

No. 1862 – E
Government of India
Foreign Department
Notification
Simla, the 18th September, 1891

By a proclamation of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, on 19 April 1891, the sovereign authority of the Regent Kula Chandra Singh of Manipur was declared to be at an end. Also the administration of the Manipur State was taken over by the General Officer Commanding of Her Majesty's forces in Manipur. However, Her Majesty had graciously assented to the re-establishment of a Native rule under conditions as the Governor-General in Council considered rule. The Governor General in Council was given full authority to choose the Native Ruler and to formulate conditions under which the ruler would be invested with power.

The circumstance that led to the above proclamation including the regrant of the Manipur State under a Native Ruler was the disaster of 24 March 1891, when five British Officers, namely J.W. Quinton, Chief Commissioner of Assam; Lt. Col. C.McD Skene of the 42nd Gurkha Rifles; F.St.C. Grimwood, Political Agent of Manipur; W.H. Cossins, Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam and Lt. W.H. Simpson of the 43rd Gurkha Rifles, were put to death by the Manipuris.

Those mainly responsible for the murder of the British Officers were put on trial. Kula Chandra, the Regent of Manipur, Tikendrajit, the Senapati and Angou Sana the third brother were brought before a Special Commission, which sentenced the Senapati to death and the other two the transportation for life. Tangal General, Niranjana Subedar, an ex-sepoy of the 34th Native Infantry, and Kajao, a Manipuri, who was the actual murderer of Mr. Grimwood, all were sentenced to death. Kajao Singh, who speared Mr. Grimwood, was hanged on 24 May; Niranjana Subedar, a renegade from the Indian Army was hanged on 8 June. Tikendrajit, the Senapati and Thangal General were hanged in public on 13 August 1891.

After the murder of the Chief Commissioner of Assam and other British Officers, the Manipuris destroyed the Government property in the State and plundered the Government Treasury containing Rs. 1,85,729. So the State was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 2, 50,000 and an annual penalty of Rs. 50,000. **The Government of India declared that Manipur State was forfeit to the Crown**, but later, in its clemency decided to regrant it to a minor boy, Chura Chand Singh born on 15 April 1885. This boy was the great grandson of Maharaja Nar Singh, and was the youngest of five brothers. The Sanad issued by the Government of India to Chura Chand Singh as the newly appointed king of Manipur ran as follows.

With reference to the notification in the *Gazette of India* No. 1700 – E, dated 21st August, 1891 regarding the regrant of the Manipur State, it is hereby notified that the Governor -General in Council has selected Chura Chand, son of Chowbi Yaima, and great grandson of Raja Nar Singh of Manipur, to be the Rajah of Manipur.

The Sanad given to Chura Chand is published for general information.

“SANAD”

The Governor-General in Council has been pleased to select you, Churachand, son of Chowbi Yaima, to be Chief of the Manipur State; and you are hereby granted the title of Rajah of Manipur and a salute of eleven guns.

The Chiefship of the Manipur State and the title and salute will be hereditary in your family; and will descend in the direct line by primogeniture, provided that in each case the succession is approved by the Government of India.

An annual tribute, the amount of which will be determined hereafter, will be paid by you and your successors to the British Government.

Further you are informed that the permanence of the grant conveyed by this Sanad will depend upon the ready fulfillment by you and your successors of all orders given by the British Government with regard to the administration of your territories, the control of the hill tribes dependent upon Manipur, the composition of the armed forces of the state, and any other matters in which the British Government may be pleased to intervene. Be assured that so long as your House is loyal to the Crown and faithful to the conditions of this Sanad you and your successors will **enjoy the favour and protection of the British Government.**

SIMLA
The 18th September 1891

HM Durand,
Secretary to the Govt. of India

The British felt that if by force of arms they conquered a State in open rebellion, the conquest must sweep away the former system of relations existing between the suzerain and the feudatory. The facts in the Manipur case was clearly those of the conquest of the rebel State. Thus the future system of relations depended entirely on the **will and pleasure of the conqueror.**

The Chief Commissioner of Assam was instructed by the Government of India that the above Sanad provided for a “complete subordination of the Manipur State”. In the letter No. 1878–E, of 21 September 1891, the Government of India further ordered the Chief Commissioner:

On the occasion of the investiture you should if possible arrange that the chief persons in the State shall in some suitable manner publicly express their allegiance to the new Chief; and you should make it quite clear that his right depends solely upon his selection by the Government of India, and that the Government of India will not allow that right to be called in question on any ground whatever.³

With regard to the administration of the State during the minority of Chura Chand Singh, Major H.St.P. Maxwell was appointed Political Agent of Manipur and Superintendent of the State with full powers on 13 September 1891. But he was instructed to exercise his powers with “due regard to the customs and traditions of the Manipur.

No LXXIII

SANAD granted to HIS HIGHNESS RAJA
CHURANCHAND SINGH, CBE
RAJA OF MANIPUR, 1918

I hereby confer upon your Highness the title of the Maharaja as hereditary distinction for your services in connection with the war.

DELHI
The 1st January 1918

Chelmsford
Viceroy and Governor-General of India