CHAPTER I

Introduction

The tract of territory now divided into the Punjab (India) and the Punjab (Pakistan) had been known by different names since time immemorial. In the Rig Veda it was called "Sapta Sindhu" or "Sapta Sindhwah", the land of seven rivers. (1) This is identical with the "Hupta Hindu" of the Iranians as has been mentioned in the famous geographical chapter of the Zend Avesta among the earliest creations of Ahura Mazda and also in the Rock Inscription on the tomb of Darius I in the list of the Persian Empire's tributary provinces."

The exact Sanskrit equalent of the modern Punjab is "Panchnada" which has been mentioned in the Mahabharta and Agni Purana. In Brahmana Purana 'Panchnada' has been mentioned to signify the place where five rivers meet the Indus - the place is still known by the same name. According to the Dictionary of Ancient and Medieval India "Panchnada" is a name specially applied to the region watered by the collective streams of Ghara (the united stream of the Sutlej and the Beas) Trinab (the united stream of Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum) from

1. Book (Mandal) VIII, Hymn (Sukat) XXIV and verse (Manter)XXVII Ya Cikshadae haso muchad yo varyat Sapt Sindhhs-hu. Who will set free from ruinous or Arya on the seven streams. . The Vans of Rig Veda, Vol. II, page 159.
2. In Sanskrit "s" sound often changed with "h" like "gras", "grah", etc. etc.
their confluence to Nektahakuno rear which the united water (5) joins Indus." Significantly enough this tract was inhabited by the five powerful Aryan tribes - viz. Purus (Or Bhartas afterward called Kurus) who lived on the north of the Ravi, the Tritsus (called Panchalas) who lived on the north and south of the Sutlej, Anus, Yadvas and Turvasus. It has been asserted by a German Orientalist Lassen (1800-1856) in his Latin disassertation, PENTAPONTIA that the Greek geographers knew the term 'Panchnada' just as they knew all rivers but they never used this term for the whole region which later on came to be known as the Punjab.

Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese traveller who remained in India for fifteen years (629-644 A.D.) in the seventh century neither mentioned 'Sapt Sindhu' nor 'Panchnada' in his account. He gives entirely a new name to this tract and called it "Takia" which according to Sir Alexander Cunningham embraced the whole plains of the Punjab from the Indus to Beas and from the foot of the mountains to the junction of five rivers below Multan.

Whatever the earlier nomenclature of this region, it is certain that the word 'Punjab', which is a combination of two Persian words Panj (five) ab (river) was first used during the Muslim rule. According to the author of Farhang-i-Jehangiri - a Persian work, compiled during the reign of Jehangir (1606-1627),

6. Z.A. Ragozin, Vedic India, page 323.
8. Cunningham's Ancient Geography of India, Calcutta (1924) pages 170, 177 and 251.
the first person who used this word was Jamal-ud-din Abdul Razaq (died in 1192 A.H.). He wrote that "my eyes wandered over your face in India and on account of tears from my eyes, my face became bed of five rivers." Evidently the word was first used in a poetic sense and not signifying a tract of territory.

It is very significant to note that Ayeen Akbery, the most important work of Akbar's reign (1587-1605) does not mention the word 'Punjab'. Like Hiuen Tsang its author Abdul Fazal has divided this region into two parts - the upper and the lower. The upper part he calls the Lahore province and the lower he calls the Multan province. He gives the following description of these provinces:

Lahore Province: "The length from the river Sutlej to the Indus is 180 cose and the breadth from Bhember to Chowkundy measures 86 cose. On the east lies Sirhind, on the north Cashmeer, on the south Beykaneer and Ajmeer and Multan bounds it on the west. This Soobah has six rivers issuing from the northern mountains."

Multan Province: "On its east lies Sircar Sirhind, the Pergunnah of Shoor joins it on the north, on the south it is bounded by the Soobah of Ajmeer and on the west are situated Kutch and Mekran both of which are independent territories. The six rivers which have been described in Lahore pass also through this Soobah."

10. Ayeen Akbery, Translated by Francis Gladwin (1785), page 394.
The author of the Ayeen states that the province of Lahore was watered by six rivers and it is perhaps on this account that he does not use the term Punjab which means the land of five rivers for this region. M'Gregor who wrote the history of the Sikhs during 19th century has rightly pointed out that in the old times the term 'Punjab' was applied to the country below the confluence of the rivers Beas and Sutlej and their united stream Ghara was counted as one river instead of two. This was the reason which led the subsequent writers to identify the province of Lahore with the Punjab. Sujan Rai Bhandari, the author of Khulasatu-T-Twarikh which was compiled during Aurangzeb's reign (1657-1707) has used the term 'Punjab' for the Mughal province of Lahore. This practice was followed by several authors. Ghulam Mohyuddin, surnamed Bute Shah, the author of Twarikh-i-Punjab who compiled his work in the first half of 19th century gives the same dimension of the Punjab which has been given in the Ayeen for the province of Lahore.

During the 18th Century, the provinces of Lahore and Multan were divided into a number of small principalities following the decline of Mughal Empire and death of Ahmed Shah Abdali, the Afghan Emperor, who had annexed these provinces to Afghanistan. Lahore, the capital was held by three Sikh chieftains. The constituent areas of the province of Lahore.

viz. Jullundar, Amritsar, Batala, Wazirabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat etc. were held by different chiefs. The Multan was ruled by an Afghan chief, Muzafar Khan who owed allegiance to the Afghan emperor and subsequently became an independent ruler. Similarly the trans-Indus areas which were once a part of the Kabul province during the Akbar's rule, seceded from the Afghan Kingdom. The Peshawar valley and Derajat were held by different chiefs. Thus the entire territories between the Sutlej and the Indus and some trans-Indus areas were divided into a number of small states. Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799-1839 A.D.) unified these warring petty states and established a Sikh Kingdom. It was perhaps on this account that some of the British contemporaries of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, like Captain Murray, used the term Punjab synonymous with the Sikh Kingdom. He wrote, "The region of the north western India known in the modern times under the name of the Punjab, is remarkably well-defined by the geographical limits. On the north it has the Pir Panjal range of the vast Himalaya mountains; on the west the Khybur and Soliman ranges and the great river Indus which runs almost due south to the Indian ocean whilst on the south and east the river Sutlej separates it from the territories of what is now British India."

Col. Steinbach has, however, drawn distinction in the geographical and the political limits of the Punjab. He states, "The political limits of the country (Punjab), however, extended somewhat beyond the banks of two principal rivers.

and may be reckoned including Peshawar and countries west 
the Indus. Iskardo Ladakh and other hill states north at 60.

miles in length and from east to west and 350 miles in breadth 
(17)

from north to south."

Formation of the British Punjab in 1849 -

According to the Administrative Report 1849-51 A.D.

the British Punjab was formed with the following:

(i) Punjab proper and Trans-Sutlej territories :-
The Sikh Kingdom was split after the First Sikh 
War (1846). Kashmir was severed from the Lahore 
Kingdom. The area between the Sutlej and the Beas 
was annexed to the British territory. The rest of 
the territory of the Lahore Kingdom which was annexed 
after the Second Sikh War in 1849 was termed "The 
Punjab Proper" in the Report. It was stated there, 
"Since the annexation, the country has borne the 
territorial title of the "Punjab Proper" in 
contradistinction to those Provinces of the Kingdom 
which had been previously lost to the Sikh nation. 
Of these province , one namely, the Jullundur Doab 
or Trans-Sutlej States together with Alpine district 
of Kangra had once formed an integral portion of the 
old Punjab."

(ii) Cis-Sutlej Territories:-
The cis-Sutlej territory viz the territory between 
the Sutlej and the Jumna had never been included in

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17. The Punjaub (1845), page 1.
18. Report on the Administration of the Punjab, for the year 
1849-50, 1850-51, Calcutta (1853), page 1.
the Punjab. The Sutlej had been a traditional barrier between the Mughal provinces of Delhi and Lahore as the length of Delhi province has been stated in the Ayeen 165 CoS from Palwal to Ludhiana. It was perhaps on this account that the British recognised the Sutlej as the eastern boundary line of the Kingdom of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799–1839 A.D.) by the terms of the Treaty of Amritsar 1809 A.D. The cis-Sutlej territory especially the modern districts of Ambala, Ferozepur, Ludhiana were acquired by the British before the outbreak of the first Sikh War. The modern districts of Gurgaon, Rohtak, Hisar, Karnal and Delhi State were conquered in 1803 and these areas formed a part of North Western Province of then British India.

After the annexation three district areas viz. cis-Sutlej territory, Trans-Sutlej territory and the Lahore Kingdom (viz. Punjab proper) were merged together and constituted into one unit and placed under one administration. According to the Administrative Report 1868–69 the British Punjab was "bounded on the north and north east Himalyan mountains, on the east by river Jumna; on the south by district of Mathra in the north western Province, the States of Rajputana and the river Sutlej; and on the west by Suleman hills and Afghanistan."

It is very important to note that Lord Dalhousie recommended even the amalgamation of Sindh with the Punjab. He wrote in his minute dated Feb. 25, 1856:— "If it should be

thought that the Punjab by itself would constitute too small a jurisdiction for a Lieutenant Governorship I would then propose that Lieutenant Governorship should also include the province of Scinde. The addition of Scinde would not materially add to the extent of financial charge but it would augment the territorial charge very considerably."

Even without Sindh the British Punjab was composed of the territories of four Mughal provinces — major portions of Delhi and Kabul provinces on the east and west respectively and two entire provinces of Lahore and Multan. With regard to territorial expansion the British Punjab reached its climax.

Soon after it was found that the Punjab had become too unwieldy a province especially to deal with the problems of north western frontier. Consequently five frontier districts of the Punjab viz. Peshawar, Hazara, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan were separated from the Punjab and North West Frontier Province was constituted with headquarter at Peshawar in 1901. The district of Delhi was separated from the Punjab in 1911 when the Indian Government transferred its office from Calcutta to Delhi.

The Punjab before partition in 1947 comprised twenty-nine districts, every district with 1000 to 2000 villages and with three or four sub-divisions known as tehsils. For the sake of administration all the districts were grouped into five divisions as follows:

1. Ambala Division included four districts of South-
Skeleton District Map of Panjáb.
Eastern plains viz Gurgoan, Rohtak, Karnal, Hissar, sub-mountaneous district of Ambala and hill district of Simla.

2. Jullundar Division included hilly district of Kangra which stretched from the plains to the lofty snowy ranges on the borders of Tibet and which covered almost half of the area of the Jullundar Division. The other districts were Hoshiarpur in the sub-mountaneous zone, Jullundar and Ludhiana which belonged to the Central Plains and Ferozepur which was a part of south eastern Punjab.

3. Lahore Division was the smallest but the most important Division of the Punjab. It included Lahore, the capital of the province and Amritsar, the commercial centre of the province and religious city of the Sikhs. It contained six districts viz Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Gurdaspur, Lahore and Amritsar.

4. Rawalpindi Division was in the north-west of the Punjab. It was in area the second largest Division but in population the smallest. It included six districts viz. Gujrat, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attock, Mianwali and Shahpur.

5. Multan Division consists of six districts of south west Punjab viz. Montgomery, Lyallpur, Jhang, Multan Muzafargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan. It was the biggest Division in area.