

PANORAMA

Rising from the position of the chief of one of the twelve Sikh confederacies in the eighteenth century Punjab, Ranjit Singh was the first Punjab ruler who established a vast empire in North India, which extended from the Khyber Pass in the North West, Sutlej in the East, deserts of Sindh in the South and China and Tibet in the North. The six principal expeditions of the Maharaja have been presented through a very large panoramic painting (12 meters tall and 100 meters long) along with a lively three-dimensional diorama on the foreground consisting of many mannequins of warriors, soldiers, horses, camels, weapons and so on. The periodic ambience, special creative illumination and matching war-cries and sound effects, make one feel to be in the midst of the battlefield.



VICTORY AT LAHORE (1798-1799)

Ranjit Singh at the tender age of eighteen, when most of the Sikh misldars and Muslim zamindars had surrendered to the Afghan invader Shah Zaman, made a brave effort to oppose the powerful invader: it was the time of Shah Zaman's second arrival in Lahore in 1798. Ranjit Singh, challenged the Afghan invader Shah Zaman, grandson of Ahmed Shah Abdali, with a handful of soldiers and peasants from Musammun Burj in a foggy early dawn in January, 1798. He stood at the foot of this octagonal tower of Lahore fort, which was surrounded by few moats and challenged Shah Zaman to roar out.

"O Grandson of Abdali, Come down and Measure Swords with the Grandson of Charhat Singh".

It is said that no reply of this challenging call by Ranjit Singh came from the Afghan's side. With the courage and diplomacy of Ranjit Singh, Shah Zaman was driven out of India in January, 1799.