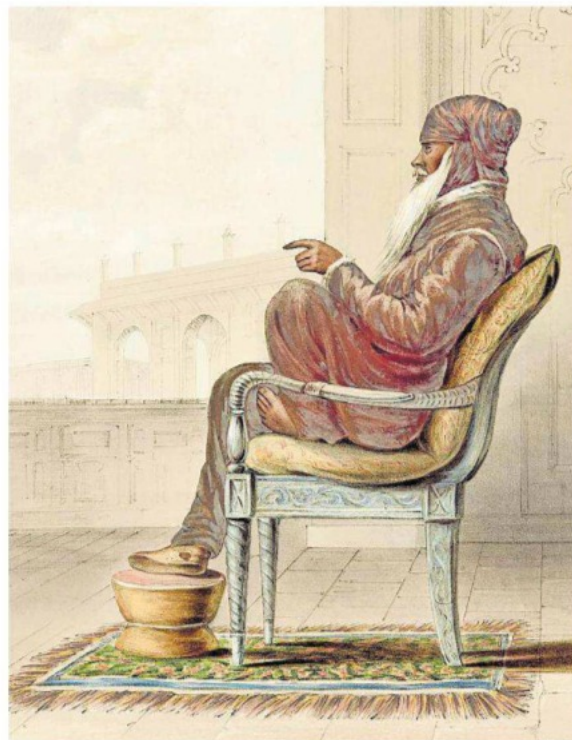
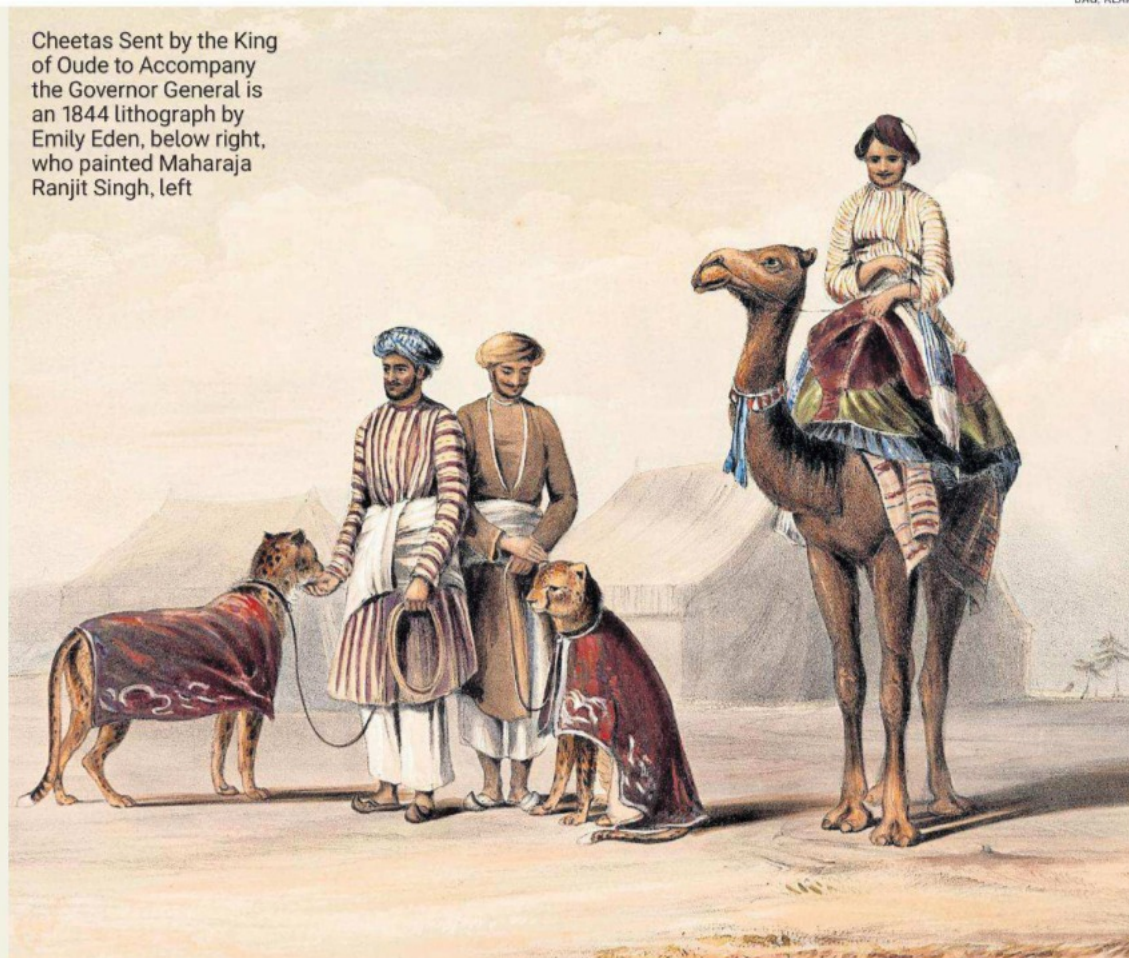




Cheetas Sent by the King of Oude to Accompany the Governor General is an 1844 lithograph by Emily Eden, below right, who painted Maharaja Ranjit Singh, left



Singh ... and knew that pleasing the maharaja through her paintings was a form of soft power, helping to serve British interests," Prior said.

Other portraits focused on ordinary Indians — part of the reason for her revival. She depicted postmen, a butter salesman, wood carriers and a jeweller.

"Her works are notable for introducing ordinary Indians amongst scenes and characters of political importance — one of Emily's singular artistic contributions," Prior said.

Her lack of exposure to women remained one of her regrets. "Despite her position, the rules of Indian society meant she rarely met high-caste women, even though she longed to hear their stories and learn about their way of life," Prior said.



India falls for the woman who painted princes and paupers

They say five servants always walked behind Emily Eden. At the foot of the stairs at home, two stood sentry, waiting with a chair in case she tired. Even her King Charles spaniel, Chance, had his own servant (Amrit Dhillion writes).

The Englishwoman, who became a defining chronicler of the early British Raj through her paintings, was the sister of George Eden, the unmarried Earl of Auckland and governor-general of India from 1836. Inside the beating heart of colonial power, Eden effectively became

the first lady. Her portraits of princes and paupers contributed extensively to the visual record of the country in the 19th century.

A revival of interest in her work is under way in the Indian art world, prompting a Delhi gallery, DAG, to publish a book about her life,

Princes and People of India: Portraits by Emily Eden. "With a handful of exceptions, the quality and variety of her work is unsurpassed by any other British female artists practising during the Regency and Victorian eras," Mary Ann Prior, art historian and curator, said.

Hosting formal dinners and receiving dignitaries gave Eden unprecedented access to the courts of Indian royalty. Maharajas were her milieu and she was able to paint in intimate settings, as with the legendary ruler and warrior Ranjit Singh. She depicted him old,

frail and sitting on a plain seat in an ordinary outfit with his foot on a stool and wearing an unadorned turban.

Her other portraits of him are more flattering, showing his regalia, surrounded by horses and attendants. "She admired Ranjit