan Singh Granthi received grants worth 2,160 rupees from Ranjit Singh. Darbara Singh, the pujari of the Golden Temple, received grant of a village worth 700 rupees in Amritsar in 1830 along with a well worth fifty rupees in Shahpur held from the grantor since 1813. Ram Singh

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9 Ibid., p. 419.
was another *pujari* of the Golden Temple to holding a half a share of village worth fifty rupees in *pargana* Talwandi since 1832. Sahib Singh and Jodh Singh were the two *ardāsias* to be patronized by the Maharaja. Sahib Singh received two revenue-free land grants worth 450 rupees, both in Sialkot. Jodh Singh received seven grants worth 1,467 rupees between the years 1810 and 1828 in Multan, Shakargarh, Sialkot, Amritsar and Hoshiarpur. Ragi Majja Singh is also known to have received three grants worth 610 rupees in 1809, 1823 and 1828. Mansa Singh was another *ragi* to received a village worth 435 rupees in *pargana* Saurian in 1815. Rabābi Bhai Rau received a village worth 400 rupees in *pargana* Shakargarh in 1818. Various *dhupias* to receive grants from Ranjit Singh were Sohail Singh, Mela Singh and Sant Singh. Sohail Singh received a well worth 60 rupees in Wazirabad in 1813 and three-fourth share of a village in Multan in 1819. Mela Singh received well and a share in Amritsar worth 160 rupees in 1823 and 1825. Sant Singh, a *dhupia*, received a well worth sixty rupees in Batala in 1828. Even *shamāfaroz* (lighter of lamps) received grants from Ranjit Singh. Mala Singh and Chet Singh, the lighter of lamps, were given revenue-free grants worth 21 rupees and 400 rupees in 1822 and 1827, respectively. 10

The individuals associated with the establishment to receive grants from Ranjit Singh were *granthīs, mutasaddis, pujārīs, ardāsias, rabābīs, rāgīs, dhupias* and *shamāfaroz*. Even the sweepers of the Golden Temple were among the recipients of grants. They received a share of village worth 62 rupees in Amritsar. Grants of the value of 4,160 rupees; 1,917 rupees; 1,045 rupees; 840 rupees; 800 rupees; 655 rupees; 421 rupees; 400 rupees and sixty three rupees were alienated to *granthīs, ardāsias, rāgīs, mutasaddis, pujārīs, dhupias, shamāfaroz* and sweepers of the establishment. They are known to have received nearly thirty-three grants worth 8,258 rupees from

10 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 10 June 1853, No. 218. This file contains a large number of grants given to Golden Temple.
Ranjit Singh. Earliest grant given by Ranjit Singh to the institution was in 1808 when a well worth one hundred rupees was assigned to Sahib Singh Ardásia in Qasba Daska in Sialkot district. The latest to be given to the institution was in 1835 when Jassa Singh Granthi received a village worth 1,100 in tappa Khalsa in Peshawar. The latter was also the maximum amount to be given in grant to any person associated with the Golden Temple. The minimum amount given in a single instance was twenty-five rupees assigned by Ranjit Singh to Jodh Singh Ardásia in 1828 in the village Dugal of Sialkot.11

The following table gives the detail of the grants given to individuals for their services at the Golden Temple by Ranjit Singh:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No.</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Total number of grants</th>
<th>Amount in rupees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Head Granthi</td>
<td>Jodh Singh</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Granthi</td>
<td>Makhan Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pujari</td>
<td>Darbara Singh</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pujari</td>
<td>Ram Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mutsaddi</td>
<td>Bhāi Sobha Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mutsaddi</td>
<td>Ram Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mutsaddi</td>
<td>Nam Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ardásia</td>
<td>Sahib Singh</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ardásia</td>
<td>Jodh Singh</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rağī</td>
<td>Majja Singh</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rağī</td>
<td>Marsea Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rabābī</td>
<td>Bhāi Raoo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dhupia</td>
<td>Sohcl Singh</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Dhupia</td>
<td>Mela Singh</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dhupia</td>
<td>Sant Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 10 June 1853, No. 218.
The bungās were the next category to be patronized by Ranjit Singh. A total of twenty-three grants worth 11,873 rupees were given to various bungās and the persons attached to them. Akal Bunga, Jhanda Bunga, Shahid Bunga, Bunga Sarkarwala, Ramgarhia Bunga and Bunga of Naina Singhwala were the institutions enjoying Ranjit Singh’s bounty. The maximum amount of grant enjoyed by Akal Bunga from Ranjit Singh was to the tune of 5,324 rupees. The next to follow was Bunga Sarkarwala, a costly building constructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh adjoining Golden Temple, with grants worth 2,279 rupees. Shahid Bunga, Jhanda Bunga, Bunga of Naina Singhwala and Ramgarhia Bunga were next to follow receiving 2,000 rupees, 1,000 rupees, 870 rupees and 400 rupees respectively. Out of total grants given to Akal Bunga, 3,496 rupees were given as offering to the establishment itself and rest was given to the persons attached with it like ardāsias, pujāris, hukmnāmis and khazanchis. Out of the twenty-three grants, three were assigned in Rachna Doab; eighteen were distributed in Bari Doab, one each in Bist Jalandhar Doab and cis-Sutlej territory. As in the case of Golden Temple, here too, more than half grants were given in Amritsar.¹²

Earliest of the grants given to bungās by Ranjit Singh was in 1803 when share of a well worth 150 rupees in pargana Sialkot was given as an offering to Akal Bunga.¹³ Latest grant was given in 1832; a village worth 900 rupees was assigned in Hoshiarpur to the Bhāis of Shahid Bunga.¹⁴ Maximum amount in a single grant was given to Akal Bunga from village Judala in Sialkot worth 2,000 rupees. Minimum amount to be alienated to any of the bungās or to persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Shamafaroz</td>
<td>Chet Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Shamafaroz</td>
<td>Mala Singh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20-13-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sweeper</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>62-8-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹² Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2207; 14 January 1853, No. 219; 10 June 1853, Nos. 218-219.
¹³ Foreign/Political Proceedings, 10 June 1853, No. 218.
¹⁴ Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2207.
attached was a share of village Syadpur in ta'alluqa Muttewal in Amritsar district worth twenty-six rupees. It was given to Gulab Singh Pujari of Akal Bunga in 1823.15

Ranjit Singh encouraged construction of Gurdwārās, which were endowed with jāgīrs; rasad (daily provision) was also provided for these. Besides the Golden Temple and bungās in Amritsar, The Gurdwārās scattered all over Punjab were also patronized by Ranjit Singh. The Maharaja contributed liberally to the Gurdwārās at Dera Baba Nanak, Goindwal, Khadur, Sialkot, Taran Taran and Nanded.16 A minimum of twenty-one grants worth 14,830 rupees were alienated by the ruler. The Gurdwārā related to particular incidents of life of all the Sikh Gurūs, from Gurū Nanak to Gurū Gobind Singh, were richly endowed by the Maharaja. Gurdwārā Janam Asthan of Guru Nanak at Darbār Nankana Sahib at Shaikhupura was given immense grants during the Sikh rule.17 Grants worth 608 rupees were assigned by Ranjit Singh for its maintenance.18 A minimum of 20,000 acres of land was kept separate for Gurū ka Langar.19 Gurdwārā Bal Lila, received land for its maintenance worth 700 rupees.20 Darbār Malji Sahib, known as Darbār Sahib Mahisthan, received grants worth sixty-six rupees from the said Maharaja.21 Darbār Manji Sahib, also known as Gurdwārā Nanaksar in Shaikhupura, also received grant of seventy rupees from Ranjit Singh.22 Another important Gurdwārā at Nankana Sahib to receive endowment was Gurdwārā Saccha Saudha at Chuharkana in Shaikhupura where Ranjit Singh got a beautiful Gurdwārā and assigned 600 rupees for the institution. 23

15 Ibid., 10 June 1853, Nos. 218-219.
18 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 241.
20 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 241
21 Loc.cit.
22 Ibid., 28 November 1856, No.128; Giani Thakar Singh, Sri Gurdwara Darshan, p.14
Rori Sahib in Eminabad was given endowments by the Maharaja to the tune of 168 rupees.\textsuperscript{24} Gurdwārā Babe di Ber, at Shakargarh in Gurdaspur, received forty bigas of land from the Maharaja.\textsuperscript{25} Sialkot has a Gurdwārā Baoli Sahib, which was endowed with a village worth 400 rupees by Ranjit Singh in 1830 for feeding the poor.\textsuperscript{26} A, Gurdwārā named Gurdwārā Matan Sahib at Askardu, in Kashmir was also endowed with a jägir by Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{27} Gurdwārā Panja Sahib at Hassan Abdal, near Rawalpindi, was given a jägir of 500 rupees by Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{28} This place was visited by the grantor more than once in his lifetime.\textsuperscript{29} Gurdwārā Kera Sahib in Gujrat received 5,000 rupees in cash and forty squares of land from the ruler of Lahore.\textsuperscript{30} Gurdwārā Chashma Sahib at Rohtas and Gurdwārā Achal Sahib at Batala received both land and cash from Ranjit Singh for maintenance.\textsuperscript{31} Gurdwārā Kartarpur Sahib, where Guru Nanak stayed during the last years of his life, received 375 rupees yearly cash allowance and seventy ghumāons of land.\textsuperscript{32}

Dera of Gurū Angad, the second Sikh Gurū, at Khadur Sahib was given a dharmarth grant worth 3,000 rupees in Amritsar through Baba Sarmukh Singh Mahant in 1827.\textsuperscript{33} Baoli Sahib and Chaubara Sahib of Gurū Amar Das received 1,033 rupees five annas and four paisa from Ranjit Singh for its sadābart.\textsuperscript{34} A grant worth 700 rupees was given for the Dera of Gurū Ram Das at Lahore by Ranjit Singh in

\textsuperscript{24} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 241; Nabha, Encyclopaedia of the Sikh Literature, Vol. I, p. 325.
\textsuperscript{26} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 241; Harbans Singh, Encyclopaedia, Vol. IV, p. 122.
\textsuperscript{27} Shamsher Singh Ashok, Parsidh Gurduare, pp. 30-31.
\textsuperscript{29} Harbans Singh, Encyclopaedia, Vol. III, p. 280.
\textsuperscript{30} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 241; Nabha, Encyclopaedia of the Sikh Literature, Vol. II, p. 881.
\textsuperscript{32} Shamsher Singh Ashok, Parsidh Gurduare, pp. 5-6.
\textsuperscript{33} Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, No. 48-51.
\textsuperscript{34} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 199; Hari Ram Gupta, History of the Sikhs, Vol. V, p. 418.
1800 A.D.35 A number of gurdwārās related to the life of Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Guru of the Sikhs, were endowed by Ranjit Singh. First of all, Gurdwārā at village Bilga in Phillaur in Jalandhar and Gurdwārā Pind Ram Das, in Gujranwala, received grants from the Maharaja.36 Gurdwārā Dukh Niwarān at Tarn Taran in Amritsar received a village worth 500 rupees from him.37 Gurdwārā Korhgarh Sahib at the same place was also endowed by Ranjit Singh.38 Gurū Ka Bagh Gurdwārā, now known as Gurdwārā Manji Sahib, at Amritsar was provided with one hundred ghumāons of land.39 Gurdwārā Dukh Bhanjani Beri in Amritsar received grants worth 325 rupees from the Maharaja in 1827.40 The Baoli of Gurū Arjan at Lahore was granted income of fifty shops located around it.41 Another religious institution related to Guru Arjan Dev’s martyrdom at Lahore was endowed with village Nandipur in pargana Daska in Sialkot.42

The Gurdwārās of Gurū Hargobind, the sixth Gurū, like Koṭhi Tīrath in Baramulla in Kashmir, Gurdwārā Sahib Muzaffarabād in Jammu, Gurdwārā Gurusar in Nihalsinghwala in Moga district, Tambu Sahib in Dasuya area of Hoshiarpur, Gurdwārā Garna Sahib in Hoshiarpur, Gurdwārā Daroli Sahib in Ferozpur district, Gurū ka Koṭha in Wazirabad and Gurdwārā Sahib in village Hehar in Raikot were patronized by Ranjit Singh.43 Grants were also assigned to Darbâr Sahib Mangat for its sadābart, i.e. running free kitchen.44

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35 Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos. 48-51.
38 Giani Thakar Singh, Sri Gurdware Darshan, pp. 89-90.
40 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, Nos. 234-36.
There is only one reference to a grant given by Ranjit Singh to Gurdwārā dedicated to Guru Har Rai, the seventh Sikh Guru. A piece of land measuring seventy-one ghumāons in Hoshiarpur was granted to Gurdwārā Harian Vela in Hoshiarpur.\(^{45}\) Similarly, Gurdwārā dedicated to Gurū Har Krishan, the eighth Sikh Gurū, received 200 bīghas of land in village Panjkhora in Ambala during the Sikh rule.\(^{46}\) The Gurdwārās dedicated to Gurū Teg Bahadur, were also patronized by Ranjit Singh, these were: Gurdwārā Kotha Sahib at Amritsar, Gurdwārā at Garhshankar and Nawanshahar.\(^{47}\)

A number of Gurdwārās of Gurū Gobind Singh were endowed by Ranjit Singh. Establishments at Anandpur received handsome grants worth 1,550 rupees in Hoshiarpur district.\(^{48}\) Other gurdwārās to have received grants, from Ranjit Singh were in Hafizabad, Alamgir, Samrala, Muktsar, Moga and Garhshankar.\(^{49}\) The Gurdwārā at Abchal Nagar in Deccan was assigned grants worth 5,000 rupees by the ruler.\(^{50}\) The Gurdwārā related to sons of Gurū Gobind Singh were provided alienations by Ranjit Singh. For instance, Gurdwārā Manji Sahib at Anandpur, where Gurū’s sons Ajit Singh, Jhujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, received education, was granted land worth eighty rupees from the village Surewal in Anandpur.\(^{51}\) A Gurdwārā named Chamkaur Sahib was raised in Morinda in Ropar where the two elder sons of the Gurū, Ajit Singh and Jhujhar Singh, died while fighting battle with the Mughals in 1705. The same was endowed with grants worth 1,175 rupees in parganas Bharatpur and

\(^{45}\) Nabha, Encyclopaedia of the Sikh Literature, Vol. II, pp. 674-75.
\(^{48}\) Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2207.
Nurpur in Ludhiana by the Maharaja. The Gurdwārās raised at Fatehgarh in Sarhind where the younger sons of the Gurū were bricked alive also received grant from the ruler. The Deras of the disciples of Gurūs were also given revenue-free land by Ranjit Singh. For instance, a dera in Punch, also called Dera of Negali, was endowed with a grant by Ranjit Singh on his visit during the Kashmir invasion in 1814.

Gurdwārā Shahidganj at Lahore, the ‘Place of Martyrs’, was greatly revered by Ranjit Singh. He paid visits to it several times, and gave grants of land in Lahore and Amritsar for its maintenance. There was a practice to place one hundred rupees every night under the pillow of Ranjit Singh, which were distributed as alms to poor every morning through Bhāī Ram Singh. Out of this, five rupees a day went to Shahidganj as a contribution for the cost of bhang, and twenty-five rupees were daily sent for the alms-house. The mu’āfis granted and confirmed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh for Gurdwārā Shahidganj included a jagir of 1,100 rupees in the ‘ilāqa of Taran Taran; mu’āfī land in the villages of Chuchakwal, and Sharakpur with a well yielding fifty rupees; one well in Bela Wasti Ram in the neighbourhood of Lahore and land with five wells in the ‘ilāqa of Nakhas. In addition to this, the Shahidganj Gurdwārā was entitled to octroi duty from the grain markets of Lahore at the rate of one chattak for every donkey-load, two chattaks for every bullock-load and half a seer for every camel-load.

The udāsī individuals and establishments were also endowed by Ranjit Singh. At least 8,597 rupees were spent by Ranjit Singh on the maintenance of the udāsī faqīrs like Sangat Das, Atma Parkash, Prem Singh, Sher Singh, Mangni Das, Sant Das, Dharm Das, Dial Das and

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54 Nabha, Encyclopaedia of the Sikh Literature, Vol. III, p. 1976
Gulab Singh who were assigned revenue-free grants in Lahore, Amritsar, Shaikhupura, Wazirabad, Rawalpindi, Jhang and Wadni. Grants were also assigned in Rahon, Tandah, Phillaur, Nawanshaher and Nakodar in Jalandhar district.\textsuperscript{56} Largest grant was given to Nijroop, an udāṣī faqīr, who was granted village Ghotaron worth 1,500 rupees in Nawanshahar in \textit{pargana} Jalandhar by Ranjit Singh in 1818.\textsuperscript{57} After the death of Nijroop, the grant descended to his disciples. Though examples of resumption of grants of udāśis are hardly available except in one case where half of the grant worth 600 rupees given to Jodh Singh Udāsī by Ranjit Singh was taken back and given to a new grantee, Bagh Singh Granthī, after few years.\textsuperscript{58} The Diwānā Faqīrs received grants worth 2,571 rupees by Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{59}

At least nine udāśī akhāaras seem to have received Ranjit Singh's attention and a total of 24,793 rupees were endowed by him in their favour in comparison to 8,688 rupees assigned by the eighteenth century Sikh rulers. The maximum was grants were given to Akhāra Santokh Das at Amritsar which received 9,700 rupees, followed by Akhāra of Ganga Ram, Akhāra of Mahant Balanand, Akhāra of Tahl Das, Akhāra of Pritam Das, Akhāra Bibeksar, Udāsī Akhāra at Gujrat, Akhāra of Karam Das at Narowal and Akhāra Sant Das at Batala receiving 5,830 rupees, 2,505 rupees, 2,220 rupees, 2,100 rupees, 1,500 rupees, 958 rupees, 300 rupees and 130 rupees, respectively.\textsuperscript{60} The grants given by Ranjit Singh ranged from twenty-five rupees to 2,100 rupees in a single instance. If at one place Akhāra of Balanand was assigned fifty bighas of land worth twenty-five rupees in Shaikhupura, Ranjit Singh assigned two villages in Lahore worth

\textsuperscript{56} The \textit{Khālsa Darbār Records}, Bundle No. 5, Vol. II, Part I, pp.111-12; \textit{Foreign/Political Consultation}, 3 April 1850, No.228; 16 April 1852, Nos. 48-51; \textit{Foreign/Political Proceedings}, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1851, 2192, 2200 & 2206; 15 October 1852, Nos. 122-24; 7 January 1853, No. 241; 27 May 1853, No. 205.
\textsuperscript{57} \textit{Foreign/Political Proceedings}, 31 December 1847, No. 2200.
\textsuperscript{58} Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2192.
\textsuperscript{59} Ibid., 31 December 1847, Nos.1848, 1851 & 2192.
\textsuperscript{60} Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos.48-51; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 219; 14 January 1853, No. 229; Kirpal Singh, 'Social Change in Amritsar During First Half of the 19th Century', \textit{Proceedings Punjab History Conference}, Patiala, 1978, p.143.
2,100 rupees to Akhāra Santokh Das.61 Earliest grant to any udāsī akhāra was given by Ranjit Singh in 1796 to Akhāra Pritam Das. 62

The Udasi Deras like Dera Khoord and Dera Kaulan of Bhāī Pheru, Dera of Bhāī Pirthi and Dera at Qasur received grants worth 16,768 rupees. These grants were scattered in Shaikhupura, Qasur and Pak Pattan.63 The udāsī dera in Dera Baba Nanak, received grants in Dinanagar district worth 5,823 rupees.64 The udāsī dera of Phul Shah in village Bahadurpur in Hoshiarpur received 1,000 ghumāons of land by Ranjit Singh.65 Though most of the grants given to the udāsī deras were in form of land but in many cases, grants in cash or kind were also given by Ranjit Singh. For instance, he gave in cash eleven rupees a day to Dera Kulan of Bhāī Pheru in 1825.66 In another case, the same dera was assigned eighty maunds of salt from the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan in 1804.67 Ranjit Singh is known to have given a village worth 500 rupees in Hoshiarpur to a dera in Dehradun of Ramraias in 1830.68 The establishment suffered resumption of half of the grant as the result of a dispute in 1837.69

The udāsī samādhīs of Baba Mahan Sahib at Wazirabad and Bhāī Anup, in Dinanagar, also received support from Ranjit Singh. The udāsī dhārmasālas at Pak Pattan, Lahore, Shaikhupura, Phillaur and Nakodar were provided financial assistance by Ranjit Singh.70 The Maharaja provided a well worth fourteen rupees in Shaikhupura to

61 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 219.
62 Loc.cit.
64 Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 241.
67 Loc.cit.
68 Ram Rai, the elder son of Gurū Har Rai, and a claimant to Guru gaddi was granted a jagir in Dun by Aurangzeb where he established a dera and the place came to be known as Dehra Dun. The Sikhs of the main stream shunned him and his followers, dubbed as Ramraias, he formed a dissident sect: Harbans Singh, Encyclopaedia, Vol. III, p.461.
69 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2207.
Balik Ram for an *udāsī dharmsāla* erected by his grandfather, Charhat Singh Sukarchakia.\(^71\)

An important reason for giving grant to *udāsī* establishments was the upkeep of community kitchen. For instance, Akhāra of Baba Ganga Ram at Kashiwala, Akhāra of Baba Tahl Das at Amritsar, Akhāra Pritam Das at Amritsar and Udāsi Dera at Batala received grants for the same purpose.\(^72\) Lighting up the place was another reason for making a grant to the *udāsī* institution. Ranjit Singh gave two villages worth 3,035 rupees to the *udāsī dera* at Dera Baba Nanak for *langar* and illumination of the place.\(^73\) Few grants were given after the *udāsī faqīrs* of the establishment sunk a well or reclaimed a wasteland. Akhāra Kashiwala and Akhāra Baba Tahl Das received grants as the *udāsīs* of the Akharas had sunk new wells at their own expense.\(^74\) Ranjit Singh granted twenty-five *ghumaons* of land worth forty rupees in *pargana* Qasur to Udāsi Dera of Bhāī Pirthi of Qasur as the wasteland had been reclaimed by its *faqīrs*.\(^75\) In one case, occasion of giving grant was the wedding of Kharak Singh, the son of Ranjit Singh. Baba Apbrahm of Akhāra Baba Santokh Das at Amritsar was granted a village worth 300 rupees in *pargana* Qasur on this occasion.\(^76\)

Among the individuals, the Bedis, the descendants of Gurū Nanak Dev, were the major recipients of patronage during Ranjit Singh’s reign. A total of one hundred and thirty-two grants worth 1,36,083 rupees were alienated to the Bedis. Majority of the grantees belonged to Dera Baba Nanak, a place where Guru Nanak stayed during the last days of his life. The distribution of grants to the Bedis in various Doabs as per the decreasing order is as follows: fifty grants in Bari Doab, thirty-nine in Rachna Doab, thirty-three in Bist

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\(^{71}\) *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 14 January 1853, No. 238.

\(^{72}\) Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 219; 14 January 1853, Nos. 229 & 241.

\(^{73}\) Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 241.

\(^{74}\) Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 219.

\(^{75}\) Ibid., 27 May 1853, No. 202.

\(^{76}\) *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 7 January 1853, No. 219.
Jalandhar, four in Sind Sagar Doab and only one in the hills. The earliest grant by Ranjit Singh was given in 1799. A village, worth 500 rupees, was assigned to Baba Nainsukh and his son Charan Das of Dera Baba Nanak in Shahadra in Lahore. The latest grant of village Majra worth 1,896 rupees was given to Bedi Kahn Singh in ta‘alluqa Banga in Jalandhar in the year 1838. This was also the maximum amount given to any Bedi by Ranjit Singh. The interesting fact about this alienation is that it was given at the request of Prince Kharak Singh. Minimum amount in terms of an individual grant was of land worth twenty-five rupees in village Pakokki in pargana Batala of Dinanagar given to Bakshish Chand in 1828. Bedi Sahib Singh of Una enjoyed grant of whole of the ta‘alluqa of Una in Hoshiarpur from Jaswan rulers in 1803, Ranjit Singh confirmed this grant in 1815. Sahib Singh’s son, Bikram Singh’s jagirs were found it is important to mention here that 86, 813 rupees per annum at the time of annexation of Punjab in 1849. These grants were given on different occasions. One of these was given after the conquest of Qasur by Ranjit Singh in 1807. The Bedis to get this grant were Mehtab Singh, Sham Singh, Bagh Singh, Badrinath, Choor Singh, Ganpat Singh and Madan Singh. Marriage of the son of a Bedi was also an important occasion to make alienations. For instance, Baba Sahib Singh Bedi was given a village named Khagoon worth 1,000 rupees in ta‘alluqa Naushera of Jalandhar district in 1832. Baba Charat Singh was given a village worth 500 rupees in Batala on presentation of a
valuable sword named Lakkhi to Ranjit Singh in 1816. In one interesting reference a Bedi, Baba Sampat, was assigned a village worth 400 rupees in *pargana* Dinanagar as he provided a charm against poison. The *zaho mohra* i.e., the charm, was kept in the *toshākhāna*. The village had nearly been deserted at the time of grant, which was later inhabited by the grantee. Sometimes Bedis were given grants after their settlement at a new place. Bedi Sahib Singh had settled in *ta‘alluqa* Dakhni in Jalandhar District, Ranjit Singh confirmed him in his possession. It must be mentioned here that there were sixty-six villages in this *ta‘alluqa* worth 73,063 rupees.

Ranjit Singh’s partial attitude towards Bedi Sahib Singh, a revered religious man who also possessed arms and forts, can be made from the following instance. The Bedi forcibly occupied the estates of Tilok Singh Sodhi in 1829 and Achal Singh Sodhi in 1832. In both the instances, the plea for the appropriation was that the inhabitants of those villages committed robberies in the Bedi’s *jāgīr*. Ranjit Singh allowed Bedi Sahib Singh to retain the possession.

The religious individuals to receive maximum grants after Bedis were Sodhis, the descendants of Guru Ram Das. Nearly seventy-five grants worth 82,511 rupees were given in charity to them. Maximum number of grants i.e., twenty-five were given in cis-Sutlej area followed by twenty-two in Bist-Jalandhar, nineteen in Bari Doab, five in Rachna Doab, besides three in hills. Ranjit Singh gave grant of a well worth one hundred rupees to Sodhi Harnam Singh. Sodhi Gulab Singh possessed grants of several villages in Chunian worth

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84 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 14 January 1853, No. 213.
85 Loc. cit.
86 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 31 December 1847, Nos. 2213-15.
87 Loc. cit.
88 The *Khalsa Darbār Records*, Bundle-IX, Part I, pp.157-58; *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 23 August 1850, No. 35-A; 29 December 1849, No. 1128; 26 December 1851, Nos. 603-605; *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1846, 1849, 1851, 1855, 2192, 2200, 2204, 2208, 2211 & 2234; 14 November 1851, Nos. 48-50 & 51-57; 14 January 1853, No. 223; 27 May 1853, Nos. 196 &199.
89 The *Khalsa Darbār Records*, Bundle No. IX, Part I, pp. 157-58.
3,740 rupees per annum. Ranjit Singh also presented him with houses and gardens attached to the Baoli Sahib in Lahore. In the year 1845-46, when Jalandhar Doab was taken over by the British Government, the Sodhis were holding grants worth 63,000 rupees.

The earliest grant given by Ranjit Singh to any Sodhi was in 1793 when Sodhi Kesra Singh received a village Kotti worth 300 rupees in *pargana* Sialkot. The latest grant to a Sodhi by the sovereign was given to Sodhi Nihal Singh in 1838, it was worth 6,700 rupees. This was also the maximum amount given to any Sodhi at one go. The minimum amount given to a Sodhi by Ranjit Singh was twelve rupees, in village Bhatti, *pargana* Sialkot in Wazirbad district in 1834.

In a number of grants, Ranjit Singh had specified the purpose for which grants were given. For instance, Ranjit Singh endowed Sodhi Achal Singh with a village worth 300 rupees in Jaswan, Achal Singh was to pray for the prosperity of the state. Baba Harbhaj was given a village Parthal in Hoshiarpur district for the preparation of the *parsad* for the devotees. The Sodhis could also be expected to perform the service of reading the Granth. Sodhi Saran Singh, for example, was asked by Ranjit Singh to read the Holy Book, he was given a grant worth fifty rupees in *pargana* Ramnagar in Sheikhupura. Grants were also given as rewards to the Sodhis who founded villages on deserted sites. Deep Singh was remitted the revenue of village Bogipura worth 2,000 rupees in *pargana* Dharmkot in 1806 as he had founded the village Bogipura on an abandoned

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93 The interesting fact about this grant was that this village was sub-granted by Sodhi Kesra Singh to his daughter on her marriage to Hamir Singh Bhalla as her marriage portion, this arrangement was also confirmed by Ranjit Singh in 1826: *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 27 May 1853, No. 199.
94 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 29 Decembre 1849, No. 1128.
95 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 27 May 1853, No. 196.
96 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2208.
97 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2211.
98 Ibid., 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
Presentation of animals to Ranjit Singh was another reason for receiving an endowment. Sodhi Umed Singh received village Gill in Wadni district worth 500 rupees on presentation of two elephants and two horses to Ranjit Singh in 1836. He was also expected to furnish two cows of first-rate breed every second year to the grantor.100

The Bhallas, the descendants of Guru Amar Das, did receive alienation but lagged much behind the Bedis and Sodhis. They received just fourteen grants worth 5,802 rupees from Ranjit Singh. Jassa Singh, Baba Mahan Singh, Khushal Singh, Bijn Singh and Baba Hari Singh were some of the Bhalla recipients.101 Jassa Singh Bhalla received a village worth 360 rupees in Gujrat in 1823 as he used to read granth in the presence of Ranjit Singh.102 Baba Mahan Singh received a village worth 600 rupees in pargana Eminabad of Wazirabad district in 1822 as he supplied water to the devotees at the Golden Temple.103

Like the Sikh rulers, Ranjit Singh also provided the Sikh babas with grants. Baba Sarup Nath is known to have received a munificent grant worth 850 rupees in Bharatpur in Ludhiana in 1828.104 The disciples of the baba were also endowed with grants. For instance, Gobind Misar and Ram Misar, followers of Baba Rupaji (a sanctified figure held in veneration by Ranjit Singh who often visited him and washed his feet in token of humility and reverence for his piety) were given grants worth 1,000 rupees in Lahore and Wazirabad by Ranjit Singh.105

Sikh bhāis also received grants worth 21,187 rupees from Ranjit Singh, these were scattered over places like Wazirabad, Phillaur, Nakodar, Nawanshar, Saurian, Mukerian, Wadni, Lahore, Dharmkot

99 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 1849.
100 Ibid., 1 November 1847, No. 1851.
101 Ibid., 14 November 1851, Nos. 44-47; 13 August 1852, No. 49; 27 May 1853, No. 199
102 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 199.
103 Loc. cit.
104 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 1855.
105 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 222.

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Earliest grant to any bhai by Ranjit Singh was given as a Prince in 1789 when he granted village Bhagni in Lahore worth 250 rupees to Bhai Mati Singh. Sometimes, Ranjit Singh increased the grants given to Sikh bhais by his predecessors. For instance, when Ranjit Singh came to Wadni in 1807, he increased the grant to half of a village from 150 ghumāons granted by Rai Kalha to Bhai Hamira Singh. In the same year Bhai Mohar Singh of Bagrian was endowed with villages of Sadhwala and Sujana in jāgīr from the Maharaja as a grant-in-aid towards the expenses of the langar. He also gave him 500 mounds of salt, and promised that in future salt would be supplied to the kitchen, without charge, from the stores of the royal palace.

At times, a grantee could ask Ranjit Singh to assign the grant to his sons. To cite an example, Bhai Mastan Singh was originally assigned a well worth one hundred rupees in Dinanagar but he requested that the well might be made over to his sons. Ranjit Singh complied with the request.

The granthis as a class received a good number of grants from Ranjit Singh. They received 19,900 rupees through seventy-two grants. These granthis were attached with one or the other establishment like Golden Temple, Dera of Guru Arjan, dharmsālas, Govindgarh Fort and Lahore citadel. Out of the total grants, twenty-seven were given in Bari Doab, fourteen in Bist-Jalandhar Doab, thirteen in Rachna Doab, ten in Chajj Doab, two in cis-Sutlej Doab, one each in Sind Sagar Doab and the hills.

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106 The Khalsa Darbār Records, Bundle No. 5, Vol VIII, Part I, p.243; Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, No.35-A; 6 September 1850, No. 31-A; 18 January 1856, No.155; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1851, 1855, 2192 & 2207; 21 February 1851, No.218-A.

107 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 November 1851, Nos. 48-50.

108 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 1848.


110 Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos.48-51.

111 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, Nos. 35-A & 35-C; 16 April 1852, Nos. 48-51& 51-57; 11 February 1853, No. 59; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1846, 1851, 2192, 2200, 2206, 2207 & 2234; 21 February 1851, No. 142A; 14 November 1851, Nos. 48-50; 7 January 1853, Nos. 222 & 241; 14 January 1853, Nos. 226 & 238; 10 June 1853, No. 218; DG of Undivided Punjab, Jullundur, 1904, p.302.

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quite handsome endowments. For instance, Granthi Abnasha Singh and Kahn Singh, attached to a dharmsāla in Wazirabad and garrison of Govindgarh Fort, respectively, received 987 rupees and 964 rupees.\textsuperscript{112} Bhag Singh, another granthi was given 500 rupees in grant, though in two installments of 300 rupees and 200 rupees.\textsuperscript{113}

The Holy Scripture of the Sikhs was also given grants by Ranjit Singh. Atleast, 4,000 rupees were assigned by the Maharaja for the same.\textsuperscript{114} In an interesting case, the offering of a village worth 700 rupees in Amritsar to Guru Granth Sāhib was made so that Ranjit Singh’s speech, that had been lost in 1837, could be restored.\textsuperscript{115}

The akālis and nihangs were also given grants by Ranjit Singh at places like Rawalpindi and Taran Taran.\textsuperscript{116} There are references of cash grants given to them.\textsuperscript{117} A major portion of the grant amounting to 1,150 rupees was given to Naina Singh Nihang in five different instances.\textsuperscript{118} In one case, atleast four akālis, Bhag Singh, Jamiat Singh, Ittar Singh and Sant Singh, were given a grant worth 1,000 rupees in Jaswan by the Maharaja.\textsuperscript{119}

The nirmalas, as specified in the previous chapter, shunned grants from the rulers; a similar attitude was adopted by them towards the grants given by Ranjit Singh. For instance, in 1796 A.D., Ranjit Singh offered the patta of a land grant to a famous nirmala scholar Pandit Nihal Singh who wrote exposition or teeka of the Japuji of Gurū Nanak. The Pandit, however, did not accept the grant and tore the patta in the presence of Maharaja and advised him not to do so in future.\textsuperscript{120} But there are few references of nirmalas accepting

\textsuperscript{112} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 226; 10 June 1853, No. 219.
\textsuperscript{113} The Khalsa Darbār Records, Bundle No. 5, Vol I, Part I, p.27.
\textsuperscript{114} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2207; 14 January 1853, No. 238.
\textsuperscript{115} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 2207.
\textsuperscript{116} The Khalsa Darbār Records, Bundle No.5, Vol III, Part I, p.5.
\textsuperscript{117} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 219.
\textsuperscript{118} Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2207.
\textsuperscript{119} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 238.
\textsuperscript{120} Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos.48-51; 18 January 1856, Nos. 155-59; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 219.
\textsuperscript{121} The Khalsa Darbār Records, Bundle No.5, Vol III, Part I, p.5.
grants. A nirmala, Dharm Singh received five grants worth 850 rupees between the years 1813 to 1833, most of them in Shaikhupura, from Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{121}

Ranjit Singh imitated his Sikh predecessors in giving grants to bannuwanias who were endowed 2,737 rupees in places like Shahpur, Phalia and Kharian.\textsuperscript{122} The sewapanthis like Bhai Hazari was given cash grants worth 360 rupees in Leiah.\textsuperscript{123} The hukmnāmīa Sikhs also received grants from the Maharaja of Lahore. Bagh Singh, a hukmnāmīa Sikh, got cash grant with fifty-six rupees and four annas in Jhang in 1817.\textsuperscript{124} Ranjit Singh granted a village worth 1,000 rupees in Multan to eight hukmnāmīa Sikhs Sewa Singh, Har Sahai, Rai Singh, Bhag Singh, Ram Das, Hari Singh, Jassa Singh and Aroor Singh.\textsuperscript{125}

Guru’s personal articles were revered by Ranjit Singh like his Sikh predecessors. For instance, he got to know of a holy man who possessed Guru Nanak’s shoes and sent for him. He came and opened the shoe from a hundred wrappers; the Maharaja applied it to his head, eyes and chest and ordered a perpetual grant of a village worth 1,000 rupees in Wazirabad to be given to the holy man.\textsuperscript{126}

\textbf{II}

Among the Hindu individuals, the brahmans enjoyed considerable patronage from Ranjit Singh. One hundred and seventy grants worth 37,200 rupees were given away in dharmarth by Ranjit Singh to the brahmans. Though the number of grants was more than all other classes but the amount was not the maximum. The brahmans of Kashmir, Jhelum, Shahpur, Peshawar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Pind Dadan

\begin{footnotes}
\footnotetext[121]{\textit{Foreign/Political Proceedings}, 14 January 1853, No. 235.}
\footnotetext[122]{Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 226.}
\footnotetext[123]{\textit{Foreign/Political Consultation}, 16 April 1852, Nos.98-101.}
\footnotetext[124]{\textit{Foreign/Political Proceedings}, 20 August 1852, No.140.}
\footnotetext[125]{Ibid., 10 June 1853, No. 219.}
\footnotetext[126]{Kahan Chand Khanna, ‘Court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh’, Manuscript, MS, M/7/3993, Punjab State Archives, Patiala. pp. 41-42.}
\end{footnotes}
Khan, Leiah, Jhang, Rawalpindi, Shaikhupura, Wazirabad, Sialkot, Gujrat, Dinanagar, Batala, Amritsar, Lahore, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Wadni, Jaswan, Kangra and Jammu were liberally endowed. It is pertinent to mention here that brahmans of Haridwar, Pushkar and Thanesar were also given grants. Saraswat brahmans as a class received a number of grants from the Maharaja.127 The earliest grant to a brahman was given in 1793; a cash grant of twenty rupees was assigned from Pindi Gheb in Rawalpindi to Bhawani Das.128 The last grant by Ranjit Singh to a brahman was given in Rawalpindi when Misr Nihala was given cash worth fifty rupees in the year 1839.129 Maximum number of grants were given in the Bari Doab i.e., seventy, followed by thirty-six in the Rachna Doab, twenty in the Bist Jalandhar Doab, sixteen in the Sindh Sagar Doab, eight in the Chajj Doab, five in cis-Sutlej area, four in Trans-Indus area, besides, three in the hills. Thus, we can see that the brahmans settled all over the Punjab were given grants by Ranjit Singh. Generally, they were assigned grants for their maintenance. To cite an example, Pandit Jwala Nand was assigned grants worth 500 rupees in different ta'allaqas like Surman, Dadki Mutteval and Batala in Bari Doab for his maintenance.130

On few occasions, a number of brahmans were given grants collectively. For instance, fourteen different brahman families were given a village Hathial worth 500 rupees in Dinanagar in 1812. The brahmans to be patronized were Basti, Mooti, Moola, Sukhanjan, Baghela, Sahja, Surdas, Ram Dial, Thakur Gir, Gujjar, Narain Datt, Kanahiya, Bhawania and Mangla Misar.131 Occasion of conquest of a place by Ranjit Singh was pretext for making grant to a brahman. For instance, Sukh Ram, a brahman of Lahore, was given a village in pargana Eminabad in Wazirabad worth 140 rupees by Ranjit Singh

127 Foreign/Political Consultation, 3 April 1850, No. 228.
128 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 241.
129 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 238.
131 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, Nos. 204-06.
fater the conquest of Kashmir in 1820. Lunar eclipse was also one important occasion for a grant by the Maharaja to a Brahman. Devi Sahai, for example was assigned a village worth 500 rupees in pargana Talwandi in Amritsar in 1811 on lunar eclipse. Pilgrimage to a religious place was another occasion to make grants to brahmans. On a religious tour to Haridwar, Ranjit Singh gave a village worth 400 rupees to four brahmans named Sada Sukh, Bansa Dhar, Kesu and Jai Karan in Rahon of Jalandhar in 1821. The brahmans were also patronized for planting a garden. Dhanpat Rai, for example, was given land worth forty rupees in Gujranwala in 1823 for the same.

The purohits related to royal establishment were also patronized. Being the favoured ones they received fifty grants worth 24,000 rupees from Ranjit Singh. Hereditary purohits of the court like Pandit Brij Lal, his son Pandit Madhusudan and grandson Pandit Radhakishen were given dharmarth grants worth 10,000 rupees. Most of the grants to this particular Purohit family were on perpetual terms. Other family purohits to be patronized were Sukha Nand, Ramkishen, Sain Das, Kahn Chand, Ram Jas, Ram Rattan, Gulab Rai, and Harkishen. Pandit Raikishen received lavish grants because of his association with the Lahore Darbar.

The marriage of a member of royal family was an occasion for making alienation by Ranjit Singh to the brahmans. Sukhanand was given a village worth 1,000 rupees in Sialkot on the occasion of the marriage of his son, Kharak Singh. Promise of a grant after a particular service was performed for the sovereign was also a reason for grant to a family purohit. In 1825, Ranjit Singh asked two of his

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132 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 211.
133 Ibid., 27 May 1853, No. 205.
134 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2192.
135 Foreign/Political Consultation, 25 June 1858, Nos. 274-76.
136 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 21 February 1851, No.142A; 31 December 1847, No.2206; 21 February 1851, No.218A; 31 December 1847, Nos.1855, 2192 & 2267
137 Ibid., 31 December 1847, Nos. 2192 & 2206; 21 February 1851, No. 142A
138 Ibid., 31 December 1847, Nos. 2192 & 2206; 21 February 1851, No. 142A
139 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 225; Khalsa Darbar Records, Bundle No. 5, Vol. VII, part I, pp. 9, 14 & 93; 31 December 1847, Nos. 1855 & 2192.
139 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 225.
purohits, to perform a havan at the famous Naina Devi temple that involved repetition of certain prayers and charms. They were promised a village on fulfillment of the deed. Not only was the word kept by the Maharaja, but prior to that he also made full arrangements for their comfortable journey and stay at Naina Devi as in the sanad which was issued for giving the grants, it was mentioned, ‘An attendant is sent to settle all expenses you have incurred in this matter who is also the bearer of winter clothing for you.’ Interestingly, grants to brahmans were also made on occasion of a sacred bath. For instance, Ranjit Singh gave away ten cows, one roll of red cloth, some mirrors, one tin of ghee and some muradi cloth in charity to brahmans when he marched from Amritsar for performance of a sacred bath at the tank of Sri Taran Taran Sahib. On the occasion of Chaitra Chaturdashi, Ranjit Singh went to Purmandal Temple at Jammu, remained there for three days, took bath in the waters of Devika and gave lakhs of rupees in charity. This was in April 1838 A.D. He also made offerings of gold to the deity. Ranjit Singh is said to have made pilgrimage to Hardwar, Kurukshetra and Katas, where he not only took bath in sacred waters but also gave alms to brahmans.

Ranjit Singh also patronized individuals and institutions belonging to Vaishnavism. The bairāgis, gosains and thākurdwāras received seventy grants worth 13,500 rupees from Ranjit Singh. Though most of the grants were given for the first time, yet some older grants given by Mughal rulers were also confirmed. For example, the grants given to thākurdwāra of Baba Lal Das in village Dhianpur in pargana Batala and the Pindori establishment the by Mughal rulers were confirmed by Ranjit Singh in 1815 and 1825. These

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140 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 225.
141 Garrett & Chopra, Events at the Court of Ranjit Singh, p. 51.
143 Ram Sukh Rao, Sr Fateh Singh Partap Prabhakar, p. 64.
144 Kumari Asha Wadhwa, ‘Vaishnava Bhakti in the Punjab’, p. 32.
establishment also received fresh grants from the ruler. A fresh grant of two ghumaons of land was bestowed upon the mahants of Pindori to avert the impact of an evil star in 1816.

Some of the Vaishnava establishments were contracted by Ranjit Singh. The thakurwdāra at Mirpur traced its origin to a grant made by Ranjit Singh, who set it up as an independent institution. The minimum amount received by any Vaishnava establishments from Ranjit Singh was four rupees, twelve annas and one paisa. Narain Das was given grant of this amount for a thakurwdāra at pargana Nawan Shahr in Jalandhar district in 1832. The maximum grant assigned to the Vaishnava establishments by the Maharaja was worth 1,100 rupees, it was assigned to Sarup Das for a thakurwdāra at village Ramtamboli in pargana Eminabad of Sialkot. Individual bairāgis were also endowed with grants. In 1828, Ranjit Singh made over gift of a village Chak, in pargana Bharatgarh in Ludhiana to one Sravananath Gosain, a mahant of Thanesar. Since then, this village is known as Chaksravananath. One third of the income of the land revenue was paid to the establishment in Thanesar for its maintenance. The Datarpur establishment received fresh grants from Ranjit Singh while the old ones made by Aurangzeb and other Mughal rulers and the hill Rajas were also confirmed. The earliest grant by Ranjit Singh was given in 1796 when a well worth 160 rupees was assigned in Wazirabad to Ramjas, a bairāgi. The following table depicts the grants given by Ranjit Singh to some important thakurwdāras:

145 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No.193; Goswamy and Grewal, Vaishnavas of Pindori, Document Nos. XXXV & XXXVII.
147 Mridu Rai, Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects, pp.108-09.
148 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 12 December 1856, Nos. 252-3A.
149 Ibid., 27 May 1853, No. 208.
152 Kumari Asha Wadhwa, Vaishnava Bhakti in the Punjab’, p.32
153 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 208.
At times the thākurdwāras were established after receiving grants by the bairāgī. For instance, Baba Harihar founded a thākurdwāra, named after himself, at Qasur after he received a grant of 325 rupees from Ranjit Singh in 1812. After the establishment of this institution, Ranjit Singh gave the temple an exclusive privilege to
collect half anna from each rupee collected on sale of all goods at Qasur along with an annual gift of a shawl.\textsuperscript{154}

Thus, one can see that other than alienating land revenue, Ranjit Singh also allowed the grantee to collect other taxes due to the ruler. Grants could also be given for lighting of the thākurdwāras and for the sadābart. Pandit Lalji was made cash endowment of twenty rupees for proper lighting of the place when Ranjit Singh visited Sialkot.\textsuperscript{155} Similarly, villages worth 650 rupees in Amritsar were alienated by Ranjit Singh for maintenance of sadābart at Asthan of Munigir at Jwalaji pargana Nadaun at Kangra.\textsuperscript{156} Presentation of an animal could also be used as way of getting a grant from Ranjit Singh. For instance, Kesho Das Bairagi received 300 mounds of grain worth 400 rupees from Shaikhupura in 1833 on presentation of a horse.\textsuperscript{157} Shaiva establishments and jogīs too were given grants by Ranjit Singh though they did not seem to be much favoured either. On the whole, they received sixteen grants worth 2,366 rupees.\textsuperscript{158} Jogi Sokal Nath was given a well worth fifty rupees in 1819 by the Maharaja.\textsuperscript{159} Shaiva establishments were also built by the Maharaja. Ranjit Singh built the Ekling aonkar temple at Purmandal and donated 1,300 ghumāons of land to Mahant Motigar, a Shaivite sannyāsī, for its maintenance.\textsuperscript{160} Most of the grants were for maintenance of the institution and to meet its requirements. A shivāla at village Dhand Kasil in pargana Amritsar was given a well worth 125 rupees, so that its proceeds could be utilized for perfumes, flowers and ghee, besides feeding cows.\textsuperscript{161}

The individuals associated with Shakta faith who worshipped the Goddess in her various forms and devidīwāras received grants from Ranjit Singh. A temple of Devi at Lahore was given a cash grant

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{154} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 193.
\bibitem{155} Foreign/Political Consultation. 19 May 1854, Nos. 184-88.
\bibitem{156} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 193.
\bibitem{157} Ibid., 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
\bibitem{158} Foreign/Political Consultation, 3 April 1850, No.228; 19 March 1852, Nos. 37-39; & 7 May 1852, Nos.40-43; 19 May 1854, Nos.184-185; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2206.
\bibitem{159} The Khālsā Darbār Records, Bundle No. 5, Vol. XIV, Part I, p. 157.
\bibitem{160} Mridu Rai, Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects, pp.105-06.
\bibitem{161} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 118.
\end{thebibliography}
for its support in 1825. Its care-taker, Bhag Misar, was given two rupees a day which was regularly paid.162 Similarly, Jaigopal was given an alienation of eighty-five rupees for maintenance of devidwāra in Leia in 1832.163 Two devidwāras in Hoshiarpur are also known to have received grants from the Maharaja. Baba Girdhar Puri of a devidwāra in Mukerian received village Dullowal worth 200 rupees and a cash grant of 100 rupees as well in 1838.164 Another devidwāra also received a similar kind of grant of village and cash in Hoshiarpur.165

The pujaris of Chintpurni were also given grants. Ram Dial, a pujari at Chintpurni, received two villages Gari and Chamyara in Jaswan worth 100 rupees from the Maharaja in 1836.166 A sum of 400 rupees was given to brahmans for performing religious services at Jwalaji. Rup Chand and Mehar Chand were assigned share of a village worth 200 rupees each in 1838. Similarly, Kashi Nath was assigned share of village Pattike in Amritsar worth 200 rupees for his services at Jwalaji.167 Thus, a total of ten grants worth 1,433 rupees were give to individuals and institutions of Shakta faith scattered over places like Lahore, Hoshiarpur, Jhelum and Leia.168

The temples built by officials of Lahore Kingdom were also endowed by Ranjit Singh. For instance, a temple was built by Raja Dina Nath at Lahore for which the Sikh ruler alienated four wells worth 500 rupees. These wells were given in different years like 1825, 1827 and 1837.169 A temple named Sudamapuri in Amritsar, built by Desa Singh Majithia in 1806, received lavish grants from Ranjit Singh amounting to 1,426 rupees. This institution at Amritsar consisted of the Dharamsala Sudamapuri where travellers and the poor were daily fed and a Sanskrit College consisting of thirty-two students of the

162 Foreign/Political Consultation, 3 April 1850, No. 228.
163 Ibid., 7 May 1852, Nos. 40-43.
164 Ibid., 19 March 1852, Nos. 37-39.
165 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2206.
166 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2206.
167 Ibid., 27 May 1853, Nos.210-213.
168 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 November 1851, Nos.51-57; 27 May 1853, No. 208.
169 Foreign/Political Consultation, 22 November 1850, No. 117A.
vedās and Hindu Literature was supported. These students were clothed and fed at the expense of the institution. Besides the students, there was an establishment of *brahmans* and servants consisted of forty-eight persons who were also supported by Ranjit Singh. The largest temple in Dera Ghazi Khan received a cash endowment of 1,500 rupees in 1834 by the Maharaja. It is interesting to note that grants to Hindu temples could also be given for the requirement of opium. Rai Kishen of Dinanagar was given a cash grant of 300 rupees for providing opium for a Shaiva temple of Batala.

Hindu *faqirs*, *dadupanthis*, *brahmchāris*, *khatris*, *sādhs* and *sannyasis* were also given grants by Ranjit Singh. Guru Kantara Sataru of Jammu was given a village worth 425 rupees in Sialkot on the occasion of solar eclipse. Sankrant was an occasion when the *faqirs* were given charity. Bhishen Bhagwan and other sādhs were given a village along with its mango trees in Mukerian *pargana* in Hoshiarpur district in 1816 on Sankrānt. The *dadupanthis* faqirs received 1,100 rupees in various grants from the ruler. Harihar, Madho Das, Gobind Das and Bhishen Bhagwan were some of the *dadupanthis* to be endowed. An establishment of *dadus* named Asthan Paramhans Bikhari in Shakargarh in Dinanagar, was given village worth 700 rupees in 1811. The saint Paramhans Bikhari had come from Deccan and settled here, Ranjit Singh used to visit saint's

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170 It was later supervised by Lehna Singh Majithia. Pandit Beer Bhan served as the head or manager and after his death in 1845, his nephew Devki Nandan succeeded to the office but the amount of the Royal endowment was reduced in consequence of State necessities. During the management of Beer Bhan, charitable distribution of food were maintained by him at Amritsar, Thanesar, Kanikhal, Haridwar and Vrindavan from land worth 14,000 but on reduction of grant in 1845, these establishments ceased with the exception of one at Amritsar. *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 27 May 1853, No. 211.

171 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 23 August 1850, Nos. 59-61.

172 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 3 April 1850, No.228; *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, No. 2206.

173 The *Khālsa Darbār Records*, Bundle No. 5, Vol. II, part I, pp.111-12; *Foreign/Political Consultation* 11 February 1853, No.59; 23 August 1850, No.35-B; 23 August 1850, No.35-C; 3 April 1850, No.228; *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, No. 1846; 7 January 1853, No.239.

174 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 8 April 1853, No. 165.

175 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, No. 2206.

176 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 3 April 1850, No.228; *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, No. 2206.
residence.\textsuperscript{177} Ranjit Singh is also known to have followed the practice of *tuladān*. On Sankrant in 1816, he got himself weighed seven times with *ghee*, *shakar*, rice, *mash*, linseed, vessels of copper, bronze, gold and silver, all of which he distributed. He also gave five cows and some pictures of gold and silver worth 2,000 rupees, by way of charity, to those who wore the sacred thread.\textsuperscript{178}

### III

The Muslim institutions and individuals were also patronized by Ranjit Singh. The Muslim institutions like tombs, *dargāhs*, *khānqāhs* and mosques enjoyed thirteen grants worth 5,367 rupees. These were: tomb of Shah Nihal at Lahore, tomb of Badrudin at Mehramali in Dinanagar, *mazār* of Shaikh Chuhr Bandagi at Lahore, *khānqāh* of Sayyad Muhammad Fazil Khan in Batala, Khānqāh of Sher Booran in Dinanagar, shrine of Shah Abdul in Jhang, shrine of Buddhan Ali in Niaz Beg and the shrine of Shaikh Farid at Pakpatan.\textsuperscript{179} It is interesting to mention here that the latter enjoyed grants worth 3,000 rupees in Gugera in Pakpatan.\textsuperscript{180} Maharaja Ranjit Singh had a great respect for the tomb of Sayyad Muhammad Shah at Lahore, which had enjoyed liberal grants from Akbar as well. Ranjit Singh gave an allowance of forty rupees per month for its maintenance.\textsuperscript{181} An Islamic institution, Asthani Sharif of Ghous Azim at Lahore was one of the scant examples to receive a hefty sum of amount from the Maharaja in 1822. It enjoyed villages worth 1,800 rupees. It kept up a school of Arabic and Persian where the students were fed and clothed.\textsuperscript{182} One of the establishments to enjoy the least amount of grant was *khānqāh* of

\textsuperscript{177} This grant was later confirmed by Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh, Sher Singh and Dalip Singh: *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 27 May 1853, No. 202.

\textsuperscript{178} Garrett & chopra, *Events at the Court of Ranjit Singh*, p.227.

\textsuperscript{179} *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 16 April 1852, Nos. 52-58; 18 March 1853, No.155; 31 December 1858, Nos.3314-3318; *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 21 February 1851, No. 87-B; 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57; 7 January 1853, No. 234; 14 January 1853, No. 229; 28 November 1856, No.1372-B; S.M.Latif, Lahore, p.182

\textsuperscript{180} *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 18 March 1853, No.155.

\textsuperscript{181} S.M.Latif, Lahore, p.190

\textsuperscript{182} *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 22 November 1850, No. 117; Meera Nagpal, ‘State Patronage by the Rulers of the Punjab to the Muslims’, p. 617.
Sher Booran in Dinanagar. It received just three ghumāons of land worth three rupees in pargana Gurdaspur of Dinanagar.\(^{183}\)

Among the Muslim individuals, the Sufi shaikh\(\)s were also bestowed with grants by Ranjit Singh.\(^{184}\) Murid Mohiuddin, Sher Khan, Hafiz Budha, Faizi Kunawali, Shaikh Shah and Ghulam Muhammad were some of the shaikh\(\)s to receive grants from the said ruler.\(^{185}\) One of the earliest grants given to any Muslim by Ranjit Singh was given to Shaikh Mian Rahmat Ulla of Gujranwala worth one hundred rupees cash in 1798.\(^{186}\) Another shaikh, named Murid Mohiuddin, also received a grant by Ranjit Singh. He received cash worth twenty-five rupees in Rawalpindi in 1839.\(^{187}\) The sayyads like Sirajuddin, Sayyad Rasul Shah, Muhammad Ali Shah, Dariya Shah and Mirza Agha Jan received endowments from Ranjit Singh.\(^{188}\) In all fourteen grants worth 1,148 rupees were assigned by Ranjit Singh. The shaikh\(\)s and sayyads also received alienations from Ranjit Singh. The chishtis, dogars and sakhi sarwars. For instance, a chisti saint of Lahore, Ahmed Baksh, received cash allowance worth seventy-five rupees in the year 1834.\(^{189}\) The dogar faqir\(\)s were also patronized by the ruler of Lahore.\(^{190}\) Iman Shah, a dogar faqir, was assigned grain worth twenty rupees in Shaikhupura for feeding faqirs at Khanqah Dogran.\(^{191}\) In a very interesting case, Ranjit Singh gave away one of the ladies, Jwala Devi, of the zenana to the faqir, Baba Kandua, when the ruler was in half drunken frolic state, he also assigned a grant

\(^{183}\) Foreign/Political Proceedings, 28 November 1856, No. 1372-B

\(^{184}\) Shaikhs are the head of a religious fraternity; the title taken by the descendants of Prophet Muhammad. Banga, Agrarian System of the Sikhs, p. 211.

\(^{185}\) Foreign/Political Consultation, 3 April 1850, No. 228; 18 March 1853, No. 150; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, Nos. 228 & 239; Meera Nagpal, 'State Patronage by the Rulers of the Punjab to the Muslims', p. 616.

\(^{186}\) Ibid., 18 March 1853, No. 167.

\(^{187}\) Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 239.

\(^{188}\) The Khalsa Darbar Records, Bundle No. 5, Vol. XI, p. 35; Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, No. 35-A; 18 March 1853, No. 150; 8 April 1853, No. 165; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 November 1851, Nos. 48-50; JP 92; 7 January 1853, No. 231.

\(^{189}\) Foreign/Political Consultation, 3 April 1850, No. 228.

\(^{190}\) dogar faqirs belong to a clan descended from the Rajputs. Dogars are mostly Muslims and keep cows and buffaloes. So there colonies are mostly seen at banks of the rivers. They are largely settled on the banks of Satluj in district Ferozepur. Nabha: Encyclopaedia of the Sikh Literature, Vol. III, p. 1417.

\(^{191}\) Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
worth 500 rupees for her maintenance. The faqīrs of sakhī sarwar also received alienation though not many references to the same are found. Cash worth 450 rupees in Dera Ghazi Khan was given to Amger Baksh for the mazār of Sakhi Sarwar. The cash was assigned to feed the pigeons and maintenance of fellow faqīrs. Faqir Chiraguddin, son of Azizuddin, also received charitable allowance from the Maharaja. He was given two villages worth 400 rupees in pargana Pind Bhattian in Gujrat.

Others like qāzīs, pathān, majumis and Jats were also given grants by Ranjit Singh though only a few references to the same are found. Faqir Muhammad Khan Qāzī was given 901 rupees in 1816. In one instance, the ruler patronized sons of a qāzī: Ghulam Kadir, Fazil Kadir and Kutbalim, they, were given land worth 80 rupees in village Hakw kzayi in tāhsīl Huzur of Peshawar. A pathān named Sher Khan was given a dharmarth grant worth 155 rupees in Amritsar in 1818. Amir Baksh Rumal, a majumi, was given a village in pargana Mukerian in Hoshiarpur by the ruler in 1823. Cash worth twenty rupees were also given to a Muslim Jat, Ahmed Shah, in 1836 in Gujranwala. The Muslims, who could reproduce the entire Quran from memory, were invited to the court to recite the Holy Quran for days together. They were paid liberally for it.

The occasions like birth, marriage and death were marked by charity to the poor by Ranjit Singh. A lot of money was given away in charity on the birth of his son Kharak Singh, and marriage of his grandson, Prince Nau Nihal Singh. Charity to the poor was also

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192 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2189.
193 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, Nos. 59-61; Banga. Agrarian System of the Sikhs, p.165.
194 Ibid., 22 November 1850, No. 117-A; Meera Nagpal, ‘State Patronage by the Rulers of the Punjab to the Muslims’, p. 618.
196 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 February 1851, No. 19-A.
197 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, No. 35-A.
198 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No.2207.
199 Foreign/Political Consultation, 11 February 1853, No. 59.
performed by him when he was on his deathbed.\textsuperscript{202} The remains of the Maharaja were accompanied by costly presents, such as valuable shawls, richly decorated elephants and horses, gold and silver utensils, rich cloth etc, all intended to be distributed as alms among the brahmans who lived on the banks of the sacred river at Haridwar.\textsuperscript{203}

\textbf{IV}

Besides, giving fresh grants, Ranjit Singh is known to have confirmed grants given by his predecessors, the Mughals and late the eighteenth century Sikh rulers. The grants given by Akbar and his successors like Jahangir, Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb and Muhammad Shah were formally confirmed by the ruler.\textsuperscript{204} The grants of the other Mughal emperors like Alamgir, Shah Alam and Bahadur Shah though not formally confirmed continued undisturbed with the grantees’ families.\textsuperscript{205} There are large numbers of files at national Archives of India, New Delhi which prove that the Imperial grants issued by the Mughal rulers to the value of 66,368 rupees continued till the British times, with or without the formal consent of the rulers of Punjab.

Ranjit Singh not only confirmed the grants of his predecessors like Jai Singh and Haqiqat Singh Kanhia, Gujjar Singh and Sahib Singh Bhangi but also of the lesser known chiefs (discussed in the previous chapter) like Nidhan Singh Daskewala, Gurdit Singh Santokhgarhia, Lal Singh of Shamkot, Mali Singh Guraya, Dal Singh Akalgarhia, Dharm Singh Kadirabadia, Amar Singh Kingra, and Milkha Singh of Rawalpindi.

The attitude of the Kingdom of Lahore towards the grants made by Ramgarhias was positive and confirmatory. Ranjit Singh and his

\textsuperscript{202} Ibid., p.399.  
\textsuperscript{203} Ibid., p.380.  
\textsuperscript{204} Foreign/Political Consultation, 18 March 1853, No.159; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, Nos. 223-224; 21 February 1851, No.218A; 5 December 1856, No. 10; 31 December 1858, No.1102.  
\textsuperscript{205} Foreign/Political Consultation, 19 November 1852, Nos.115-17; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 219; 12 December 1856, No. 255.
successors continued the grants given by the said chiefs. Faqir Nuruddin and Bhagel Singh, the officials appointed by Ranjit Singh to manage the confiscated territory of the Ramgarhias, were ordered to continue all the grants made by Jassa Singh and Jodh Singh.\textsuperscript{206} Grants of the cis-Sutlej chiefs like Gurdit Singh of Ladwa, chief of Kot Kapura, Muslim chiefs like Rai Ahmed of Rai Kot and Qutbuddin of Qasur, hill chiefs like Ranjit Dev of Jammu, Ram Singh of Jaswan, Devi Chand of Kahlur and Sansar Chand of Kangra were also confirmed by Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{207}

Confirmations were also given to the grants given by women during their late eighteenth century. Sada Kaur, the powerful ruler of the Kanhiyas and the mother-in-law of the Maharaja, is known to be a patron to a number of grantees. The confirmation by the Maharaja of the grants given by Mai Sada Kaur indicates that the lady was a powerful ruler whose act of alienation was respected even by Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{208} Mention must also be made here that grants given not only by Sikh, Hindu and Muslim chiefs were confirmed but even those of his officials were also confirmed by Ranjit Singh like Diwan Moti Ram and Diwan Mokham Chand.\textsuperscript{209} There are a number of references of the grants given by ghurcharas, chaudharīs and zamīndārs being confirmed by Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{210}

The earliest confirmation given to a dharmarth grant by Ranjit Singh was in 1793, when a grant of a well worth one hundred rupees in pargana Phalia in Gujrat given to Gurdwārā Kera Sahib was confirmed by him.\textsuperscript{211} One of the last confirmation given by Ranjit Singh before the end of his rule was in 1839 when he confirmed grant

\textsuperscript{206} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, Nos. 2204, 2205 and 2297, 15 October 1852 No. 117.
\textsuperscript{207} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1847, 1851, 2192; 2206; 27 May 1853, No. 193; 9 January 1857, No. 216.
\textsuperscript{208} Meera Nagpal, 'State Patronage by the Sikh Women in the Punjab', Punjab History Conference, Patiala, 2010, pp.139-140.
\textsuperscript{209} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 1851; 15 October 1852.
\textsuperscript{210} Foreign/Political Proceedings, No.117; 7 January 1853, No.222; 14 January 1853, Nos. 220 & 229; 27 May 1853, Nos. 193, 199 & 202.
\textsuperscript{211} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 241.
of a village worth 200 rupees in pargana Shakargarh given to a brahman, Ram Dial.\textsuperscript{212}

There are at least two references when Ranjit Singh gave grants at the solicitation of others. In the first instance, he gave a village worth 300 rupees in Lahore to Sodhi Rattan Singh on the recommendation of Mai Sada Kaur, his mother-in-law.\textsuperscript{213} It must be mentioned here that the particular grant was given in 1799 when Ranjit Singh was yet to start his imperialist policy towards other principalities for which the said lady was very instrumental. Hence, probably, the grant was given to please her. In another grant, a village worth 1,896 rupees in Jalandhar was assigned to Bedi Kahan Singh in 1838 at Prince Kharak Singh’s instance.\textsuperscript{214}

The Grants were given to earn religious merit or to win the public opinion of the subjects in his favour and the grantees were expected to pray for the welfare of the donor and his long life or of his family but in case of Ranjit Singh it turned out be little different. Instead of asking to pray for him, in one grant he asked them to pray for Raja Hira Singh Dogra’s welfare and long life.\textsuperscript{215} A number of references are available to support this statement.\textsuperscript{216} For few days, Ranjit Singh had also sent a sum of 500 rupees every evening to be placed under the pillow of Hira Singh, to be given away by him in charity the following morning.\textsuperscript{217}

\textsuperscript{212}Foreign/Political Consultation, 15 October 1852, No.117.
\textsuperscript{213}In 1795, Ranjit Singh was married to Mehtab Kaur, daughter of Sada Kaur. Bhagat Singh, Misl, p.191; Meera Nagpal, ‘State Patronage by the Sikh Women in the Punjab’, p.139.
\textsuperscript{214}Foreign/Political Consultation, 31 December 1847, Nos. 2213-15.
\textsuperscript{215}Hira Singh was the son of Dhian Singh, an influential courtier, treated him with great generosity. Harbans Singh, Encyclopaedia, Vol. II, p. 275.
\textsuperscript{216}Foreign/Political Consultation, 11 June 1852, Nos.135-137; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2205; 14 January 1853, No. 238; 27 May 1853, No. 211.
\textsuperscript{217}Hira Singh was given separate quarter in Lahore to build palaces for himself. The area came to be known as Hira Mandi:Hari Ram Gupta, Panjab on the Eve of First Sikh War, Panjab University, Hoshiarpur, 1956, p.xxxvi.
In retrospect, it can be seen that the individuals and institutions of the three main religious systems of the Punjab enjoyed patronage of the Maharaja of Lahore. The most important sacred/centre of the Sikhs the Golden Temple received nearly thirty-three grants worth 8,258 rupees from Ranjit Singh with earliest grant being given in 1808. Grants worth 11,873 rupees were given to various bungās. The maximum amount of grant was enjoyed by Akal Bunga followed by Bunga Sarkārwala. A minimum of twenty-one grants worth 14,830 rupees were alienated by the ruler in favour of the gurduwarās. Udasi Akhāra of Santokh Das at Amritsar received large grants from Ranjit Singh. But it was the Bedis who received the maximum patronage from the ruler with one hundred and thirty-two grants worth 1,36,083 rupees being alienated in their favour. The religious individuals to receive maximum grants after Bedis were Sodhis. Nearly seventy-five grants worth 82,511 rupees were bestowed on them. The Bhallas lagged much behind the Bedis and Sodhis.

Among the Hindu individuals, brahmans received one hundred and seventy grants worth 37,200 rupees. Victory in the conquest, lunar eclipse, pilgrimage sacred bath, marriage in royal family and performance of a yajna were some of the occasions for grants to brahmans by Ranjit Singh. The temples built by his officials of Lahore Kingdom were also endowed by Ranjit Singh. The earliest grant given by Ranjit Singh to any religious individual was in 1793 when Sodhi Kesra Singh received a village in pargana Sialkot. The Udāsi Samādh of Baba Mahan Sahib at Wazirabad too received one of his earliest grants in 1794. He confirmed grants given by the Mughals and late eighteenth century rulers. Confirmation to grants given by his officials, ghurcharas, chaudharīs and zamīndārs was also given.

The following table shows the total number of fresh grants and amount assigned by Ranjit Singh to various religious systems:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sikh Institutions and Individuals</th>
<th>Hindu Institutions and Individuals</th>
<th>Muslim Institutions and Individuals</th>
<th>Secular</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of grants</strong></td>
<td>575</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount in rupees</strong></td>
<td>3,67,389</td>
<td>87,418</td>
<td>11,900</td>
<td>43,713</td>
<td>5,10,420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table shows the total value of grants given in Punjab by the Mughal rulers; Sikh, Hindu and Muslim rulers of the late eighteenth century and Ranjit Singh which continued till the annexation of Punjab to the British Empire in 1849.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sikh Institutions and Individuals</th>
<th>Hindu Institutions and Individuals</th>
<th>Muslim Institutions and Individuals</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imperial grants (Amount in rupees)</strong></td>
<td>24,901</td>
<td>23,402</td>
<td>17,863</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>66,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late 18th century and cis-Sutlej grants (amount in rupees)</strong></td>
<td>2,92,019</td>
<td>55,452</td>
<td>7,713</td>
<td>19,526</td>
<td>3,74,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ranjit Singh grants</strong></td>
<td>3,67,389</td>
<td>87,418</td>
<td>11,900</td>
<td>43,713</td>
<td>5,10,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>6,84,309</td>
<td>1,66,272</td>
<td>37,476</td>
<td>63,440</td>
<td>9,51,497</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To form an idea of location of the grants given by Ranjit Singh in various doabs of the Punjab, it becomes clear that the maximum grants were assigned in Bari Doab (441 grants) followed by Rachna (251 grants) Bist Jalandhar Doab (124 grants) Chajj (60 +14 grants) Sind Sagar Doab. At least fourteen grants were given by Ranjit Singh in the hills, ten in the trans-Indus and 54 in Cis-Satlej territories.