

## Chapter-7

### Freedom Struggle of Rajasthan and its Integration

#### Freedom Movement (1857-1947)

East Bharatiya Company came to India on pretext of trade along with other European companies. It succeeded more than the other companies. One advantage which the company availed was that Bharat was divided into small parts after the death of Aurangzeb. It established its rule over Bharat taking advantage of disunity and mutual discord of the Bharat rulers. Influence of Resident increased in princely States during the reign of Dalhousie and the Company started to annex the States on grounds of security, debt and adopted successor. Many rulers and zamindars, after being offended by such acts, were eager to put an end to the Company rule.

On all Bharat level, revolt was led by revolutionaries like Mangal Pandey, Laxmi Bai of Jhansi and Tanya Tope. In Rajasthan revolt broke out and the people very enthusiastically participated with the revolutionaries. Political consciousness in any country is not sudden. Long time efforts are needed for it.

#### Causes of Rise of People's Consciousness in Rajasthan

The leading factors behind this consciousness were-

**1. Swami Dayanand Saraswati and his impact:-** Founder of Arya Samaj, Dayanand Saraswati was the first social reformer to spread mantra of swadeshi and swarajya. In 1865, he toured

Karauli, Jaipur and Ajmer and gave the formula of Swadharma, Swadeshi Swabhasha and Swarajya which the people and the rulers readily accepted. Between 1888-90, branches of Arya Samaj were opened in Rajasthan and a press 'Vaidik Yantralaya' was opened in Ajmer. In 1883, Swami ji founded 'Paropkarini Sabha' in Udaipur which was later transferred to Ajmer. Thus Arya Samaj initiated the task of inspire to Swarajya.

**2. Contribution of News papers and Literature:-** Contribution of newspapers in spread of political consciousness is important, Rajputana Gazette in 1885, Rajasthan Samachar in 1889 were some early newspapers. In 1920, Pathik started publication of 'Rajasthan Kesari' which criticized government policy in a loud voice. In 1922, Rajasthan Seva Sangh, published the newspaper 'Naveen Rajasthan' which raised its voice in favour of peasant movements. Navjyoti in, Navjivan in, Jaipur Samachar in, Lokwani in exposed problems and movements of Rajasthan on a national level and created a public opinion for them.

Similarly, patriotism reflected in its highest stage in poems by Thakur Kesari Singh Barahat, J.N. Vyas, Pt. Hira Lal Shastri. Works of Arjun Lal Sethi evoked intellectual revolt. 'Veer Sat Sai' written by Mahakavi Surya Malla Mishran cannot be forgotten in this reference, which holds a unique combination of courage and self rule.

**3. Role of middle Class:-** Though the



common man of Rajasthan was capable of creating a revolt, but he derived off leadership from the middle class which was western educated. The leadership emerged from teachers, lawyers and reporters. J.N. Vyas, Master Bholenath, Magharam Vaid, Arjun Lal Sethi, Vijay Singh Pathik were representatives of this middle class.

**4. Impact of First World War:-** Armies of almost all the states had participated in the first world war. Sepoys who returned, shared their experiences and introduced people to intellectual revolution abroad. On the other hand Indians had to pay increased taxes to pay war burden of Britain. Resultantly, there was dissatisfaction.

**5. Influence of Outer Environment:-** Rajasthan was not unaware of political activities in India. National leaders and their programmes made an impact on them. On one hand, Hari Bhau Upadhyaya and Jamna Lal Bajaj were following Gandhian policies, on the other influenced by Ras Bihari Bose, Arjun Lal Sethi, Gopal Singh Kharwa and Barahat family were also igniting flame of freedom.

#### **Atmosphere of Freedom Struggle in Rajasthan**

The freedom movement of Rajasthan was a collective effort of newspapers, patriots, farmers people and revolutionaries. Mishram evoked patriotism through 'Vir Satsai'. Rajputana Gazettee, Rajasthan Samachar, Tarun, Rajasthan, Rajasthan Kesari etc. disclosed the injustice of English officials, economic exploitation and suppression. Sagar Mal Gopa, Kesari Singh Barhat, Pratap Singh Barhat, Jorawar Singh Barahat, Kharwa Thakur Rao Gopal Singh, Arjun Lal Sethi Sadhu Sitaram Das, Moti Lal Tejawat, Govind Guru, J.N. Vyas, Manikya Lal Verma, Ram Narain Choudhary led the movement.

People of Rajasthan exhibited patriotism and anti British sentiments and helped the revolutionaries. National consciousness developed as a result of Dayanand Saraswati's teachings of Swadharma, Swarajya, Swadeshi and Swabhasha. National leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji subhash Chandra Bose, Pt. J.L. Nehru, Lal Lajpat Rai, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherji acknowledged the strength of satyagrahi farmers, sacrifice of revolutionaries and cooperation of people. The

peasant movements also contributed significantly against kingship and feudalism, which gave strength to the national movement.

We can divide the period of glorious national movement f Rajasthan from 1857 to 1947 into 4 phases.

#### **Various Phases**

1. **Revolution of 1857 and Rajasthan.**
2. **Peasant Movement in Rajasthan.**
3. **Tribal Movements and Social reforms.**
4. **Complete Freedom under the Leadership of Prajamandal.**

#### **1. Revolution of 1857 and Rajasthan**

When the revolution of 1857 broke out in Bharat. G. Patrick Lawrence was the Agent to the Governor General in Rajasthan. Residents of various states had been appointed, for example, Capt. C.L. Showers in Udaipur, Capt. William Eden in Jaipur, Capt. Mock Mason in Jodhpur, Major Burton in Kota and Major Nixon in Bharatpur. There were six main military cantonments in Rajasthan, which were situated at Nasirabad, Neemuch, Deoli, Beawar, Erinpura and Kherwara. In Nasirabad, Native Horse Field Battery number 6, 15<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bengal Native Infantry (N.I.) and First Bombay cavalry was posted. In Neemuch, Bengal Native Horse Artillery, First Bengal cavalry, 72<sup>nd</sup> Bengal infantry and 7<sup>th</sup> infantry Gwalior were post. There were similar regiments in Deoli and Beawar. Apart from these, Bhil regiments with First Bengal Cavalry were appointed in Erenpura, Kherwara and Beawar, In Ajmer, 15<sup>th</sup> Bengal N.I. and Merwara battalion were posted. Some regiments were scatteredly posted at Jaipur, Hadoti, Jodhpur and Neemuch. But it is clear that at the time of the outbreak there was not a single European soldier in entire Rajasthan. It is for this reason that when the flames of freedom movement spread in Rajasthan, the British government grew apprehensive.

#### **Struggle in Nasirabad Cantonment**

The freedom movement of 1857 in Rajasthan started from Nasirabad. On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 1857 at 4 p.m. the soldiers of Nasirabad revolted. Efforts by the government to disarm them only added fuel to the fire. There were rumours that the



flour used by the soldiers and the cartridges given to them were defiled by beef. Another news spread that a regiment of European soldiers has started from Deesa and which will replace soldiers at Nasirabad. It further escalated anti-British sentiments. Situation worsened and the soldiers revolted. But the First regiment of Bombay lancers did not take side of the rebels and fired at them on British orders. The Light and Grenadier Company, however, refused to comply to the orders to shoot. Brig-Macall with his men was forced to retire while Col. Penny, who was the core commander, died on the spot. Probably he was too nervous. Two British officers also died, two were injured and with this Nasirabad slipped into the hands of the rebels. The next day, the rebels destroyed the cantonment and headed for Delhi.

Under the command of Lt. Malter and Lt. Heathcote, about 1000 Mewari soldiers followed them but failed to capture them. Probably the reason was that the jagirdars of Mewar and Marwar allowed the revolutionaries to pass their territories without any difficulty. This fact points out that Mewar and Marwar nursed sympathy for the rebels.

On 12 June, 1857, the first regiment of European army reached from Deesa and it was sent to Neemuch by the A.G.G. This event again gave rise to discontentment among soldiers posted at Nasirabad. Soldiers of 12<sup>th</sup> Bombay N.I. got agitated but they were disarmed. On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1857 soldiers of Bombay Cavalry refused to follow the orders of their commander and incited their fellow soldiers to the same. But the British government took stern measures. One soldier was shot dead and five were hanged, Rest of them were disarmed. Thus the flame of revolt was put down immediately in Nasirabad.

### **Revolution in Neemuch**

Neemuch became the second center of revolt where the rebellion broke out on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1857. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Col Abbot asked the Hindu and Muslims to swear by the Ganges and the Quran for their allegiance to British rule. Col. Abbot himself swore by the Bible. But when news of revolt of Nasirabad reached Neemuch on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1857, revolt broke out at 11 p.m. Army surrounded the cantonment and it was put to fire alongwith the bungalow of Brigadier and Major. The sentries

posted at the bungalows refused to fire at the rebels and soon joined them. It is believed that two women died instantly and many children were thrown in the fire, British men, women and children, who were about 40 in number, were surrounded by the rebels. They were saved by timely action of the Mewari troops. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, the rebels started for Delhi via Agra. They freed all the prisoner in Agra prison and looted Rs. 1,26,900 from the treasury. The markets of Agra remained untouched.

The rebels of Neemuch reached Deoli and put the cantonment on fire. However, no British soldier was hurt as the cantonment had been evacuated earlier and the British officers were shifted to Jahajpur in Mewar. The rebels forced 60 soldiers of Kota Regiment to accompany them, but they escaped in the way and returned to Deoli.

Situation had become explosive in nearby areas. Malwa, M how, Salumbar were also attacked by the revolutionaries. Condition of Kherwara and Salumbar near Udaipur was so critical that Capt. Showers though it was not possible to protect these areas.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August 1857, commander of Second Cavalry, Col. Jackson, called in for all European soldiers on the news he received that there was going to be a rebellion in Indian army and that they planned to murder all European officers. This instigated the Indian soldiers posted in the cantonment and which resulted in revolutionary activities again. A European soldier was murdered, two sepoys were injured and Lt. Willdayer got injured, although with a European soldier's shot. Soldiers refused to comply to the orders of Col Jackson. Even, a controversy began among the European officers on issue of issuing order. It was hence, decided that more soldiers should be summoned to suppress the rebels. But in the meanwhile, the rebellion was suppressed with the help of Udaipur.

### **Auwa (Marwar) and Leadership of Thakur Khushal Singh**

By August flames of the revolt began to spread in entire state. On 21<sup>st</sup> August, Jodhpur armies at Erinpura revolted and refused to obey the orders of their officers. As a result, Lt. Carmolli was



bound to accompany them. Although, he was freed after three days. The Bhil soldiers also sided with the rebels and refused to cooperate with the British. The rebels captured many British citizens and their families but released them later on. Thereafter, thakur Kushal Singh also began to provide assistance to the rebels and the main reason behind this act were his tense relations with Maharaja of Jodhpur for the past few years and he wanted to take advantage of this situation.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 1857 an armed struggle between the armies of ruler of Jodhpur and the rebels along with forces of Auwa took place in Bithoda and Chelawas near Pali. Not only were the royal forces defeated, the rebels also managed to capture its ammunitions. Kiledar Anar Singh and many trustworthies of the Maharaja lost their lives. Even Lt. Heatcoat could save his life with great difficulty. His property was looted by the rebels. In such grave circumstances, General Lawrence decided to proceed to Auwa in person. He prepared an armed battalion near Beawar and started for Auwa. On 18<sup>th</sup> September, the British armed force made an unsuccessful attack on Auwa. The rebelling soldiers not only averted the attack but also killed many British officers like Resident of Jodhpur Mock Mason and a European officer. Soldiers of army of Jodhpur were killed and arrested. The rebels beheaded Mason and hanged his head over the fort of Auwa. This act was a symbol of their victory; Lawrence had to retreat and took refuge in a village, three miles away from Auwa. Later, he returned to Ajmer.

The British Government treated this defeat of General Lawrence with utmost gravity as the incident was bound to cause a wide impact on Rajasthan. Therefore, it ordered to suppress the Auwa Thakur at any cost. On the other hand revolutionaries like Risaldar Abdul Ali, Abban Ali Khan, Sheikh Mohammad Baksh and other Hindu rebels appealed to people of Mewar and Marwar to cooperate with the rebels. Thakur Khushal Singh also appealed to a major Mewari noble Samand Singh, for help. Thakur Samand Singh and other main jagirdars of Marwar assured a military help of 4000 soldiers. On 9<sup>th</sup> October 1857, Thakur Shyo Singh of Asop, Ajit Singh of Pulniawas, Jodh Singh

of Bogawa, Prem Singh of Banta, Chand Singh of Baswana, Jagat Singh of Tulgiri proceeded to Delhi for seeking aid from the Delhi emperor. Thakur Samand Singh also sided with them.

In January 1858, a contingent of Bombay reached Nasirabad to aid the British. On the way, it destroyed the fort under thakur of Sirohi and reached Auwa on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1858. The officiating British political Agent of Jodhpur, Major Morrison, also reached Auwa. The Bombay N.I. under Col. Halmus too reached here. On 19<sup>th</sup> January, a siege was laid on Auwa fort under Col. Halmus. Taking advantage of night and thunderstorm, most of the rebels escaped from the Auwa fort on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1858. They were followed by the British forces and 18 of them were killed and seven were arrested. On the other hand 124 rebels were arrested in Auwa village who were killed in firing later. Home of Auwa Thakur was ruined and thus the British soldiers occupied Auwa on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1858. It is believed that many innocent unarmed civilians were also murdered and their dead bodies laid scattered on roads. The British armies too incurred severe losses. The British soldiers committed unbearable crimes in Auwa. Villages like Bhaurta, Bhimalia and Lambia villages were razed to ground. They then proceeded for Nasirabad.

### Revolution in Kota

On 15<sup>th</sup> September, Major Burton was ordered to assume the post of Political Agent of Kota. The vakil of Kota Maharao proceeded to Neemuch to receive him. On 5<sup>th</sup> October Burton with his two sons started for Kota. His wife, daughter and three sons stayed back in Neemuch. On 12<sup>th</sup> October he reached Kota, the day Delhi fell. It is believed that the Maharao was presented salute of cannons. The next day, Maharao and Major Burton exchanged visits. It is speculated that the Major asked the Maharao to sack some of his officials during this conversation. On 15<sup>th</sup> October, two patans of Maharao revolted and Major Burton, his two sons, one assistant surgeon and a local Christian doctor were assassinated. Major Burton was beheaded and his head was taken away by the rebels. People supported the rebels and gave it a form of peoples' movement. Jaydayal Mathur and



Mehrab Khan played an important part in this revolution. British armies had to retreat. The rebels ruled over Kota for five months.

It is believed that the Maharao too had a hand in Burton's murder and this is why Burton was called from Neemuch. The commission to inquire into Burton's murder, charged the Maharao for conspiring. The A.G.G. recommended for a fine of Rs. 15 lakh. In spite of all this British government exonerated the Maharao of all the charges. Maharao stated that he had no hand in the incident. He expressed his grief over the barbarous murder of Maj. Burton and asked for forgiveness. He also requested that British troops should be sent to remove the rebels. In reality, the rebels were in full charge of Kota and the Maharao was only a prisoner in his fort. In March 1858, about 5500 soldiers under Maj. General Roberts were sent to suppress the rebels. They attacked on the city on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The rebels, however, escaped. Only one soldier Hardayal was killed. The British forces entered the city under the cover of bullets, committed atrocities and razed down the city.

### **Indirect Cooperation of Mewar**

The British government reduced the influence and traditional rights of the feudals of Mewar. Information of armed revolt of Nasirabad reached Udaipur. People exhibited anti British sentiments. They cursed Captain Showers. Khushal Singh of Salumbar and Rao Jodh Singh of Kotharia aided the Auwa Thakur and Tanya Tope by giving him ration. But they could not revolt openly due to increased pressure of British army and policy of strong suppression.

### **Contribution of other States**

Anti British spirit prevailed in states of Jaipur, Tonk, Alwar, Bharatpur Dholpur, Dungarpur etc. Army of Bharatpur, Gurjars and Mevs too openly took part in the revolt. People of Jaipur expressed their anti-British sentiments by hurting insults to the passing British army. Army of nawab of Tonk too revolted, extracted their due salary and proceeded for Delhi.

### **Tantya Tope in Rajasthan**

Arrival of Tantya Tope in Rajasthan

constitutes an important event in the revolt of 1857. His visit spread excitement among the jagirdars and commanders. After being unsuccessful in Gwalior, he proceeded towards Jaipur via Hadoti in hope of assistance. After he did not receive any help, he came to Tonk via Lalsot followed by Brig. Holmes. Army at Tonk supported him. Thereafter he went to Salumbar where he was helped by the Rawat. He defeated the British on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1858 but was defeated after five days on the banks of Banas. Tanya came to Hadoti and occupied Jalarapatan. Local people fully supported him. But the British defeated him twice in September. Helpless, he left Rajasthan.

In December 1858, Tanya reentered Rajasthan and occupied Banswara. He came to Salumbar and then to Dausa and Sikar. Here he was defeated where he was fully supported and drifted out of the area. Man Singh, Jagirdar of Marwar, treacherously got him captured by the British. In April 1859, Tanya Tope was hanged.

### **Unforgettable Contribution of the Revolutionaries**

British imperialism did not accept the changed political circumstances after 1905 and made their suppression even harder. Provincial states too adopted a strict policy towards all nationalistic activities in accordance with the British attitude. Politics in Rajasthan was based on unresponsive bureaucracy while society was based on feudalism. In such circumstances, social institutions as Arya Samaj took the initiative to incite political consciousness. Revolutionary activities started to gain momentum in Bengal. Active revolutionaries in Bengal extended their scope of activity by forming contacts in Rajputana. Among these revolutionaries, Vijay Singh Pathik, Pt. Arjun Lal Sethi, Kesari Singh Barhat, Rao Gopal Singh Kharwa etc were prominent.

### **Vijay Singh Pathik**

The original name of leader of Brijolia movement, Vijay Singh Pathik, was Bhup Singh. He was a revolutionary before he came to Bijolia and a follower of Ras Bihari Bose. Ras Bihari sent him to Rajasthan for revolt all over India. But he was



arrested after the attempt failed and was imprisoned in prison of Talgarh. After his release, he settled down in the village of Ochori in Chittor. He accepted the leadership of Bijolia movement. He propagated the problems of farmore on an all India basis through 'Pratap' In 1919, he founded 'Rajasthan Seva Sangh' in Wardha and transferred it to Ajmer in 1920. Navin Rajasthan was also published in Ajmer. In 1922, an agreement was done between the farmers and administration through his efforts. When Bijolia movement spread to Begu, Pathik led in there too. He was imprisoned for three years. After he was relieved, he was externed for three years. In 1927, he advised the farmer to leave their lands untilld. He could not made a correct estimate of changed political conditions. Confiscated lands broke down the morale of farmers. Leadership of the movement slipped out of Pathik's hands and was transferred to an all-India leadership.

#### **Pt. Arjun Lal Sethi**

Born in Jaipur in 1880, Arjun Lal Sethi was appointed as Kamdar in Chomu thikana. But the resigned from his post due to partriotism. He founded 'Jain Shiksha Pracharak Samiti' in under whose aegis a 'Jain Vardhman Pathshala' was also established. He founded 'Jain Shiksha Society' in Ajmer in 1907, which was transferred to Jaipur in 1908. He also actively participated in Swadeshi movement of Bengal and attended the Congress session of Surat in 1907. Gradually, Vardhaman School became a training center of the revolutionaries. The Hardinge Bomb Case of 23<sup>th</sup> December 1912 was the brain child of Sethiji. The main accused of this case Jorawar Singh Barhat was a disciple of Sethiji. Thus he was the coordinator of all revolutionary activities in Rajasthan. The then, A.G.G. C. Armstrong cautioned the Jaipur Government about the activities of Sethiji. He was banned from entering the State. The main accused of Kakori case, Ashfaquallah Khan was given refuge in Rajasthan by Sethiji.

For a long time, he was under house arrest for Ara murder case and Delhi conspiracy case. He was arrested and sent to Vallore (Madras presidency). He undertook fast into death for 70 days in protest of misbehavior in the prison. When

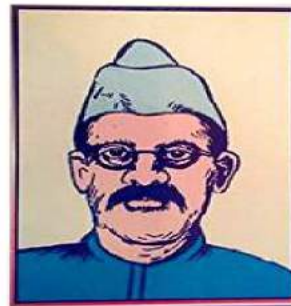
he was released in 1919, he dedicated himself to make the Nagpur congress session a success. Thus, he started to support the Congress programmes after following the revolutionary activities. He was rearrested in 1921 for his active participation in non cooperation movement. He was appointed as provincial dictator of Rajputana in Satyagraha movement of 1930 and acted as provincial head of congress working committee of Rajputana and Madhya Pranta in 1934. Due to differences in policy matters, he retired from active politics.

Sethiji was a very self respecting, expert organizer and a great orator. When he was offered the post of prime minister of Jaipur State, he replied, "If Arjun Lal becomes a servant, who will drive the British out"? His political stature can be guessed by the fact that when Gandhi ji came to Ajmer, he went to meet Sethi ji at his residence He also authored some books like 'Shudra Mukti' and 'Stri Mukti'. A play 'Mahendra Kumar' which was also played on stage. He remained committed for communal harmony throughout his life. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1941, he died in Ajmer.

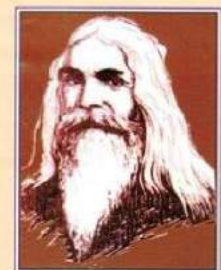
#### **Sagar Mal Gopa**

Credit for political awakening in Jaisalmer goes to Sagarmal Gopa. He got published a book called, 'Jaisalmer ka Gumedaraj' and distributed it in 1940. The maharawal externed them to Nagpur. In 1941, when he came to Jaisalmer on his father's death, Gopa was arrested in 1946 and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.

He wrote letters to J.N. Vyas informing about unhuman treatment in the prison. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1946, Gopaji was burnt to death in the prison. This incident shook the psyche of people and opposition



**Arjun Lal Sethi**



**Kesari Singh Barhath**



to authoritarian rule became intense. Atleast, prajamandal led the movement of freedom.

### **Damodar Das Rath (1882-1918)**

His name comes foremost among the leading freedom loves of Rajasthan. He was an industrialist and remained in contact with Rao Gopal Singh and Aurobindo Ghosh. He opened a branch of Arya Samaj and Home Rule movement in Beawar. He was an ardent supporter of extremist policy of Tilak.

### **Swami Gopal Das (1882-1939)**

He led the freedom movement in Churu (Bikaner area), founded 'Hitkarini Sabha' and worked for development of education. When the workers of All India states' Peoples' conference distributed pamphlets against Maharaja Ganga Singh in second Round Table conference, the ruler, when he returned to Bikaner, issued order of arrest of leaders without a court case. Swami Gopal Das was also included in them.

### **Kesari Singh Barahat (1872-942)**

He was born on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1872 in thikana Devpura Kheda of Shahpura in Mewar area. He learnt to oppose the foreign rule through his father. He invited Shyam Krishna Verma to Mewar in 1893 after becoming a confidant of the Maharana. His act was not tolerated by the British and on the evidence of the Political Agent removed him from his post. In 1900 he came to Kota on request of Maharao of Kota and till 1907 he worked in Kota as 'Superintendent Ethnography'. He was continuously in touch with Arjun Lal Sethi and Gopal Singh Kharwa and soon came a confidant of Ras Bihari Bose. The entire responsibility of armed revolt in Rajasthan came on his shoulders. He started to organize battling soldiers and resources for an armed revolt. Soon, his glory spread as a poet, writer

and servant of nation.

In 1903, when Maharana Fateh Singh of Mewar agreed to go to Delhi Durbar, Kesari Singh, as a protest, sent 13 couplets 'Chetavani Ra Chungatya' which the Maharana received on route. The Maharana changed his mind after reading them and did not attend the durbar even after reaching Delhi. After this incident, Kesari Singh became an eye sore for the British. According to government confidential report, he had relations with Ras Bihari Bose, Sachindranath Sanyal, Master Amichand Awadh Bihari etc. He was charged for sedition, instigation to revolt against British rule among the soldiers, and murder of an ascetic Sadh Pyararam. He was imprisoned for 20 years in Hazari bag Central Jail in Bihar. In 1920 Barhat released from jail .wrote a letter to A.G.G. of Rajputana for planned or Rajputana.

After 1929, Barhat ji became non-violent. He was invited in Wardha session of the Congress. , He died in 1941. Kesari Singh Barhat was a supporter of Hindi, language. He advised the kshatriya jagirdars and nobles to admit their children in swadeshi educational institutions, rather than in Mayo College. He made a plan to establish Kshatriya College in 1904, but could not gain support for it. In 1908, he proposed to send the students for higher education to Japan instead of England. Thus, Barhat did not leave any stone unturned in promoting mother language and swadeshi educational institutions along with spreading patriotism.

### **Pratap Singh Barahat**

Pratap Singh Barhat sacrificed his life, he adopted the foot step of his father Kesari Singh Barhat

After receiving primary education from Arjun Lal Sethi, he stayed with Master Amirchand for practical education. He started preparing Bharatiya sepoys in British cantonments of Rajputana for a future revolt. He was present with uncle Jorawar Singh when a bomb was thrown on the procession of Lord Hardinge in Delhi in 1920. He came into contact with revolutionaries like Sachindranath Sanyal, Pingle and Kartar Singh Saraba. He made an unsuccessful plan to murder the Home member of Bharatiya government, Reginald



**Jorawar Singh Barhath    Pratap Singh Barhath**



Cradof. In 1914-15, he was imprisoned in Barielley Jail in Benaras conspiracy Case. He refused to reveal anything inspite of many temptations. Due to inhuman oppressions, he died in the Jail on 24<sup>th</sup> may 1918. His family came to know of his death after many years.

### **Jorawar Singh Bharhat**

The story of sacrifice of Barhat family in unparalleled. Account of revolutionaries of Rajasthan incomplete without an introduction of Jorawar Singh, younger brother of Kesari Singh. Jorawar Singh was the main accused in Delhi Bomb case of 1912. After escaping from Delhi, he roamed in Ahemdabad, Banswara, Dungarpur and from there to mountains and forests of Malwa. Warrants were issued against him in Ara murder case which were cancelled in 1939. He died on 17<sup>th</sup> October in Kota.

### **Rao Gopal Singh Kharwa**

The Thakur of Kharwa thikana Rao Gopal Singh was born in 1872. He was under the influence of Arya Samaj since begning. When he came to Bengal as member of a delegation of Dharma Mahamandal, he came into contact with revolutionaries. In 1907, he opened a Rajput hostel in Ajmer. His name was involved in Delhi Conspiracy Case. He was also charged of spreading sedition in lower level of Rajput sepoys in Jodhpur & Nasirabad. Both the charges could not be proved. A case was filed against him under clause 3 of Defence of Indian Act. He was also under suspicion in Sadhu murder case of Kota. He founded Vir Bharat Sabha along with Kesari Singh Bharhat. During the first world war, Ras Bihari Bose planned an armed revolt in which Kharwa was assigned the responsibility of revolt in Rajsthan. But the plan failed. On 24<sup>th</sup> June 1915, under order, he had to shift to Todgarh. But he escaped on 10 July 1915. After his arrest, his jagir Kharwa was taken away from him. After his release in 1920, he got involved in constructive works and died in 1956.

Other than these revolutionaries some more great personalities were also there who efforted to through out the foreign rule. Contribution of revolutionaries like Pt. Jwala Prasad, Baba

Narsingh Das and Kumaranand cannot be forgotten. Shyamji Krishna Verma worked as Diwan of Ratlam, Udaipur and Junagarh from 1887 to 1897. He was a strong supporter of Swadeshi. He was under suspicion in Rand (Pluge commissoner of Pooa) Murder Case Maharastra in 1897. After he escaped to England, he founded 'India House' and Home Rule Society. He contributed significantly in freedom of Bharat.

Among the leading freedom lovers of Rajastha, Damodar Das Rathi's (1882-1918) name is taken with respect. He was an industrialist and was in contact with Ras Gopal Singh and Aurobindo Ghosh. He opened a branch of Arya Samaj and Home Rule Movement in Beawar and founded an institute of Sanatan Dharma Shiksha. He was a staunch supporter of extremist policy of Tilak.

An important feature of these revolutionary activities was that they were running parallel activities to social reform and spread of education. Political murders were a medium to gain influence and manage resources. Though their movement could not become popular and Gandhian means were more popular among the common people, still they were successful in exposing apathy of rulers and suppression of the British.

### **Causes of Failure of Freedom Movement**

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 1857, the Mughal emperor with his wife Zenat Mahal and sons were sent to Rangoon as prisoners. By mid 1858, the speed of the revolt had nearly faded. With arrest of Tantya Tope, the first war of Indian independence of came to an end in Rajasthan.

Strong anti-British sentiment was visible in Rajasthan. People openly expressed their hatred against the British. People of Udaipur openly hurlded insults on Capt. Showers as he was going to meet the Maharana. Jodhpur Army pelted stones on memorial of Sutherland. Residents of Kota, Bharatpur, Alwar and Tonk supported the revolutionaries against the British. The causes of Failure of the Revolution follows-

#### **Absence of Leadership-**

Rajasthan was divided into 19 states and there was not accepted leader of the rebels. Rajput rulers contacted Maharana of Mewar, but this entire correspondence was revealed by the Maharana to



the British. The feudals and soldiers of Marwar tried to struggle under the leadership of Mughal emperor. But the latter could not lead the revolt outside Delhi. As a result, the rebels could not struggle unitedly and they were unsuccessful.

**Absence of Coordination:-**Though the revolt erupted at many places but the revolutionaries lacked coordination. There was no contact between the rebels of Nasirabad, Neemuch and Kota. This was the reason that the revolution could not succeed.

**Absence of Strategy:-**The efforts of the revolutionaries were unplanned. There was a split amongst them after the revolt. On the other hand, the British were systematically destroying the power of revolutionaries. The British army was led by efficient military officers. They were provided ration and arms from all over Bharat, whereas the revolutionaries struggled for resources. For example, to suppress the revolt of Kota and Dholpur, additional forces were summoned from Karauli and Patiala.

**Non cooperation of Rulers:-**Non cooperation of rulers of Rajput was a major cause of the failure. Most of the rulers provided help to British even outside Rajasthan. The foresightedness of the rulers reestablished the power of the British.

**Result of Freedom Movement:-**The results of revolt of 1857 were far reaching. This revolt shattered the myth that the people of Rajasthan being tired of Mughal and Maratha loot, support the British rule.

**Change of policy towards Princely States:-**The rulers of Rajasthan worked as dams to stop the flow of the revolt. The British now understood that princely rulers were their support to administer India. Therefore, there was a change in British policy. To satisfy the rulers, they discontinued the policy of 'Doctrine of Lapse'. The rulers were provided with English education. They were awarded and rewarded for their services to invoke trust towards western civilization and British Crown.

**Destroyed power of Feudals:-**During the revolt, the feudal section struggled against the British. Therefore, after the revolt subsided, the British adopted the policy to destroy powers of the feudal

class. They were required to pay their services in cash rather than military help. As a result, the feudals had to disband their armies. They were charged judicial duty, their judicial rights were suspended and their power of extracting 'rahdari' duty was also taken away from them. Rules were framed by which the traders could get their loans through courts. As a result, impact of traders and those of feudals on people slackened.

**Change in Bureaucracy:-**Feudals had control over all important posts in administration. In order to weaken the feudals and increase control over administration, the British appointed English educated, experienced and faithful people in bureaucracy. As a result, there was a progress of faithful, English educated middle class.

**Means of Transportation:-**During the revolt, the British armies faced difficulty in moving from one part to another. Keeping this in mind, the military and commercial interest, means of transportation were developed. Nasirabad, Neemuch and Deoli were connected to Ajmer and Agra through roads. The Rail companies were encouraged to build rail routes. The British government also pressurized the princely states for construction of roads and rails.

**Social Change:-**The British extended the English education system. Middle class developed as the importance of English education increased. This class contributed significantly in administration and other areas. The British for its commercial interest encouraged the 'Vaishya' class. Latter on, importance of Brahmins and Rajputs diminished.

The Royal families were moulded into western thought and luxury through Mayo college. The British extracted a fixed amount of revenue and military expenses in advance, remission of loans during famines was not possible as earlier. Therefore, people were pressurized to pay taxes.

### **Peasant Movements in Rajasthan**

Before the British rule, the states of Rajasthan were dependent on mutual cooperation and good will of rulers, peasants and the feudals. Later on, the British transformed the rulers into a life of luxury and western thought through Mayo College. Ownership of land was of two types-one, the land which was under the direct control of the



ruler and which was known as 'Khalsa'. The other land was under the feudals (Jagirdars, thikanedars) and was known as jagir land. The feudals had absolute control over people of his jagir. Some other taxes were also extracted apart from land revenue which were known as Lagats (Lag-Bag). They also had to perform 'Begar' (food grains in return of labour). The attitude of rulers was cooperative and liberal before British control. In time of droughts, the feudals waved off the revenues of the farmers. But during British rule, on account of fixed revenue and military services, they had to extract the revenue from the peasants forcefully.

By the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century British interference and control had increased. A change crept in traditional relations with the peasants due to regular payment, increased expense and policy of economic exploitation. The peasants were slammed with new lagats and Begar became compulsory. The rulers and feudals now did not fear outer attacks. Impact of west increased due to British control. Economic exploitation of peasants increased for their luxury and luxuriant life style. The peasants got organized as a result of increased discontentment.

Pleasant movements in Rajasthan contributed significantly in development of national consciousness. The peasants were not scared of suppression and inhuman repression. Women too participated. Lag Bag and Begar practices were resisted. Major peasant movements took place in Bijolia, Begun, Marwar, Shekhawati etc.

### **Bijolia Peasant Movement (1897-1941) and Vijay Singh Pathik (1913-22)**

The Bijolia peasant movement started first under Sadhu Sitaram Das and then under Vijay Singh 'Pathik'. The movement aimed to raise voice against various 'Lag-Bag' and taxes on people of Bijolia. Every farmer had to pay tax in a fixed amount on various festivals and occasions such as reaping of crop, marriage, birth and various occasions of a jagirdar. He was subjected to physical suppression when he denied to do so. As a result, it became difficult for a farmer to earn his livelihood inspite working hard the entire day. Therefore, the

farmers of Bijolia did not till their land for one year and refused to pay land revenue. Sadhu Sitaram Das led the movement this time. In 1915, he met Vijay Singh Pathik in Chittor and requested him to command the movement. Thus Bijolia movement now got an enthusiastic and young leader. first



**Vijay Singh Pathik      Manikya Lal Verma**

In 1916, the farmers formed 'Kisan-Panch Board' under Manna Lal. Inspired by Pathik, the farmers refused to pay war debt. Situation worsened to the extent that the farmers decided not to cooperate with the jagirdars or provide them any assistance. All works were to be conducted through panchyats. British government became alert and even announced that the Bolsheviks have infiltrated in Mewar and nearby mountainous regions. It forced the Maharana of Mewar and other jagirdars to suppress the movement at the earliest. To escape arrest, Pathik went to Kota state and continued to lead from there

When the jagirdars did not make any efforts to solve problems of the farmers, the latter decided to start 'stayagraha'. In response the jagirdars adopted measures of repression. Thousands of farmers were arrested including Sadhu Sita Ramdas, Ram Narayan Choudhary, Prem Chandra Bhil and Manikya Lal Verma. Jagirdars confiscated all land but the farmers refused to surrender. According to Ramnarayan Chaudhary, who arrived to study the situation, reported that every person in Bijolia was inspired by nationalism and slogans of 'Vande ataram' could be heard every where. News of this satyagrah soon spread into entire India. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, MadanMohan Malviya, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi paid their attention to the movement. When the



situation became out of control. AGG Sir Robert Holland sent the British Resident Wilkinson to Bijolia to find a solution to the problem. During the talks, Mewar was represented by its Diwan prakash Chandra Chatteji and Behari Lal Kaushik while the Thikana was represented by Kamdar Hiralal, Faujdar Tej Singh and Master Jalim Singh.

The farmers insisted that representatives of Rajasthan Seva Sangh should also be included in deliberations. Thus, on part of Bijolia panchyat and Seva Sangh, R.N. Chaoudhary, Manikya lal Verma and the Panchayat sarpanch Moti Chand also participated. As a result of intervention of A.G.G, an agreement was reached between the thikana jagirdars and farmers. Many demands of the farmers were accepted which included discontinuity of 'Begar' and maximum 'Lag Bag'. All the cases against farmers were withdrawn. Revenues were not to be levied in the year of scarcity of rains. Thus Bijolia movement came to an end.

### **Begun Movement**

Formers of Begun were inspired by the Bijolia movement and started a movement against 'Lag Bag'. Pathik, Manikya lal Verma Ramnarayan Choudhary led the movement. In 1921, they were strongly suppressed. Their crops were damaged. They were restricted to cut grass and wood from forest and animals were restricted fodder from pastures. For two years, farmers continued their movement courageously. The thakur of Begun, Rawat Anup Singh concluded on agreement with the farmers which the British refused to accept. The movement continued from villages of Rayala and Govindpura. Two farmers Roopa and Kirpa lost their lives. More than 500 farmers were arrested. When news papers, like Rajasthan Kesari, Pratap and Naveen Rajasthan published news about inhuman actions of the police, the British prohibited their publication. An attempt was also made to dethrone Maharana Fateh Singh of Udaipur. Administration of Mewar remained under the control of Political Agent. British officer Trench ordered firing on farmers but the latter carried on the movement strongly. At last, an agreement was reached with the farmers by reducing lagats from 53 to 34, and announced restriction, on Begar. This

repressive policy was criticized on national level by various newspapers. Both the peasant movements of Begun and Bijolia had an impact on other states and importance of the Kisan panchyats increased.

### **Peasant Movements in Marwar**

On account of arid land, the farmers and administrators did not pay attention on land settlement. But here political consciousness about problems of states public opinion was built on problems of farmers through Marwar Hitkarini Sabha. In 1936, when the State suspended 119 lags in Khalsa area, the farmers also demanded their suspension in Jagiri land. In 1939, Marwar Lok parishad supported the demands of the farmers and encouraged them to start movement against the jagirdars. In 1941, the Parishad formed a committee and asked it to submit its report on Lag and Begar. To further weaken peasant movement, a parallel organization, Marwar Kisan Sabha was formed in June 1941. But these efforts failed. In 1941-42, Jat Krishak Sudhar Sabha convened meeting to force the state to implement reforms and reduce revenue. People were encouraged. Taking advantage of religious fairs like Ramdevra and Nagaur, this movement gathered attention of Bharat. After 'Harijan' published criticism of the state government, the latter ordered for land settlement in Jagiri lands in December 1943. This was opposed by the jagirdars and they increased repression. As a result, the movement now concentrated upon abolition of the jagirdari system. The jagirdars concentrated repressions on Kisan bhas and members of Lok Parishad which resulted into famous Dabra case, where on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1947, the police attacked the peaceful procession of Parishad members and peasants. The event was widely criticized. The State government, instead of punishing the culprits, blamed the peasants and Lok Parishad members. The problem could only be solved after independence. The peasants of Marwar were led by Shri J.N. Vyas, Radhakrishana Tat etc.

### **Peasant Movements in Sikar and Shekhawati**

In the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century the peasants of Sikar were distressed by tyranny any other regions of Rajasthan. No account was of land kept,



there was no fix criteria of levying taxes and the rates of revenue were quite high. No concession was granted to peasants in case of draught. Apart from revenue, the peasants were taxed with many types of Lag-Bag and Begar. The peasant movement in Sikar started when the Raj raja Kalyan Singh of Sikar levied the revenue from 25 p.c. to 50 p.c. and when he levied the taxes with new rates in 1923. There was drought. The peasants raised their voice under the leadership of Ramnaraan Chaudhary of Rajasthan Seva Sangh.

The peasant movement received a new life with establishment of 'Rajasthan Jat Kshatriya Sabha' in 1931. To organize the farmers on basis of religion, Thakur Deshraj decided to perform 'Jat Prajapati Yajna' through a meeting in Palthana. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 1934 (Basant Panchami) the yajna started under Pt. Khemraj Sharma in Sikar. After the yajna, the farmers wanted to form a procession with Kunwar Hukam Singh on elephant. But the Rao Raja and jagirdars opposed. Discontentment emerged among people and the atmosphere became tense.

Famous peasant leader Chhotu Ram informed the ruler of Jaipur Maraja through a telegram that any harm even to a farmer will cause great damage and the Jaipur state may have to bear grave results. The Sikar Thikana had to accept peoples' demands and provided an ornamented elephant for the procession. The programme continued for 7 days and about three lakh people from U.P. Punjab, Luharu, Patiala and Hisar participated.

Women played an important part in Sikar peasant movement. A large womens' conference under the presidentship of Mrs. Kishori Devi was summoned on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1934 at Katrathal in protest of misbehavior towards women in sotia ka bas by Thakur Mansingh of Sihot. The Sikar Thikana imposed 144. The women broke the law and 10000 women participated in it among whom Mrs Durga Devi Sharma, Mrs. Phula devi, Mrs Ramadevi Joshi, Mrs. Uttama Devi were prominent. On 25 April 1935, when a team of revenue officials reached Kudan village, the farmers unitedly refused to pay the revenue after being instigated by an old woman Dhapi Dadi. The police fired in which four farmers Chetram, Tulcharam, Tulkaram and

Ashram, lost their lives. After this gruesome murder, echoes of Sikar peasant movement was heard in British parliament. In June 1935, when a question was raised in House of Commons on this issue, the ruler of Jaipur was pressurized to interfere and the jagirdars were forced to compromise. By the end of 1935, almost all the demands of peasants were accepted. Leaders who led the movement were Sardar Harlal Lal Singh, Netram Gauri, Prithvi Singh Gothara, Panne Singh Batranan, Hari Singh Palthana, Goru Singh, Katrathal, Ishwar Singh Bharupura, Lekhran Kaswali etc.

Shekhawati movement was an extension of the Sikar peasant movement. Group of five villages (panchpane), Bisau, Dundlod, Malsisar, Mandawa and Nawalgarh suffered from inefficiency and world economic crisis of 1929-30. Their demands were supported by All Bharat Jat Mahasabha in its annual session in Jhunjhunu, which provided moral strength to the farmers. When their demands went unheard, the farmers decided to evade revenue payment. Outlines of some agreements were sketched in 1934 and 1936, but due to opposition of jagirdars, they could not be implemented. In 1938, the Jaipur Prajamandal too gave its moral support to the movement. Between 1942 to 1946, the Jaipur government made many efforts to implement agreements between the two parties, but a permanent solution could be reached only after 1947.

### **Bundi Peasant Movements**

Pt Nayanuram, Ramnarayan Chaudhary and Hari Bhai Kinkar led peasant movement in Bundi against injustice and Lag-Bag. Women of peasant families also participated. Police fired in a meeting in Barad gaon. Peasants of Barad were also dissatisfied on issues like corruption, anarchy, Begar, Lagat, war debt etc. Encouraged by success of Bijolia peasant movement and inspired by Rajasthan Seva Sangh, the peasants decided to run a movement. In 1922, several meetings of the peasants of Bundi took place which decided not to pay any tax other than the land revenue. These meetings continued even after repeated warnings of Bundi administration. On 4<sup>th</sup> June 1922, the agitators were arrested for calling panchayat in Dabi.



### **Peasant Movements in Alwar (Neemuchana Case)**

Public awakening in Alwar state started with peasant movement. The peasants started movement after they were tired of violence of wild boars. The ruler after an agreement, ordered to shoot the boars. The peasants then organized a meeting in Neemuchana in defiance of increased land revenue. The sepoy shot the fleeing crowd which resulted in death of hundreds of men, women and children. Mahatma Gandhi criticized this incident. The British government was pressurized and made an agreement with the peasants along with ruler of Alwar. Apart from these the peasants of Marwar, Shekhawati, Jaipur and Hadauti also raised their voice against oppressions.

### **Importance of Peasant Movements**

These movements hold importance both in Rajasthan and national level. They disclosed the oppressive policies of the British government and rulers and contributed towards development of people's consciousness. Ideas of democratic rule and end of feudal system gained strength. National leaders and Congress too lent their support in favour of peasants and people.

### **Tribal Movements and Social Reforms**

Bhils in Rajasthan reside in its Southern area which includes Dungarpur, Mewar Banswara, Pratapgarh and Kushalgarh. Bhils are a traditional society who is very conscious about their social and economic status. When their traditional rights were violated, they expressed their opposition towards the British and the ruler alike.

### **Bhils, Their Nature and Character**

Bhils are one of the oldest castes of Bharat. There are many myths about origin of Bhils. According to Banabhatt's Kadamkuri, the word Bhil is used in old Sanskrit and local literature. It was first used probably in Katha Sarit Sagar. Some scholars consider the origin of the word 'Bhil' from Bhilla. Col Tod calls them sons of forests or wild children. According to another tale, they were sons of Mahadev. Bhils have special contribution in Rajasthan. They constituted maximum army of

Maharana Pratap and played important role in protecting Mewar against Mughal invasion.

Actually it is quite a simple and pure hearted caste and is very backward economically. But in spite of it, it is very courageous and loyal caste. Its major arms are bow and arrow. They are very conscious about their traditions and customs and dislike to violate them. This is why, they have always reacted when any of their traditions are violated. In 18<sup>th</sup> century, they fought against the Marathas and in 19<sup>th</sup> century against the British. Col. Tod with his diplomacy came to an agreement with the Bhils on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1825, by which the Bhils agreed not to give refuge to thieves, decoits or enemy of the British and follow orders of the East India Company.

### **Govind Guru and Bhagat movement**

Govind Guru was a great social reformer. He undertook the mission to uplift the Bhils socially and morally. He tried to organize them socially and include them into the mainstream. For this aim, he founded 'Samp Sabha' and to maintain them into the orbit of Hindu religion, founded 'Bhagat' Sect. The administration grew apprehensive of the social awakening among the Bhils of Mewar, Dungarpur, Idar, Gujrat, Vijay Nagar and Malwa through efforts of 'Samp Sabha' and the Bhils. They were forced to quit 'Bhagat' sect.

They were forced into Begar and agricultural works and were devoid of their fundamental rights in forests. It led them to run a movement. Due to efforts of Govind Guru, reforms along with spread of education changed their lives. For example, when prohibition spread among the Bhils, Kushalgarh and Banswara suffered heavy losses in excise. The British expressed the possibility of a Bhil State behind this reform and organization. After being arrested in April 1913 and freed later on, Govind Guru retired to the hills of Mangarh (Idar state). In October 1913, he asked the Bhils to gather on Mangarh. The Bhils responded with heavy arms. Two sepoy of Bhanswara were beaten up by them. Fort of Suth was attacked. This alarmed the state of Suth, Banswara, Idar and Dungarpur. With approval of A.G.G., two companies of Mewar Bhil corps, one company of 104 Wellesley Rifles, one company of Rajput



regiment and one company of Jat regiment reached Mangarh between 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 1913. They opened fire on Bhils. According to government statistics 1500 Bhils were killed. The incident is compared to Jallian walla Bagh Tragedy by some historians.



**Moti Lal Tejawat**



**Govind Guru**

Thus the Bhagat movement was brutally crushed. Govind Guru was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. It is clear that the Bhils did not nurse any political ambition but even their social unity posed a challenge to the British and the rulers. Govind Guru was a supporter of non-violence and his white flag was symbol of peace. The movement had far reaching implications. Other section along with the Bhils too became politically conscious.

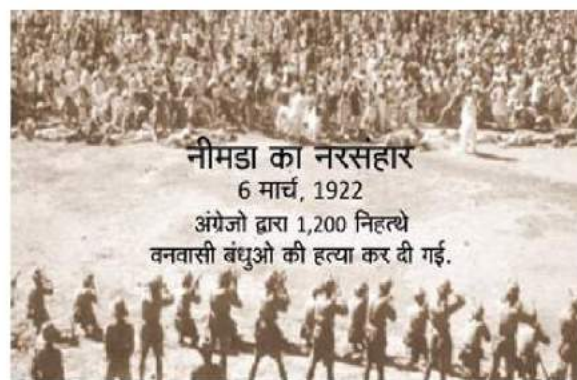
### **Moti Lal Tejawat and Ekki Movement**

The Bhil movement became inactive for some time. Government continued to follow anti-Bhil policy. In 1917, The Bhils and the Garasias, wrote to Maharana to protest against the oppressive policy and begar. Since there was no outcome of their petitions, the Bhils again registered their complaints against excessive lagats and exploitative nature of Kamdars, after being influenced by Bijolia movement. When these non-violent measures failed to yield results, the bhils of Khalsa area of Bhomat refused to pay lagats and begar. In 1921, the Bhils were led by Motilal Tajawat who inspired them to refuse to pay lagan & beggar. Famous as 'Ekki' movement, it can be regarded as a symbol of political awakening of tribals. The Maharawal suspended all types of begar out of fear of spread of the movement. However, Bhils of jagiri land did not

get this concession and the Ekki movement spread into Sirohi and Gujrat along with Bhomat area in an organized way under the leadership of Tejawat. The British government now adopted repressive policy. On 7<sup>th</sup> April 1922, the Mewar Bhil Corps under Major Suttan opened fire in Maal area. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1929, Idar state handed over Tejawat to Mewar government. The supreme court of Mewar 'Mahaidraj Sabha' wated a written promise by Tejawat that he would not engage in any anti-State activity. On account of intervention by Shri Mani Lal Kothari, a close associate of Gandhiji, an agreement was made. On 16<sup>th</sup> 1938, Tejawat gave in writing and on 23<sup>rd</sup> April he was released.

### **Meena Movement**

In 1924, the British declared meenas a 'Jyaram Pesh Kaum' (a born criminal caste). Meena females and males had to report to nearby police station every day. Their financial position was weak due to lack of means of income. Chhotulal, Mahadev, Jawahar Ram etc. founded 'Meena Jati Sabha' and protested against this insulting law, measures were taken to spread education. Voice was raised, against social evils. Meena Sudhar Samiti' was formed. There was movement in Shri Madhopur (Sikar distt.) Jaipur State withdrew this law on account of efforts of Takkar Bappa.



As a result, compulsory attendance in police station was stopped but the law of 'Jarayam Pesh' continued. On 28<sup>th</sup> October 1946, a large assembly of 26000 minas was held in Bagawas. The chowkidar Minas resigned voluntarily and celebrated it as 'deliverance day'. Jayaram Pesh Law discontinued after 1952.



### **Complete Independence Under Leadership of Prajamandal**

While political consciousness was developing in Bharat, Rajasthan did not remain aloof. Here, various institutions like Rajasthan Sewa Sangh and Rajasthan Madhya Bharat Sabha were successful in creating political awareness among the princely states. Further, the freedom lovers of Rajasthan remained in continuous touch with Congress workers of British provinces.

The ongoing freedom movement in Rajasthan could be divided into three parts.

Before 1927, Rajasthan remained influenced by political activities of Bharat. Incidents like description of soldiers from First World War, Rowlatt Act, Non Cooperation movement of 1920 definitely created political consciousness. All though situation and problems of all the states were same but no systematic movement could be started due to lack of an integrated organization. The Congress party who declared its policy of non intervention in matter of states and thus restricted the nationalist activities to use and propagation of Khadi and social reforms.

In 1927 a new active politics started with the establishment of All India States Peoples' Conference (A.I.S.P.C.). After it received support of Congress, its branches were opened in the states. In 1931, Ramnarayan Chaudhary organized its first provincial session in Ajmer.

In 1938, Congress passed a resolution in Haripur session extending its support to national movement run by the princely states. This resolution gave moral support to the ongoing national movement of princely states. The movements were aligned to Congress directly. Prajamandals were founded and it demanded responsible government.

### **Role of Prajamandal Movement in Various Princely States**

#### **Jodhpur**

Political activities in Jodhpur started in 1918 with establishment of "Marwar Hitkarini Sabha" by Chand Mal Surana. In 1920, Jai Narayan Vyas

founded Marwar Seva Sangh. In 1923 efforts were made to revive 'Marwar Hitkarini Sabha'. In October 1929 Vyasji founded Marwar Rajya Lok Parishad. It became clear that spread of political consciousness in Jodhpur was more than any other state. In 1934, Jodhpur Praja Mandal was founded with Bhanwar Lal Saraf as its president. It aimed at protection of citizen's rights and responsible government. In 1936, it was declared unconstitutional. 'Marwar Rajya Lok Parishad', a unit of AISPC, continued to conduct political activities in Jodhpur. It continued the struggle for constitutional rights and responsible government specially after Jodhpur Prajamandal was declared unconstitutional.

It demanded elections on provincial basis instead of communal basis. After it was declared unconstitutional in March 1940, its members concentrated on making peaceful demonstrations. Its members like Ranchod Das Gattani, Matthuradas Mathur, Kanhaiya Lal Indramal Jain, Anand Raj Surana, Bhanwar Lal Saraf devoted their entire attention in popularizing the ideology of Parishad. The government, on the other hand, tried to colour the demand of political rights as a between the parishad and feudals. In 1942, Lok Parishad started a movement against repression and demanded responsible government. Vyasji suspended the constitution of the Parishad, declared himself the first dictator and conducted the Quit India Movement in Jodhpur. Major leaders were arrested. In hunger strikes, Bal Mukund Bissa lost his life. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1947, the Parishad celebrated 'Vidhansabha Virodh Diwas'. In 1948, responsible government was formed after the Instrument of Accession was signed.

### **Bikaner**

The early leaders of Bikaner area were Kanhaiyalal Doondh and Swami Gopaldas. They founded Sarvahit Karini Sabha in Churu and a "Putri Path Shala" to make people aware of their rights. The ruler grew apprehensive of these constructive works, and banned them after calling it a conspiracy. In April 1932, when the Maharaja went to London to participate in Round Table conference, pamphlets titled 'Bikaner ek Digdarshan' were distributed there which exposed the actual oppressive policies of



Bikaner State. After his return the Maharaja implemented Public Securities Act. Swami Gopaldas, Chandanmal Bahad, Satyanarayan Saraf, Khub Chand Saraf were arrested in Bikaner Conspiracy Case. This law continued to be opposed. On 4<sup>th</sup> October 1936, major leaders were externed which included Vakil Mukta Prasad, Magharam Vaid and Laxmidas. Raghubardayal founded Bikaner Praja Parishad on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1942 which aimed at responsible government under the aegis of the ruler. In 1943, Shardul Singh ascended the throne after Ganga Singh ji's death. He also believed in policy of oppression. On 26<sup>th</sup> October 1944, the first public demonstration was held in Bikaner by the name "Bikaner anti oppression Day. The farmers of Dudhwakhara started a movement against jagirdars in cooperation with Praja Parishad. In March 1940, Press Act was implemented which banned press. In the meantime, political activities in India speedened up and the ruler announced a responsible government. On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1946, The Praja Parishad session in Rai Singh Nagar was fired upon. During to the changed circumstances. When power shift became evident, office of Praja Parishad was established. Town committees, constitutional and franchise, were framed. Assurances were made to implement their report but nothing happened on ground level. The demands of responsible government remained unfulfilled. A council of ministers was formed under Jaswant Singh Dausar which was rejected by Praja Parishad and its ministers resigned. With formation of Greater Rajasthan on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1949, Raghubardayal was sworn in the Hira Lal Shastri's cabinet.

### Jaisalmer

This was the most backward area of Rajasthan which remained aloof from rest of Rajasthan due to extended desert limited means of communication and transportation and political alienation. There the oppression of the Maharawal was very severe due to which even the efforts of opening 'Sarva Hitkari'. Vachanalaya in 1915 failed. In 1920, some nonresident non political peoples jaisalmer presented a letter to Maharawal, which included issues like giving patronage to educational institutions, publication of newspapers,

composition of city municipality. But there was no outcome.

When Raghunath Singh Mehta, Eidan Singh and Sagarmal Gopa congratulated Jawaharlal Nehru on his birth day in 1930 through a press release they were arrested. Maheshwari Yuvak Mandal, established by Raghunath Singh was declared illegal. In 1937-38 Shivshankar Gopa, Madan Lal purohit, Lal Chand Joshi etc tried to form Lok Parishad. Credit goes to Sagar Mal Gopa for spreading political consciousness in Jaisalmer. His sacrifice made the protest intense. In these circumstances, Meetha Lal Vyas formed 'Jaisalmer Praja Mandal' in 1945. A public meeting was called in 1946 by J.N. Vyas and Achaleshwar Prasad. The procession on occasion of Gandhi Birth day on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1947, was lathi charged. After independence, owing to the strategic position of Jaisalmer, the Indian government appointed an administrator here and later on Jaisalmer became an integral part of Bharat.

### Mewar

It was the most reputed State in Rajasthan. The background of peoples awakening was formed by peasant movement and tribal revolt. After the Haripura session of Congress, Manikya Lal verma and Balwant Singh Mehta founded Mewar Praja Mandal on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1938, which was declared illegal on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1938, Vermaji was externed. He continued his activities from Ajmer and published a book 'Mewar ka Vartman Shasan' criticising the administration bitterly. In February 1939, when he came to Udaipur, he was arrested and beaten up. This incident was criticized by Gandhi in Harijan issue of 18<sup>th</sup> February 1939. Vermaji was imprisoned for two years. Later in 1941, prohibition on Mewar Praja Mandal was removed. As a result its branches were formed in entire state. Its first session was held under Manikyalal. Verma on 25-26 November 1941 in which Acharya Kriplani and Vijay Laxmi Pandit also participated, The session demanded responsible government. Vermaji participated in the meeting of state representatives in Bombay on eve of Quit India Movement. After coming back he sent a letter to the Maharana asking him to sever his relations with the British



government and threatened to start a movement if this demand was not met with. On 21<sup>st</sup> August 1942, he was arrested. It resulted in complete strike and arrests. Students too participated in this protest movement. The movement spread to Nathdwara, Chittor and Bhilwara. This movement of 1942 was different from all other movements of Rajasthan. The leaders here considered the movement a part of the Quit India Movement.

When the political scenario changed, the Prajamandal leaders were released and ban on Prajamandal was lifted in 1945. To extend political consciousness, anniversaries of national leaders were celebrated. Vermaji called the seventh session of A.I.S.P.C. in Udaipur from 31<sup>st</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> January 1946. It was chaired by Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1946, the Maharana constituted a constitution making body which included nominated members from Prajamandal. It's report was rejected by Prajamandal. It also rejected the new constitution declared on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1947. Outline of a new constitution framed by Shri K.M Munshi was rejected in May 1947. Thus the Maharana continued to resist progressive trends. At last, the Maharana agreed to join Bharatiya federation and joined with the democratic process.

### Kota

Credit for awakening in Kota goes to Pt. Nayanu Ram Sharma who was an active member of Rajasthan Seva Sangh. He, along with running protest movement against Begar, also founded Hadoti Prajamandal in 1934. But nothing extraordinary could be achieved. In 1939, he founded Kota Rajya Praja Mandal along with Pt. Abhinna Hari which aimed at establishing responsible government. In 1941, after Sharma was murdered, leadership of the movement came with Abhinna Hari. He chaired the second session of the Prajamandal in 1941. In 1942 he was arrested. The new president of Prajamandal in 1942, Moti Lal Jain asked the Maharao to sever his relations with the British. Workers of Prajamandal detained the policemen in their barracks, captured the Kotwali of the city and unfurled the tricolor. For two weeks the administration of Kota city was in the hands of people. It was the second time in history that people

took entire administration in their own hands (It happened the first time in 1857). When the Maharao assured that oppression shall not be resorted to, the people handed over back the administration to the Maharao. Arrested workers were released. Although there were assurances of a responsible government, but no practical work was done to achieve it. In the meantime, due to independence and beginning of process of integration, popular ministry could not assume office.

### Bundi

Traces of awakening were visible in 1922. Support of Pathikji to Barad movement spread political consciousness. Pathikji along with Ramnarayan Choudhary waged a movement against enhanced revenue and begar system. Credit for establishing Bundi Prajamandal goes to Kanti Lal in 1931. Prajamandal continuously raised its voice for establishment of a responsible government and protection of civil rights. The ruler of Bundi banned public meetings in 1935. Prajamandal repeated their demands more vigorously, for administrative reforms. In 1937, the president of Prajamandal, Rishi Dutt Mehta, was imprisoned in Ajmer. In his absence, Brij Sunder Sharma led the movement. Prajamandal was declared illegal. Mehtaji founded 'Bundi Rajya Lok Parishad' in 1944 after his release. This organization gained recognition. The Maharao formed a constituent assembly in changed political circumstances. Members of Prajamandal were included in it. Before the new constitution could be approved, Bundi merged into Rajasthan.

### Jhalawar

Pt. Nayanu Ram often visited Jhalawar for his business trips and there he aimed at awakening of people. He was in constant touch with Ramchand of Harijan School in Chhawani. Mangi Lal Bhavya, Tan Sukh Lal Mittal, Madan Gopal ji Ram Niwas etc. conducted activities of Hadoti Madal. Resultantly, the ruler of Jhalawar in 1946 announced constitutional reforms. According to H.J. Mangalani, "Announcement of reforms by ruler of Jhalawar in his State was an important effort toward democratic process."

### Jaipur

The political movement of Arjun Lal Sethi



later on was converted to constructive programmes by Seth Jamna Lal Bajaj. Bajaj founded 'CharkhaSangh' in 1927 and Kapurchand Patni formed Jaipur Rajya Prajamandal in 1931. The latter was not an effective organisation politically. After the Haripura session of Congress, the Jaipur Rajya Praja Mandal was reorganized with inspiration of Bajaj and active cooperation of Hira Lal Shastri. Its main aim was to establish a responsible government. To discourage Prajamandal, the Jaipur Government banned the membership of any unregistered organization since Bajaj did not reside within the limits of Jaipur, the organization could not be registered. When he tried to enter the boundaries of Jaipur by violating the ban against him he was arrested near Bairath. Other leaders like Hiralal Shastri, Chiranji Lal Agarwal and Kapurchand Patni were also arrested. New Satyagraha Jaipur was led by Gulabchand Kasliwal and Daulatmal Bhandari. Gandhiji raised this question and warned the ruler to arrive at an agreement. After a formal talk on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1939, an agreement was arrived at through which the Prajamandal gained recognition and in March 1940, it was lawfully registered.

Hira Lal Shastri became its first president. On 19<sup>th</sup> September 1942, he wrote a letter to Prime Minister of Jaipur, Sir Mirza Ismail, presenting some reforms and warned of a movement if they were not fulfilled. These reforms included denial of help through men and money for the war and early arrangements for a responsible government. In the meantime, a controversy erupted regarding the call of Quit Bharat Movement and a section under Baba Harish Chandra formed Azad Morcha and alienated itself from Prajamandal. In 1945, it merged into Prajamandal due to efforts of Jawaharlal Nehru. It showed down the movement for a while. In October 1942, the government formed a committee for constitutional reforms which gave its report in 1943. A new ministry was formed in March 1947 but a responsible government could be formed only after March 1949.

### Alwar

The forerunner of political consciousness in Alwar was Pt. Harinarayan Sharma, who founded 'Asprishyata Nivaran Sangh', Valmiki Sangh and

'Adivasi Sangh'. In 1938, Alwar Prajamandal was founded which demanded a responsible government under aegis of the ruler. When this organization could not get registered, conflict started. In April 1940, elected municipal council was constituted. Although it was registered in 1940, but the organization or its member were not allowed to use flag. In 1940, the workers opposed levy of war tax. Harinarayan Sharma and Bholanath Master were arrested and were tried in court. In January 1944, first session of Prajamandal was held under Bhawani Shankar Sharma. The Prajamandal remained constantly engaged in demand of constitution of a responsible government. In 1946, Prajamandal supported demands of farmers and their right to ownership of land. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 1946, the ruler formed a committee for constitutional reforms which the agitators boycotted. The ruler accepted the demand for a responsible government in December 1947. In March 1948 with formation of Matsya Sangha and Alwar's merger into it, the process of integration of Rajasthan started.

### Bharatpur

Movement for freedom in Bharatpur was started by Jagannath Das Adhikari and Ganga Prasad Shastri. In 1921, Hindi Sahitya Samiti was formed. Fortunately, ruler of Bharatpur, Maharaja Kishan Singh, was a progressive ruler. He encouraged Hindi and accepted demand for a responsible government. He made an announcement on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1927, to this effect. The British government took his activities on a serious note and forced him to step down. Minor Brijendra Singh ascended the throne and an English officer was appointed as administrator. He expelled Jagannath Das Adhikari and banned public meetings and publications. After Haripura Session, the leaders in Revari (Hariyana) invoked the call for Satyagraha in December 1938. In December 1940, an agreement was reached with Prajamandal whereby the organization was reregistered under the name of Praja Parishad and all the leaders were released. The aim of Praja Parishad was to expose public problems, emphasise administrative reforms and spread of education. The Parishad celebrated National week from 27<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September



1940. It actively participated in Quit Movement. The government formed Brij Jay Pratinidhi Sabha to satisfy the parishad but it could not fulfill political objective. The Sabha was boycotted. In 1945, satya graha was announced but due to arrest of major leaders it could not become successful. In its December 1946 session, the Parishad demanded elimination of Begar and establishment of responsible government. Unfortunately, the conflicts in State turned into communal riots. The problems came to an end only after Bharatpur merged in Matsya Sangh on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1948.

### **Dholpur**

Arya Samaj chief Swami Sharaddhanand raised his voice against autocratic rule in Dholpur as early as 1918. After his death, the movement slackened. In 1936, Dholpur Rajya Praja Mandal was founded by Krishna Dutt Paliwal. Here also, the organization continued to struggle for a responsible government and demands of civil rights. On 12<sup>th</sup> November 1946, the police opened fire on session in Tasimo village. Order for inquiry was made under pressure. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 1948, the ruler agreed for a responsible government. Soon Dholpur merged into Matsya Sangh.

### **Other States**

In other States too, the freedom movement continued under Prajamandal or Praja Parishad. In 1938, Prajamandal was formed in Karauli. Trilok Chand Mathur, Chiranjilal Sharma etc. continued struggle for a responsible government and civil rights. In Banswara, Bhogilal Pandya founded Seva Sangh in 1944. Dungarpur Prajamandal was founded by Harideo Joshi in 1944. In Pratapgarh, Thakkar Bappa inspired Amrit Lal, Chunnilal Prabhakar to form Prajamandal in 1936. Gokul Bhai Bhatt in 1939 took leadership of Prajamandal but it could not remain active for long. In Jhalawar, first public meeting was held in 1947. In Kishangarh, Prajamandal was established in 1939.

Thus, we see that public organizations were active only in infancy along with Gandhian and constructive activities since their inception. The attitude of rulers was so oppressive that even the activities of Khadi propagation and Indian

educational institutions were banned. Ban on books and press was common. Due to ban on public meetings, peoples' consciousness remained limited. Existence and working of public organization was difficult in such adverse circumstances. Till the Congress lent its support in Haripura session, the movement here remained limited and slackened.

After the Haripura session, the provincial movements joined the national mainstream. The national leaders gave their moral support to these movements. Still these movements operated on the principle of demand of responsible government. When freedom was gained they made efforts to merge the princely states into Bharat.

### **Integration of Bharat 1947 to 1956**

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, Bharat became independent. According to clause of Bharat independence Act 1947, the sovereignty of British government over the princely states was transferred to them again. It implied that the princely states were to decide about their existence. If they intend not to join any country (Bharat or Pakistan), they were free to continue as independent entities. If it was allowed, Bharat would have been divided into small parts and its unity would have been destroyed. The then political department of Bharatiya government which hitherto controlled the princely states was dismembered and on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1947, a States Secretariat under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was constituted. This secretariat wanted the merger of the states. These states were to be regrouped in a manner that a united state based on language, culture and geographical contiguity would come into existence.

### **Early Attempts at Structuring of Rajasthan**

There were 19 big and small states in Rajasthan at the time of independence. Apart from these, there was a small British administered area, of Ajmer Marwara. It was a tough question to unite all these areas into one unit. In September 1946 A.I.S.P.C. decided that all the states of Rajasthan should form the Indian federation as one unit. The States Secretariat decided that only those states can continue as independent units who have an annual income of Rs. One crore and population of ten lakh people or more. On this criteria, only Jodhpur,



Jaipur, Udaipur and Bikaner fulfilled the conditions. The smaller states although released that there was no other alternative for them but to form self sufficient units by grouping in independent Bharat, but due to historical and other reasons they were filled with mutual distrust and jealousy.

### Problems of Major States of Rajasthan

1. Communal riots after independence and partition were a major problem. The problem of Mev caste in Alwar and Bharatpur resurfaced. Alwar was controversial due to its involvement in Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.
2. The geographical and social position of Jodhpur was very important. There were rumours about Pakistan's efforts to take over Pakistan's in its fold.
3. The Maharana of Mewar and Jagirdars were unwilling for merger due to their historical position.
4. Bikaner, too, on account of being a border state, was vital for India. Though it was represented in Constituent Assembly, yet the ruler had made up his mind for an independent status.

In view of changing political conditions, the Mewar Maharana called a conference of rulers of Rajasthan on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1946 which aimed at forming a federation. But the rulers failed to have a unanimous view and therefore, the plan could not materialize. Similarly, ruler of Dungarpur made an unsuccessful attempt to form a Bagad State (Dungarpur, Bnaswara and Pratapgarh). Similar attempts by rulers of Jaipur and Kota failed.

As a result the States department of Bharat undertook the plan to form an integrated state of Rajasthan. It required intelligence foreightedness, patience and diplomacy and thus it was completed very carefully step by step. Integrated Rajasthan was accomplished in five Stages:-

1. In the first stage, Matsya Sangh was formed which included Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli.
2. In second stage, Eastern Rajasthan was formed constituting Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Banswara, Pratapgarh and Shahpura.
3. The third stage included Mewar in United Rajasthan.

4. Greater Rajasthan was the fourth stage comprising of states of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jaipur.

5. The fifth stage included Matsya Sangh was merged in greater Rajasthan.

In above five stages, Sirohi and Ajmer Merwara remained outside the integrated Rajasthan. They could be merged only in 1st Nov. 1956

### Matsya Sangh



Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli shared common geographical economic and demographic factors. Rulers of these states were summoned to Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1948 and the idea of a union was proposed which the rulers readily accepted. On advice of Shri K.M. Munshi the union was named as "Matsya Sangh" as the area was known during the Mahabharat Period. On 28<sup>th</sup> February 1948, papers of this effect were signed. On 18<sup>th</sup> March 1948, this union was inaugurated by central minister N.V. Gadgil. The union had a population of 18 Lakh with annual income of Rs. 2 crores. Udaibhan Singh, The ruler of Dholpur was appointed as Rajpramukh and a council of minister was constituted, Shobharam (Alwar) was made its prime minister and one member from each state was also sworn in a minister Gopi Lal Yadav (Bharatpur)



Master Bholatnath (Alwar) Dr. Mangal Singh (Dholpur) and Chiranji Lal Sharma (Karauli) were sworn in.

### United Rajasthan/Rajasthan Union

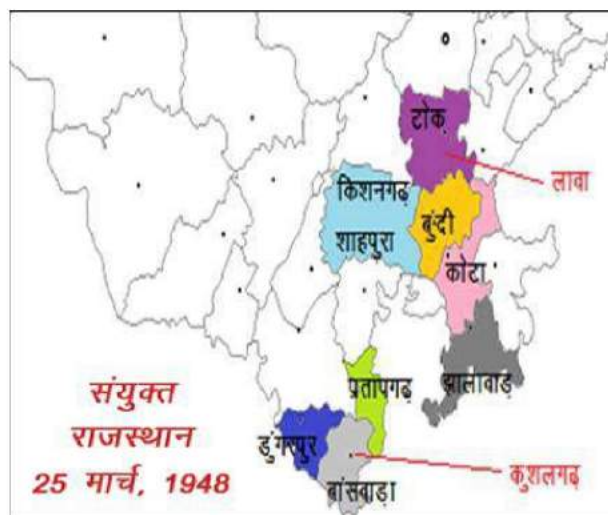
The rulers of Kota, Jhalawar and Bundi decided to form a Hadoti union and they agreed to this effect in Delhi on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1948. Banswara, Pratapgarh and Dungarpur also shared the same opinion. Prajamandals too exerted pressure in favour of a union. Shahpura and Kishangarh had earlier resisted their merger into Ajmer-Merwara. They were more interested in merging with Union of other states of Rajasthan. Thus, they agreed to merge into united Rajasthan. Thus, the nine states in United Rajasthan were Banswara, Dungarpur, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Kishangarh, Shahpura, Kishangarh and Tonk. This union had an area of 19807 square miles, population of 23-5 lakh and an income of Rs. 1-90 crore annually.

The geographical position of Mewar fell within the boundaries of this new union. Though Mewar was entitled for an independent existence, yet the States department invited in to join the Union. But the Maharana, Bhupal Singh and the diwan of the state, S.V. Ram Murti opposed it by stating that a 1300 old dynasty cannot ruin its existence by keeping aside its respectable traditions.

The States Department, sensing the mood of the Mewar State, decided to deal the question later and decided to form 'United Rajasthan by including south-east states of Rajasthan. It was decided to give the post of Rajapramukh to the Kota ruler Bhim Singh and inaugurate the union on 25 March 1948. The proposition to give such honours to Kota ruler was unacceptable to Bundi ruler, Bahadur Singh as his status was higher to that of Kota by lineage. He, therefore, requested the Maharana of Mewar to Join the Union. Thereby, the post of Raj Pramukh would be held by Maharana of Mewar and embarrassment on part of Bundi ruler would be handled. However, he received the same reply from the Maharana. Atlast, Bundi accepted the role of Kota Maharao as Rajpramukh. To upkeep his honour, the Indian government

designated him as Up-Rajpramukh. A brief constitution of this Union was prepared and its inauguration date was fixed on 25 march 1948.

On the other hand, there was a strong reaction against the decision of ruler of Mewar.



A Major leader of Mewar Prajamandal and member of constituent Assembly, Shri Manikyalal Verma said, "The fate of 20 lakh people of Mewar can't be dictated by the Maharana and his Pradhan Sir Ram Murti alone. The policy of Prajamandal is clear that Mewar should merge itself in Rajputana province. But the Maharana stuck to his guns. Soon, the political conditions of Mewar changed. A deadlock developed between Prajamandal and Mewar government on issue of constituting the of council of ministers. To put end to this political deadlock, the Maharana conveyed his intention to join United Rajasthan on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1948 and requested to postpone the date of inauguration of United Rajasthan to 25<sup>th</sup> March. Since all arrangements of the merger were made, it was decided not to postpone the fixed programme and Shri Gadgil inaugurated the United Rajasthan Union as scheduled. Shri Gokul Lal Asawa was made its Prime Minister. But the task of constituting the council of minister was postponed on the advice of Bharatiya government.



### Merger of Mewar in United Rajasthan

Three days after the inauguration of United Rajasthan talks for the merger of Mewar into United Rajasthan began. Sir Ram Murti informed the Bharatiya government of three demands of the Maharana. First, Maharana to be declared as Raj Pramukh by heredity, Second, he should be granted a privy purse of Rs. 20 Lakh and third, Udaipur should be made capital of the Union.



**Manikya Lal Verma with his cabinate at the time of formation of United Rajasthan**

After deliberations with states of United Rajasthan, Bharatiya Government decided in favour of merger of Mewar in United Rajasthan. The Maharana was accepted as Raj Pramukh for life span. Udaipur was made its capital but one session of legislative assembly was to be held in Kota every year. Privy purse of the Maharana was fixed at Rs. 10 Lakh but he was granted Rs. 5 Lakh as grant and Rs 5 lakh for religious purposes. On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1948, Mewar signed the papers of merger.

The Union was inaugurated by Jwaharlal. Nehru on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1948 in Udaipur. The Mewar ruler was declared Raj pramukh, Kota ruler as senior up. Raj Pramukh and those of Bundi and Dungarpur as junior upraj pramukh. Prime Minister M.L. Verma, in consultation with Pt. Nehru and Sardar Patel, appointed his council of ministers thus Gokul Prasad Assawa (Shahpur), Prem Narain Mathur, Bhurelal Baya, M.L. Sukhadia (Udaipur) Bhogi Lal Pandya (Dungarpur) Abhinna Hari (Kota) and Brij Sundar Sharma (Bundi). Thus the third stage of integration was also completed.

### Greater Rajasthan

With merger of Mewar, road to merger of remaining states became simple and decided. Public opinion on merger and integration in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer intensified, Jodhpur, Bikaner Jaisalmer shared their boundaries with Pakistan which were continuously exposed to attacks. These area were quite backward from the point of view of communication and transportation. Dr. Jai Prakash Narayan, leader of Socialist Party in a public meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1947, demanded formation of Greater Rajasthan at the earliest. "Rajasthan Andolan Samiti" was formed on all India basis whose president Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya also demanded an integrated Rajasthan.

Secretary to the States Department, V.P. Menon started deliberations with the concerned rulers. He arrived in Jaipur on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1949 and conversed with the ruler. The Jaipur ruler Sawai Man Singh agreed to join the Union after much hesitation and deliberations on the condition that ruler of Jaipur be made hereditary Raj pramukh and Jaipur be declared as the capital of the Union. Menon convinced him of considering these conditions later. Information of outline of merger was telegraphed to rulers of Bikaner and Jodhpur, who after much fuss gave it their approval. On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1949, Sardar Patel announced formation of greater Rajasthan in a public meeting in Udaipur.

The Maharana of Mewar was declared Maharaj Pramukh for life. The ruler of Jaipur was declared Rajpramukh, rulers of Kota and Jodhpur were declared senior up raj pramukh while those of Bundi and Dungarpur were made junior up Raj Pramukh Rajpramukh and his council of minister were kept under general control of central government. The Raj Pramukh had to accept a new agreement of merger and the central and concurrent list Sardar Patel inaugurated the new union on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1949, which is now celebrated as 'Rajasthan Day' Shri Hira Lal Shastri, assumed the charge of a council of ministers on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1949, which included Siddharaj Daddha (Jaipur), Prem Narayan Mathur (Udaipur), Bhure Lal Baya



(Udaipur) Phulchand Bapna (Jodhpur), Nar Singh Kachwaha (Jodhpur), Rao Raja Hanumant Singh (Jodhpur) Raghubar Dayal Goyal (Bikaner) and Vedpal Tyagi (Kota) The ruler of Jaipur received Rs. 18 lakh, of Jodhpur received Rs. 17.5 Lakh, of Bikaner received Rs. 17 lakh, of Jaisalmer received Rs. 2.8 lakh as privy purse, Jaipur was declared as the capital and to maintain importance of some big cities, some offices of state level and High court were kept in Jodhpur, education department in Bikaner, mines department in Udaipur and agricultural department in Bharatpur.

### Merger of Matsya Sangh in Greater Rajasthan

During the formation of Matsya Sangh, it was made clear to all the rulers who were a part of Matsya Sangh, that in future, they could be merged either with Rajasthan or Uttar Pradesh. Matsya Sangh was functioning independently but was surrounded with many problems. Riots of Meos was a source of concern for the government.



Anti-government demonstrations by Bharatpur Kisan Sabha and Nagrik Sabha had been high. Bharatpur Kisan Sabha now demanded a separate entity of Bharatpur and Dholpur as Brij Pradesh. It was now speculated that Matsya Sangh may be disintegrated. Keeping it in mind, all the rulers were summoned to Delhi for deliberations on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1949. The issue to be discussed was whether Matsya

Sangh should be merged with Rajasthan or Uttar Pradesh. Alwar and Karauli were in favour of Rajasthan whereas Bharatpur and Dholpur in favour of Uttar Pradesh. To solve the problem, a committee under Shankar Rao Dev was formed. According to its recommendations, the public opinion of Bharatpur & Dholpur favoured merger in Rajasthan. On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1949, Matsya Sangh was merged into Rajasthan.

Hira Lal Shastri continued to be the prime minister of Rajasthan and the prime minister of Matsya Sangh, Shri Shobharam, was included in Shastri's ministry. Thus Matsya sangh too became a part of Rajasthan.

### Question of Sirohi

Leaders of Gujrat wanted to make Mt. Abu a tourist spot of Sirohi, a part of Gujrat. Therefore, in November 1947, Sirohi was placed under Gujrat State Agency. On 10<sup>th</sup> April 1948, Shastri wrote to Patel, 'Sirohi means Gokul Bhai and without Gokul Bhai we can't run Rajasthan. In the meantime, sentiments ran high among public regarding the question of Sirohi. On 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1948, on the occasion of inauguration of United Rajasthan a delegation of workers of Rajasthan met Pt. Nehru and made him aware of peoples' sentiments. After a brief talk between Nehru and Patel, in January 1950, an area of 304 Sq. mile area of Sirohi along with Mt. Abu which included 89 villages were merged with Gujrat while the rest of Sirohi was given, to Rajasthan. Thus, two major, attractions of Sirohi, Delwara and Mt. Abu were to be attached with Gujrat and the birth place of Gokul Bhai Bhatt, Hathal was given to Rajasthan. This act came under severe protest, led by Gokul Bhai Bhatt. The leadership exerted pressure on Nehru to sort out this problem. At last, the matter was handed over once to states Reorganization Commission.



### Merger of Ajmer-Merwara

It was a British administered territory during British times. The Rajasthan branch of AISPC also demanded its inclusion into Rajasthan, which was opposed by Congress leadership of Ajmer. After the general election of 1952, Congress formed ministry under Hari Bhau Upadhyaya. The Congress leadership pleaded that new states should be small for administrative purposes. This matter was also handed over to States' Reorganization Committee who did not accept the logic of Congress ministry and recommended to merge it into Rajasthan. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956, on recommendations of constituted, symbols of monarchy in form of posts of Raj Pramukh remained. The newly elected parliament of Indian through 7<sup>th</sup> amendment to States Reorganization Committee report. Mt. Abu along with Ajmer was merged into Rajasthan.



Thus the process of integration of Rajasthan which began in March 1948, came to an end on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956. After integrated

### Various Stages of Integration

S.No.	Name	States	Raj Pramukh	PM/CM	Date/Year
First	Matsya Sangh	Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli	Udai Bhan Singh of Dholpur	Shri Shobharam	18 <sup>th</sup> March 1948
Second	United Rajasthan (Rajasthan Sangh)	Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Banswara, Shahpura, Kishangarh	Ruler of Kota Bhim Singh	Gokul Lal Asawa	25 <sup>th</sup> March 1948
Third	United Rajasthan With Mewar	Mewar with States of Second Stage	Bhupal Singh (Udaipur)	Shri Manikyalal Verma	18 <sup>th</sup> April 1948
Fourth	Greater Rajasthan (First Stage)	Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Lawa (thikana) along with states of third stage	Bhupal Singh as Maharaj Pramukh, Sawai Man Singh of Jaipur as Raj Pramukh	Shri Hiralal Shastri	30 <sup>th</sup> March 1949
Fifth	Greater Rajasthan (Second Stage)	First and Fourth stage along with Nirmrana (thikana)	Bhupal Singh as Maharaj Pramukh, Sawai Man Singh of Jaipur as Raj Pramukh		15 <sup>th</sup> May 1949
Sixth	Greater Rajasthan (Third Stage)	Fifth Stage with Sirohi (Except Abu & Delwara)			26 <sup>th</sup> January 1950
Seventh	Rajasthan	Ajmer Mt. Abu Delwara & Sirohi Tappa with Sixth Stage	Governor Gurumukh Nihal Singh		1 <sup>st</sup> November 1956



Rajasthan was constituted, symbols of monarchy in form of posts of Raj Pramukh remained. The newly elected parliament of India through 7<sup>th</sup> amendment to liquidated these posts on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956 and appointed Sardar Gurmukh Nihar Singh as first Governor of Rajasthan. Thus, Sardar Patel's intelligence, cleverness and diplomacy along with pressure of people made the dream of integration of Rajasthan a reality.

### Points to Remember

- Peasant of Rajasthan struggled with two layered bondage first, the British. Second, the Thikanedar.
- The Revolt of 1857 of Rajasthan started from Nasirabad cantonment.
- Kesari Singh Barhat, Pratap Singh Barhat and Jorawar Singh Barhat revolutionaries were from the belonged to the same family.
- Thakur Kushal Singh of Auwa openly struggled against the British.
- Founder of Bhagat Movement was Govind Guru.
- Pioneer of Ekki movement was Moti Lal Tejawat  
Vijay Singh Pathik led the Bijolia peasant movement.
- Swami Dayanad Saraswati and Arya Samaj spread public consciousness in Rajasthan.
- Kesari Singh Barhat composed the couplet called, Chetavani Ra Chugatiya,
- Newspapers like Rajasthan Kesari, Pratap and Navin Rajasthan contributed towards





the revolution.

- Bhils were the major components of tribal movement.
- Integration of Rajasthan was completed in seven stages.
- Lawa, Kushalgarh and Nimrana were chiefships.
- At the time of independence, there were 19 states in Rajasthan in which 19 were independent states and 3 were chiefships.
- Ajmer-Merwara was a centrally administered territory.
- Integration of states of Rajasthan was possible due to foresightedness, diplomacy and efforts of States Department.
- According to decision of the States Department, only those states were eligible for an independent existence who had an income of Rs. one crore annually and had a population of 10 lakhs or more.
- The first stage of integration was completed by formation of 'Matsya Sangh' which included Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli.
- The biggest union was of 9 states comprised of Banswara, Kota, Bundi, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Kishangarh, Pratapgarh and Kota and termed as United Rajasthan.
- Jaipur was declared as capital of Greater Rajasthan and to upkeep importance of some bigger cities, some government offices and H.C. were stationed in Jodhpur, education department in Bikaner, Mines department in Udaipur and Agriculture department in Bharatpur.
- Bharatpur & Alwar in Matsya Sangh desired to merge with Uttar Pradesh.
- There were differences between Rajasthan and Gujrat on issue of 'Sirohi', but due to pressure of public opinion of Rajasthan and leaders, Sirohi was merged in Rajasthan.
- On the recommendations of States Reorganisation Commission, Sirohi (area of Mt. Abu) along with Ajmer Merwara were integrated into Rajasthan and modern Rajasthan was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956.

### Question for exercise

#### Multiple choice questions

1. From where did the revolt in Rajasthan start?
  - (A) Nasirabad
  - (b) Neemuch
  - (c) Mewar
  - (d) Marwar
2. To whom is Auhwa related to?
  - (a) Ram Singh
  - (b) Kushal Singh
  - (c) Laxman Singh
  - (d) Jorawar Singh
3. Who led the Bijolia movement?
  - (a) Nayanu Ram Sharma
  - (b) Hari Bhau Upadhyaya
  - (c) Vijay Singh Pathak
  - (d) Jamna Lal
4. Who wrote Chetavani ra Chagutiya?
  - (a) Pratap Singh Barhat
  - (b) Jorawar Singh Barhat
  - (c) Bharat Singh Barhat
  - (d) Kesari Singh Barhat
5. Which of the following was formed in the first stage of integration of Rajasthan?
  - (a) Matsya Sangh
  - (b) Rajasthan Sangh
  - (c) Greater Rajasthan
  - (d) Mewar Sangh
6. Which of the following was related to Mahabharata?
  - (a) Greater Rajasthan
  - (b) United Rajasthan
  - (c) Sirohi
  - (d) Matsya Sangh
7. Capital of Greater Rajasthan was-
  - (a) Udaipur
  - (b) Jaipur
  - (c) Jodhpur
  - (d) Kota
8. Who led the movement regarding merger of Sirohi?
  - (a) Gokil Bhai Bhatt
  - (b) M.L. Verma
  - (c) J.N. Vyas



- (d) Haribhan Upadhyaya
9. The First governor of Rajasthan was:-
- N.V. Gadgil
  - Hira Lal Shastri
  - Gurumukh Nihal Singh
  - M.L. Verma

#### Very Short questions

- With which district is elatedtom Nimuchana case related to?
- Which movement was started by Govind Guru?
- Who was the propagator of Ekki Movement?
- Name leaders who provided impetus to leadership of Mewar prajamandal.
- Which fields were chosen by Arjun Lal Sethi and Jamnalal Bajaj as their work area?
- In how many stages was the integration of Rajasthan completed?
- Who was the Prime Minister of Greater Rajasthan?
- What was the name of Centrally administered area in Rajasthan?
- On which date is Rajasthan Day celebrated?

#### Short Answer Question

- What were the causes of peoples' awakening in Rajasthan?
- Write in your own words about the peoples' agitation in the revolt of Kota.
- How did Pathik, achieve the task of peoples' consciousness?
- Write three martyrs of the same family.
- How did Govind Guru awaken the tribal?
- Explain clearly the process of merger of Matsya Sangh into Greater Rajasthan.
- How was Sirohi included in Rajasthan?
- What were the conditions of Maharana of Mewar for merger in United Rajasthan?
- When and why was states secretariat formed?
- Explain briefly the prajamandal movement.

#### Essay Type Questions

(Answer in three pages)

- Underline role of Vijay Singh Pathik in the success of Bijolia peasant movement.
- Elaborate role of Bhagat and Ekki movement in Tribal movements.
- What were the centers of revolt in Rajasthan and what was the outcome of these revolts?
- Explain various stages of integration of Rajasthan.
- Write about the conditions and problems of princely States in pre-integration period.

#### Answers (Multiple choice)

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (a)
6. (d) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (c)
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