

Chapter 4

Muslim Invasions (Aims and Impact)

Arab Attack

No country in the world has endured the invasions of Arabs or Turks as long and successful as in the Middle Ages. Countries from Asia, Africa and Europe had surrendered against the attacks of Arabs in just few years. Syria was the first nation to come under siege by the Arabs and they surrendered their capital of Damascus in just one single year (635-636 AD.). Iraq surrendered without even fighting the war in 637 AD. Within five years of winning the famous war of Kadesh in 637 AD, the Arabs conquered the whole huge empire of Persia and between 642 and 650 A.D. they had won over Middle Asia. In 643 AD. the Arab soldiers reached the Bhartiya borders. In 711 AD military commander Tariq had defeated King Roderick of Spain but Sindh showed resistance for 75 years.

Reasons for the Attacks on India by the Arab

- 1) Islam united the people of Arab and ignited a fierce feeling to promote their religion. Much like in other countries, they wanted to promote it in Bharat as well and that is what motivated them to invade Bharat.
- 2) *Khalifa* was not only the leader of the Islamic followers but also their political leader. It was just natural to think about expanding Kingdom.
- 3) Arabs were familiar with the economy of India. They knew they could get a lot of gold by attacking Bharat.

The Arab attacks on Bharat started after the demise of Hazrat Muhammad in 632 AD. In 636 AD., under the rule of Khalifa Umar, in order to rob

the Indian states they attacked a place called

Thane in Mumbai though they didn't get any success. Later, at the time of Umayyad Dynasty, the Arab army took control of Kirmar, Seestan and Makran other side of the Sindh under Abdullah's command. Khalifa did not permit Abdullah to go beyond this point and the Arab forces were limited till there.

Dahir Sen

In 711 A.D. the pirates robbed the Arab ship standing at the local port Deval. At this time Dahir Sen was the Brahmin ruler of Sindh. His Empire was right from Kashmir in the north, to Pratihar Kannauj in the East, and in the West it was up to Makran, Baluchistan. The Governor of Iraq Hajjaj after taking permission from Khalifa Valid sent his forces to attack Sindh by making an issue as the explanation was not given by king Dahir about the Arabic ships. Initial two attempts failed under the leadership of Ubedulla and Budel and the chiefs were killed. Thereafter Hajjaj sent his cousin and son-in-law Mohammad-Bin-Qasim who was young man of only 17 years. After reaching Deval he wanted to attack from all sides but found a huge Temple, 120 feet high with solid boundaries ahead. One of the traitor priests of the temple reached out to the Arabs and informed them that the city cannot be won till the Red flag bounded by the talisman (*tabeez*) will be waved on the temple. Immediately Muhammad Qasim used the Manzaneeq to demolish the flag, and the soldiers guarding the city were discouraged. The army of the Arabs got encouraged with this incident. After capturing the city Qasim massacred everyone over 17 years of age

and captivated ladies and children. From the hefty loot of the temple, he sent one fifth of it to the King Hajjaj and distributed the rest amongst forces. Thereafter he captured Niroon, Schwan and Sisam. On 20 June 712 A.D. at Ravar, a massive battle took place between Bhartiya and Arab forces. King Dahir along with his army fought courageously. He, riding on an elephant, reached in between Arab forces where he was hit by an arrow and was martyred. He sacrificed his life for honour and dignity of Sindh. After this, Dahir's wife Rani Bai tried to protect the fort, but after failing to do so, she performed jauhar to defend her honour. After the conquest of Rawar, Qasim took over Brahmanavad. Here, Qasim captured Dahir's second Queen Ladi and his two daughters, Suryadevi and Parmaldevi. After Brahmanavad, Qasim also took over the capital of Sindh, Aror (Alor) and Multan. The victory of Multan was the last triumph of the Arabs in India. Here, they got so much wealth that they changed the name of Multan to 'Swarna Nagar' (The Golden City).

The End of Muhammad bin Qasim

According to historian Gaurishankar Hirachand Ojha, enamoured by the beauty of Dahir's princesses, the Khalifa put on a proposal of love before them. They both wanted to take revenge of their father's death. Seeing an opportunity, they told the Khalifa that they were not good enough for him as Qasim has already tainted their virginity. Hearing this the Khalifa became angry and immediately sent an order stating that send Muhammad bin Qasim stitched alive in the flesh of the bull. The orders were followed that very moment. Qasim died on the third day of the travel and was delivered to the Khalifa in the same condition. He called the two princesses and opened the skin of the bull in front of them and showed them the body of Qasim and told them that those who insult the Khalifa of Khuda, I punish them like this. Seeing this, the princesses were delighted to be successful and it was pretty clear on their face, but with a grin and sarcasm, they said to the Khalifa, "O Khalifa! Qasim did not destroy our virginity. He did not see us in that way even once but he had killed our parents, brothers and countrymen, so we made this

false accusation against him to take revenge. Hearing these words of the brave princesses, the Khalifa was shocked and ordered to incinerate both of them alive.

After Muhammad bin Qasim's return in 715 AD, There was a Renaissance of Hindu kings in Sindh. According to Baladuri, "The kings of *Al-Hind* returned to their empire and Hullishah (Dahir's son Jaysingh) returned to Brahmanavad and took the position of the head." It's also written in *Tareekh-e-Masumi* that shortly after Muhammad bin Qasim's death, the people of India rebelled and threw out the Arabic rule. Jai Singh struggled with Junaid of Sindh for his freedom and met his demise fighting.

Influence on the Arabs' Contact with India

The only political consequence of the conquest of the Arabs on Sindh was that the contact and relation of Sindh fell from Bhart for some time and it became part of the Islamic Empire, but in a cultural way Bhart has conquered the Arabs. Bhartiya philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine and astrology greatly influenced the Arabs. They translated many Bhartiya Sanskrit texts into Arabic language, in which Brahmagupta's "*BhahmaSiddhant*" and "*Khand Khandyak*" are particularly famous. Arabs learned many basic principles of numbers, decimal methodology, medicine and astronomy from Indians and adopted Indian practices in the field of art and literature. Many of those things of Bhartiya philosophy, literature and art have then reached and learned by the people of Europe through the Arabs. Thus, Bhartiya knowledge succeeded in reaching western countries through the Arabs.

Causes of the Success of the Arabs

There were many reasons for the success of the Arabs over Sindh. The general classes were dissatisfied under the rule of Dahir. There was dissatisfaction and disorder in most parts of the state. Thus, during the Arab invasion, there was less public support. Dahir himself was not liked by the public as his father was not the real ruler of the state. There was no sense of synergy, harmony and cooperation between contemporary Bhartiya rulers

and they always tried to seek their own personal interest. They did not keep in view the possibility of increasing military power and the possibility of foreign invasion, no state had tried to increase its military power. The responsibility of the military operation was on the shoulders of the Rajputs, who due to internal rifts and jealousy were always fighting with each other. With Muhammad bin Qasim's capabilities, courage and leadership power and the Arabs sentiment for religious campaigning, for earning gold and the military support from Khalifa also contributed to their success.

Nagbhatt

Nagbhatt I (730-756 AD) is called the founder of the Gurjar- Pratihara Dynasty of Jalore, Avanti, & Kannauj. He got possession of Bheenmal from Chavads and also got possession of Abu, Jalore etc. By expanding the state he made his new capital Jalore instead of Bheenmal. Later by expanding in Malwa, he also made Avanti (Ujjain) his capital.

Arabs invaded Bhart from during the rule of Nagbhatt I. He not only protected western India from the Muslim invasion, but also regained the control on their dominated provinces. Nagbhatt I in *Gwalior prashasti* was conferred with the title *Narayan* as a repressive of foreign invaders and redeeming person of the poor. From the description of Muslim writer Al Biladuri, it is known that the contemporary Arab ruler Junaid did not succeed against Malwa. In the Nausari records, the names of the defeated kings are given by the Arabs but the name of Nagbhatt I was not listed in the records, which proves the above fact. He was described as *pratihara of Ram*, the inhibitor of Meghnad's war, and the destroyer of Indra's pride. After Nagbhatt I, Kukusth, Devraj & Vatsraj became rulers.

After the death of Vatsraj, his son Nagbhatt II (795-833 A.D.), born from Sunderdevi, sat on the throne of Gurjar- Pratihara. He re-established the lost prestige of the Gurjar- Pratihara dynasty with its power and reached its peak. Initially he was defeated in the struggle with the Rashtrakut dynasty of South Bhart. But later, taking advantage of the domestic conditions of the Rashtrakuta King Govind III defeated the Chakrayuddh and captured Kannauj. After this victory Kannauj became the new

capital of Gurjar Pratiharas.

The Ruler of Kannauj Chakrayuddh was dependent on Dharmapala of Bengal. So Dharmapala started the war with Nagbhatt II. Nagbhatt was victorious in the battle of Munger and the defeated Dharmapala fled to Bengal. According to the Chakxu inscription, Shankargana defeated the ruler of Gaur (Bengal) and conquered the whole world and dedicated it to his master Nagbhatt II. In the battle of Munger, the presence of Kakk, the ruler of Marwar and *samant* Shankargana, proves that a large portion of Rajasthan was under the control of Nagbhata. According to the Gwalior inscription "the kings of Andhra, Indus, Vidarbha and Kalinga surrendered in front of the power of his youth, the way moths do to against fire. The fame of his great characteristics has reached all the way, while he has been victorious against the kings of mountainous forts of Anarnt, Malav, Matasya, Kirat, Turushk and Vats." Here the comparison of the Turushkas is done with the Arabs of Sindh. The creation of Dalpat Vijay, "*Khuman Raso*", gives information about the conquest of Guhil Khuman over the Muslims, who was a *samant* of Nagabhata II. As a result of his victories, Nagabhata second became the most powerful ruler of North India. On this occasion, he took the title of 'Parambhata Maharajadhiraj Parmeshwar'. According to the *granth "Prabhavak Charit"* of Chandraprabha Suri Nagabhata II committed suicide in 833 AD. after drowning himself in the Ganges. It was probably not equivalent to suicide but it was like repeating death as the last religious act performed by some earlier rulers. He was one of the most qualified and successful rulers of his lineage. Despite having much lower means compared to the Rashtrakut and Pala dynasties, he was able to establish a vast empire, due to which his opponents were always concerned about their safety.

Bappa Rawal

Bappa Rawal is called the real founder of Guhil dynasty of Mewar. According to Dr. Ojha, 'Bappa Rawal' was not the name of a particular person but the title of a ruler named Kaalbhoj. According to *Khyat* of Muhnot Nancy, he used to graze the cows of a Rishi named Harit. In

appreciation of services that Bappa provided, Haritrashi pleaded Mahadev (Shiva) and demanded the state of Mewar for Bappa.

Bappa went to the service of Mann Mori ruler of Chittor. At the same time, the foreign muslim army attacked Chittor. King Mann asked his feudal (samantas) to fight the foreign army, but they refused. In the end, Bappa Rawal accepted the challenge, and left for war. In front of the amazing feats of Bappa, foreign invaders were not able to tide and fled to Sindh. Bappa chasing the enemies reached the capital Ghazni. After defeating Salim, the ruler of Ghazni, Bappa put his nephew on the throne. Bappa then married Salim's daughter and returned back to Chittor.

When tension rose between King Man and feudal in Chittor, many Samantas left the court. The rebel feudal forces persuaded Bappa to become the ruler and made an attack on Chittorgarh in 734 AD. Bappa exercised his authority over Chittor and held three titles- '*Hindu Surya*', '*Rajguru*' & '*Chakkawe*'. At the age of fifty years Bappa invaded Khurasan, took possession and he died over there. According to historian Ojha, Bappa died in Nagda and his *samadhisthal* is famous as Bapa Rawal.



Bappa Rawal

Bappa Rawal practiced gold coins like his ancestors, which symbolizes his talent and splendour. 115 coins are numbered on both sides marked with *Kamdhenu*, Calf, *Shivling*, *Nandi*, Trident Man, River, Fish etc. Historian C.V. Vaidya compared him with Charles Martell (who was the

first French commander who defeated the Mughal army) and said that the tsunami of the Arab invasion collapsed against the rock of his bravery. He had defeated the rulers of Western countries like Isfan Han, Kandahar, Kashmir, Iraq, Iran, Turan, Kafristan, and married their daughters. Due to Bappa's military detention, a city of Pakistan was named as Rawalpindi.

Turkish Invasion

After the 8th century Arab invasions, Bharat was safe from muslim invasions for almost two centuries. It was only in second half of the 10th century in that muslim invasion restarted in India. However this time it wasn't the Arabs but the Turks who tried invading Bharat

The first Turkish Invasion to Bharat was Subuktgin, the ruler of Ghazni. After being the ruler in 977 A.D. he started to expand his kingdom. During this time the north western part of India was ruled by the royal king Jaipal. After a long struggle Subuktgin, by using treachrous tricks and conspiracy techniques defeated Jaipal and conquered the cities from Lamghan to Peshawar. Subuktgin died in 997 A.D. His son Ismile and Mahmud Ghaznavi became the successor of Subuktgin (Rulers of Ghazni).

Mahmud Ghaznavi was a capable and ambitious ruler, he invaded India 17 times and looted wealth and resources. The most important raid of Mahmud was the expedition of Somnath, in Gujarat which was the 16th attack in India in 1025 A.D. On being informed about Mahmud marching towards Somnath, its ruler king Bhimdev ran away from the capital along with all his followers. However the priest and common men had faith that Lord Somnath would save them from the anticipated disaster.

According to Farishta, the common men of Somnath showed such a resistance to the invading army, that they had to step back the first day. The second day the invading army was successful in climbing up the walls of the fort and city. However the defence army at Somnath heroically ensured that the invaders could not manage to enter and had to take a step back. The third day observed an evidently fierce battle. Watching his army being scattered, Mahmud in great grief and fear started praying to

Allah for help. According to *Ibn-Al-Asir*, when the Hindus planned defence started to fall back, they sought the ultimate power of faith in God. Groups of Somnath defenders kept entering the temple one by one taking a pledge that they will fight till the last breath. Finally Mahmud conquered Somnath and killed more than 50000 women and men in a barbaric bloodshed. After triumph, Mahmud himself broke the idol into pieces. Fragments of the idol were sent to Ghazni and at Mecca and Madina. It is said that these fragments were deposited at the threshold of the stairs of prominent mosques at those places. The last invasion of Mahmud was in 1027 A.D. against the Jats of Sindh as Mahmud's army had to suffer while returning after Somnath invasions at the hand of Jats.

In 1173 AD, the ruler of Ghor Ghiyasuddin annexed Ghazni. His younger brother Shahabuddin, also known as Muhammad of Ghor was appointed as the ruler. It is this Shahabuddin whose name in history is famous as Muizuddin Muhammad Gauri. He was an ambitious and aspiring ruler. After becoming the ruler of Ghazni, he decided to attack India.

Following are the reasons of his invasion:

1. To earn wealth and resources.
2. His ambition to expand his Kingdom.
3. To destroy the ruling dynasties of Ghazni in Punjab and Ismailia community in Multan.
4. To spread Islam.

Prithviraj Chauhan (1177-1192 AD)

During Muhammad Gauri's invasion of India, Delhi and Ajmer was ruled by Prithviraj Chauhan (third), who is well known as 'Raipithora' in history. Prithviraj was born in 1166 A.D. He became the successor of the Chauhan empire at the age of 11 after his father Someshwar's death. Prithviraj's mother, Karpurdevi was a skilled politician, due to this reason, he took over the rule of the state with the help of Prime Minister Kadambvasa and General Bhuvan Mal. After being in the patronage of his mother for a whole year, Prithviraj took over the reins of the government in 1178 AD. Soon, implemented the policy to win over other states by appointing his trusted officers to higher positions. According to historian Gopinath Sharma there were three aspects to this victory

policy: to get rid of the protest of their own people, suppress the neighboring states and compete with foreign enemies.

Conquests of Prithviraj Chauhan

His uncle Apargangya considered him as a minor, therefore revolted against him. Prithviraj defeated and killed him but the opposing forces did not back out. Nagarjuna, the younger brother of Apargangya, took control over Gurugram (Gurgaon) playing the tune of rebellion. When Prithviraj sent his army, Nagarjuna left Gurugram (Gurgaon) and escaped. His commander, Devbhatt, tried to defend Gurugram (Gurgaon) for some time but Prithviraj's army succeeded. The rebels were put to death and their heads were hanged on the walls of the city, so that in no other enemy dared to oppose them in future. In 1182 AD Prithviraj secured the northern boundary of his kingdom by defeating the rowdy caste named Bhandanaks who were situated near Gurugram (Gurgaon) and Hisar. The contemporary writer, Jinpati Suri, has mentioned Prithviraj's suppression of the Bhandanaks.

After the initial successes, Prithviraj decided to adopt the *Digvijay* (conquest) policy, similar to the ancient Indian rulers. After the suppression of the Bhandanaks, his boundaries began to meet the Mahoba state of Chandels. In 1182 A.D., to take revenge for the killing of some of his soldiers, Prithviraj attacked the state of Mahoba. In this war, two commanders of the Chandel ruler Parmardidev, Aalah and Udal died fighting. A victorious Prithviraj then appointed Panjunaray as the caretaker of Mahoba and returned.

According to *Prithviraj Raso*, Prithviraj married Abu's princess Ichhini which really displeased the Chalukya ruler of Gujarat, Bhimdev II, because Bhimdev also wished to marry her. According to Gopinath Sharma, the real cause of conflict between the two rulers was the meeting of their boundaries of their kingdoms and the ambitions of both the rulers. After a few small clashes between them, the two rulers came together and formed a treaty with the mediation of Jagdev Pratihar, but this did not end the long time friction between them. Chauhan-Chalukya both kept their rift within themselves.



Prithviraj Chauhan

Gahdwal state of Kannauj was situated to the east of Prithviraj's state, and its ruler at that time was Jaichandra. A long rivalry had been going on between Chauhan and Gahdwal regarding the control over Delhi. Prithviraj wanted to add Kannauj to his kingdom for the progression of *Digvijay* (conquering) plan.. Jaichandra was thinking in a similar direction and was also planning for the same. This is why it was imperative for both of them to go to war. Prithviraj married Jaichandra's daughter Sanyogita by forcefully abducting her, this brought the friction between the two rulers to its very peak. With the abduction of his daughter, Jaichandra became a staunch enemy of Prithviraj and began to look for opportunities of the revenge. According to a famous opinion, he invited and assured his help to Muhammad Gauri to attack Prithviraj. According to the *Puratan Prabandh Sangrah* on hearing about the news of Prithviraj's defeat at the hands of Gauri, Jaichandra threw a celebration in his capital.

Story of Sanyogita

According to *Prithviraj Raso* composed by Chander Bardai the court poet of Prithviraj Chauhan the reason for tension or struggle between Jaichandra and Prithviraj Chauhan was Jaichandra's daughter Sanyogita. According to story teller Sanyogita and Prithvi Raj Chauhan fell in love with each other, however since Jaichandra and Prithviraj shared rivalry Jaichandra decided to arrange for a swayamvar alongwith Rajsuya yajna for his daughter. all Princes of high rank were invited but

deliberately avoided inviting Prithviraj, to add on insult, Jaichandra got a statue of Prithviraj made and placed it at the door of the venue, suggesting Prithvi Raj as a gatekeeper. While All the Kings and suitors awaited Sanyogita's selection, Sanyogita surpassed them to reach to door and garlanded the Statue of Prithviraj. At the same time Prithviraj reached at the ceremony along with his troops of army, picked up Sanyogita and eloped. Jaichandra's army tried to stop Prithviraj but they were unsuccessful in doing so. Noted historian Dr. R.S.Tripathi , Gauri Shankar Heerachand Ojha and Vishweshwar Nath Reu consider this as only A love story and disregard it as having any historical evidence or authenticity while Dr Dashrath Sharma in his book 'The Early Chauhan Dynasties' considered it as an important historical event

Struggle Between Prithviraj and Gauri

After being appointed governor of Ghazni, Mohammed Gauri attacked Multan and took over the control of it. After this, he introduced his power to victory in the battle of Gujarat, Siyalkot and Lahore. According to Rajasthani sources, during this time, he fought with Prithviraj Chauhan several times and every time he had to face defeat. According to *Prithviraj Raso*, 21 times and according to the *Hamir Mahakavy* 7 times Prithviraj has claimed the victory over Gauri. There were two decisive battles held between the two. From Lahore in 1191 A.D., Muhammad Gauri took control in a place named Tabarhind and reached Tarain. It was a fierce battle between the two sides in which Delhi Samant of Prithviraj Chauhan; Govind Raj wounded Muhammad Gauri with the help of his spear. The injured Gauri escaped along with his army to Ghazni. Prithviraj took possession of Tabarhind and captured Qazi Ziauddin, who was later released for a huge amount of money.

After one year, Muhammad Gauri along with his army again reached at the battlefield of Tarain. Prithviraj reached to meet him, but Gauri has caught his enemy in the scandal of the treaty talks this time. After several days of negotiations, the Chauhan army was immersed in peace and amity, and by taking advantage of it, Gauri suddenly attacked one night. Rajput army was defeated because of this sudden attack. The defeated

Prithviraj Chauhan was taken captive to a place near Sirsa called Saraswati. According to *Prithviraj Raso*, captive Prithviraj was taken to Ghazni by Gauri, where Prithviraj killed Gauri at the time of demonstration of the *shabd bhedi baana*. Whereas according to contemporary historian Hassan Nizami, after the Second Battle of Tarain, Prithviraj Chauhan ruled over Ajmer in the form of a ruler under Muhammad Gauri. A coin is also referenced in favor of his view by Nizami, on one side it is named Muhammad bin Saam and on the other side Prithviraj.

Causes of Prithviraj's defeat

Despite being victorious, Prithviraj Chauhan lacked foresight and diplomacy. He did not establish friendly relations with his neighboring states, yet he fought war against them and took hostility. For this reason, he did not get any support from him in the war against Muhammad Gauri. When Muhammed Gauri invaded Gujrat's ruler Bhimdev in 1178 A.D., Prithviraj made a big mistake by not giving any assistance to Gujrat. In the first battle of Tarain, not to attack the fledged Turk army also proved a terrible mistake. If at that time he attacked the returning army of Gauri, then Muhammad Gauri would never think of invading Bharat again. After marrying Sanyogita, he started spending her life luxuriously ignoring the state Duties.

Evaluation of Prithviraj

Prithviraj was a brave and mighty ruler who fought from the very beginning of his reign, which proves him to be a good soldier and commander of the army. Having achieved success in many wars, he assumed the tittle the *Dal Pungal* (world winner). In the Second Battle of Tarain, before being defeated by Muhammad Gauri's deceit; he was never defeated in any battle. Along with being *victorios*, he was a learned diciple and patron of learners. There was many scholars in his courtyard, amongst them Vidyapati Gaur, Vagishwar Janardan, Jayanak, Vishwaroop, Ashadhar, etc. Chandr Bardai was his court poet, whose text '*Prithviraj Raso*' is considered the first epic of Hindi literature.

Hammir Chauhan of Ranthambore (1282-1301 A.D.)

Hammir was the third son of his father Jetr Singh. Being the most eligible of all his sons, Jetr Singh had hold his swearing-in ceremony in 1282 A.D. during his lifetime istelf. After assuming charge of the ruler, till 1288 A.D., Hammir expanded the boundaries of his state by following the policy of *Digvijay*. He left the winning states compensating with money. After Digvijay, Hammir organized a series of *koti yagna* which increased his reputation. After defeating the ruler of Mewar, Samar Singh; Hammir established his supremacy over entire Rajasthan.

Hammir and Jalaluddin Khilji

Hammir got the opportunity to increase his power, during which time the chaotic period in Delhi due to weak Sultans. After the Sultan of Delhi in 1290 A.D., Jalaluddin Khilji decided to end Hammir's growing power. Sultan surrounded Ranthambore by taking control of Jhaai, but after the failure of all efforts, the royal army had to return to Delhi. Sultan again tried to win over Ranthambore in 1292 A.D., but because of the successful resistance of Hammir, this time also, got disappointment. At the time of this campaign, when the Mughal army was forced to exterminate, Jalaluddin took away the army siege the fort saying, I do not regard such hundreds of forts even equal to one hair of the Muslims. The live discription of these campaigns of Jalaluddin Firoz Khilji have been described by Amir Khusro - in a book titled "*Mifta-ul-Futuh*".

Hammir and Allauddin Khilji

In 1296 A.D. Allauddin Khilji became the sultan of Delhi by killing his uncle Jalaluddin Khilji. A few years later, Allauddin Khilji started attacking Ranthambore, for the following reasons-

- 1) Ranthambore was strategically very important. Allauddin Khilji, through impregnable this impregnable fort, wanted to establish his supremacy over Rajput kings.
- 2) Ranthambore was close to Delhi, Because of this Allauddin Khilji could not stand the growing power of Chauhans in any condition.
- 3) Before Allauddin Khilji, his uncle

Jalaluddin Khilji had twice tried to take over the fort, but he failed. Allauddin Khilji wanted to take revenge for his uncle's defeat.

4) Allauddin Khilji was an ambitious and imperialist ruler. The result was the invasion policy at Ranthambore.

According to '*Hammir Mahakavya*' composed by Nayanchandra Suri, the attack on Ranthambore was due to shelter to Meer Muhammad Shah, the rebel commander of Allauddin Khilji, by the ruler Hammir. Muslim historian Isami has also confirmed this reason in his statement that Allauddin had sent his two generals Ulug Khan and Nusrat Khan in 1299 A.D. to attack Gujrat. After winning Gujrat when the army was returning there was a dispute over the distribution of the loot near Jalor which turned into a revolt of new muslims (new muslim were the Mongols who accepted Islam at the time of Jalaluddin and resided in India), although the rebels were suppressed very cruelly.

But among them, the Muhammad Shah and his brother Kehabru fled and succeeded in reaching Hammir, ruler of Ranthambore. Hammir did not only give them shelter but he also gave the jagir of Jagana to Muhammad Shah. According to the '*Hammir Hath*' written by Chandrashekhar, Mir Muhammad Shah had fell in love with one of the Maratha *begums* of Alauddin Khilji, and they conspired to finish Alauddin Khilji. Alauddin Khilji got timely information about this conspiracy and with it, an attempt was made to capture and detain Mir Muhammad Shah but he was able to run away and reached Hammir's refuge. Hammir was asked to hand over these rebels to Alauddin Khilji. When this demand was rejected by Hammir, Allauddin Khilji's army attacked Ranthambore.

Hammir's Early Successes

At the end of 1299 A.D. Alauddin Khilji under the leadership of Ulug Khan, Alp Khan and Nusrat Khan, sent an army to take control of Ranthambore. This army took control of "*Ranthambore's Kunji*" [key] Jhaain of Ranthambore. According to Issami, after the victory, Ulug Khan changed the name of Jhaain to "Nau Shahar". In "*Hameer Mahakavya*" it has been said

that Hammir was busy in '*Mumivrata*' after his *kotiyagya*. For this reason, he did not go himself but sent two of his generals Bhim Singh and Dharm Singh. The two generals pushed away the Khilji army back, made them flee and took away all the loot that they had. Rajput army heavily attacked their enemy army, where Alauddin Khilji's army had to face defeat. A group of army led by Dharm Singh left back for Ranthambore with the loot taken away from the royal army but Bheem Singh got left behind. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the beaten and scattered royal army regrouped and attacked Bheem Singh under the leadership of Alp Khan. In this struggle, Bhim Singh got killed with his hundreds of soldiers. Hammir considered Dharm Singh responsible for the death of Bhim Singh, he blinded him as a punishment and made Bhojraj his new minister his place. Bhojraj could not handle the troubled situation of Ranthambore and soon saw a drop in his reputation. In such a situation, Dharm Singh gave assurance to Hammir that he would increase the income of the state and regain his old rights. Dharm Singh wanted to take revenge for the insults he faced. So he started imposing taxes on people and started the collection by force. This started to increase the dissatisfaction amongst the people.

On the other hand, Bhojraj went to Alauddin Khilji's court when Hammir expelled him from his services. He started provoking the Sultan to attack Ranthambore. Sultan sent his troops to Ranthambore but in the battle that took place in the Hindu Valley (*Hinduvat ki ghati*), the Chauhan army very badly defeated the imperial army. On receiving the information of this humiliating defeat, Sultan led a huge army under the leadership of Ulug Khan and Nusrat Khan. This army took control of the fort of Jhaani. After the tremendous victory, Ulugh Khan again sent the message of Alauddin Khilji to Hammir with a messenger named Mehalanasi. In this order, with the submission of both the rebels Muhammad Shah and his brother Kehabru, he demanded Hammir's daughter Devaldi to marry the Sultan. Though Devaldi suggested to accept the proposal to protect the state but Hammir chose the path of struggle.

Ulug Khan surrounded the strong fort and

built a vault and *gargach* on all sides and pelted stones at the fortguards by using *magrabs*. There were also weapons like *Bhairav Yantra*, *Thikulia* and *Markati Yantra*. A stone thrown by these instruments, by chance hit Nusrat Khan. He was injured in it and after a few days, he died. This created a situation of disappointment. Hammir got out of the fort to take advantage of this situation and attacked the royal army. Due to this unexpected attack, Ulug Khan had to return to Jhain.

Alauddin Khilji's Ranthambore Conquest

After Ulug Khan's failure, Alauddin Khilji himself reached Ranthambore. Amir Khusro wrote in his composition "*Khazain-ul-Futuh*", while describing the live description of this expedition, that Sultan took help from Pasheb, Magrabi and Arrada in this attack. Even after many attempts, when Alauddin failed to win the fort, he took the way of deceit and diplomacy and sent a proposal for a treaty to Hammir. Hammir sent his commander Ratipal for the treaty. Alauddin Khilji teamed up with Ratipal and with his assistance, was able to lure Ranmal, another commander of Hammir, by giving him the temptation of the Ranthambore fort. It has been mentioned in the Chauhan compositions that Alauddin, by teaming up with an officer of Hammir, spoiled the food stuff located in the fort. This created a lot of food scarcity in the fort. Amir Khusro has written in this regard that "Could not even get a single grain of rice in exchange of two grains of gold." With such an absence of food, Hammir had to get out of the fort but due to betrayal of his commanders, Ranmal and Ratipal, he had to face defeat. During the war, Hammir was killed fighting, and under the leadership of his queen Rangdevi, brave Rajput women immolated themselves in fire performing Jauhar. This is called the first *Saka* of Ranthambore. According to *Hammir Raso*, a composition of Jodhraj, the ladies accompanying Muhammad Shah also committed Jauhar along with Rangdevi. It is mentioned in some references that Rangdevi had resorted *jaljauher* in 'Padmala Talab' located in the fort. With this, on 11th July, 1301 A.D., Alauddin Khilji occupied Ranthambore.

Mir Muhammad Shah also got wounded

while fighting for Hammir. When Alauddin asked him "What will you do if I get you cured?" He replied bravely "If I get cured I will like to do two things, first, I will kill you and second, I will help the descendent of Hammir to sit on the throne of Ranthambore.". Hearing this, Alauddin got angry and got Mir Muhammad killed by getting him crushed under the feet of an elephant.

Evaluation:

Hammir fought 17 wars in his lifetime, of which he was victorious in 16. Despite repeated attempts, Jalaluddin Khilji could not take control of Ranthambore, this was a clear evidence of Hammir's bravery and military abilities. He was not only a brave warrior but a generous ruler also. He had great respect for scholars. Vijayaditya was his respected court poet and Raghav Dev was his mentor. By accomplishing *Koti Yajna*, he proved his religious piety. Hammir is famous in history for protecting his word and refuge. He gave shelter to rebels of Alauddin who came to him for shelter and declined to return them to Alauddin Khilji. Due to this reason, Hammir lost his kingdom and his family.

*'Singh sawan, satpurush vachan, kadli phale ek bar l
Tiriya tel, hammir hath, chade na duji bar ll*

(The lioness gives birth to only one child who becomes the king of the jungle. The word given by the Sadguru does not change. The banana plant also gives fruit once only. Just as the marriage of a woman, in the same way, the word given by Hammir never changes.)

While appreciating all these qualities, his mistakes cannot be ignored. He used to collect money by entering into the neighboring states, this increased the number of his enemies. It was also a strategic mistake to not make any organization against Alauddin Khilji. His popularity decreased due to he imposed tax on his public before the invasion of Alauddin Khilji. Regardless of these shortcomings, Hammir is seen in history as a respectable ruler. Dr. Dasharath Sharma has written "If there were any flaws in him, they were negligible in front of the courage he portrayed in wars, the defence of his dynasty's reputation and the protection of the Mongol refugees." The compositions of Nayanchandra Suri's '*Hamir*

Mahakavya ', Vyas Bhand's '*Hammirayan*', '*Hammiraso* ' of Jodhraj, '*Hammir Bandhan*' of Amrit Kailash and the book written by Chandrshekhar '*Hammir-Hath*', all were written to show Hammir as a Hero

Rawal Ratan Singh (1302-03 AD)

After the death of Rawal Samar Singh, his son and successor Rawal Ratan Singh ascended the throne in 1302 AD. He got to rule for just one year, this year is notable in history because of Alauddin Khilji's invasion at Chittorgarh. The main reasons behind Alauddin Khilji's invasion of Chittor were as follows-

1. The Imperialistic Aim of Alauddin Khilji -

He was an ambitious and imperialist ruler just like Alexander. He too wanted to rule the world. In fact, he even assumed the title of Sikandar-e-Sani (Alexander II). In order to ensure stable rule in Southern and Northern Bharat, it was important to triumph over the Rajput princely states. Invasion on Chittor was a part of the same political policy.

2. The Increasing Political Boundaries and Power of Mewar -

During the rule of brave kings like Jitarsingh, Tej Singh and Samar Singh there was of expansion of Mewar political boundaries. Iltutmish, Nasiruddin Mahmud, Balban and other rulers tried to overpower Mewar but failed in doing so. In 1299 A.D. Rawal Samar Singh of Mewar did not allow the royal army to march towards Gujarat through Mewar, instead levied charges before allowing them to go ahead. Alauddin Khilji was enraged and could not forget this incident.

3. The geographical and Strategic Significance -

The route from Delhi to Malva, Gujarat and Southern Bharat, was through the area near Chittor. Hence, to ensure political and commercial domination it was important to occupy Chittor. Chittor fort built by the Mauryan ruler Chitrangad Maurya had never been won by any Muslim invaders. So it was a very big challenge for Alauddin Khilji to win over Chittorgarh.

4. Alauddin Khilji's Eagerness to Possess Queen

Padmini - Alauddin Khilji was captivated by the beauty of Rani Padmini and wanted to possess her. But many historians like G.H.C. Ojha, Dr. K. S. Lal,

Ashirwadi Lal Sirvastava, K. R. Qanungo, S. Ray and Mohamad Habib have question the interpretation that Sufi composer malik Muhammad Jayasi mention their arguments are as follow :-

1. Jaysi written that a parrot Haraman from Srilanka reached Chittor and the parrot was all praise for the beauty of Padawati and so the Ratan Singh determined to marry her. For this he spend 12 years in Lanka and ultimately got them together and married. But historians are not agree with this version, their argument is that, how it was possible while Ratan Singh was seated at thrown of Mewar State in 1302 C.C. and after one year Alauddin Khilji was attacked in 1303 C.C., it was only one year interval but Jaysi has written to stay twelve years. It is not logical.

2. Jaysi has described the siege of Chittaur Garh in Alauddin Khilji for eight years, whole historical testimony is not convincing. The 14th century account written by Court Historian of Sultant describe that between 1303-1305 there was Mongal attacks. Therefore Alauddin Khilji came to Chittor Garh shortly before the Mangol attack on the possibility of Mangol invasion.

3. Historian are not agree with Jaysi's submission that queen send soldiers dressed in maids in 1600 Palaqi to Delhi to fight Khilji. How it was possible while Alauddin Khilji was one of the finest genral in India's Military history and well developed spy system, how it was possible, that they could not reconized when they were long march from Chittor to Delhi and Mewar soldiers must use to do there personal day to day work. At that period the sanitary system was also not developed.

4. At last Jaysi himself written in his book at last in four lines that his description is based on symbolic. As he mention that- Chittor Garh - as a body, King Ratan Singh - as a mind, Lanka - as a heart, Padmini - as a perfection, and Alauddin Khilji - as a worldly face. The same description clearly show that Jaysi's writting work was based on imagination on historical personlity, not on facts.

The epic was written during the reign of Sher Shah Suri in 1540 AD. But Mathura Lal Sharma was not agree with above mention arguments.

Invasion on Chittor by Alauddin Khilji

On 28 January 1303 AD Alauddin Khilji being the ruler of Delhi ordered the army to march from Delhi to Chittor, and attacked Chittor fort with great force. However Rawal Ratan Singh gave a tough resistance to the royal army. Even after two months of confinement by the royal army, Khilji could not get any success. Alauddin Khilji changed his strategy and intended to seize the fort by building high platforms near the walls of the fort and deployed *manjaniq* (catapult) and attacked it with huge boulders, however, the strong walls did not even get a single crack. Due to such a long confinement, shortage of food supply emerged. When the Rajput soldiers saw signs of destruction all around them, they opened the gates of the fort and entered into a fierce battle with the muslim army. And in this battle Rawal Ratan Singh was killed fighting bravely along with the Rajput soldiers. The Rajput women along with queen Padmini sacrificed their lives by burning themselves alive to save their honour. This brave act is remembered as the first *Jauhar* of Chittor performed on 26th August 1303 AD. Chittor became a part of Alauddin Khilji's kingdom. The very next day he ordered for mass killing of common people. Amir Khusro was present at the time of this expedition, mentioned in his book, *Khazain-ul-Futuh* (Tarikh-e-alai), that only in a single day, almost 30000 helpless people were killed by him in a barbaric mass killing. He renamed Chittor as Khizrabad and handed over the administration to his son Khizr Khan and returned to Delhi. Khizr Khan constructed a Bridge over river Gambhiri. He also constructed a tomb near Chittor in which Alauddin was named as the reflection of God and protector of the world in an inscription which was written in Persian.

Story of Padmini

Padmini was the extraordinarily beautiful daughter of contemporary Sinhala King Gandharv Sen and Queen Champavati. Padmini had an admirable and clever parrot named Hiranman. One day it flew away from its cage and got caught by a *bahelia* (bird catcher) who sold it to a *Brahmin* who further sold it to King Ratan Singh of Chittor for one lakh rupees. Ratan Singh's wife, Queen Nagmati,

once after getting dressed up asked the parrot if he has ever seen anyone as beautiful as she is. The parrot replied "In a pond where a swan does not come, the heron is called a swan." Parrot Hiranman started praising the beauty and charm of Padmini and King Ratan Singh was mesmerized with this praise and decided to go and meet her. After overcoming troubles and much struggle he reached Sinhala disguised as a *yogi*. Hiranman met Padmini and praised the looks, heroic deeds, intelligence, wealth and bravery of Ratan Singh. He told her how mesmerized he is by her and has come all the way to meet her. On Basant Panchami, Padmini dressed up and went to meet Ratan Singh at the temple where he was residing. They instantly fell in love with each other. Gandharv Sen met Ratan Singh and after, enquiring about his clan and family got them married after which Ratan Singh along with Padmini returned to Chittor.

Ratan Singh had banished a tantric courtier named Raghav Chetan. To take revenge of this humiliation, Raghav Chetan went to the court of Alauddin Khilji where he told him about the extraordinary beauty of Padmavati and insinuated him to attack on Chittor. On this, Alauddin invaded Chittor. Even after 8 months of siege and confining Mewar when he could not win over Chittor, he put forth an offer towards Ratan Singh. But the Sultan deceitfully captured Ratan Singh and demanded Padmini in exchange of his freedom.

After being informed of the whole incident, Queen Padmini made a plan to set Ratan Singh free and sent a proposal to Alauddin Khilji suggesting that she would come along with her 1600 female companions. Alauddin Khilji consented to the offer. Queen Padmini then left in *palki* (palquins) with several other *palkis*. However, instead of female companions she ensured 1600 armed warriors accompanied her in those palquins. After reaching near Delhi, before being a part of royal harem, Queen Padmini requested to meet Ratan Singh for one last time to which the Sultan obliged. Just then, the armed Soldiers of Mewar attacked the Army of Sultan, rescued Ratan Singh and queen Padmini and Ratan Singh were returned safely to Chittoor fort. When Alauddin Khilji came to know of this fraud, he along with his army chased Ratan Singh

towards Chittoor. Ratan Singh with his commanders Badal and Gora, the fiercest warrior of Mewar died while bravely protecting Chittor. Queen Padmini committed Jauhar to safeguard the honour.

Maharana Kumbha (1433-1468 AD)

- Maharana Kumbha sat on the throne of Mewar in 1433 AD. His father's name was Maharana Mokal and mother's name was Saubhagya devi. After becoming the ruler, he not only successfully fought with his internal and external difficulties, but reached the threshold of Mewar by its warfare and cultural achievements.

Early Problems of Kumbha -

Maharana Kumbha had to face several internal and external problems at the beginning. Maharana Kshetrasingh's (1364-82 A.D.) second wife's children Chacha and Mera murdered his father Mokal. Now they were in a hurry to assert them at Mewar. Therefore, the Sardar of Mewar had been divided into two parts. A faction was a supporter of Kumbha, and the other faction was a supporter of his opponents- Chacha, Mera and Mahupa Panwar. Taking advantage of this condition, many Rajputs were trying to establish their independent states. The army sent by Kumbha under the leadership of Ranmal and Raghavdev soon suppressed the rebels. Chacha and Bhera were killed along with many of their supporters, but Chacha's son Eka and Mahapa succeeded in seeking the refuge of Mahmud Khilji, the Sultan of Malwa.

Mewar Malwa Relations

Both Mewar and Malwa were neighboring states and the rulers wanted to expand the boundaries of their own states. It was necessary to have a conflict between these two states, but the immediate reason for the conflict between the two was Sultan of Malwa to give shelter to the insurgent warlords of Kumbha, Murderer of Mokal, Mahupa Panwar, taken refuge in state of Sultan Mahmud Khilji of Malwa. It was said that Kumbha had written a letter to Sultan and demanded to hand over

Mahpa to him, which Sultan rejected. Therefore, Kumbha decided to invade Malwa. In 1437 A.D. there was a fierce battle held between the two armies at the place called Sarangpur, in which Mahmud was defeated but he escaped. Kumbha chased Mahmud and sieged Malwa, which he then surrounded with his army, captured Mahmud brought to Chittor. After keeping Sultan imprisoned for 6 months, Kumbha released him unconditionally.

Mahmud Khilji invaded Kumbhalgarh in 1443 A.D. to take revenge of his first defeat. Kumbha had a strong army deployed under the leadership of Deep Singh, near the temple of Baan Mata, under the gate of the fort. In the fierce battle that lasted for seven days, it was only after the death of Deep Singh and his comrades, that the enemy army was able to occupy the temple. Mahmud's army had such a tough time getting through this entrenchment that they destroyed the whole temple and gave the broken pieces of the statues to the butchers for weighing meat. Nandi's idol was crushed to *chuna* (lime) and was fed to the Rajputs in beat of. Mahmud's army also attempted to take control of Chittor but they did not get any success. In 1446 A.D., Mahmud once again tried to take over the authority of Mandargarh and Chittor, but he could not get success even this time. In 1456 A.D. Mahmud made the last unsuccessful attempt to take over Mandargarh.

Mewar-Gujarat Relations-

During Kumbha's reign, Gujarat had moved on to stability from its earlier disorganization and each of its rulers were very much keen on expanding their areas. The struggle between Malwa and Mewar and the political situations between Gujarat and Sirohi made it essential for Mewar and Gujarat to struggle with each other. In 1456 AD, after the death of Firoz Khan, his son Shams Khan became the new ruler of Nagaur but Firoz's younger brother Mujahidkhan defeated Shams Khan and took over Nagaur. Then, Shamskhan, with the help of

Maharana Kumbha again took control of Nagaur. But soon after he went against one of the conditions of Kumbha by starting to renovate the fort, an angry Kumbha attacked Nagaur and took over its possession.

Shamskhan married his daughter with Sultan Qutubuddin of Gujarat and asked him for help. With this, Qutubuddin left for an attack on Mewar. On the requests of the Deora ruler of Sirohi, he sent his commander Malik Shahban for victory over Abu and himself went towards Kumbhalgarh. According to historian Farishta, Sultan returned to Gujarat after receiving wealth from Rana. At the same time, the representative of Mahmud Khilji, Taj Khan proposed a plan to Qutubuddin for a joint attack of Gujarat-Malwa on Mewar. According to the proposed plan Mewar's southern part would come under the possession of Gujarat while the important part and Ahirwada would come under Malwa. In the year 1456 AD, the treaty took place in Champaner after which Qutubuddin, after taking control over Abu, proceeded towards Chittor and at the same time Mahmud Khilji attacked Mewar from Malwa.



Chittorgarh Fort

According to the Farishta, Kumbha gave money away to the attackers to make them leave whereas according to *Kirti Stamb Prashasti* and *Rasik Priya*, Kumbha defeated both the Sultans. On being victorious over the two Muslim rulers,

Kumbha was given the title of '*Hindu Surtran*'.



Kumbhalgarh Fort

Maharana Kumbhas Cultural Achievements:

Kumbha was not only a brave warrior but an intelligent ruler also who gave importance to art and lore. For this reason he has been called a steady intellect in the war. According to *Ekalinga Mahatmay*, he was very well known in Ved, Smriti, Mimamsa, Upanishad, grammar, politics and literature. Due to being a great musician, he is called *Abhinav Bharat Acharya* and *Veena Vadan Praveen*. According to *Kirti Stambh Prashasti* he was skilled in singing and playing *veena*. *Sangeet Raj*, *Sangeet Mimamsa*, *Sangeet Kram*, *Deepika*, and *Sud Prabandh* are the main texts written by him. *Sangeet Raj* has five parts '*paatratnatnankosh*', '*Geet Ratna Kosh*', '*Vadya Ratna Kosh*', '*Nrity Ratnakar*' and '*Rasratnankosh*'. He has interpreted the *Chandi Shatak*, as well as the critiques of the book of Jai Dev's *Geetgovind*, and of a book *Sangeet Ratnakar* written by Sharangdev. He composed four plays in Marathi, Kannada and Mewari languages. He wrote a treatise on the subject of Kirti Stambha and depicted it on the stones and placed it on the Victory tower, according to which he had compiled this book by looking at the opinions of Jai and Aparjit. His *Kamaraj ratisar* text is divided into seven parts.

Kumbha has also been called Rana Raso or patron of scholars. In his court, famous writer of *Ekling Mahatmya* Kanha Vyas and famous Vastu

Shastri Mandan used to live. Mandan wrote text on Vastu Shastr like *Devmuti Prkran*, [*Roopavtar*] *Prasadmandan*, *Rajvllabh* [*Bhoopati vallbh*,] *Vastumandan*, *Roopmandan*, *Vastushastr* and *Vastukar*. Mandan's brother Natha composed *Vastumanjri* and many texts composed by his son Govind, as *Uddhardhorini*, *Kalanidhi* and *Dwardeepika* are main amongst them. *Kalanidhi* is based on the architectural text of peak or *Shikhar* of temples. This can be called the only independent treatise in relation to the composition of the shikhar and the part of the shikhar. In the form of knowledge of *Ayurveda*, the methods of diagnosis and treatment of various diseases have been given in the composition of Govind. '*Sar Sammucaya*'. Kumbha's daughter, Ramabai is said to be *Vagishwari*, she has also been famous for her love for music.

The poet Meha was a distinguished writer of Kumbha's time. In his compositions the *Tirth mala* is famous, in which 120 pilgrimages are described. Meha was also present at the time of construction of Kumbhalgarh and Ranakpur Jain Temples, the two largest construction works of Kumbha's time. He informed that the idols of Hanuman that were brought from Sojat and Nagaur were founded in Kumbhalgarh and Rankpur. Even at the ceremony of the Ranakpur Jain temple, [*Prtishtha samaroh*] Meha himself was present there. Kumbha considered Sage Hiranand as his guru and gave him the title of *Kaviraja*.

According to *Veer Vinod* of Kaviraja Shyamaldas, out of the total 84 forts of Mewar Maharana Kumbha alone got constructed 32 forts. To safeguard the western boundary and narrow roads of the state, rearranged blockade and constructed Basanti fort near Sirohi. To prevent the influence of the Mer, the fort of Machan was also built. To make Central more powerful in the West Zone and to provide military support to the border areas, reconstructed the Achalgarh fort on the remains of the ancient fort of the Parmar. *Parkota* [parameter] of Kumbhalgarh fort built by Kumbha is 36 kilometers long, which is considered to be the world's longest wall after the wall of China. The famous Jain temple of Ranakpur, Pali was also built by the Dharnkshah during the time of Maharana

Kumbha.

Kumbha in his last days suffered from hysteria and he used to spend most of his time in the Kumbhalgarh fort, where he was murdered by his son Uda who was eager to rule over Mewar. In the Kumbhalgarh inscription, Kumbha is said to be the embodiment of religion and purity more than King Bhoj and Karna. He also took the title of *Adiwarah* and is said to have resrablishe to Vedic system, like the primary in carnation of Vishnu, the Varah. [*Vasundharodharadivrahen*]



Maharana Kumbha



Victory Tower

Victory Tower

Maharana Kumbha built 9-storeyed and 122 feet high-rise column of victory tower inside the fort of Chittor, in memory of victory over Mahmud Khaliji, the sultan of Malwa. It was built under the supervision of chief architect Jaita and his three sons Napa, Poma and Punja. Due to the artistic depiction of many Hindu deities, the Victory Tower is also known as 'the priceless treasure of Puranic Hindu sculpture' and 'The Encyclopedia of Indian Sculpture'. Dr Gopinath Sharma has described it as 'a systematic museum decorated with Hindu God and Goddesses' and Gaurishankar Hirachand Ojha as the 'priceless treasure of mythological deities'. It was rebuilt during Maharana Swaroop Singh's time (1842-61 AD). During the Indian National Movement, Vijay Stambha also worked as a source

of inspiration for the revolutionaries. According to the constitution of the famous revolutionary organization *Abhinav Bharat Samiti*, every new member had to take an oath under Victory Tower to join the liberation movement.

Mughal Attack

Babur established the Mughal empire in Bharat 1526 A.D. He was born in 1483 AD in a place called Fargana. He was the 5th generation descendant of Timur from his paternal side Umar Sheikh Mirza and a 14th generation descendant of Chenghezh Khan from his maternal side Kutlughnigar Khanam. He was the blood of two great victorious that was running in his veins. (Chenghezh Khan was a Mongol of the Haan dynasty. Mongols accepted Islam as their religion and were then known as Mughals). In 1494 AD with the untimely death of his father, Babur, at the mere age of 11 became the ruler of the state of Fargana but due to the circumstances, his reign was not stable there. He set his eyes on Bharat looking for that stable rule. At the time of his attack, Maharana Sangha of Mewar was the most powerful ruler in Bharat. He is historically known as Maharana Sangramsingh the First in History.

Maharana Sanga (1509 AD- 1528 AD)

In 1509 AD, Sanga, at the age of 27, took over as the king of Mewar after the death of his father Maharana Raimal. He was the most skilled warrior amongst all the Maharanas

Struggle for Succession

The struggle to become the successor to the throne had already begun amongst Raimal's sons even before his demise. It is said that all the princes, Prithviraj, Jaimal and Sangramsingh had once shown each of their *horoscopes* to an astrologer. He told them that the stars of Prithviraj and Jaimal were

looking positive but its Sangram Singh who has the *rajyog* and thus would become the king of Mewar. Hearing this, both of them jumped at Sangram Singh, this led to Sangram Singh blinde in one eye as Prithviraj stabbed him in that eye. Sarangdev (Maharana Raimal's uncle) somehow stopped the fight and got them to calm down, but with each passing day their feeling of revolt kept increasing. Sarangdev explained to them that they should not fight amongst each other just by believing what the astrologer told them. afraid of his brothers, Sanga was staying with Karamchand Panwar of Shrinagar (Ajmer) in anonymity (*agyaatvaas*). Raimal called him back and declare him his successor.

Struggle with the Sultan of Gujrat

At the time of Sanga, the major and immediate root for the struggle between Gujarat and Mewar was the status of Eedar. Eedar's Rao Bhaand had two sons, Suryamal and Bheem. After the death of Rao Bhaand, Suryamal took to the throne but he also died after 18 months. Now Suryamal's son Raimal succeeded to his father's throne. But taking advantage of his young age his uncle Bheem took over as the king. Raimal took refuge in Mewar where Maharana Sanga got him engaged to his daughter. In 1515 AD, Raimal with the help of Maharana Sanga reclaimed Eedar, displacing Bheem's son Bharmal.

Gujarat's Sultan Muzaffar was not happy with the displacement of Bharmal and Raimal becoming the ruler of Eedar once again. Bheema had ruled over Eedar according to the way Sultan Muzaffar had wanted him to. Sultan Muzaffar then asked the *jageerdaar* Nizamulmulak to give command remove and to rename Bharmal as the king of Eedar. After Nizamulmulak surrounded Eedar, Raimal went into the mountains. He defeated Nizamulmulak after being followed by him.



Maharana Sanga Maharana Uday Singh

Nizamulmulak was called back by the Sultan who was very upset that he went unnecessarily following him beyond Eedar. The Sultan then made Muwarizulmulak the Hakim of Eedar. One time, in front of a bhaat, Muwarizulmulak compared Sanga to a dog. Hearing this, Sanga with the king of Vaagad, Uday Singh accompanying him went to Eedar. Due to the military count being low, Muwarizulmulak ran from Eedar and went to Ahmednagar. Sanga then made Raimal on the throne of Eedar and went on to rob Ahmednagar, Badnagar and Veasalnagar on his way back to Chittor. To take revenge of the carnage that Sanga brought, Sultan Muzaffar in 1520 AD, sent two different armies to attack on Mewar under the command of Malik Ayaaz and Kivamulmulak. Sultan Mahmud of Malwa also joined forces with them. But due to conflicts amongst the Muslim officers, he had to make a compromise and return.

Struggle with Delhi Sultanate

Sanga started occupying the areas of Delhi during the reign of Sikander Lodi, it was due to the weakness of his state that he was not ready to fight a battle with Sanga. Ibrahim Lodi, the successor of Sikander Lodi, attacked Mewar in 1517 AD. A battle took place in Khatoli (Kota) in which Sanga came out victorious. Sultan was able to escape from the battle field but one of his *shehzada* got captured. This battle saw Sanga's left hand got cut by a sword and an arrow struck his knee for the rest of his life which made him lame. To take revenge of the defeat

of Khatoli (Kota), Ibrahim Lodi sent a bigger troop under the command of Miyan Makhan against Sanga in 1518 AD. But Sanga, once again, defeated the royal troops in a battle which took place in Baadi (Dhaulpur).

Relationship with Malwa

A Hindu samant named Medinirai, helped displace the Sultan Mahmud Khilji second to restore as the ruler of Malwa. So, Mahmud appointed him as his prime minister (*wazeer*) which made the Muslim *amirs* jealous of the growing power of Medinirai and made false allegations against him to Sultan.

Medinirai came to Mewar and took refuge under Sanga. Sanga gave him the jagir of Gagron and Chanderi. In 1519 AD, Sultan Mahmud left for an attack on Medinirai. Hearing this, Sanga also arrived in Gagron with a huge army. Sultan faced a ruthless defeat in this battle where his son Aasafkhan got killed and he himself got injured. Sanga took Sultan with him to Chittor where he was kept as a prisoner for 3 months.

One day, Maharana Sanga went to the Sultan to give him a bouquet. Sultan told him that there are two ways to give something to someone, one, by raising your hand and giving to someone who is smaller than you, and the other, by leaning down your hand to someone higher than you I am your prisoner, therefore there is no question of a gift here, and raising my hands like a beggar for a bouquet is beyond my dignity. Maharana was pleased to hear this reply and handed over half the state of Malwa to Sultan with the bouquet. Sultan handed over his bejeweled crown and gold waistband to the Maharana, as a sign of submission. For ensuring further good behavior, Maharana kept a shahzada of Sultan in the form of security (*zamanat*). Muslim historians have praised this generous behavior of Maharana, but this policy proved to be harmful for the state.

Babur and Sanga

Babur established the Mughal Empire by

defeating Ibrahim Lodi in the first battle of Panipat in 1526 AD. Babur and Sanga soon started struggling for which the following reasons are responsible:

1) Sangha Accused of Breaking a Promise

Babur wrote in his autobiography (which was written in Turkish), *Tuzuk-e-Babri*, “Sangha sent a messenger to me in Kabul asking me to attack on Delhi while he promises that he would attack on Agra. Sangha didn't keep his promise. I conquered both Delhi and Agra, even then Sanga never made a move from his side.” Keeping in mind that Sangha has defeated Ibrahim Lodi twice before, this accusation on him of inviting Babur from Kabul, to come over to India seems a bit illogical.

2) Conflict of Ambitions

After defeating Ibrahim Lodi, Babur wanted to establish his rule all over Bharat. This was not possible without defeating the Hindu chief, Maharana Sanga. The existence of both of them in Northern Bharat was like having two swords in one scabb.

3) Rajput-Afghan Alliance

Although the Afghans were defeated in the first battle of Panipat, they were still trying to expel Babur out of Bharat. They found Sangha suitable for pursuing this with them. Afghan leaders Hasankhan Mevati and Mahmud Lodi who was the brother of deceased Sultan Ibrahim Lodi approached Sangha. This Rajput-Afghan alliance became a reason of fear for Babur. So, he decided to destroy the power of Sanga.

4) Sangha occupied the Areas under the Sultanate

Sanga took advantage of the disorder that followed the battle of Panipat by taking over Khandhaar Fort (near Ranthambore) and its surrounding 200 villages, from which all the Muslim families had to flee away.

Looking at the struggles between them, both rulers started consolidating their situation. Mughal forces occupied Bayana, Dhaulpur and Gwalior which saw an increase in Babur's power. Meanwhile, on an invitation from Sanga, Afghan

leader Hasankhan Mevati and Mahmud Lodi, Maldev of Marwar, Prithviraj of Amer, Bharmal of Eedar, Veeramdev Medatia, Raval Udaysingh of Vagad, Raval Ratansingh from Saloomber, Medini Rai of Chanderi, Jhala Ajja of Sadri, Ravat Bagsingh of Devalia and Kunwar Kalyanmal of Bikaner reached there with their armed forces.

In February 1527 AD, Rana arrived to Bayana from Ranthambore, where Mehendi Khwaja was appointed as the *fojdar* guard by Babur. Sanga had the fort surrounded from all sides. This turned the situation quite tough for the soldiers inside the fort. Babur sent an army under the command of Sultan Mirza to save Bayana but the Rajputs chased and dragged their army away. In the end, it was Sanga who succeeded in taking over Bayana. This victory of Bayana was a significant victory of Sanga against Babur.

Meanwhile, Babur was busy preparing for the battles to come but when he heard all about the swiftness of Maharana, the battle of Bayana and the praises about the valour of Rajputs by a returning Shah Mansoor Kismati, it became a cause of anxiety for Babur.

A Muslim astrologer named Mohammed Sharif made a prediction that as “The stars of Mars is in the west, so the ones fighting from the east will be the ones to face defeat.” Babur's army was situated in the east which created a sense of further depression. Seeing this, Babur, in order to motivate his soldiers, took an oath to never drink alcohol and broke all the valuable glasses, *surahi* and cups which he then distributed to the poor. To excite the religious sentiments of his soldiers he said “Noblemen and soldiers! Every man that comes into the world is subject to dissolution. When we are passed away and gone, God [*khuda*] only survives, one and unchangeable. Whoever sits down to the feast of life must, before it is over, drink from the cup of death. He who arrives at the inn of mortality, must one day without fail take his departure from that mansion of sorrow. How much better then it is to die with honour than to live with infamy. Almighty God

[*khuda*] has been propitious to us. He has now placed us in such a crisis that if we fall in the field we die the death of martyrs, if we survive we rise victorious against the avengers of his sacred cause. Let us therefore with one accord swear by Holy Qurans word that none of us will for a moment think of turning his face from this warfare or shrink from the battle and slaughter that ensue till his soul is separated from his body.

With this, Babur also started talks for settlement with Maharana keeping the Sardar of Raisen, Salhadi Tanvar, as his mediator. On his proposal, Maharana took advice from his sardars who didn't like the mediatorship of Salhadi. They then pointed out the strengths of their army and weaknesses of Babur's, rejecting the proposal for any settlement. Babur took advantage of the time that went in all the proposals and when he came to the battlefield of Khanwa, he was well prepared and strengthened.

According to '*Veer Vinod*' by Kaviraj Shyamaldas on 16 March 1527 AD, the war started in the field of Khanwa (Bharatpur) in the morning. In the first encounter, the Rajputs had the upper hand in the battle, but suddenly Sangha was hit by an arrow in his head and had to be removed from the battle ground. The sardars now turned to Rawat Ratan singh Chundawat of Salumbar, pleading him to command the army. Ratansingh rejected the said offer saying that since his ancestors have left the state of Mewar, he cannot wear the state icon even for a single moment, but whoever will bear the throne, he will fully support him and will fight with the enemy till he lives. After this, Jhala Ajja was made to sit on the elephant and the war continued. Rajputs were ready to fight till their death but were unable to face Babur's army and he had to face defeat. After the war Babur assumed the title of *Ghazi* and as a sign of his victory constructed a tower with the heads of Rajput soldiers.

Causes of the Defeat of Sangha

1. According to the historian Gaurishankar

Hirachand Ojha, the main reason of defeat was not going to war right after the victory of Bayana but instead giving Babur a lot of time to recover and prepare for another war. It proved to be a great mistake of Maharana to keep the war suspended for a long time. A lot of sardars of the Maharana were not involved in this due to their patriotism for the country. Everyone had different interests; many of them even had mutual hostility. Because of all the peace talks and the treaty negotiations for a number of days, they did not have the zeal and enthusiasm while leaving for the war.

2. Rajput soldiers were fighting with conventional weapons. They could not fight Babur's cannon with their arrows, spears and swords.

3. By sitting on the elephant, Sangha made a big mistake because it gave the enemy an opportunity to strike him and made him a target. The army's morale weakened when he left the battle field.

4. The Rajput army lacked unity and synergy because the whole army was assembled under the leadership of different sardars.

5. Due to its mobility Babur's cavalry army was heavy on the army of Rajputs. Fierce elephants attacked by Babur's cannon balls crushed their own army while returning back.

Results of the Khanwa war

1. End of Rajputs' superiority in Bharat The glory of the Rajputs, which reached to heights of Indian sky and was creating a buzz in the crowd, now started to disappear.

2. Rajput organization created due to Mewar's reputation and power has ended with this defeat.

3. The Mughal empire got established in India and Babur became it's emperor.

Last Days

After the the war of Khanwa, a fainted Sanga was brought to Baswa. After regaining consciousness, he was very upset hearing what had happened and scolded his sardars for bringing him so far away from the battleground. When Sanga was going to Chanderi to takke revenge for his defeat

against Babur, at a place called Irich, he was given poison by his sardars who were against this war. With poison doing its effect, he died on 30th January 1528 AD at a place called Kalpi at the age of 46. According to *Amarkavya Vanshavalī* his last rites were performed in Mandalgad.

Evaluation:

Maharana Sanga was a brave, liberal, grateful, intelligent and righteous ruler. Only a brave man like Sanga could capture his enemy, release him and give him his state back. Due to him getting in troubles from the very beginning, he had become a great warrior. He lost one of his eyes in a fight with his brother Prithviraj. In a war at Khatoli against Ibrahim Lodi, he lost one of his arms and was limp in one leg. By the time of his death, he had at least 80 marks and scars of swords and spears on his body which proved him to be a 'soldier's Remains or *bhagnavesh*'. There is little chance that there was any part of his body which did not have a battle scar. He brought Mewar to the summit of progress with his *purushartha*.

He was the strongest Hindu king of his time and no matter how big, everyone bowed down to him. Jodhpur and Amer also respected him. The kings of Gwalior, Ajmer, Sikri, Raisen, Kalpi, Chanderi, Bundi, Gagron, Rampura and Abu were all his feudal *samants*.

He was the last Bharatiya king under whose leadership Rajput kings had come together to take out the foreign invaders. Babur has written in his appreciation "Rana Sanga had become very high due to his bravery and strength of sword. None of the sultans of Malva, Delhi and Gujarat could beat them on their own. His empire's yearly income was ten crores. One lakh soldiers were in his army. 7 kings, 9 *raos* and 104 small *sardars* used to live with him." Uniting all the rival Rajputs under one flag was a significant achievement of his.

Sanga was very well learned in politics and religion. One time, after losing his arm, he proposed to his sardars that "The way a broken statue is not

worshipable, the same way due to my eye, arm and leg, I am not the one to be on the throne. Make him the king, whoever you think is the most deserving to sit on this throne." Seeing Rana's such humble nature the sardars got happy and said that losing of limbs in war, the glory of the king does not diminish but increases. In order to arrest Mahmud Khilji, Sanga gave Charan Haridas the whole state of Chittor, but Haridas expressed happiness only in 12 village's not taking the whole state.

Despite being a builder of a big and stable state, Sanga can not be said to be as skillful in politics. Releasing the enemy that you caught can be praised as an act of generosity, but it was not good move according to politics. Likewise, it was also a mistake that he, after defeating the Sultan of Gujarat did not occupy the areas that belonged to him. By giving his young children a big jagir like Ranthambore, he had sown a thorn for his future. Due to Rana's special love, Hadi Rani Karmavati took the jagir of Ranthambore for her sons Vikramaditya and Uday Singh, and appointed her brother Surajmal Hada as the patron of Ranthambore for both her sons-

Rao Chandrasena (1562-1581 AD)

Rao Chandrasen was the youngest son of famous ruler Rao Maldev (AD 1532-62) of Marwar. During Rao Maldev, ruler of Delhi Sher Shah Suri invaded Marwar. Sher Shah won the victory with the help of deceit in the Giri-Sumel (Pali) war fought between the two sides in 1544 AD, but Jaita and Kupa, the mighty warriors of Rao Maladeva, made such a tough fight during the war that according to historian Farishta, Sher Shah came down from his horse and sought Allah's favor for success. The fear of Sher Shah is followed by his acceptance, in which he had said after the war that I could have lost the kingship of Hindustan for a handful of millet.

According to the Khyat of Jodhpur state *Chandrasena* was born in 1541 AD. Rao Maldeo

was unhappy with his elder son Ram, when the younger one Udaisingh was deprived of the authority by Queen Swaroopde [mother of Chandrasen]. Because of this, after the death of Maldev, on December 31, 1562 A.D., Chandrasena sworn in on the throne of Jodhpur, according to his will. During the period of Maldev he got the manor of Bisalpur and Sevana.

Suppression of Internal Rebellion

Shortly after becoming the ruler, Chandra Sen came in a rage and killed one of his servants. This caused the Jayatmal and some other peer leaders unhappy who joined him. Angry chieftains joined to punish Chandrasen and invited his opponent brothers Ram, Udaisingh and Raimal to attack. Ram in Sojat and Raimal started frenzy in the Doonara province and Uday Singh took control of Gaagani and Baadi. Receiving upon the information, Chandrasen sent his army to pacify these nuisances, after that Ram and Raimal returned to their respective jagirs, but Udaysingh fought on the place called Lohavat. Uday Singh was injured in this war and Chandrasen won. In 1563 AD Rao Chandrasen and Udayingh, again indulged in a cross-fight between them at Nadol but realizing that there was no hope of victory Udayingh went to take refuge to Badshah Akbar.

Control of Mughals on Jodhpur

Akbar was given an opportunity to intervene because of mutual discord with Rao Chandrasen's angry brothers Ram, Uday Singh and Raimal. He soon sent an army headed by Hussainquli Khan, who took over Jodhpur. It is said in the *Khyat* of Jodhpur about Mughal campaign, that the royal army invaded Jodhpur three times and after about ten months, Chandrasen had to go to Bhadrajun, after abandoning the fort because of lack of food and water. After loosing Jodhpur, the economic condition of Chandrasen become miserable and for his daily expenses he had to sell his jewellery and belongings.

Pt. Vishweshvarnath Reus has acknowledged the non-cooperation by Rao Maldev of Jodhpur for his father Humayun the main reason of Akbars attack on Jodhpur.

Nagore Darbar

During his Ajmer visit in 1570 AD, Akbar reached Nagaur after hearing the news of the famine in the Marwar area. On this occasion, he constructed a pond for his people, by his soldiers, which became famous as the *shukr talab*. In fact, the purpose of this darbar was to study the political condition of Marwar.

Mughal Campaign Against Chandrasen

After the Nagaur Darbar, the Mughal army invaded Bhadrajuna. In February 1571 AD, Bhadrajun abducted by Chandrasen, he went towards Siwana. On one side where the rebellion spread in Gujrat in 1572 AD, on the other hand, becoming the ruler of Maharana Pratap, Mewar was also a risk for him of being aggressive. In such a situation, Akbar by appointing Raisingh of Bikaner ruler to Jodhpur and sent him to Gujarat, so that Maharana Pratap could not be harmed by blocking the path of Gujarat.

In 1573 AD, Akbar sent Jagatsingh, Keshavdas Medtiya, Raisingh of Bikaner etc. along with Shahkuli Khan to make Chandrasen subject to him. The army reached Sivana, defeating Chandrasen's nephews kalla in Sojat. According to the advice of his generals, Chandrasen entrusted the responsibility of protecting the fort to Patta Rathod and went into the mountains and from there started ambush strategy against the Mughal army who encircling the fort. Due to the successful resistance of Rathore and Chandrasen, Raisingh demanded additional military assistance from Akbar. On receiving the assistance of a large army from Akbar, Chandrasen went back to the mountains. Although the Mughal army chased him, they failed to catch Chandrasena. Disappointed by this failure, Akbar has strongly

rebuked his sardars.

In order to make Chandraseen subject to him, Akbar sent a large army towards Siwana under the leadership of Jalal Khan in 1575 AD, which included Syed Ahmad, Syed Hashim, and Shimal Khan etc. One day during a long struggle, Chandrasen attacked on the Mughal army along with his ally Devidas. In this attack Jalal Khan was killed. This incident dealt a terrible blow to the reputation of the royal army. Now, Akbar sent Shahbaz Khan, who soon occupied Devakor and Doonada, and sieged Sivana. Due to the coming to an end of food and ingredients, the guard of the Sivana fort had to leave the fort. Thus, in 1575 AD, Akbar occupied the fort of Sivana.

After losing the crisis capital city *sankatkaleen capital* Sivana, in October 1575 AD, Raval Harray of Jaisalmer attacked Pokaran. At this time, Anandram Pancholi was the Kiledar from Rao Chandrasen in Pokaran. After four months, Raval Harrai proposed to Chandrasen "Give me Pokaran in exchange of one lakh *fadiye*, when you will take possession of Jodhpur, take Pokaran back from me by giving those one lakh *fadiye* back." Due to critical financial condition, Chandra Sen accepted this proposal and gave Pokaran to Bhatias in January 1576 AD.

Chandrasen was not depressed even after he lost the final shelter in the fort of Pokaran. After roaming in Sirohi, Dungarpur and Banswada for nearly one and a half years, in 1579 AD Chandrasen plundered the Mughal police station of Sarwad and took control over it. After this, he started attacking at Ajmer province. On receiving this news, Emperor Akbar sent army under the leadership of Payanda Muhammad Khan. Chandrasen faced this army in 1580 AD but he had to return to the hills again. After a few days, Chandrasen reorganised the army and attacked Sojat on 7 July 1580 AD. By taking possession of Sojat, he made his residence in the mountains of Saran. He died here on 11 January 1581 AD. According to the *Khyat* of Jodhpur state, one of Chandrasen's warriors, Varsal, betrayed and

gave poison in the food, which led to his death.

Rao Chandrasena was the first ruler of autonomous nature of Rajasthan during Akbar's reign. His brothers used to enjoy the royal pleasures of power, while at the same time he had to sell his own jewelry to fulfill daily needs. Chandrasen adopted the policy of confront to leave state of Jodhpur for the day-to-day roaming in the mountains and fighting the Mughal army, but he did not accept subjection. The struggle which was initiated by Chandrasen, followed by Maharana Pratap and he earned a big name. For this reason, Chandrasen is also called 'Pratap's forerunner' and 'Pride of Marwar'.

Rao Chandrasen and Maharana Pratap

Rao Chandrasen and Maharana Pratap are famous for their lifetime struggle with Mughal emperor Akbar. It has rightly been said about them,

'Andagiya turi ujla asmar, chakar rahan na digiyon chit I

Sare Hindustan tanhe ser patal ne Chandrasen pravat II'

At that time, Maharana Pratap and Rao Chandrasen in all Hindustan were the only ones who neither accepted Akbar's submission nor allowed a royal stain on their horses and whose weapons were always shining against the Mughal emperor. Both Chandrasen and Pratap had to face the opposition of their brothers. Like Pratap, there were not many parts of Marwar in Chandrasen's authority. The Mughals had their control over places at Mandalgarh and Chittor in Mewar and at Medta, Nagaur, Ajmer in Marwar like similarities, so there are fundamental differences in their activities. Both the rulers stayed in their hilly areas and troubled the Mughals, but Chandrasen was unable to make a capital like Chavand made by Pratap. Pratap got support from Chandrasen's presence on special occasions and decentralization of Mughal force.

Maharana Pratap (1572-1597 AD)

Attack on Chittor by Akbar and Resistance by Jaimal and Patta

On 23rd October 1567 AD, during the reign of Pratap's father, Uday Singh II, Chittorgarh fort was attacked by the Mughal emperor Akbar. Uday Singh's Rajput commanders Jaimal and Patta tried to successfully protect the fort but after being surrounded for 4 long months by the Mughal army, the fort was breached using gunpowder. Even after being injured by Akbar's gun in the struggle, Jaimal fought valiantly sitting on the shoulders of one of his family members named 'Kalla'. After the demise of Jaimal and Patta, Akbar conquered the fort of Chittor on 25 February 1568 AD. A saying is famous about this

Bhookh na mete merto, na mete nagore.

Rajwat bhookh anokhdi, maryan mite chittor.

Akbar was so impressed by the valour of the two great warriors that he established their statue (both of them sitting on elephants on each side) at the entrance gate of Agra.

Early life and accession

Maharana Pratap was born on Vikram Samvat 1597, Jayaeshtha Shukla Tritiya (9th May 1540AD) at Kumbhalgarh Fort. He was the eldest son of Maharana Uday Singh of Mewar and his mother's name was Jaivanta Bai (Jeevanta Kanvar or Jayvanti Bai). Uday Singh had another wife named Dheer Kanva, she became able to convince Uday Singh to appoint his son Jagmal the heir of Mewar. After the death of Uday Singh, Jagmal was declared himself as the Maharana of Mewar but all the chieftans supported Pratap and they agreed to him on the throne of Mewar. Thus, on the festival of Holi, 28th February 1572AD, in Gogunda, Maharana Pratap coronated as the ruler. During the early days of Maharana Pratap's reign, the situation was very critical. Due of the constant struggles with Mughals, the political, social and economic conditions were out of control. Most of the parts of Mewar, including Chittor were taken over by Mughals and Akbar had his eyes set on rest of Mewar as well. At This time after seeing the destruction of Chittor and its oppressed condition, the poets had given it up to the title of 'widowed woman without jewelery.'

Unlike the rulers of Aamer, Bikaner and Jaisalmer, Maharana Pratap of Mewar did not surrendered before Akbar and rather gave importance to the independence of his motherland and took the path of struggle, maintaining the prestige and glorious tradition, the way his forefathers did. The mughal attacks on Mewar saw Pratap's chieftans lose hope. One day, he called a meeting with all his chieftans and appealed "My brave warrior brothers, our Motherland, this holy land of Mewar, is still under the clutches of the Mughals. Today, I take an oath in front of all of you that till Chittor is freed, I will not have food in gold and silver plates, will not sleep on a soft bed and will not stay in the palace; instead I will eat food on a leaf-platter, sleep on the floor and stay in a hut. Pratap formed a powerful army with the help of his loyal sardars of Mewar and the bheels. To keep a distance from the Mughals he shifted his capital from Gogunda to Kumbhalgarh.

Akbar started to get all the information about the steps and developments which were being taken against him in Mewar. The very year of Pratap's accession to the throne, Akbar had sent 4 messengers one after the other, to make him surrender and come under his subordination. After 6 months of Pratap's accession in September 1572AD, Akbar sent his clever courtier Jalal Khan Korchhi with a proposal for truce. Next year again, he sent Maansingh, Bhagwantdas and Todarmal proposing Pratap to surrender to Akbar, but Pratap was not ready to accept the proposal at any cost.

Battle of Haldighati

Akbar himself reached Ajmer to transform the plan of invasion on Mewar in March 1576 AD



Chetak Memorial



Maharana Pratap

At the same time, Man Singh was declared as the Army chief to be sent against Mewar. On 3rd April 1576 AD Mansingh went to win over Mewar with the army. After staying in mandlgarh for two Months, Mansingh reached the village of Khamnaur by increasing his armed forces. At this time along with Mansingh, Ghazikhan Badakhshi, Khwaja Ghyasudin Ali, Asif Khan, Syed Ahmed Khan, Syed Hashim Khan, Jagannath Kachwaha, Syed Raju, Sardar Bhagwatdas' brother Madho Singh, Mujahid Baig etc. were present. This was the first time in Mughal history when a Hindu was sent as the commander of such a large army. Mansingh was made as the chief of the Mughal army commander. It was disappointing in the Muslim courtiers. Badayuni asked his patron Nakibkhan to join in this war then he replied that if the commander of this army was not a Hindu, then he would be the first person to have been involved in this war".

King Ramshah of Gwalior and old veterans said that most of the soldiers of the Mughal army did not have the experience of fighting in the hilly track. Therefore, they should be surrounded and destroyed in the hills. But the youth challenged this opinion and stressed that the braves warriors of Mewar hill side should come out and should defeat the enemy army in the open battlefield. In the end, Mansingh set up his camp at Molela on the banks of the river Banas and Pratap set up his six miles from Mansingh to Losing village.

The Mugal Army was led by Syed Hashim, who was the leader of the haraval in the Mughal army (the front of the army). With him was Muhammad Badakhshi Rafi, Raja Jagannath and Asaf Khan. Pratap's army had two parts, Hakim Khan Suri at the haraval of Pratap's army, Ramshah of Gwalior including his sons, Purohit Gopinath, Shankardas, Charan Jaisa, Purohit Jagannath, Krishnadas Chundavat of Salumbar, Bhim Singh of Sardargarh, Rawat Sanga of Deogarh, Jaimal Medetia's son Ramdas etc. were included. In the second part, staying in the center of the army were led by 'Maharana' himself, with whom Bhamashah and his brother Tarachand accompany.

In the morning on 18th June 1576 AD, Pratap decided to confront the rising army towards Gogunda from Losing to Haldighati. To break the

force of the Mughal army in the first part of the war, Rana pushed his elephant *Luna* to the front, which was fought by Mughal elephant *Gajmukh* or *Gajmukta*. Gajmukh was wounded and when he was about to escape, suddenly *Mahavat* of Luna got injured getting hit by an arrow and Luna had to return. Due to this, Maharana's famous elephant Ramprasad had to take to the battlefield.

The war started with the fierce attack of Pratap's haraval army. The Mewar soldiers, with their sharp attacks and heroic warfare skills were able to break down the front line and left part of the Mughal army. According to Badayuni, the Mughal army, scared of this attack, escaped like a flock of sheep under the leadership of Lunkaran. At this time it was difficult to differentiate between the Rajput soldiers of Pratap and the Rajput soldiers of the Mughal army. Badayuni asked this matter to the second general of the Mughal army, Asaf Khan. Asaf Khan said that "You keep on shooting the arrows, it doesn't matter of which side the Rajput dies, it will only benefit Islam." Badauni at first was totally against Mansingh to a general of the Mughal army but when he saw Mansingh fighting against Pratap with gallantry and cleverness, he was pleased.

During the war, Syed Hashim fell from his horse and Asaf Khan retreated and took refuge in the middle part of the Mughal army. Jagannath Kachwaha would also have been killed, but Madhav Singh Kachwaha came to help him with a troop of soldiers from Chandawal (last line of the army). Under the leadership of Mihatar Khan a reserved contingent troop was kept for emergency in the chandaval of the Mughal army. Seeing the army running away, Mihatar Khan came running forward and yelled "*Badshahsalamat* himself is coming with a large army." This saw the situation turn and the fleeing Mughal army started fighting with new zeal.

Rana Pratap was riding and fighting on his famous horse Chetak, and Mansingh was riding on an elephant called Mardana. In Ranchod Bhatt's book '*Amarkavya*', it is mentioned that Pratap put the front feet of Chetak with great velocity on the head of Mansingh's elephant and attacked Mansingh with his spear. Mansingh ducked down in haud and saved himself, but his *mahavat* was killed.

In this attack, Chetak's right leg was cut by the sword placed on the trunk of the elephant. Seeing Pratap in this critical situation, Jhala Beeda of *Badi Sadri* took the royal umbrella (*chhatra*) and kept the war with the Mughals continued. In the war of Haldi Ghati Pratap did not get success following causes responsible for defeat :-

1. Pratap followed traditional war technology, if Pratap kept his army scattered between the valley and the pass, he would wait only for the army, so that he could surround them in narrow areas and defeat them.

2. The lack of patience, patience and planning needed in the adversary's circumstances was lacking in it. The Mughal army was not able to fight in the field and the army of Mewar was not able to fight in the open field. The Mughal army started retreating, Pratap's army followed him in the king's open ground. The result was adverse to Pratap.

3. It was not proper decision to use elephant on hill side.

4. Pratap stabbed his two powerful regiment together and did not have a regiment for crucial period.

After the Haldi Ghati war other campaigns also which are following.

Shahbaz Khan's Campaigns

After the battle of Haldighati, to crush down Pratap completely, Akbar sent Mirbakshi Shahbaz Khan three times against Pratap. On 15 October 1577AD, Shahbaz Khan was first sent to Mewar. During the first attack, Shahbaz encircled Kumbhalgarh by encroaching the village of Kelvada, yet he could not succeed to capture it, and after some time Pratap was able to recapture it. Pratap appointed Rao Akshayraj's son Bhand Songara as the fort guard and left with his soldiers for Eedar, where he stayed at the village of Chulia. Here Bhamashah and his brother Tarachand gave Rana twenty five lakh rupees and thirty thousand ashrafies (gold coin) as gift. Seeing the military and administrative ability of Bhamashah, Pratap immediately appointed him as the Prime Minister of Mewar in place of Mahasahani.

After obtaining financial help from

Bhamashah, Pratap reorganised his army and after seeing the opportunity attacked the Mughal police station (Thana) on the path of Diver (Rajsamand) in July 1582 AD. This station was under the control of Akbar's uncle Sultan Khan. During the struggle, Amar Singh threw his spear with such power that it not only went through Sultan Khan, killing him, but even went through his horse. After the victory, this mountainous region of Diver came under the control of Pratap. Colonel Tod has called this battle of Diver as "The Marathon of Mewar".

The Final Campaign Against Pratap

On 6 December 1584AD, Akbar made Jagannath Kachwaha (King of Amer Bharmal's younger son) the subedar of Ajmer and sent him to attack Mewar. Jagannath did nothing special and disappointed,

Jagannath went from Mewar in 1585 AD. The attack of Jagannath Kachwaha on Mewar during the time of Pratap proved to be the last attack. Now, Akbar was convinced that the attempt to accept Maharana Pratap's supremacy was a mere imagination. Also, Akbar now been tangled in the North western problem. Therefore, the campaign against Pratap has been closed forever. Pratap was injured in the attempts of 'pulling' the bow of arrow and he died on January 19, 1597, at the age of 57. His cremation took place on the banks of the drainage flowing near Bandoli village, 2.5 kilometers away from Chawand. It has been written about Pratap by Dursaadha-

*"Asha lego Andag Pag Lego Anamani
Gaou Adha gavday, Jiko Bahato Dhurwami
Navroje Naho Gayo, Nagu Atsan Navalli
Nagou Jharkha Haith, Jeth Duniyan Dahalli "*

(Who has never stained his horses by sending his horses into the royal army, who did not bow down to his turban, who always used to write satirical poems against the enemies, who was able to pull the carriage of loads of all Bharat from the left shoulder, Who never went to Naoroj, who did not go to royal houses and the Akbar's zodiac whose prestige was spread all over the world, did not even go below it. Such *Gehlot* (Maharana Pratap) as victorious went to death. Pratap got the opportunity to utilise the time of 'peace' and independence for

nearly 12 years. By taking advantage of this opportunity, he attacked Mughal police stations in north-western, north-eastern and central part of Mewar. He removed the Mughal police stations of 36 places, including Udaipur, Mohi, Gogunda, Mandal, Panarwa etc were main. In an article of 1588 AD from Udaipur mentioned that Pratap had given a jagir of Pander near Jahajpur to Trivedi Sadulnath. It shows that Pratap had reclaimed the north-eastern region of Mewar till that time and was busy in the reconstruction work by providing the jagirs to his trusted followers. After 1585 AD, he paid full attention to the development of his capital, Chavand and built many palaces and temples here.

According to 'Amarsar', the composition of Jivadhar, Pratap had established such a condition that women and children were not afraid of anybody. Internal security was also achieved so that no punishment was given to anyone without any crime. He also tried to spread education.

Pratap as the Guardian of Scholars

Until 1588 AD, Pratap occupied almost all over Mewar except the adjoining internal regions of Chittor, Mandalgarh and Ajmer. Due to the closure of the Mughal invasions, Pratap spent the last years of his life reigning peacefully in Chavand. During the time of peace the capital Chavand made a lot of progress. Artistic buildings and temples were built here. Business-commerce, arts, literature and music got encouragement. While staying in Chavand in Pratap's patronage, Chakrapani Mishr wrote three Sanskrit texts namely *Rajyabhishek Paddati*, *Muhuratmala* and *Vishvavallabh*. These books are related to the topics of swearing in ceremony and its classical methodology, astrology and horticultural science, respectively. During Pratap's regime, with the inspiration of Bhamashah's brother Tarachand, 'Gora Badal Katha Padmini Chopai' poetry was compiled by Hemratan Suri in 1595 AD. To generate a sense of sacrifice amongst the soldiers, Charn poet Rama Sandu and Mala Sandu started living with Pratap's army. Rama Sandu, praising Pratap's valour, has written that Akbar is like a bird who took flight to get the fame of eternal sky, but he could not cross it. After losing in the end, he had to live under his limits. During this period, famous painter Nisardi (Nasiruddin) was

present in Chavand.

Characteristic Features of Maharana Pratap

1. Not to attack an unarmed - They had vowed to never attack someone who is unarmed. They always kept two swords, one sword to give to the enemy.
2. State of Mewar is a symbol of social equality. Kshatriyas on one hand and Bhil warriors on the other, this is an indicator of all social equality. Maharana Pratap was loved by all and everyone was ready to give their life for him.
3. Love for Freedom - Maharana Pratap was a freedom lover. Despite many hardships, he was not ready to submit to Akbar at any cost.
4. Protector of *dharma and rajchinh* - always protected the honour of Dharma and symbol of state. Their belief was that those who kept *Dharma* God protects them.
Jo drid rakhe dharm ko tihi rakhe kartar.
5. Honouring females' prestige - Presented an example of the Bhartiya tradition for women's honor. In 1580 AD, after the sudden invasion of Kunwar Amarsingh on Mughal camp of Sherpur, the family of Subedar Abdurrahim Khankhana was captured. Then Pratap sent orders to return with honour and safety the women and children of the Khankhana.
6. Ideal man of inspiration - Maharana Pratap later become an inspiration for freedom fighters like Shivaji, Chhatrasal and freedom fighters against the British.
7. Because of his extraordinary collaborative talent, Bhamashah has dedicated all his wealth at the feet of Maharana.

Veer Durgadas Rathore (1638-1718) Early Life

Durgadas was born in 1638 AD in Salwa village. He was the son of the third wife of Aaskaran, who was in service of Maharaja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur.

Aaskaran had got a *jagir* Salwa in Marwar and after the Muhnot Nensi, he was also appointed as the Prime Minister of Marwar. Because he did not have love for his wife anymore, he separated his wife and son. Then, a child Durgadas staying in

Ludave village with his mother, did farming for their living. In 1655 AD, a cavalry of the state crossed through his farm taking his female camels along he killed him after an argument. When the news came, the Maharaja asked for Aaskaran's answer to the accusation regarding Durgadas, Aaskaran said that all his sons were in the service of the state and none of his sons were in the village. Then the Maharaja called Durgadas and asked about the whole situation. Accepting his crime, Durgadas said that due to the negligence of the said cowboy, not only the farmers' crop was getting destroyed, but he also said foul words about your fort calling it "*bina chajje ka dholla dhunda* (A ruined house without a roof), because of this, I killed him. After receiving all the information, Maharaja asked Aaskaran "You said that you do not have any of your sons in the village', Aaskaran said "*Kaput(an evil son)* is not counted in sons." Maharaja Jaswantsingh said "This is your illusion. He will be the one to give this shaking Marwar the stability with his shoulders" and after that Durgadas was kept in his service. In the year 1667AD, Durgadas was given five villages, Jhaanwar, Samdadi, Jagisa Kothri, Amba-Ro-Wado and Amarsar, of an annual income of Rs.12,000 rupees. Later, Jaswant Singh also gave Marwar's Raimal Balo, Javand Desar and Bambh sen villages with Rohtak Pargane's Lunod village to Durgadas as *jageer*.

Jodhpur Being Under Mughal Control

There was always been a situation of opposition between Jodhpur Maharaja Jaswant Singh and Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. For this reason, Aurangzeb appointed Jaswant Singh at a police station very far from Marwad in Jamrud (Afghanistan). After hearing the news of Jaswant Singh's death in Jamrud in 1678 AD, Aurangzeb said *darvaza e kufr shikst* (Today the door of opposing religion has broken). But when Begum heard this story in the palace, said today it is a day of mourning that such a column of governance was broken. After the death of Jaswant Singh, Aurangzeb declared Jodhpur as Khalsa, and appointed Tahir Khan as Faujdar, Khidmatguzar Khan as kiledar, Sher Anwar as Amin and

Abdurrahim to be appointed as Kotwal, for the management.

After complete control over Marwar was established, Khanjahan Bahadur reached Delhi in April 1679 AD. After collecting the broken statues from the temples, putting them in carts, along with them came to Delhi. The king praised his act and ordered the idols to be put under the stairs of the court (*aangan*) of the Juma mosque so that it could be crushed under the feet of the people.

On 26 May 1679 AD, Aurangzeb gave Indra Singh (the grandson of Jaswant Singh's elder brother Amar Singh) as the state of Jodhpur, the title of the king, *Khilat*, the studded sword of the warrior, a horse decorated with gold, elephant flag and *nakkara*. He also agreed to give the King with a tribute of thirty six lakh rupees. Indra Singh neither managed Jodhpur properly nor was he able to calm down the nuisances there, due to which the king called him back only after two months.

Ajit Singh's Security

After the death of Jaswant Singh, Rathore Sardar sailed from Jamrud with his two pregnant queens, but officials stopped him on the river due to lack of royal licenses. By fighting these officers, the Rathore team crossed the river. At the same time, both the queens gave birth to the sons of Ajitsingh and Dalthamban on intervals of half an hour on 19 February 1679 AD. According to the *Khyat* of Jodhpur, when the news of the birth of these boys was received, the Emperor smiled and said, "Banda thinks something and the God just reverses it". According to the imperial order these children was taken from there to Delhi.

In Delhi, both the Kunwars and the queens were stationed in the royal palace of King Roop Singh of Kishangarh. Noticing the intentions of Aurangzeb, Rathore Ranchodadas, Bhati Raghunath, Rathore Roop Singh, Rathore Durgadas etc. decided that there was no use in staying there and waiting for their death. Rather if they were able to survive, then they would take control over Jodhpur. Therefore, it was decided to send chief Rathore warlords from Delhi to Jodhpur. One benefit of this plan was that the sardars were able to organise their power after reaching there and the King would not

doubt on their sincerity towards him. According to historian Gopinath Sharma, Durgadas was the brain behind this entire plan. When Rathore sardar one by one started to leave Delhi, Aurangzeb, seeing the reduction in their power started adopting a more rigid policy towards the royal family. He ordered *kotwal* Faulad Khan that Rathore queens and princes be removed from Roopsingh's mansion and be sent to Noorgarh and if Rathore disagrees or tries to resist it, then he should be punished. Fortunately just a day before this, Durgadas and Champawat Soning took Ajitsingh and left for Marwar. When the emperor heard the news that princes had run



Ajit Singh Rathore



Veer Durgadas Rathore

away, he immediately ordered his men to pursue them. Durgadas stopped the royal army on the way, helping Ajitsingh to safely reach Jodhpur. Here the emperor gave a fake Ajitsingh, naming him Muhammadiraj and handed him over to his daughter Jebunnisa for his upbringing.

Rathore-Sisodia Alliance

The sardars of Marwad brought Ajit Singh to Jodhpur. But due to the then royal authority over Jodhpur, they were concerned about the safety of Ajitsingh. Due to this reason, a young Ajitsingh was sent to Kalindri (Sirohi) on the advice of his stepmother Devraji. Here he was kept in the custody of Pushkarna Brahmin Jaidev and Mukunddas Khinchi was appointed secretly for security.

The eldest queen of Maharaja Jaswant Singh, Jaswantde was the daughter of Rao

Chhatrasal of Bundi. His step-sister Kanankumari got married to Maharana Rajsingh. That's how Durgadas was able to send a request to Rajsingh through Kanankumari asking for the protection of Ajit Singh. Mewar's safety and security were also involved in the whole situation. Due to this reason Rajsingh accepted the request and gave Ajit Singh twelve villages along with the lease (*patta*) of kelve. When Aurangzeb got this information, he sent his order to Maharana, demanding Ajit Singh, but Maharana did not pay any attention to it.

Shahzada Akbar's Revolt

Durgadas with Maharana Rajsingh tried Shahzada Muazzam (who was staying near Debari to Udayasagar) to take a stand against the king but he did not agree to this plan of Rajputs after taking the advice of his mother Nawabbai. After this, they tried to bring Shahzada Akbar on their side. Although, around the same time Maharana Rajsingh died in October 1680 AD, these talks continued with the new Maharana Jaysingh. The result was that on 1 January 1681 AD, Akbar declared himself the king of Nadol and left for Ajmer against Aurangzeb with the Rajput army. Aurangzeb's army had made a camp near Ajmer at a place called Dorai. On 15 January, Aurangzeb resorted to treachery. He sent a letter to Akbar's Chief General, Tahwarkhan (Ajmer's Faujdar who had left Aurangzeb to side with Akbar) through his father-in-law, Inayat Khan (commander of the King) which stated that if he were to come over, his mistake would be forgiven, otherwise his women would be humiliated in front of everyone and children would be sold as slaves at the cost of dogs. Due to this threat, Tahwarkhan, did not inform Akbar and Durgadas about this as they were sleeping and came straight to Aurangzeb where the royal servants killed him. After this, Aurangzeb made another move to create a rift between Akbar and Rajputs. He wrote a fake letter in the name of Akbar, stating that you have betrayed with the Rajputs and have done a very commendable work by bringing their truth to my notice. Now you need to keep them in the haraval (the front line of the army in the war), from where they will be attacked from both sides tomorrow morning in the battle. This letter was somehow made to reach to the camp of Durgadas,

reading this became a huge worry in his mind. Durgadas went straight to Akbar's place that very moment, but it was not allowed to wake him up in the middle of the night in any condition. After this, when he sent a man to call Tahwwarkhan, he came to know that he had already gone to the emperor. His doubts then changed into belief and before morning, the Rajput army looted Akbar's luggage and left for Marwar. In the morning, Akbar found himself alone and ran behind to follow the Rajputs. For two days, he tried to escape the destitute life. Then Durgadas understood Aurangzeb's move, took Akbar along with him and reached safely to the Maratha state.

Attempt to kill Durgadas

Aurangzeb, afraid of the possibility of revolt in Jodhpur, wrote to Shahzada Azam in 1701 AD that he either send Durgadas to the royal service or kill him. Azam tried to arrest Durgadas by fraud, but Durgadas escaped due to his prior knowledge of suspicion about the fraud arrest. By reaching Marwar, Durgadas began to openly rebel in the Mughal areas.

Rift Between Maharaja Ajit Singh and Durgadas

The biggest credit to save child Ajitsingh from the clutches of Aurangzeb goes only to Durgadas. After leaving safe from Delhi, he was kept at a secret place only according to the plans of Durgadas. On returning from the south in April 1687 AD, Durgadas was very upset that even after his strong instructions and even before his return to Marwar, on 23 March 1687 AD, Ajitsingh had been made public in Paldi village (Sirohi) after leaving his *agyaatvaas*. By this time, the Rathore Samants who were unhappy with Durgadas had gathered around Ajitsingh. There was a change in the situation of Durgadas, now after realizing that he was not in the central position in determining the fate of Ajitsingh, decided to stay away and understand the changing circumstances. Later In October 1687 AD, Ajitsingh met and hugged Durgadas in the village of Bhimralai and buried the hatchet.

On hearing news of the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 AD, Ajitsingh made Nawabs Faujdar Zafarquli run away and took control of his native

state of Jodhpur. This attack happened so quickly that, in the fort "Some Muslims had to run away by disguising themselves as Hindus to save their lives."

It is written in the Khyat of the state of Jodhpur that after the Sambhar conquest (3 October 1708 AD), Durgadas camped separately with his army after seeing many camps there. When Maharaja asked him to camp in *Misal* (the line of the Warlords), then he replied that he did not have much time to live, the people behind him would be camping in *Misal*, Durgadas felt hurt by Ajitsingh's behavior, went to the service of Maharana Amarsingh II of Mewar and did not return back to Jodhpur even after being called from there.

Ajitsingh publicly humiliated Raghunath Sanchora [who was in the guardianship of Durgadas responsible for the security of Akbar's son] by scolding him and forced him to die in prison (*kaalkothri*) of hunger and thirst (October 1707 AD). In July 1708 AD, he got his *Mahamantri* Mukundadas Champavat and his brother Raghunath Champavat also killed. According to *the* historian Raghubir Singh, due to these incidents Durgadas knew that the next turn is going to be his.

The last Days

Maharana Amar Singh II kept him with him by giving the *jagir* of Vijaypur and a fixed five hundred rupees daily. Later, he was appointed as the *hakim* of Rampura, living there he died on 22 November 1718 AD in Ujjain. His funeral was done on the banks of the river Kshipra, where his *chhatra* still remains.

Evaluation

While the war of succession between Shah Jahan's sons was taking place, Durgadas participated in the battle of Dharmat with Maharaja Jaswantsingh. Contemporary writer Kumbhakarna Sandu, who was in contact with Durgadas, has described the bravery of Durgadas during this war in "*Ratanraso*". He wrote that "Durgadas Rathod rode four horses one after the other and when all four of the horses were killed, then he rode on a fifth horse, but this fifth horse was also killed. By then, not only were all his weapons broken but his body was also badly injured. Eventually he also fell in the

battlefield. It seemed as if another Bhishma was laced with *Sarashaya*. By the orders of Jaswant Singh, wounded Durgadas was removed from the battlefield and sent to Jodhpur.”

Durgadas was a skilled strategist and diplomat. Not only did he protect Ajitsingh but also sat him on the throne of Jodhpur. For this, not only did he achieve 'Rathod-Sisodiya alliance', but also motivated Shahjada Akbar to rebel against the king together. After Akbar's rebellion failed, he took him safely to the south and stayed with him till his departure to Iran. Not only did Durgadas commit to his friendship by keeping Akbar's son Buland Akhtar and daughter Safiyutunnisa but also showed his (*dharm darshan*) philosophy of religion '*sarvapath samadar*'. He also looked upon their upbringing and their education just the way a Sunni sect follower needs it to be. When the occasion came, he sent them to the king. These are the qualities because of which he was even able to win the heart of someone as harsh as Aurangzeb. Colonel Tod called him the 'Ulysses of Rathods'. Rajasthan's famous historian Gaurishankar Hirachand Ojha has also dedicated the second chapter of his book '*Jodhpur rajya ka itihaas*' (The History of the Jodhpur State) to Durgadas.

Shivaji 1627-1680 AD

Shivaji, the son of Maratha Sardar Shahaji Bhonsle and Jija Bai, was born on 20th April 1627 A.D. at the hill fort of Shivner in Pune Maharashtra. Shivaji's childhood was spent in the lap of mother Jijabai, away from his father, under the care of guardian Dada Kondadeva. Child Shivaji was given military education along with Hindu religious text (*Dharma Shastras*) by his mother and patron. Shivaji attained full knowledge of *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and other Hindu scriptures during his childhood. At the age of 12 he received his father's estate (jagir) of Poona.

Expedition Against Bijapur

Shivaji made his initial military campaign against the Bijapur state. At this time, the Sultan of Bijapur, Muhammed Adilshah was lying on a death bed after prolonged illness and the state was in a vulnerable condition. Shivaji took possession of the hill fort of Toran in Bijapur in 1646 A.D. From this

fort he got a treasure of two lakh *hun*. Shivaji expanded his army from this amount and renovated the enemy fort of Murumbgarh, 5 miles east of Toran fort and named it Rajgarh. Shivaji, giving a bribe to Bijapur chief ministers turned them on his side, Sultan of Bijapur could not take any action against Shivaji due to his weak position.

Sultan Adilshah became scared of the growing power of Shivaji, so much so that no Bijapur commander was ready to campaign against Shivaji.

In the end, a military commander named Afzal khan took the responsibility saying, "I will bring Shivaji



Chatrapati Shivaji

as my captive without even getting down from my horse." In 1659 AD, Afzal khan took a huge army and proceeded against Shivaji. Afzalkhan, resorting to deceit, sent his messenger Krishanji Bhaskar to propose a peace treaty dialogue with Shivaji. Shivaji understood the hidden intention of Afzal khan and gave his approval for negotiation while still being cautious. On that day, Shivaji went to meet Afzal khan wearing his armour and iron cap under his clothes. In his left hand he kept a *baghnakha* and in his right hand he kept a sharp dagger named *Bichva*. During the meeting, while embracing Shivaji, Afzal Khan tried to kill him with his sword by grabbing his neck but could not do him any damage. At the same time, Shivaji used *baghnakh* to kill Afzal khan. With the death of Afzal khan, the Maratha soldiers who were hiding in the

forest, attacked and disarmed the Bijapur army. This incident enhanced Shivaji's reputation. After Afzal Khan, Bijapur also held many campaigns against Shivaji but they could not get any benefit from them.

Shivaji and the Mughals

The rising power of Shivaji also worried Aurangzeb. He appointed his maternal uncle Shaista Khan as Subedar of the South to suppress Shivaji. Shaista Khan soon took over Poona and from there he started conducting proceedings against Shivaji. Shaista Khan was stationed in the same palace of Poona where Shivaji had spent his childhood. On the evening of 15th April 1663 A.D., Shivaji reached Poona with about 400 soldiers. When approached near the residence of Shaista Khan, the Mughal guards stopped them, Shivaji distracted by saying that they were the Maratha soldiers of the Mughal army and were going to their places. At midnight, Shivaji started his assault on the camp of Shaista Khan along with his soldiers. One finger of Shaista Khan was cut off in the attack but he managed to escape, taking advantage of the darkness of the night. Many Mughal soldiers, including one of his sons and six wives, were killed in this campaign. When Aurangzeb got information about this campaign, he became angry and sent Shaista Khan to Bengal to punish him for his failure.

After Shaista Khan, Aurangzeb sent Shahjada Muazzam and Jaswant Singh of Marwad to suppress Shivaji, but even they failed in this purpose. This made Shivaji's morale higher, he became fearless and started looting the Mughal territories. In January 1664 A.D., he looted the prosperous city of Surat. With these loots, Shivaji got jewels and gems etc. worth one crore. Now Aurangzeb sent Aamer's skilled diplomat Mirzaraja Jaisingh along with military heroes Dilerkhan and Tajkhan. Mirzaraja Jaisingh said "We will bind him, surrounding him like a circle". Diplomat Jaisingh did not only make the opponents of Shivaji come to his side but also tempted many Marathas in his favour extending to them different offers. While attacking the Maratha kingdom, he surrounded Shivaji in the fort of Purandar. On June 1665 A.D.

Shivaji was compelled to a treaty with Jaisingh in Purandar. According to this treaty, 23 forts would be handed over to the Mughals and, when necessary, assured the assistance to the Mughals against Bijapur. Shivaji was not personally compelled to attend the court. French traveller Bernier was also present during this treaty.

It was mentioned in the conditions of the treaty that Shivaji would not be compelled to attend the Mughal court. In spite of this, Jaisingh made Shivaji agree to travel to Agra. Probably Shivaji also saw it as a good opportunity to contact and scout the Mughal court and know the situation of northern India. In May 1666 A.D., Shivaji made his presence in the Mughal court of Agra. Aurangzeb did not give proper respect to Shivaji, and behaved in a rather dry manner towards him. He made him stand in the third row of Mansabdars. Shivaji noticed that Jaswantsingh was standing in front of him, seeing this he sadly said, "Jaswantsingh, who's back was seen by my soldiers, now I have to stand behind him." Angered at not receiving respectable behavior in the court, Shivaji returned to Ramsingh's (son of Mirzaraja Jaisingh) residence from there. Aurangzeb took Shivaji captive in 'Jaipur Bhawan' and decided that he would kill him. Even in this critical situation, Shivaji did not lose his patience and sought to find a solution to escape from the clutches of the Mughals. Shivaji pretended to be sick and according to Hindu traditions, he started donating sweets, fruits etc. to the afflicted. Every day the sweet and fruit crusts came in the house of the detainee. Initially, the guards used to scrutinize and check all the baskets, but later became quite careless. After seeing an opportunity, sitting in these baskets (*tokras*) Shivaji with his son Shambhaji were able to run from this detainee house and reached Maharashtra successfully.

Due to captive life and difficult travel, Shivaji's health had dropped considerably. On the other hand, the new Mughal Subedar Muazzam was very relaxed, and his ally Jaswant Singh sympathized with Shivaji. Both sides wanted to break the war at this time. From Jaswant Singh's mediation in 1667 A.D., Mughal Maratha Treaty was accomplished, according to which Aurangzeb acknowledged Shivaji as an independent ruler and his title of 'Raja'.

Despite the treaty, he did not hesitate to walk against Shivaji. Due to this, Shivaji robbed Surat again in 1670 A.D., and started his expeditions on the lost territories.

Accession

Shivaji called the Brahman '*Ganga Bhatt*' of Banaras for the ceremony of his coronation in his capital Raigadh on 1674 A.D. and took the titles of '*Chhatrapati*' '*Hindudharmoddharak*' (redeemer of Hinduism), and '*Guau Brahmin pratipalak*' (redeemer of cow and Brahmins) etc.

The last days of Shivaji were spent in anxiety. On one hand, they were unhappy with the departure of their son Shambhaji to the Mughals, on the other hand, his wife Soirabai was conspiring to make his son Rajaram his successor. In these circumstances, Shivaji died in April 1680 A.D. Shivaji struggled his whole lifetime for the purpose of giving new life to the people and to establish an independent Hindu state. To a large extent, he was successful in their objective. According to Sir Jadunath Sarkar "Shivaji was the last complete talent of the Hindu species, and a nation building ruler". At the time when he appeared on Maharashtra's stage, the Marathas were scattered throughout the south under the foreign rulers. Shivaji organized and convinced them that they could not only establish a state but also build a nation. He made Maratha *Swarajya* with strong resistance to the Mughals.

Shivaji's Religious Policy

For the purpose to encourage scholars and to promote the Brahmins, he arranged for a separate fund amount. Due to being Hindu, Shivaji was a religious tolerant ruler. He had given his Muslim subjects full freedom of thought and prayer, and provided equally financial support to Muslim *Fakir* and saints. He made an *ashram* for Baba Yakut of Kaloshi. When in battles against the enemies, if the army would find the holy book Quran, they used to give it to their Muslim peers. His tolerant and honorable behaviour towards Muslim women and children has been praised by Muslim historian Khafikhaan. Along with the robbery, the Maratha army wanted to gift Shivaji, the beautiful daughter-

in-law of Mullah Ahmed Navayat, who was the Bijapuri Governor of Kalyan but Shivaji sent her back with respect to Bijapur. Even in state services, he did not discriminate on the ground of religion and appointed the Muslims to reliable positions in the fleet of the army and marine forces.

Hindu Swarajya

According to historian Sardesai, Shivaji wanted to establish a sovereign state in India, not limited to Maharashtra. The following arguments are given in favour of this statement.

1. At the beginning of 1645 A.D., Shivaji had written to his grandfather Narasprabhu regarding the plan of '*Hind Swarajya*', whose intentions was to bring religious freedom to Hindus all over India. The thoughtful and active Marathas understood their his views in this context.
2. Shivaji was recovering the *Chauth* (Forth quarter of revenue) and *Sardeshmukhi* 1/10 part of income from recently conquered states by Marathans. Those states who use to do this taxes did not looted by the either they were Hindu or Muslims.
3. The aim of Shivaji's visit to Agra was to see northern India through his own eyes, to know whether northern India was ready to be freed from the claws of the Mughal Empire.
4. While battling the Mughals, Shivaji adopted peace making strategies instead of fighting like the Rajputs did.

During the Indian National Movement, freedom fighters sung about the glorious past of India, and many symbols were used to create a sense of patriotism in the general public. In the memory of the Maratha hero Shivaji, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak started the famous "Shivaji Festival" in 1895 A.D.

Peshwa (1713 to 1740 AD)

During the period of weak successors of Shivaji, the control of Maratha empire came into the hands of his Peshwa (prime minister). The rule of Peshwas began with Balaji Vishwanath in 1713 to 1720 A.D. who was appointed to this post by Maratha rulers in 1713 A.D. At that time Syed brothers, Abdullah Khan and Hussain Ali emerged

as the king makers of Delhi. They displaced Bahadurshah I and gave the throne to Farrukhsiyar by making him the king but soon he started conspiring against them. The information of such a conspiracy came to the notice of Mirbakshi Hussain Ali who at that time was in Deccan. He made a treaty with Maratha ruler Shahu to attack Farrukhsiyar.

According to this treaty

1. The Mughal shall return back all the states known as '*Swaraj of Shivaji*' to Shahu.
2. The recently conquered states by Marathas of Khandesh, Barar, Gondwana, Hyderabad and Karnataka shall also come under their control.
3. The Marathas shall have the right to impose and collected taxes *Chauth* and *sardeshmukhi* from 6 provinces of Deccan. In return of *Chauth*, 15000 Maratha soldiers shall be provided to serve the Mughal King.
4. Shahu's mother Yeshubai who was a captive in Delhi, his wife and royal Marathi family members shall be released from imprisonment and sent back.

Under the leadership of Balaji Vishwanath and Khanderao Dhamade, 15000 Marathi soldiers marched towards Delhi with Hussain Ali as suggested by the Treaty. Syed brothers displaced Farrukhsiyar and made Rafi-ud-Daraj the Mughal emperor who gave his consent to the above mentioned Treaty. The right to collect the *Chauth* and *sardeshmukhi* in Deccan was a big success of Balaji Vishwanath. He is rightly said to be the 'Second Founder' (founder-Shivaji) of the Maratha Empire.

After the death of Balaji Vishwanath, his elder son Bajirao (1720-40 AD) was appointed as the Peshwa. He was of mere 20 years of age at that time. He wanted to capture as many regions as possible by taking the advantage of the unstable circumstances of the Mughal Empire. He even succeeded in gaining the goodwill of Shahu by providing a logical explanation that "This is the right time for us to expel the foreigners from our country. We should strike the roots of the dry tree, the branches will fall themselves." impressed by the plan of Peshwa, Shahu said, "You will hoist the Maratha flag on the top of the Himalaya, you really are a great son of a great father."

"Following his plan Bajirao crossed river

Narmada and took over Malwa in 1724 A.D. Sawai Jai Singh of Jaipur who was a part of the royal services soon became a friend of Peshwa showed sympathy towards Marathas. This was the reason that Peshwa did not have to face much opposition. The biggest challenge before Peshwa was to maintain the relation with Nizam-ul-Mulk who was the strongest amongst the Mughal sardars. Nizam saw himself as a rightful ruler of Deccan. He started looking at the Marathas as his biggest enemy after Maratha expeditions in this region. Due to this, he started to breach the treaty of 1719 A.D. and instead of Shahu he named his opponent Shambhaji as chief of the Maratha Empire in March 1728 A.D. Peshwa defeated the armies of Nizam Asaf Ali at Palkhed near Aurangabad and forced him to sign the Treaty of Mungi Shivgaon. According to this treaty

- 1 Nizam accepted to leave the responsibility of Shambhaji and to send him to Peshwa.
- 2 Decision was made to release the previously occupied Marathi States and Maratha Prisoners.
- 3 Acceptance was given for Shahu to collect *Chauth* and *sardeshmukhi* tax according to the treaty of 1719 A.D.

After sometime, in exchange of *Chauth* and *sardeshmukhi*, Peshwa took an oath to not attack any of the states of Nizam and Nizam accepted to remain neutral towards attacks of Marathas in Northern India. Peshwa now set his eyes upon North India, took control over Mughal states of Malwa and Bundelkhand in 1728 A.D. In March 1737 A.D. Subedar of Avadh Sadat Khan defeated Maratha commander Malhar Rao Holkar and by bragging about this, sent the information to Delhi that he has made the Marathas flee across the river Chambal. In order to prove his claims false and to refute this victory, Bajirao completed a 14 day journey in just 2 days and attacked Delhi. Bajirao sent a message to the now fearful Mughal emperor, that the aim of his campaign was nothing but just to show that he is still alive. After returning from Delhi, Peshwa defeated the Nizam in 17 January 1738 A.D. and compelled him to sign the treaty of Doraha Sarai. According to this treaty, the entire Malwa and the area from *Narmada* to *Chambal* was now under the occupancy of Bajirao. In 1740 A.D.

Bajirao defeated Nasirjung, the second son of the Nizam-ul-Mulk, and forced him to sign the Mungi Shivgaon Treaty. According to which Nasirjung gave the Marathas the districts of Handiya and Khargaon. Bajirao suddenly died on 8 May 1740 A.D. at a place called Ravar along the shore of Narmada river.

Points to Remember

- **Ramprasad-** Ram Prasad was the name of the famous elephant of Maharana Pratap. Akbar was very keen to possess this very skilled and trained elephant. After taking control over him in the Battle of Haldighati, *Ramprasad* was sent along with Badauni to Akbar in Fatehpur Sikri. Akbar renamed *Ramprasad* as '*Peer Prasad*'.
- **Haldighati-** Haldighati is a famous battlefield situated in Rajsamand district. Colonel James Tod described this battle which was fought on 18 June 1576 AD between Maharana Pratap and commander of Akbar Man Singh Kachhawaha as battle of Haldighati and Haldighati named as '*Thermopylae of Mewar*'. Abul Fazal who wrote '*Akbarnama*' named as Battle of Khamnaur and Abdul Qadir Badayuni writer of '*Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh*' described it as Battle of *Gogunda*. Badauni gave a live description of the war in his above mentioned book.
- After the invasion of Persian ruler on Greece, the Greek army defeated Persian army in the battle of Maratha (490 BC). In order to take revenge of this defeat the successor of Dara, Zorastres invaded Greece in the year 480 BC in the battle of Thermopylae. Leonidas was killed protecting his country and Persian Army won the battle. Colonel James Tod has written that "There is not even a small state in Rajasthan where there is no war zone like Thermopylae and a brave like Leonidas."
- **Nisardi-** Muslim painter living in his crisis capital Chavan, under the protection of Maharana Pratap. The '*Raga Mala*' painting

made by him in 1605 AD during the reign of Maharaja Amar Singh became quite famous. The painting of Nisardi became famous as the Chawand style of painting.

Questions for Exercise

Multiple choice questions:-

1. Who said that we should strike at the root of the dry tree, the branches themselves will fall.
(a) Shivaji (b) Shahu
(c) Balaji Vishvnath (d) Bajirao Pratham
2. Which of these auspices till was did not held by Bappa Rawal?
(a) Hindu Surya (b) Rajguru
(c) Chakkve (d) Hindu Surtran
3. At what place the battle was fought between Prithviraj Chauhan and Mohammad Gauri ?
(a) Tarain (b) Panipat
(c) Khanva (d) Haldi Ghati
4. In which year did Alauddin Khilji take control Over Ranthambore?
(a) 1299 AD (b) 1300 AD
(c) 1301 AD (d) 1303 AD
5. According to "Padmavat" by Malik Mohammad Jaisi, what was the reason of Alauddin Khilji's attack on Chittaur?
(a) Imperialistic ambition of Alauddin Khilji
(b) Increasing power of Mewar
(c) Geographical and Military importance of Chittor
(d) Eagerness to possess Padmini.
6. Which Rajasthani ruler is well known in history for his cultural achievements?
(a) Maharana Sanga
(b) Maharana Kumbha
(c) Maharana Pratap
(d) Prithviraj Chauhan
7. Where did Maharana Sanga defeat Babar's Army?
(a) Khanva (b) Bayana
(c) Bari (d) Khatoli
8. Durgadas Rathod fought for Aurangzeb for a long time to protect which state of Rajasthan?
(a) Aamer (b) Marwad
(c) Mewar (d) Kota

Very Short Questions (Answer upto two lines)

1. To convince to Maharana Pratap, which court officials were sent to Akbar?
2. What is the significance of the Victory Tower of Chittor in the Indian National Movement?
3. When and where was Shivaji born?
4. When was the Battle of Haldighati fought and between whom?
5. Why is Rao Chandrasena of Marwar called the forerunner of Pratap?
7. When and against which Indian power did Mahmud Ghazni's last Indian campaign take place?
8. Who was the last Hindu monarch to sit on Delhi's throne?
9. Name the names of four literary sources of information about Hamir Dev Chauhan.
10. Which Rajasthani ruler is called as Hindupat and why?
11. Which city was the crisis capital of Marwar?
12. Which Muslim historian had participated in Akbar's behalf in the battle of Haldighati?
13. Which two titles are evidence of being the great musician of Maharana Kumbha?
14. Why is Maharana Sanga called as remains of a soldier?

Short Questions (Answer in eight lines)

1. What were the causes for Arabs attacks on India?
2. Please mention the cultural consequences of the Arab conquest of Sindh.
3. Describe the Muslim resistance of Nagabhatta I
4. What was the reason for Prithviraj Chauhan's failure against Mohammed Gauri?
5. Why could Rao Chandrasen not get proper importance in the history of Marwar?
6. How can you say that Maharana Pratap was a tolerant towards all religious ruler?
7. What was the reason for the defeat of Maharana Sanga in the battle of Khanwa?
8. Evaluate Rathore Sisodia coalition against Aurangzeb.

9. Mention the main terms of the Treaty of Purandar.
10. Describe the conflict between Mewar and Delhi Sultanate at the time of Maharana Sanga.
11. Evaluate the religious policy of Shivaji
12. What were the similarities and differences in between Maharana Pratap and Rao Chandrasen?
13. If you were in place of Hamir Chauhan, what decision would you make to return Alauddin Khilji's rebels and why?
14. Describe the achievements of Bappa Rawal.

Essay type questions (Answer in three pages)

1. Evaluate the political and cultural achievements of Maharana Kumbha.
2. Describe the struggle between Babur and Maharana Sanga
3. Highlight the life and achievements of Durgadas Rathore.
4. Putting the story of Padmini in your words, mention the reasons for the attack of Alauddin Khilji on Chittor.
5. Evaluate the resistance against Mughals made by Maharana Pratap.

Answers (Multiple choice)

- 1.(d) 2.(d) 3.(a) 4. ©
5.(d) 6.(b) 7.(b) 8.(b)