

Coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh

(17th June 1822)

Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of the largest princely state known as the State of Jammu and Kashmir, was one of the greatest personalities of India in the 19th century. He was born on October 21, 1792 in a Dogra Rajput family at *Anderwah* near Samba in Jammu. His life history is a brilliant saga of a continuous chain of bravery, courage, chivalrous deeds, and glorious exploits which together changed the course of local as well as national history and geography. Gulab Singh, the most outstanding warrior of his time, was coronated as the Raja of Jammu by Maharaja of the Sikh Empire, the *Sher-e-Punjab* Maharaja Ranjit Singh. On June 17, 1822, Maharaja Ranjit Singh bestowed Gulab Singh the title of 'Raja'. Maharaja Ranjit Singh personally applied the *tilak* on his forehead from top to bottom, which was symbolic of the long reign period of the Dogra rulers. The ceremony was performed at the historic *Jeo-Pota* tree on the bank of Chenab at *Akhnoor* fort.