Maharaja Ranjit Singh died on 27th June 1839 A.D. After his death all his sons fought with each other and bloody war to sit on the throne and the heads were removed off from the body. All that finished the power of Lahore. After the death of Maharaja, his son Sahibzada Kharak Singh sat on the throne and Raja Dian Singh became his wazir. Through Chet Singh news was spread and on the morning of October 8th, 1839 A.D.\(^1\) Raja Dhyan Singh, Gulab Singh, Suchet Singh and Sandhawalia Sardars killed Chet Singh. After the death of Chet Singh all the political orders were signed by Kharak Singh but the whole power came into hands of Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh. Suffering from the long termed disease, Kharak Singh passed away on November 5th, 1840 A.D. While his cremation was over and on the return back to the palace the roof pillar of the Roshnai gate fell down which all ended the life of both Udham Singh and Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh. The rumor was spread that after the death of both Udham Singh and Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh there was hand of Raja Dhyan Singh.

After this Sher Singh sat on the throne. It was the thought of Sher Singh that he could marry the widow of Kharak Singh so that all the obstacles could be removed off. But Rani Chand Kaur refused that because she was known that neither Sher Singh and his brother Tara Singh were not real sons of Maharaja Ranjit Singh nor they were born from the womb of Mehtab Kaur. In reality they were the sons of washer men and cobbler. On June 13\(^{th}\) 1842 A.D. Wazir Dhyan Singh with the help of Lahore’s Inspector, Maha Singh gave poison to Rani Chand Kaur and made her unconscious and during the night

\(^1\) Kaille, S. L and Gill Harnek Singh, *Sikh raj vich Maharani jinda ik hasti si*, Bhai Chatar Singh Jiwan Singh, Amritsar, 2011, p. no. 64.
time damaged her head badly with the stones and stick. For three days Raja Dhyan played the drama of curing Rani but after that he announced her death and cremated her.

From the Sandhawalia Sardars Ajit Singh killed Maharaja Sher Singh by shooting him and after that cut off his head and separated it from the body by the sword. He also passed away Raja Dhyan Singh by killing him. In the Sikh History the day 15th September was the very sad and emotional day as on that day Maharaja, his son and prime minister three of them were killed.

Raja Hira Singh forced Sikhs to revolt against Sandhawalia. Ajit Singh who killed Maharaja Sher Singh while escaping with his security guard Mehar Ghasita was killed. Lehna Singh was unsuccessful in hiding himself and was also killed. Raja Hira Singh hold the power of state. On 18th September 1843 A.D. Raja Hira Singh hold the Darbar in which the Commander in Chief of Army was also present. Raja Hira Singh put the Raj tilak on the forehead of Dalip Singh and himself became the prime minister. After that Sikh army killed Raja Suchet Singh and Kesari Singh. Sardar Jawahar Singh separated the heads away from the body by killing Raja Hira Singh, Gulab Singh son of Mian Sohan Singh, Mian Labh Singh, Pandit Jailla etc. Jawahar Singh became the permanent wazir. He didn’t want any person from the Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s family and even his family to come close to Dalip Singh.

When the eminent five persons (Panch) came to know about this, they killed Jawahar Singh. In such situation the army was independent and it was a great fear. Rani Jind Kaur hold all that and she appointed Bhagat Ram as the Chief of Army, Sardar Teja

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3 Ibid p. no. 1.
4 Ibid p. no. 1.
Singh as the army leader and Raja Lal Singh as the prime minister but due to poor administrative after few days war took place between Sikhs and British.\(^5\)

Maharani Jind Kaur and Sham Singh Attariwala never want that there should be dispute or war against British but in front of army they were failed. Due to the traitors in the Sikh army, Sikhs lost the war and Britishers came to Lahore. They played fraud with young Maharaj and wanted to destroy the building stone of Sikh Raj and were very eagerly waiting for mixing up Sikh Raj with them. They tried to spread rumors against Maharani Jind Kaur and tried to put allegations on her for killing Teja Singh and Lal Singh in the war against British army and she did all this for taking the revenge of death of her brother Jawahar Singh by the sikh army. When the people ignored all that, the British found the another way for making her guilty. On 7\(^{th}\) August, 1847 A.D. the Resident Lawrence was called in the Darbar where some of the Sardars were to be honored with the post of Raja. Tej Singh was also present in the Darbar who did fraud with the Lahore Darbar and helped the British due to which he was to be honored with the Raja by Lawrence.\(^6\)

Shere-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh died on 27\(^{th}\) June, 1839 A.D. The sharp thinking luck went along with him. Sikh rule started declining after his death.\(^7\) During the period between the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the coming of the Queen Jind Kaur to the helm of affairs, the Sikh kingdom witnessed the full play of factionalism in its ugliest form. Many historians described it as the beginning of the end of the mighty edifice, so dexterously built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh almost brick by brick.\(^8\) Before proceeding further to delineate role of Rani Jind Kaur as a Regent of Maharaja Dalip

\(^5\) Ibid p. no. 1.
\(^6\) Rozana Spokesman ,28\(^{th}\) August, 2016, p. no. 1.
\(^7\) Gyan Sohan Singh Seetal, Maharani Jinda, Lahore Book Shop, Ludhiana, 2013, p no. 25.
\(^8\) Ahluwalia, M.L., Maharani Jind Kaur(1816-1863), Singh Bros., Amritsar, 2001, p. no. 16.
Singh, it would be in the fitness of things to make an attempt to lay bare the British intentions with regards to the Sikh kingdom that remained the only sovereign power on the Indian subcontinent. Since 1834 A.D., when Maharaja Ranjit Singh suffered a paralytic attack, the British authorities in India as well as London had started making re-appraisal of their options in Punjab in the event of the sudden death of Maharaja. Captain C. M. Wade suggested that in the first instance the Residency be shifted from Ludhiana to Ferozepur from where over watching the developments in Lahore would be easier and, “as good as the resident functioning from Lahore itself.”9 But this was not approved as this would have irritated the Maharaja all the more who was not already less sore on the decision of the British to take over the estate of Sardarni Lachman Kaur in Ferozepur, whom the Maharaja claimed to be his jagirdar. Major Broadfoot, blue eyed boy was posted as political agent at Ludhiana and was given the task of making the best use of the dissensions and factionalism that had come to play at the Lahore Darbar. With the deep sorrow Jind Kaur closed her eyes from all the sides and adopted the alone living. Her world was limited only up to the small aged Dalip Singh. For some time she besided away from the eyes of all punjabis. Within three year of the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the contenders of the throne and their supporters converted the entire kingdom into a cesspool of their avaricious political ambition. But interestingly those who created the cesspool with their knavish deeds themselves fell one by one. At that time, Maharani Jind Kaur was only keeping a watchful eye on all the happenings from within the four walls of the Lahore Darbar. Maharaja Ranjit Singh sensing the possibility of clash between the heir- apparent and his grandson, had a few months before his death, posted Nau Nihal Singh at Peshawar to tackle the difficult situation created by the over demanding British agent C.M. Wade, encamped at Peshawar

ostensibly to supervise the free flow of supplies and dispatch of a contingent of 5000 muslims soldiers which the *Darbar* had pledged for the military operations against Amir Dost Mohammad Khan of Kabul as per terms of the Triparite Treaty\(^\text{10}\). When Dhyan Singh attacked Sardar Chet Singh and Kharak Singh, both of them were unable to escape from him and shot dead by Sardar Chet Singh while Kharak Singh was arrested by his army. He was given poison in the jail which finally resulted in his death on 4\(^{th}\) November, 1841 A.D.\(^\text{11}\) Next day under mysterious conditions Nau Nihal Singh and Mian Udam Singh succumbed to injuries. There was a wide spread of rumour at Lahore generally believed by the several chiefs and the Maharaj himself that the Sandhanwalias were being backed by the British with a view to completely obliterating that family too\(^\text{12}\). Sikh Raj was divided into three groups, Dogras group, Sandhawalias and Maharaja Sher Singh group. Maharani Jind Kaur did not have any group but she wished to be with the winning group and from the deep heart she wanted Sandhawalia’s win. Both the Dogras and Sandhawalia were get together at Maharani Jind Kaur’s *Darbar*. Anyway Sandhawalias Sardars managed to befool the Maharaj, probably on the advise of the British Political Agent, by making peace with him. The Maharaja fell into their trap side lining Raja Dhyan Singh and agreed to restored them their jagirs and status. The Sandhanwalia Sardars watched the situation and remained on the look-out of an opportune time to get rid of both Maharaja and his Prime Minister, Dhyan Singh\(^\text{13}\). They wanted to play one against the other. Dogre Dhyan Singh and Gulab Singh started dividing the area among themselves by holding the plain area of Punjab by Raja Dhyan Singh and the hilly area by Raja Gulab Singh. But it was not easy for them because the main obstacle in their way were seven sons of Maharaja and one grandson Kanwar Nau

\(^{11}\) Ibid p. no. 17.
\(^{12}\) Secret Cons. No. 68, dated 18\(^{th}\) January , 1843.
Nihal Singh. Maharani Chand Kaur, a widow of Kharak Singh, announced that Nau Nihal Singh’s young widow was in family way and the right succession should legitimately go to the expected son of that prince. It was a clever move of Ram Singh faction in the council of Ministers who welcomed the announcement against the advice of Dhyan Singh and Fakir Aziz-ud-din. Maharani Chand Kaur would act as regent for the intervening period was implied in that statement. Accordingly, Kanwar Sher Singh was told to withdraw his claim in exchange for an additional jagir of Rs. One lakh and go back to Batala to wait patiently for a few more months. The proposal to make Mai Chand Kaur a regent had already divided the council of ministers openly into two factions with Bhai Ram Singh, Gobind Ram, Jamadar Khushal Singh and his nephew Tej Singh, Sardar Fateh Singh Mann, Gulab Singh Pohuwindia and Sheikh Gulam Mohi-ud-din on Rani Chand Kaur’s side and Raja Dhyan Singh, Bhai Gurmukh Singh, Sham Singh Attariwala, Sardar Dhaana Singh Malwai, Fakir Aziz-ud-din and his two brothers Imamuddin and Nur-ud-din in favour of Sher Singh. With the elimination of Raja Dhyan Singh and the Sandhawalias unable to decide about succession quickly, Hira Singh son of Raja Dhyan Singh moved swiftly to occupy the centre stage. For the reorganization of the affairs of the state, Hira Singh put himself as Prime Minister, continued to hold the charge of Khalsa army, named Rani Jind Kaur the regent and asked her brother Jawahar Singh to supervise the education of the child- Maharaja.

Scant notice of Maharani Jind Kaur which was taken either by the official Lahore diarist, Sohan Lal Suri, or the British records until 1838 A.D., when according to the former, a munshi brought the blessed tidings of the birth of a son to her which appeared that she and her son lived a life of obscurity under the care of Raja Dhyan Singh at

16 Ibid p. no. 24.
Jammu in August, 1843 A.D., the young prince and her mother were brought to Lahore in September, 1843 A.D., both Maharaja Sher Singh and Dhyan Singh were assassinated. After the assassinations of Ranjit Singh's first three successors, Dalip Singh came to power in September, 1843 A.D. at the age of five year and Jind Kaur became Regent on her son's behalf. Being the mother of minor Sikh sovereign, she came to be called as Mai or the Queen Mother as she was the only surviving widow of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Pandit Jallah was appointed as Mashir-i-khas. At that stage, it was necessary to have look at the state of affairs of the governance machinery. The Civil, Military and the Revenue administration virtually came to a stand hill. The situation in Central Punjab and the Jalandhar Doab, was not so bad. The army of the Darbar particularly the regiments under the command of General Court and those of the King’s own called the Kampo-i-Mualla where Sikh soldiers were in majority in the infantry and artillery, had almost taken upon themselves the role of the king-makers in face of their repeated demands of increase in their pay and allowances, in addition to cash awards in advance. They had succeeded in this way in almost discarding the strict code of conduct and discipline as prescribed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

The increase in the strength of the Darbar forces and the high cost of their pay and allowances during 1839 A.D.-1845 A.D, reflected how the defenders of the Khalsa Raj were eating into the dwindling resources of the State. The strength of the army, infantry, cavalry and artillery which was roughly 35,000 at the death time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, besides over 10,000 jagirdari force, had during 1843 A.D. -1844 A.D. swelled to over 51,000 and 14,000 respectively. As a first step towards this direction, Maharani Jind Kaur thought it proper to allow Raja Hira Singh to give priority to the collection of

17 Ibid p. no. 24.
18 Grewal, J.S. and Banga Indu, Civil and Military Affairs of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 1977, pp. no. 77-87.
revenue. In order to replenish the depleted treasury, Raja Hira Singh gave free hand to Pandit Jallah who was known for his non-sense attitude\textsuperscript{20}. The death of Raja Hira Singh simply opened the flood gates of more troubles making the Maharani learn some very bitter lessons of her life. When Raja Hira Singh escaped along with the treasury, he was followed by Sardar Attar Singh and Sardar Sham Singh Attariwala. On December, 2\textsuperscript{nd} 1848 A.D. in the war which was fought among them, Raja Hira Singh, Pandit Jallah, Mian Sohan Singh and Lab Singh were dead. Raja Hira Singh and Pandit Jallah took steps in the right directions to augment the depleted treasury of Sarkar-i-khalsa and to discipline the civil and military officials. In this process he did not even spared the uncles of Raja Hira Singh who were nursing many a grievance against Hira Singh. The murder of Raja Hira Singh marked the end of Dogra hegemony in the Khalsa Darbar.

But it proved to be a challenge as well as an opportunity for Maharani Jind Kaur. For some time she wielded unrestricted authority assisted by her brother Jawahar Singh, Bhai Ram Singh Bakshi, Bhagat Ram, Diwan Dina Nath and Fakir Aziz-ud-din but left military dispositions to be made under the authority of Army Panches. It is reported that the Regimental Panchayats had virtually dragged Wazir Jawahar Singh to the cantonment of Mian Mir near Lahore on 24\textsuperscript{th} December, 1844 A.D. and murdered him in cold blood before the eyes of young maharaja and his mother Jind Kaur.\textsuperscript{21} The murder of Jawahar Singh in fact was taken as the another turning point in the entire political strategy of Maharani Jind Kaur in the years to come.

The intelligence was flashed out by British News writer. The Camps of the troops were scene of great commotion. The soldiers still swore of loyalty for Pashaura Singh who


\textsuperscript{21} Op cit.,p. no. 28.
they said would increase their pay and under whom they wanted to conquer Jasrota and Jammu to recover the hidden wealth of Raja Gulab Singh.\textsuperscript{22}

Maharani Jind Kaur tried to take the initiative in her own hands in which as first step she thought it necessary to send a diplomatic message to Major Broadfoot, British agent at Ludhiana, that she was in full control of her Government and there was no room for any misunderstanding because her policy was to maintain friendly relations with the British in the same manner as was being done by her late husband, Maharaja Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{23} Then she turned her attention to the rebellious troops who were told by her in no unclear terms that it was not possible for the state treasury to meet their ever increasing demands.\textsuperscript{24} This led to some rumblings which she quietened by releasing their salary. Rani summoned Bhai Gurbaksh Singh, the religious mentor and the political adviser of Kanwar Pashaura Singh and begged him to persuade Pashaura Singh to retire his jagir. Maharani also asked for a report on the funds available in the treasury from Diwan Dina Nath, Minister in charge of state revenues who reported that looking to the mood of the Generals, the Maharani should take it that the amount of Rs. 25 lakhs given to army had practically gone waste while in addition another Rs. One crore had been spent during the previous days, while the grudge of the army was that all the amount had not reached them as the mustadies or clerks embezzled huge amounts while the soldiers were saying that one day they would recover all the amount from the corrupt officials.

Though Rani Jind Kaur always favoured the chiefs who aided her along with her brothers, yet she looked to her brothers with special favour as compared to the other

\textsuperscript{22} Campbell C., \textit{The Maharaja's Box: An Imperial story of Conspiracy, love and Guru's prophecy}, Overlook Hardcover, New York, 2002, chapter 5.

\textsuperscript{23} Singh, G., \textit{Private Correspondence Relating to Anglo-Sikh wars}, Amritsar, Sikh History Society, Amritsar, 1955, p. no. 106.

\textsuperscript{24} The Second Anglo-Sikh war- The encyclopedia of Sikhism—(Ed.)Harbans Singh, Punjabi University Patiala, 2002, p. no. 1.
members of Darbar. Raja Hira Singh and Jallah did not like her and her brothers, regarding them as without influence for want of family connections and due to their disreputable character. For very few time both the brothers of Maharani were deprived of jagir but later small jagirs were released on them. The love affair of Rani Jind Kaur and Raja Lal Singh was the talk of town of Lahore who was the son of Missar Jassa Mal, a scribe attached to Ranjit Singh. Lal Singh was a great favourite of the Queen Mother. At that time the Sikhs lost the First Anglo-Sikh War she was replaced in December, 1846 A.D. by a Council of Regency, under the control of a British Resident. However, her power and influence continued and, to counter that, the British imprisoned and exiled her. Over thirteen years passed before she was again permitted to see her son, who was taken to England.  

Raja Hira Singh, Dhyan Singh's son, with the support of the army and chiefs, wiped out the Sandhawalia faction shortly, after Hira Singh captured the Fort of Lahore and on 16th September, 1845 A.D., the army proclaimed minor Dalip Singh the sovereign of the State Hira Singh was appointed the wazir. The political history of Jind Kaur began from that date gradually, when she assumed the role of a dejure regent to the minor Maharaja. Both Hira Singh and his adviser, Pandit Jalla, did not allowed her the courtesy and consideration she was entitled to. Her establishment was put under the control of Lal Singh. Jind Kaur mobilized opinion at the Darbar against the dominance of the Dogras. She and her brother, Jawahar Singh, pleaded with the army panchayats (regimental committees) to banish Pandit Jalla and protect the rights of minor Dalip Singh. The council assured the Rani that Dalip Singh was the real king of the Punjab.

25 Kaille, S. L and Gill Harnek Singh, Sikh raj vich Maharani jinda ik hasti si, Bhai Chatar Singh Jiwan Singh, Amritsar, 2011, P.no. 239.
26 Op cit., p. no.2.
The eclipse of the Jalla regime was a political victory for Maharani Jind Kaur, who had goaded the army to overthrow Hira Singh and appointed her brother Jawahar Singh as the Wazir. She assumed control of the Government with the approval of the army generals who declared that they would place her on the throne of Delhi. Jind Kaur proclaimed herself as regent and casted off her veil. She became the symbol of the sovereignty of the Khalsa ruling the Punjab in the name of her son. She reviewed the troops and addressed them, held court and transacted state business in public. She reconstituted the supreme Khalsa Council by giving representation to the principal sardars and restored a working balance between the army panchayats and the civil administration. Numerous annoying problems confronted the Maharani. First, an alarm was created that an English force was accompanying Peshaura Singh to Lahore, and that he was being helped secretly by Gulab Singh. Second the troops clamored for a raise in their pay. The feudatory chiefs demanded the restoration of their resumed jagirs, remission of fines and reduction of enhanced taxes and burdens imposed upon them by Hira Singh. Finally, it appeared that the diminishing revenues of the State could not balance the increasing cost of the civil and military administration.

Jind Kaur applied herself to the solution of these problems and secured to this end the assistance of a newly appointed council of elder statesmen and military generals Kanvar Pashaura Singh was summoned to Lahore and persuaded to return to his Jagir. Early in 1845 A.D., a force of 35,000 strong men marched to Jammu for the punishment of Gulab Singh. The council had accused him of being a traitor to the Panth and charged him with treachery and intrigue against his sovereign. In April, 1845 A.D., the army returned to Lahore with the Dogra chief as a hostage. The pay of the soldiery was

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27 Ibid, p. no.2.
enhanced and Jawahar Singh was formally installed Wazir. Maharani Jind Kaur's choice of Jawahar Singh as Wazir became the subject of criticism. To counteract the rising disaffection, Jind Kaur hastily betrothed Dalip Singh, in the powerful Atan family, opened top negotiations with Gulab Singh and promised higher pay to the soldier. When Jawahar Singh was assassinated by the army panchayats suspecting his hand in the murder of Kanvar Pashaura Singh, Jind Kaur gave vent to her anguish with loud lamentation. Early in November, 1845 A.D., she, with the approval of the Khalsa Council, nominated Misr Lal Singh to the office of Wazir.

Maharani Jind Kaur had been accused by some historians of wishing the Khalsa army to destroy itself in a war with the English. A more balanced and realistic view will be obtained by a closer examination of the policies of Ellen borough and Hardinge and of other incidental political factors which led to a clash of arms between the Sikhs and the English in December, 1845 A.D. The Ellen borough papers in the Public Records Office, London, especially Ellen borough and Hardinge's private correspondence with the Duke of Wellington, disclosed the extent of British military preparations on the Sikh frontier. The correspondence revealed the inside story of the main causes of the first Anglo-Sikh war. The republican upsurge of the Khalsa soldiery to save Maharaja Ranjit Singh's kingdom from foreign aggression, the concentration of large British forces on the Sutlej, the British seizure of Suchet Singh's treasure, the intrigues of British political officers to break the loyalty of the Sikh governors of Kashmir and Multan, the rejection of Lahore claim to the village of Moran, and the extraordinarily hostile conduct of Major George Broadfoot, the British Political Agent at the North-West Frontier Agency, towards the Sikhs, particularly the virtual seizure by hint of the cis-Sutlej possessions of the Lahore Government in view of these factors, the theory that the Sikh army had

29 Ibid Retrieved 2002, p.no. 3
became perilous to the regency and that the courtiers plotted to engage the army against the British becomes untenable on the contrary, the regent was the only person who exhibited determination and courage during the critical period of the war with the British.\textsuperscript{30}

In his relations with Sikhs, Henry Lawrence seemed to get on very well except with the Rani. In December, 1846 A.D., Maharani Jind Kaur surrendered political power to the council of ministers appointed by the British Resident after the treaty of Bharoval and except for occasional murmurs. The Sikh \textit{Darbar} Ceased to exist as a sovereign political body. The regent was dismissed with an annuity of Rs 1,50,000 and "an officer of Company's artillery became, in effect, the successor to Ranjit Singh".\textsuperscript{31} The resident however, suspecting her full of intrigue, imposed necessary restrictions on her. However the queen mother was in favour of the retention of British troops under the terms of the then existing treaty under the impression that “the British Government will not exercise any interference in the internal administration of Punjab state - but in all cases or questions which may be referred to the British Government, the Governor General will give the aid of his advice for the furtherance of the interest of the Lahore Government. Maharani Jind Kaur soon became disillusioned about the intentions of the Governor General who aimed at giving to British resident at Lahore. From Henry Lawrence ‘s report to the Government dated 17\textsuperscript{th} December,1846 A.D., it was evident that sooner or later the ultimate aim of the British Government was to occupy the Punjab. The British Government determined to undermine the morale of the Sikhs. With this end in view Henry Lawrence gave an exaggerated and condemning report.

\textsuperscript{30} Ibid Retrieved 2002, p. no. 3.  
\textsuperscript{31} Ibid Retrieved 2002,p. no. 3.
Maharani Jind Kaur was treated with unnecessary acrimony and suspicion. This was all due to the fear in the mind of British about the revenge to be taken by Maharani Jind Kaur of her brother’s death and secondly her mental health was not so good. She had retired gracefully to a life of religious devotion in the palace, yet mindful of the rights of her minor son as the sovereign of the Punjab. Henry Lawrence, the British Resident at Lahore, and Viscount Hardinge both accused her of fomenting intrigue and influencing the Darbar politics. After Bharoval, treaty Hardinge had issued instructions that she must be deprived of all political power in March 1847, he expressed the view that she must be sent away from Lahore. Her influence with her people, her shrewd understanding of the local politics and secret British plans, her dexterity in wielding the pen, her amazing ability to act with energy and spirit and her intense desire to rule were in eyes of British constituted grave menace to their authority in the Punjab. To give her ill name before removing her from Lahore, she was accused, merely on presumption of cognizance of a conspiracy for the murder of Tej Singh but no positive proof against her, it was not deemed expedient by the Governor General to act against her on that ground.

At the time of Tej Singh's investiture as Raja of Sialkot in August, 1847A.D, it was suspected that the young Maharaja had refused to confer the title on him at the instigation of his mother. She was also suspected of having a hand in what is known as the Premilla Plot a conspiracy designed to murder the British Resident and Tej Singh at a fete at the Shalimar Gardens. Although neither of the charges against Jind Kaur could be substantiated on enquiry, she was removed to Sheikhupura in September, 1847 A.D., and her allowance was reduced to Rs 48,000. Lord Dalhousie, instructed Sir Frederick Currie, the British Resident at Lahore, to expel her from the Punjab. Currie

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32 Rozana Spokesman, 28th August, 2016, p. no. 1.
acted promptly. He implicated Maharani Jind Kaur in a fictitious plot and sent her away from Sheikhpura to Banaras. She remained interned at Banaras under strict surveillance in 1848 A.D., allegations were made by Major Mac Gregor, in attendance on her, that she was in correspondence with Mulraj and Sher Singh at Multan. A few of her letters were intercepted and an alarm was created when one of her slave girls escaped from Banaras. She was removed to the Fort of Chunar from where she escaped to Nepal disguised as a maid-servant. Maharani Jind Kaur arrived at Kathmandu on 29 April, 1849 A.D. When she arrived Nepal, she told all the mis- happenings which took place with her to the King of Nepal Rana Jung Bahadur. After listening to her, king allowed Maharani to reside in Nepal and also allowed Rs 20,000 per month which was to be given to Maharani Jind kaur but incase he made promise from her that she has to live under the supervision of British resident. Maharani lived in the King’s palace for one month and after that king built a separate palace for her near the sea so that she could spend her remaining life happily and peacefully. The British Government promptly confiscated her jewellery worth Rs 9,00,000 and stopped her pension. At Kathmandu, the sudden appearance of the widow of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was both unexpected and unwelcomed, Rana Jung Bahadur, the Prime Minister, granted her asylum, mainly as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Maharaja Ranjit Singh. A residence was assigned to her at Thapathall, on the banks of the Vagmati river, and the Nepalese Government settled upon her an allowance for her maintenance. The Nepal Residency papers relate the details of Maharani Jind Kaur's unhappy sojourn in Nepal till 1860 A.D. The British Residency in Kathmandu kept a vigilant eye on her throughout. It believed that she was engaged in political intrigue to secure the revival of

33 Ibid p. no. 1.
34 Ibid, p. no. 189.
the Sikh dynasty in the Punjab. Under constant pressure firm the British. The Nepal Darbar turned hostile towards the Maharani and levied the most humiliating restrictions on her. But the forlorn widow of Maharaja Ranjit Singh remained undaunted. She quietly protested against the indignities and restrictions imposed upon her by Rana Jung Bahadur. He expelled from the valley one of her attendants, and the Maharani dismissed the entire staff foisted upon her by the Nepalese Government. She was then ordered to appear in person in the Darbar to acknowledge Nepalese hospitality, which she refused to do. The breach between her and Jung Bahadur widened. The Nepal Residency Records tell us that an open rift took place, and "several scenes occurred in which each seemed to have given way to temper, to have addressed the other ill very insulting language."

After thirteen and half years the time came when mother and son met each other in the hotel in Kolkata. Giani Tarlok Singh mentioned in his book ‘Maharani Jinda that Sajjan Singh transformed himself into sadhu and gathered the information about Dalip Singh at Fatehgarh. He only told the Maharani about trimming the hairs by Dalip Singh and converting his religion and becoming Christian. When Maharani met her son she moved her hand over the head of Dalip Singh and questioned him about not having the gift of his father (hairs). She also told him that she was not as much sad and worried about the downfall of Sikh Raj but as due to the loss of precious gift of Guru Gobind Singh Ji by the Son of Shere-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh. She started thinking about old time

36 Ibid, p. no. 166.
37 Op cit, p. no. 209.
that if in present if Maharaja was alive then she could never saw this day. After all this Dalip Singh promised her that he will again become sikh and will be baptized.  

Towards the end of 1860 A.D., it was signified to Maharani Jind Kaur that her son, Maharaja Dalip Singh, was about to return to India and that she could visit him in Calcutta. She welcomed the suggestion and travelled to Calcutta to meet her son, who took her with him to England. Maharani Jind Kaur died at Kensington, England, on 1 August, 1863 A.D. Her revolt began when her husband, the last Maharaja of the Punjab, died of a stroke in 1839 A.D. and the British tried to wrest the kingdom from the heir to the throne, her infant son, Dalip Singh. During her rule as regent, Maharani Jind Kaur waged two disastrous wars against the British that led to the annexation of the Punjab. She may have made huge strategic errors due to her military unexperience and young age (she was in her early 20s), but Maharani Jind Kaur was a fierce ruler. British historian Peter Bance describes her as a "very gutsy woman". She stood her ground against the British. She actively took charge of the Punjab.  

Professor Nikky-Guninder Kaur of Colby College, Maine, US, says: "She was remarkable in how she discarded sati and purdah, dominant at the time, and led the courts, had meetings with chief ministers and the armies. All of them were taking her counsel." Christy Campbell, author of The Maharajah's Box, a book about the Maharani's son, Dalip Singh, says Jindan was "one of the most remarkable characters of 19th-century history, let alone Indian or Sikh history". This is despite the fact that much of what is known about her is "through the words of the British, who regarded her as a threat to their power in India and therefore did their best to make her reputation as bad  

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38 Ibid p. no. 240.
as possible". The Maharani Jind Kaur was described as "a serious obstacle" to British rule in India. They launched a smear campaign to discredit her, painting her as the "Messalina of the Punjab", a seductress too rebellious to be controlled. She refused to co-operate and the British saw that her influence on Dalip Singh could lead to an uprising among the Punjabi people. They decided to separate mother and son.

Nine-year-old Dalip Singh was taken to England where he converted to Christianity, living the life of a typical English gentleman, with Queen Victoria among his friends. The Maharani Jind Kaur, however, was dragged from the court of Lahore by her hair and thrown into the fortress of Sheikhupura and then Chunar Fort in Uttar Pradesh. In 1845 A.D the First War took place against the British in Bhai Phero City in Kasur District (Sikh Territory), before Maharani Jind kaur found that these Hindu Dogra brothers were allies of the British in which to save the Empire from the enemies. She gave a Letter to Sardar Sham Singh Attariwala to give it to Jathedar Akali Baba Hanuman Singh Shaeed (1755 A.D.–1845 A.D.) who was the Head of Sikh Nihang Army and the Head Priest of Amritsar Of Akal Takhat Sahib in the Letter it was said that the Sikh Empire Should be saved and protect it against the Dogra and the British. The Jathedar got ready with his Sikh Army to die for the Sikh Kingdom of Motherland Punjab, A big battle was fought in which Hundreds of Sikhs attained martyrdom on the battlefield Jathedar with his few surviving Sikh army injured, traveled in to the Malwa region of Punjab. At that time the British informed Maharaja Karam Singh of Patiala Sikh kingdom who was a Allie of the British during the wars along with other traitors such as Maharaja Pahar Singh of Faridkot Sikh kingdom. The British told them to attack

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the Jathedar and his army. These two Maharaja traitors attacked their own Sikh brothers and killed the surviving Sikhs in the battlefield.

On 30 March, 1849 A.D., Dalip Singh held his last court at Lahore, at which he signed away all claims to the rule of the Punjab. A proclamation by Dalhousie, annexing the Punjab, was then read out. For his services, the Earl of Dalhousie received the thanks of the British parliament and a step in the peerage, as Marquess. Gough also received rewards for his services, although his tactics at Chillianwala near the Jhelum River were to be questioned for the remainder of his life. Many of the junior British Political Agents who had organized local resistance to the Khalsa were to have distinguished later careers. The End of the Sikh Empire in 1849 A.D\textsuperscript{41} was a great Shock for the Punjabi people and the Sikhs and a Great Imperial Power Came to an end, Sikhs made lots of sacrifices to save the Empire but in the end all hopes were lost. It became a memory of the Golden Age of when the Empire had reached its Zenith. For Sikhs they shall always remember the last Sikh Raj.

In Sikh Raj it was tradition that who was going to hold the position of Raja Maharaja used to put on the tilak on their forehead. When residents asked Maharaja to put on the tilak to Teja Singh, Maharaja refused and put his hand back and relaxed on his chair. Resident Lawrence who was finding any excuse against Jind Kaur, he put all those allegation of refusing tilak on Jind Kaur. For that allegation, Lawrence captured Jind Kaur in the Sheikupur’s fort and also limited her pension 1.5 lac to 48000rs per annum on 16\textsuperscript{th} December, 1846 A.D. On 19\textsuperscript{th} August, 1847 A.D. by the orders of Lawrence Jind Kaur was shifted from the Lahore to Sheikupur fort.\textsuperscript{42}


\textsuperscript{42} Rozana Spokesman, 28\textsuperscript{th} August, 2016, p. no. 1.
At that time the age of Maharaja Dalip Singh was only 9 years. Separation of mother and son was such that both had to wait for long time to meet each other. But still British’s were not satisfied by escaping Rani Jind Kaur from Lahore and ordered to send Maharani out of Punjab. On 14th May, 1848 A.D. Maharani Jind Kaur was sent out of Punjab from Sheikupur fort by two British officers Captain Nisdan and Lieutenant Judsan. Before that she was kept in Ferozepur for few days and then was sent to Banaras. On 14th July, 1848 A.D. the pension of Maharani was reduced to 12000 Rs. Without any order on 6th April, 1848 A.D.43 She was shifted to Chinnar fort from Banaras. The fort was in Uttar Pardesh near Ganga river district Mirzapur. On 18th April, Maharani wore the clothes of servant and changed her appearance. She put the ash of burning candle on her face herself so that no one could recognize her. She was successful in her plan and escaped from the Chinnar fort. After escaping from the fort she went to Nepal and met Raja Jang Bahadur, but in Nepal her life was not independent. Raja Jang Bahadur felt mercy on Rani Jind Kaur and agreed to give her 20,000 Rs per annum only if she lives within the limits of the state. It was very difficult for her to spend even a single day. There was no any question of handling Maharaja Dalip Singh to Rani.44 During all those months of separation Lord Dalhousie did not left a single thing to destroy the character or making the insult of Maharani. In that letters to Maharani Victoria, Lord Dalhousie described Maharani Jind Kaur as a abused lady who could cross any limit for her sexual desire. She was compared with the wife Paisaleena of Ancient Roman King Cladius.

Maharaja Dalip Singh started a new life when he met John Login in Lahore. In the letter written by Login to her wife it was described that Dalip Singh was a cute boy. His eyes were like the eyes of her mother and were beautiful black and bright. Maharaja’s hobby

43 Ibid p. no. 1.
44 Ibid p. no. 1.
was to read books, drawing, the *shayri* in Parsi and hunting with *baaz*. All these hobbies were the indicating signs of his family. Sometimes he became sad and sat lonely and quite. Lord Dalhousie announced it and made it strict that all the coins and jewelry from Lahore Darbar should be sent to England and even a single penny should not be used among local people. Dalhousie was cruel to Dalip Singh. He introduced Maharaja and written “This guy is very clever. He is the blood of tribal person not the old Ranjit Singh’s”.

To attract Dalip Singh to England Login gave the responsibility of military to him. He promised that he would behave well and would be worthy with Dalip Singh. He was always in tension or was tensed by thinking that all the allegations were put on Maharaja Dalip Singh without his any mistake. It was not only thinking of Login. Sir Henry Lawrence who was resident of Lahore and who was forced to unreveal the request of full letters of Jind Kaur, also knew the pain and sorrow of Jind Kaur. He was not in favour of mixing Punjab in the British area and wanted Dalip Singh to continue as the Maharaja of Sikh Raj. Maharaja Dalip Singh and Diamond Kohinoor were in mercy of them. Login and Dalip Singh mixed up well with each other but never talked on the two things—Rani Jind Kaur and Diamond Kohinoor. On the 11th birthday of Dalip Singh, Login planned to organize a big party with full entertainment. After loosing the Sikh Raj, it was first birthday of Dalip Singh. He was interested in calling children’s so that he could not realize that he was no further king. It was Login’s desire that Dalip Singh should feel of getting gifts as former and secondly he wanted that he would get the chance to return some of the amount of the locker. As Dalhousie was not interested in having any share in the income but Login’s desire was fulfilled.\(^{45}\)

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\(^{45}\) Punjabi Tribune, 15th January, 2017 p. no. 1.
Many of the gold and diamond jewelry was gifted to Maharaja Dalip Singh. As there was no rule of Dalip Singh but then also he was looking as the Maharaja. Maharaja asked Login certainly “Where is Kohinoor? Last time it was on my arm”. Login didn’t answered that question.\textsuperscript{46} With which face he could answer the way in which that precious diamond was kept. He was unhappy. Maharaja Dalip Singh contacted Login and asked about England. He usually asked questions about the people, culture and Maharani. In the beginning days of February 1850 A.D., the old territory, Lahore’s residents with the emotional face and eyes filled with the tears stood up in the lines in the market. He was taking the culture and heritage of late Maharaja Ranjit Singh with him and that all was intolerable for the old Sardars.

Maharaja Dalip Singh requested British Government to meet Maharani Jind Kaur. In February, 1861 A.D. Maharani Jind Kaur met her son in Kolkata. This meeting between mother-son was after 14 years. Due to various circumstances both cried a lot. The health of Maharani was not so good and she was unable to see properly.\textsuperscript{47} Meeting after long time Maharani could not saw her son, Dalip Singh. She told him all about the decline of Sikh rule and she also realized him to become Sikh again. At same time, Dalip Singh promised his mother to become Sikh again. In July, 1861 A.D., she went to foreign with her son and she died on 1\textsuperscript{st} August, 1863 A.D. It was her desire that she should be cremated near the smadh of Maharaja in Lahore. But British officers did not gave permission to Maharaja Dalip Singh for that. He brought her body in India and cremated near Narmada and her ashes were put into the running water. After this Maharaja Dalip Singh went back to England.\textsuperscript{48}

\textsuperscript{46} Ibid p. no. 1.
\textsuperscript{47} Gyani Sohan Singh Seetal, Maharani Jinda, Lahore Book Shop, Ludhiana, 2013, p no. 100.
\textsuperscript{48} Ibid p. no. 102.
Thus Maharani Jind Kaur emerged as a prominent Sikh lady during the past 1838 period. She played an important and very vital role in the resolving disputes along with British government. She entered Sikh court politics and also fought the Anglo-Sikh war. She dominated Sikh politics in Punjab from 1838 to 1863. Due to her political leadership quality she was known as the Iron lady and is still remembered among the entire Sikh community.