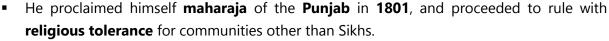


MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH (1780-1839)

- A nine-foot-tall bronze equestrian statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the **founder** of the **Sikh Empire**, was vandalised in Lahore Fort.
- He seized Lahore in 1799 after he was invited to rule the city by its Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh elite.
- Lahore, once among the biggest and most developed of the cities of Punjab, was in a shambles at the time.
- Ranjit Singh brought peace and security to Lahore and revived its economic and cultural glory.



- He carried out repairs to the Lahore fort- which was built by Emperor Akbar at the site of an older mud-brick structure and was subsequently beautified and expanded by ShahJahan and Aurangzeb- and built a wall around it, and used a part of the fort as his residential quarters.
- As the **founder** of a **mighty empire** that **sprawled** over a large part of **northwestern** India, the Maharaja is identified by many with the **identity** of **Punjab**.

CHAKMA AND HAJONG

- The Ministry of Development of the NE Region (DoNER) has directed the Arunachal Pradesh government to include this communities in the COVID-19 relief programme.
- The Chakmas and Hajongs are ethnic people. Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists;
 Hajongs are Hindus.
- They were inhabitants of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who migrated to India due to-
- o **Submergence** of their land by the **Kaptai dam** on the **Karnaphuli River** in the 1960s.
- Religious persecution they faced in East Pakistan as they were non-Muslims.

AMAGARH FORT, JAIPUR

- It is at the centre of a conflict between the tribal
 Meena community and local Hindu groups.
- Members of the Meena community say the Amagarh
 Fort was built by a Meenaruler predating Rajput rule
 in Jaipur, and has been their holy site for centuries.



