



Mount Manipur and Anglo-Manipur War

Why in News

Recently, the Union government has **renamed Mount Harriet of [Andaman and Nicobar \(A&N\) Islands](#) to Mount Manipur.**

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Key Points

▪ About:

- Mount Harriet, the **third-highest island peak** in A&N Islands, where **Manipur's Maharaja Kulchandra Singh** and 22 other freedom fighters were **imprisoned during the Anglo-Manipuri war (1891).**

- It has been renamed in a tribute to those freedom fighters of Manipur.

- Manipur celebrates **Khongjom Day on 23rd April** in commemoration of the freedom fighters of Anglo-Manipuri War.

▪ **Anglo-Manipuri War:**

◦ **Background:**

- In **1886**, when Surchandra inherited the throne from his father Chandrakirti Singh, the **kingdom of Manipur was not under British rule** but had links with the crown through different treaties.
- However, **Surchandra's ascension to the throne was controversial** and his **younger brothers - Kulachandra, Tikendrajit - revolted** against him.
- The **1890 coup by the rebel faction removed Surchandra, and proclaimed Kulachandra**, the next oldest brother, **the king. Surchandra fled to Calcutta seeking British help** to reinstate him.

◦ **British Imposition:**

- The British **dispatched James Quinton**, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, **with an army to Manipur**. His mission was to recognise Kulachandra as the king **under the condition that they be allowed to arrest the coup leader Crown Prince Tikendrajit** and deport him from Manipur.
- This aggressive imposition of British law in a sovereign state was rejected by the king, **precipitating the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891**.

◦ **Culmination:**

- In the **first phase of the war**, the British surrendered and their officers - including Quinton - were executed in public.
- In the **second phase**, the British attacked Manipur from three sides, and finally **captured the Kangla Fort in Imphal**.
 - Prince Tikendrajit and four others were hanged by the British, while Kulachandra, along with 22 others, were deported to the Andaman Islands.
- Despite their victory, it had led to the death of five important officers.
 - In India, it was viewed as being part of the general uprising against British rule in the country, soon after the **Revolt of 1857**.
- The **war led to Manipur officially becoming a princely state** under the indirect rule of the British crown.

[Source: IE](#)

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