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Collect pictures, stories, poems and information about any of the following the Rani of Jhansi, Mahadji Sindhia, Haidar Ali, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Lord Dalhousie or any other contemporary ruler of your region.

What was the demand of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi that was refused by the British?

Rani Lakshmbimai of Jhansi wanted the East India Company to recognise her adopted son as the heir to the kingdom after the death of her husband. This demand was refused by the British.

What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?

The reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May, 1857 were as described below:

- There were several riots, rebellion and revolts which occurred before May, 1857. But all these were localized and were suppressed by the British then and there.
- In the mid 18th century, the powers of Nawabs, rajas, zamindars etc. were eroded. The freedom of the Indian rulers was reduced, their armed forces were disbanded, and their revenue and territories were taken by stages.
- The Mughal Emperor had lost its control over the provinces. The traditional rulers fought among themselves and could not present a united front against a powerful foreign ruler.
- Residents had been stationed in many courts by the British as their representatives. These residents kept informing the governors about the important developments in every kingdom.
- Indian princes and chiefs whom the British had allowed to continue used to side with the British during revolts before May, 1857.

What impact did Bahadur Shah Zafars support to the rebellion have on the people and the ruling families?

There was a wide spread impact on the people of the whole country and its ruling families after Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion. These were:

- He wrote letters to all the chiefs and rulers of the country to come forward and organize a confederacy of Indian states to fight with Britishers. All small and big kingdoms, kings, Nawabs, Rajas, princes, zamindars, chiefs and even many Hindu and Muslim religious leaders welcomed this initial step taken by the Emperor and joined hands to rebel against the British.
- Regiment after regiment mutinied and started to join other troops at nodal points like- Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow.
- The people of towns and villages also joined the rebellion in mass and rallied around local leaders, zamindars and rulers who were prepared to regain their lost authority and fight against the British.

Find out stories and songs remembered by people in your area or your family about San Sattavan ki Ladaai. What memories do people cherish about the great uprising?

Find out more about Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi. In what ways would she have been an unusual woman for her times?

After 1857 no worship was allowed in the Jama Masjid for five years.

A

True

B

False