

**COMPLETE HISTORY OF
CHHATTISGARH**

1. Introduction and Naming

Introduction

In ancient times this region was known as Dakshin Kosala. The mention of this region is also found in 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharata'. The Sharabhपुरi, Panduvanshi, Nagvanshi and Somvanshi rulers ruled the region between the 6th and 12th centuries. The Kalchuris ruled this region from 875 AD to 1741 AD. From 1741 AD to 1854 AD, this region remained under the rule of Marathas. After the British invasion in the year 1854 AD, the importance of Raipur increased instead of the capital Ratangarh during the British rule. In the year 1905, Sambalpur went to Bengal and Surguja came from Bengal to Chhattisgarh. On November 1, 2000, a separate Chhattisgarh state was created by dividing Madhya Pradesh; This state was established as the 26th state of the Union of India.

Naming

There are many opinions regarding the naming of the state of Chhattisgarh:

(i) British historian. According to Beglar (J. B. Beglar), the actual name of this region was Chattisghar and not Chhattisgarh. To the south of the territory of Jarasandh, the area which was settled by thirty-six Dalit (Tanner) families was called Chhatisghar, which later got deformed and became Chhattisgarh.

(ii) According to many historians Chhattisgarh has been carved out of Chedisgarh (political center of Chedis).

(iii) Most historians believe that during the time of the Kalchuri / Haihayvanshi Rajput kingdom, there were thirty-six (36) garhs (forts) - 18 garhs under the Ratanpur branch of the state and 18 garhs under the Raipur branch, hence the name of this region was Chhattisgarh. The naming of Chhattisgarh on the basis of strongholds is the most recognized opinion.

[Note: The location of 36 garhs has been given in Raipur Gazetteer (1973 AD). According to this, out of 36 garhs, 18 garhs were in the north of Shivrath river i.e. under Ratanpur state and 18 garhs came south of Shivrath river i.e. under Raipur state. There were 18 garhs under Ratanpur state – Ratanpur, Vijaypur, Kharond, Maro, Kotgarh, Nawagarh, Sondhi, Aukhar, Padarbhata, Semaria, Champa, Lafa, Churi, Kenda, Matin, Aporora, Pendra and Kurkuti Kandri. There were 18 strongholds under Raipur state – Raipur, Patan, Simga, Singarpur, Lavan, Omera, Durg, Saradha, Sirsa, Mehndi, Khallari, Sirpur, Figeshwar, Rajim, Singhangarh, Suvarmar, Tangangarh and Akaltara.]

The name Chhattisgarh gained more prominence during the Maratha rule under the Bhonsala kingdom of Nagpur. The Marathas combined Ratanpur and Raipur. The Marathas accepted and popularized the name Chhattisgarh in place of Ratanpur and Raipur. Even during the British period, the name Chhattisgarh was used.

2. Stone Age

Paleolithic tools have been found from areas like Raipur, Bilaspur etc. of the Mahanadi valley of the state. Mesolithic tools have been found from areas like Raigarh, Bilaspur, Bastar etc. of the state. Archeological remains of South Indian culture - Megalithic culture have been found in Raipur, Durg etc. areas of the state.

3. Vedic period

Since the spread of the Aryans was Punjab in the Rigvedic period, there is no mention of Chhattisgarh in the 'Rigveda'. Due to the absence of mention of Narmada river and Vindhya mountain in 'Rigveda', it is clear that Aryans could not reach this region during the Rigvedic period. Aryans entered and spread in Chhattisgarh during the later Vedic period. The mention of Vindhya mountain is found in *Kaushitaki Upanishad*. Narmada is mentioned in the later Vedic literature as Reva.

4. Epic period

Ramayana (Valmiki):

According to the epic 'Ramayana', the kingdom of Kosala had two parts – North Kosala and South Kosala. The capital of North Kosala was Saket (Ayodhya) while the capital of South Kosala was Shravasti. The northern Kosala king Dasharatha was married to Kaushalya, the daughter of the southern Kosala king Bhanumanta. Since Bhanumanta had no son, the kingdom of Dakshin Kosala also went to King Dasharatha. Rama spent most of the fourteen years of exile in Dandakaranya (located in the vicinity of Chhattisgarh). According to popular belief, places like ShivriNarayan, Kharaud etc. are believed to be associated with Ram Katha. Maharishi Valmiki gave refuge to Sita in his ashram (located at Turturiya near Sirpur) after Rama abandon Sita. Luv and Kush were born in this ashram. After Rama, the kingdom of North Kosala went to his eldest son Luv and the kingdom of South Kosala to his junior son Kush. *Shravasti*, the capital of Dakshin Kosala, is also known as *Kushasthali* after Kush.

Mahabharata (Ved Vyasa):

In the 'Mahabharata' this region is mentioned as *Praka Kosala* or *Kosala*. In the 'Mahabharata', the forest area of Bastar has been called *Kantar*. The Chedi king Shishupala of Mahabharata was killed by Shri Krishna. There is a mention of another king of Chedi country, Babhravahana, who was the son of Arjuna, the son of Pandu. The Rishytirtha of Mahabharata is identified as Gunji (Bilaspur district), Manipura as present Ratanpur and Chitrangadpur, the capital of Babruvahan (Arjuna's son) is identified as present Sirpur/Sripur.

5. Mahajanapada period

Sixteen Mahajanapadas (states) are mentioned in the *Buddhist work 'Anguttar Nikaya'* and the *Jain composition 'Bhagwati Sutta'*. One of these sixteen Mahajanapadas was Kosala. The Kosala Mahajanapada was divided into two

parts – North Kosala and South Kosala. Dakshin Kosala was located in present-day Chhattisgarh. According to 'Avadana Shatak, Mahatma Buddha had come to Dakshin Kosala and lived in Shravasti (the capital of Dakshin Kosala) for three months. This is also confirmed by the *travelog 'Si-yu-ki'* of the Chinese traveler *Hiuan Tsang (Yuwan Chuang)*.

6. Mauryan period

During the Maurya period (323 BC-184 BC), this region was under the Maurya dynasty rulers. The Mauryan emperor Ashoka built a stupa at Shravasti, the capital of Dakshin Kosala. Two inscriptions of the Maurya period have been received from the Surguja district. The Mauryan inscriptions obtained from the *Kabra Pahad* near Ramgarh in Surguja district and the Sitabongara and Jogimara caves of Singhanpur are in Brahmi script. In this inscription there is a mention of a devadasi named *Sutanuka* and her lover *Devadatta*. Rangshalas (theaters) were built in these caves for staging cultural events. Sitabongara's Natyashala is considered to be the oldest theater of India. A monastery of Buddhist nuns has been found in *Turturiya* in Raipur district. A huge statue of Lord Buddha still exists in this vihara. Punch Marked Coins have been found mainly in Akaltara, Thathari, Bar and Bilaspur.

Apart from these, many forts with earthen walls have been found in Chhattisgarh, which are related to the Atavik state mentioned in the inscription of the Maurya emperor Ashoka. The Atviks had their own social system, the remnants of which can still be seen in the social system of the tribals of the Bastar region.

7. Satavahana period

After the fall of the Maurya Empire, the Satavahana kingdom was established in South India. Most of the region of Dakshin Kosala was under the influence of the

Satavahanas. The Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang in his travelog 'Si-yu-ki' mentions the kingdom of the Satavahanas in South Kosala. According to him, on a mountain near the capital of Dakshina Kosala, the Satavahana king dug a tunnel and built a grand five-storey sangharama for the famous Buddhist philosopher. Hiuen Tsang's statement is also corroborated by an inscription from Rishyatirtha (near Sakti, Bilaspur district), which mentions the Satavahana king *Kumar Varadatta*. The only currency of the Satavahana king appellant has been received from Mahanadi near Balapur in Raigarh district. The receipt of the appellant's currency confirms the right of the erstwhile Satavahanas here during this period. India traded with Rome during the Satavahana period. The gold coins of Rome have been received from Bilaspur and Chakarbedha. This proves that Bilaspur was very prosperous in those days.

8. Vakataka period

The Vakatakas established their kingdom in the Deccan after the power of the Satavahanas, the lord of the Dakshinapatha, waned. The Vakataka king Pravarasena I was an expansionist and had established his authority over the entire region of Dakshin Kosala. The later Vakataka king Narendra Sen again established the sovereignty of the Vakatakas over Dakshin Kosala.

Vakataka-Nal Struggle:

The Vakataka kings had to contend with the Nal rulers who ruled in the Koraput region of Bastar. Nal ruler Bhavdutt Varman attacked and defeated Nandivardhana (Nagpur), the capital of the later Vakataka king Narendrasen. This defeat was avenged by Narendrasen's son Prithvisen II. Prithvisen II defeated Bhava Dutta's successor Arthapati. Nal ruler Arthapati died in this war. Thereafter King Harishena of the Vatsagulma branch of the Vakatakas captured Dakshin Kosala. After this, the Nal ruler Skandavarman restored the Nal

dynasty in Dakshin Kosala. He made Pushkari (Bhopalpatnam) of Bastar his capital.

9. Gupta Period

At the time when Vakatakas were ruling in South India, at the same time Guptas were ruling in North India. Samudra Gupta (335-380 AD) was the greatest ruler of the Gupta dynasty. He was an imperialist. According to the Prayag Prashasti inscription of Samudragupta, Samudragupta after conquering the whole of Aryavarta (North India) made a conquest of the Dakshinapatha. He defeated Dakshin Kosala king Mahendra and Mahakantar king Vyaghraraj and proceeded (Mahakantar - the forest-region of Bastar and Singhwa). These rulers accepted the suzerainty of Samudragupta and ruled their respective regions as subordinate rulers. The Gupta period coins obtained from Banwarad of Chhattisgarh confirm that Chhattisgarh was under the influence of the Guptas.

10. Regional dynasties

Name of dynasty	Capital/Central Region	Ruler	Comment
Rajarshitulya Kula Dynasty (5th century - 6th century)	Arang	Shoor, Dayit Verma I Bhishana, Bhimsen I, Dayit Verma II, Bhimsen II	The rulers of this dynasty accepted Gupta authority.
Sharabhपुरi dynasty (6th century AD)	Sharbhpur (Capital), Shripur (Sub-Capital)	Sharabh (Founder), Narendra, Prasannamatra, Pravararaj (Last Ruler)	1. This dynasty is also known as Amararya/Amraj Kul. 2. Regalia – Gajalakshmi 3. The end of the

<p>Pandu Dynasty / Soma Dynasty (6th century AD - 7th century AD) [Note: There were two branches of the Pandu dynasty. The main branch was located at Dakshin Kosala. The second branch was located at Mekal (the area around Amarkantak).]</p>	Shripur	<p>Udayana (first king), Nanna, Ishan Dev, Mahashiva Tevaradeva ('sakal Kosaladhipati'), Mahanana Raj, Chandragupta, Harshagupta, Mahashiva Gupta Balarjuna (595 AD - 655 AD)</p>	<p>Sharabhpuri dynasty by the Pandu dynasty</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vasata (daughter of Maukhari King) built a grand temple of Lord Vishnu in Sirpur in memory of her husband Harshagupta, which is still present in the name of Lakshman Mandir. 2. There is a Nandi on the Rajmudra of Maha Shiv Gupta and it is called 'Param Maheshwara'. 3. The reign of Mahashivgupta is called the 'Golden Age of Dakshin Kosala (Chhattisgarh)'. 4. Mahashivgupta Pushyabhutivanshi was a contemporary of Harshavardhana. 5. Hiuen Tsang came to Sripur during the reign of Mahashivgupta. 6. End of Pandu dynasty by subsequent Nal rulers
Nala-Naga	Bastar	Shisuka (Founder),	1.The Nal dynasty was a

<p>Dynasty (290AD-960AD)</p>		<p>Bhavadattavarman (First Majesty Ruler), Arthapati, Skandavarman (Powerful Ruler), Vilasatunga (Builder of Rajeev Lochan Temple/Vishnu Temple of Rajim), Narendra Dhaval (Last Ruler)</p>	<p>contemporary of the Vakataka dynasty. 2. The end of the Nal kingdom as a result of the invasion of the Kalchuris 3. Pregada- Minister, Mahagostha - Government Advisory Committee; Mandal - administrative unit, Mandalik - the chief officer of the Mandal, Mahamandaleshwar - the overlord of one lakh villages, Senapati - the chief officer of the army</p>
<p>Chhindak - Naga Dynasty (10th century AD-1313 AD)</p>	<p>Bastar (Ancient name - Chakrakot / Bhramarkot)</p>	<p>Nripatibhushan (First Ruler) Someshwara Dev, Kanhar Dev I, Jai Singh Dev, Narasimha Dev, Kanhardev II, Harishchandra Dev (Last Ruler)</p>	<p>The end of the Chhindak dynasty by the Kakatiya ruler of Warangal, Annamdev</p>
<p>Fani-Naga Dynasty (10th century AD - 14th century AD)</p>	<p>Kawardha</p>	<p>Ahiraj (the first king), Rajamalla, Dharanidhar, Mahimdev, Sarvavandan, Gopaldev (builder of Bhoram Dev temple), Nal Dev,</p>	<p>These were Mandalikas subordinate to the Kalchuris.</p>

<p>Som Dynasty (1192 AD - 1320 AD)</p>	<p>Kanker (Kakrai)</p>	<p>Bhuvanpal, Kirtipal, Mahipal, Visipala, Janhu, Janpal, Yashoraj, Kanhaddev, Lakshmi Varma, Kharag Dev, Bhuvanekmal, Arjuna, Bhima, Bhoja, Lakshmana, Ramchandra (builder of Madwa Mahal/Shiva temple)</p> <p>Sinharaja (the first ruler), Krishnaraja, Jaitaraja, Somchandra, Bhanu Dev</p>	<p>These were Mandalikas subordinate to the Kalchuris.</p>
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11. Period of Kalchuris

875-1741 AD Kalchuri dynasty has an important place in the history of Chhattisgarh. The real political history of Chhattisgarh begins with the establishment of the Kalchuri dynasty. The Kalchuris ruled Chhattisgarh for about nine centuries (875-1741 AD). The Kalchuri (Haihay) Rajputs ruled many places in India. They had many branches, out of which two were established in Chhattisgarh – Ratanpur and Raipur.

I. Kalchuri of Ratanpur

Towards the end of the ninth century the Kalchuris of Tripuri tried to establish their branch in Chhattisgarh. The son of Kokkal I (850-890), Shankaragan II (Mugadhatunga famous Dhaval) conquered the Pali region (the area around the

place called Pali under Bilaspur district) from the Kosala king Banavanshi Vikramaditya I. Shankaragan appointed his younger brother over this region. The capital of the Pali region was *Tummad* (modern Tumman, district Bilaspur). Two or three generations of Kalchuris ruled here. He was then defeated by the Somvanshi king of *Swarnapur* (modern Sonepur, Orissa).

Kalingaraja 1000-20 AD : The Kalchuri king Kokkal II (990–1015) of Tripuri sent his son Kalingaraja to Dakshina Kosala in about 1000 AD. He conquered Dakshin Kosala and established his capital in the city of Tumman where his ancestors had ruled. Thus, Kalingaraja was the restorer or the real founder of the Kalchuri branch in Dakshina Kosala.

Kamalraj 1020-45 AD. : After Kalingaraja, his son Kamalraj became the ruler of Tumman. He accepted the ownership of his contemporary, the Kalchuri ruler of Tripuri, Gangeyadeva. Kamalraj supported Gangeydev in the Orissa campaign.

Ratnaraj / Ratnadev-I: 1045-65 AD. After Kamalraj, his son Ratnaraj became the ruler of Tumman. He got Amravana, Phalodyan and Pushpodyan etc. in Tumman and got the temple constructed. Ratnaraj converted the ancient village named Manipur into a city and named it Ratanpur (Ratanpur) and shifted his capital from Tumman to Ratanpur. This new city was given the title of '*Kuberpur*' (City of Kuber) because of its prosperity.

Prithvidev I: 1065-90 AD. After the death of Ratnaraj, his son Prithvidev I became the ruler of Ratanpur. He expanded his kingdom and assumed the title of '*Sakal Kosaladhipati*'. He was the owner of 21,000 villages of Kosala. He was of religious nature, so he got many temples built during his reign (like Prithvideveshwar Shiva temple of Tumman) and dug a huge pond in Ratanpur.

Jajalladeva I 1090-1120 AD. Prithvidev I was succeeded by his son Jajalladeva. He expanded his kingdom and defeated Someshwar, the Nagvanshi ruler of Bastar in addition to Lanji, Bhandara. He invaded Orissa and defeated King Bhujbal of *Swarnapur*. Due to these victories, his fame spread from Amarkantak in the north to Godavari in the south, from Berar in the west to Orissa in the east. He rejected the suzerainty of Tripuri and declared himself independent and issued gold and copper coins in his name. He built the city of *Jajalpur* (present day Janjgir) in his name, renovated the temple at Pali and dug a big pond.

Ratnadev II 1120-35 AD. After Jajalladeva I, his son Ratnadev II became the ruler of Ratanpur. He defeated the Tripuri king Gayakarna in battle and refused to accept the sovereignty of Tripuri like his father. The second important event of his reign is the victory over the Gangavanshi ruler Anantvarma Chodagan. He also defeated the ruler of Gaur (Bengal) and the Bhanj ruler of Khijijang. He was a lover of learning and art, he patronized scholars and built many temples and lakes.

Prithvidev II 1135-65 AD. After Ratnadev II, his eldest son Prithvidev II became the ruler of Ratanpur. His general Jagpal expanded the kingdom by conquering the areas of Sarharagarh, Machka-Sihawa, Kanda Dongar, Kakray. Apart from this, Prithvidev II defeated the Ganga ruler of Chakrakot (present Chitrakoot, Bastar district). Along with the construction of many temples and ponds, he also got many gardens planted. The silver coins issued by him were of very small size. Most of the inscriptions received from the Kalchuris of Ratanpur branch belong to Prithvidev II.

Jajalladeva II 1165-68 AD. After Prithvidev II, his junior son Jajalladeva II became the ruler of Ratanpur. But his reign proved to be short and problematic. During his reign, the Tripuri king Jai Singh attacked Dakshin Kosala, which was thwarted by Jajalladeva II.

Jagatdeva / Jagdev: 1168-78 AD. Jagatdev (elder brother of Jajalladeva II) came from the former country to remove the chaos created by the death of Jajalladeva II and tried to remove the disorder by taking power in his own hands. Due to his efforts, peace was restored in the state.

Ratnadev III 1178-98 AD In the year 1178 AD, Jagatdev's son Ratnadev III ascended the throne. During his reign, chaos started spreading again. The state army also became weak. To improve the situation, Ratnadev III appointed a Brahmin named Gangadhar as the prime minister of the state. Due to the efforts of Prime Minister Gangadhar, peace was restored in the state again. Gangadhar renovated the Lakhneshwar temple at Kharod. Gangadhar built many temples, one of which is the temple of Ekvira Devi (a form of Shakti) located near Ratanpur which is still in good condition.

Later rulers 1198-1741 AD. Ratnadev III was succeeded by his son Pratapmalla, Ratanpur State. Articles related to the state of Kalchuri are not available since Pratapmalla. The later rulers did not change the customs prevalent in the state administration, so they avoided the hustle and bustle of fighting for many generations and ruled peacefully.

The names of the later rulers are:

Pratapmalla (1198–1200), Bhanu Singh (1200–21), Narasimhadev (1221–51), Bhusinghdev (1251–76), Pratapsinhdev (1276–1319), Jaisinghdev (1319–47), Dharamsinghdev (1347–69), Jagannath Singhdev (1369-1407), Veerasimhadeva (1407-26), Kamaldev (1426-36), Shankar Sahay (1436-54), Mohan Sahai (1454 72), Dadu Sahai (1472-97), Purushottam Sahai (1497-1519)), Bahr Sahay/ Bahrendra (1519–46), Kalyan Sahay (1546–83), Laxman Sahay (1583–91), Shankar Sahay (1591–1606), Mukund Sahay (1606–17), Tribhuvan Sahay (1617–45)), Aditi Hay (1645–59), Ranjit Sahai (1659–85), Takhat Singh

(1685–99), Raja Singh Deo (1699–1720), Sardar Singh (1720–32), Raghunath Singh (1732–41).

II. Kalchuri of Raipur

In the last part of the 14th century AD, the Kalchuri branch of Ratanpur was divided into two parts. The main branch continued to rule in Ratanpur and the minor branch established Raipur. According to the inscription, in the last part of the 14th century AD, Lakshmidev, a relative of the Raja of Ratanpur, was sent to *Khalvatika* (modern Khallari, Raipur district) as a representative and he lived there. Singhan, son of Lakshmidev, won 18 garhs of the enemies. Singhan refused to accept the sovereignty of Ratanpur king and declared himself independent. After Singhan, his son Ramchandra (Raydev) became the ruler of Raipur. After Ramchandra, his son Brahmadev became the ruler of Raipur.

Later rulers 1420-1751 AD.

The names of the later rulers of Raipur are: Keshavdev (1420–38), Bhuvneshwar Dev (1438–63), Mansinghdev (1463–78), Santosh Singhdev (1478–98), Surat Singh Dev (1498–1518), Sammansinghdev (1518–28), Chamunda Singhdeo (1528–63), Banshi Singh Dev (1563–82), Dhansinghdev (1582–1603), Jai Singh Dev (1603–15), Fattesinghdev (1615–33), Yadav Singh Dev (1633–50), Somdattadeva (1650–63), Baldev Singh Dev (1663–85), Umed Singhdeo (1685–1705), Banwari Singhdev (1705–41), Amar Singh Dev (1741–50), Shivraj Singhdev (1750–57)

Contribution of Cultures

1. On the basis of the account book of the time of Ratanpur Naresh Kalyan Sahai (1546–83), the then settlement officer Chisham wrote an article on the administration of Kalchuri in the year 1868.

2. During the Kalchuri period, the kingdom was divided into garhs, garhs into

barhos and *barhos* into villages. There were 18-18 garhs in the possession of Ratanpur and Raipur. There were 7 Barhon i.e.84 villages under 1 garh. There were 12 villages under one barhon.

Administrative unit	Garh	Barhon	Village
Head	Diwan/Minister	Dau	Gontia

3. The main function of Diwan, Dau and Gontia was to maintain law and order in their respective areas and to collect revenue.

4. During the Kalchuri period, the head of the revenue department was called Mahapramatri.

5. In the Kalchuri period, the local administration was responsible for an organization called '*Panchkula*'. Panchkula had five members. The members of Panchkula were called '*Mahattar*'. The head of Panchkula was called '*Mahattam*'. This organization was functioning in the towns as well as in the villages.

6. Gajalakshmi was the Kuldevi of the dynasty. The Kalchuri rulers were worshipers of Shiva. That is why the idol of Gajalakshmi or Shiva is found at the entrance of their temples. His copper leaf used to start with '*Om Namah Shivayah*'.

7. The Kalchuri rulers of Dakshina Kosala were Shaivites, so they patronized Shaivism. At the same time, he was also a nurturer of other sects, in which Vaishnavism was prominent.

8. Kalchuri period Shiva temple Bankeshwar Mahadev temple of Tumman, Ratneshwar Mahadev temple of Ratanpur, Shiva temple of Mallar (builder -

Kayastha named Ratnasimha); Shiva idols received from places like Tumman, Ratanpur, Mallar, Pali, Janjgir, Narayanpur, Kharaud etc.

9. Vishnu temple of Kalchuri period, Vishnu temple of Janjgir, Narayan temple of Khallari: (Producer – cobbler named Devpal), Vishnu temple of Shivrinarayan at Ratanpur; Statue of Lakshmi Narayan found at Ratanpur.

10. The Rajiv Lochan temple (Vishnu temple) at Rajim was renovated by Jagatpal, the feudal lord of Ratanpur king Prithvidev II (1135-65).

11. The incarnations of Vishnu are found on the door plate of Tumman's temple. Idols of 24 incarnations of Vishnu are found in the Vishnu temple of Janjgir. Scenes related to Ramayana have been depicted in this temple. An interesting scene of Ravana's yagya has been recorded in the fort of Ratanpur. Idols of Vishnu in the form of Laxminarayan have been obtained from Shivrinarayan and Gataura. Many idols of Garudasin Laxminarayan have been found in Bhoramdev. A beautiful idol of Vishnu made of black stone has been found from Ratanpur which is kept in Ghasidas Museum, Raipur.

12. Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya (1479-1531), a famous devotee of the Bhakti movement, was born in a place called Champaranya near Rajim in Chhattisgarh. The doctrine promoted by him is called '*Shuddhadvaita*' and the sect is called '*Pushti Marga*'.

13. The Math of the Ramanandi tradition, the Dudhadhari Math of Raipur is of the Kalchuri period.

14. A Sun temple of the Kalchuri period still exists in Narayanpur.

15. Prominent among the scholars who got a place in the Kalchuri court were

the 10th century AD poetessist and playwright Rajasekhar [*'Kavya Mimamsa'*, *'Karpoomanjari'* (drama)], poet and logician Pandit Shashidhar, Gopal Chandra Mishra, the poet [*'Khoob Tamasha'*, *'Chintamani'* - Prabandha Kavya (Krishna Poetry), Ram Prasad' - Prabandha Kavya (Rama Kavya), *'Jamini'*, *'Ashwamedha'*, *'Sudama Charit'* etc.] etc. Gopal Kavi is called 'Valmiki of Chhattisgarh'.

16. Gopal was the courtier of the poet Ratanpur Naresh Raj Singhdev (1689–1712). Gopal Kavi has addressed this region as 'Chhattisgarh' in his composition 'Khoob Tamasha' (1746 AD). He is considered to be the second user of the word 'Chhattisgarh' (the first user-poet Dalpat Ram Rao).

12. Maratha rule 1741-1854 AD.

End of Ratanpur State:

The year 1741 AD is considered to be a period of change in the political history of Chhattisgarh, by this time the Kalchuri rule had reached the verge of collapse in Chhattisgarh. The disintegration of the central power had started long before and small rulers were making the roots of the state hollow day by day. Taking advantage of such a situation, Bhaskar Pant, the general of the Bhonsla/Bhonsle ruler of Nagpur, attacked Ratanpur state with 30,000 soldiers. At that time it was ruled by Raghunath Singh. His age was 60 years. He was grieved by the death of his only son and was not prepared for the war at all. So he surrendered to Bhaskar Pant. After the surrender of Raghunath Singh, Bhaskar Pant did not show personal cruelty to him, but with a view to terrorize Ratanpur state, he imposed a fine of 1 lakh rupees on the residents there and looted the money of the treasury. Bhaskar Pant again gave the right to rule Ratanpur to Raghunath Singh as the representative of the Bhonsala rule, but to look after the interests of his master, he appointed a person named Kulangar (Kalyan Giri) there.

Raghunath Singh died in the year 1745 AD. After that, Mohan Singh was appointed as the new ruler of Ratanpur State. Mohan Singh's rule in Ratanpur state continued till 1758 AD and when he died, the first Bhonsala ruler established his direct rule there, according to which Bimbaji Bhonsla, became the first Maratha ruler there. Thus, the Kalchuri kingdom of Ratanpur came to an end forever.

End of raipur state

In the year 1741 AD, at the time of Maratha Bhaskar Pant's attack on Ratanpur state, Amar Singh ruled in Raipur state. Amar Singh did not take any action against the Marathas. In the year 1750 AD, the Marathas separated him from the rule by providing the parganas of Rajim, Raipur and Patan for his livelihood, taking an annual gift of Rs 7,000 in return. Amar Singh died three years later in 1753 AD and his son Shivraj Singh became the successor of the state. But the Bhonsals snatched his jagirs from the succession. In 1757 AD, the Bhonsals ended the Kalchuri kingdom of Raipur and established their direct rule and provided 5 tax-free villages to Shivraj Singh to survive. Thus, the Kalchuri kingdom of Raipur came to an end forever.

Four phases of Maratha rule

Maratha rule in Chhattisgarh can be divided into four phases:

I. Direct Bhonsla rule	1758-1887.
II. Suba Government	1787-1818.
III. Maratha Rule under British protection	1818-1830.
IV. Bhonsla rule again	1830-1854.

I. Direct Bhonsla rule 1758-87 AD.

Bimbaji Bhonsla (1758-87 AD)

After establishing direct rule in Chhattisgarh, Raghuji I, the Bhonsla ruler of Nagpur, appointed Prince Bimbaji Bhonsla as its ruler. Bimbaji Bhonsla entered the ancient palace of Ratanpur and took over the reins of the rule of Chhattisgarh. Although he was appointed to rule here as an assistant to the Nagpur king, he took advantage of the circumstances and made himself an independent ruler here. They did not send any part of the revenue to Nagpur. He had a separate court, minister and army in Ratanpur.

(Bimbaji lacked military qualities, so he did not make any effort to expand the kingdom. His interest was in creative work.)

Major work done by Bimbaji Bhonsle

1. Bimbaji did the administrative integration of Ratanpur and Raipur and gave it the name of Chhattisgarh state.
2. Bimbaji created two new zamindaris named *Nandgaon and Khujji*.
3. Bimbaji established a regular court at Ratanpur.
4. Bimbaji did the work of preparing the revenue related accounts.
5. Bimbaji also imposed some new taxes.
6. Bimbaji started the practice of giving golden letters here on the occasion of Vijayadashami.
7. Bimbaji introduced Marathi (language), Modi (script) and Urdu (language) here.
8. Bimbaji got a grand Ram temple constructed at Ramtekdi of Ratanpur, which is still present today.
9. Bimbaji rebuilt the famous *Dudhadhari temple of Raipur*.

Thus, Bimbaji gave a new system of governance to the subjects of Chhattisgarh. The result was that the changes that took place in the politics of Chhattisgarh due to this new system of governance were silently accepted by the regional people without any opposition and started seeing that new ruler as their well wisher. When Bimbaji died in 1787 AD, the people of Ratanpur were very sad. Bimbaji had three wives Anandi Bai, Umabai and Ramabai. Uma Bai got sati with Bimbaji. Colbrook, a European traveler who visited Chhattisgarh, has written in his travel description that the death of Bimbaji shocked Chhattisgarh because his rule was public welfare. He was a well-wisher of the people and sympathetic towards them. The first historian of Chhattisgarh, Babu Revaram Kayastha (1850–1930) (*Tawarikh-e- Haihaivanshi kings*) and Shivdutt Shastri (*Itihaas samuchya*) both praised Bimbaji's rule.

II. Suba Government 1787-1818 AD.

Vyankoji Bhosale (1787-1811 AD)

Bhonsla prince Vyankoji Bhonsla received the state of Chhattisgarh posthumously from Bimbaji. He adopted a completely new policy regarding the governance of Chhattisgarh. Instead of running direct rule by staying in Ratanpur, he decided to run the rule from Nagpur itself. As a result, Nagpur became the center of political activities of Chhattisgarh and the political splendor of Ratanpur began to fade away. Vyankoji Bhonsla decided to run the governance of Chhattisgarh through a Subedar. It was from here that the tradition of appointing a Subedar originated in Chhattisgarh. As a representative of the Bhonsala prince, the Subedar started administering the rule of Chhattisgarh from his headquarters in Ratanpur. This new system established in Chhattisgarh was an indicator of the colonial policy of the Marathas. This new system of governance was given the name of '*Suba Sarkar*' ('Suba Government'). Vyankoji Bhonsla was involved in the power struggle of

Nagpur and visited Chhattisgarh only thrice in his 24-year long tenure. The founder of suba rule in Chhattisgarh, Vyankoji Bhonsla, died in 1811 in Banaras.

Appa Saheb (1811-18 AD)

In the year 1811 AD, Appa Saheb was appointed as the new ruler of Chhattisgarh posthumously by Vyankoji Bhosale. After his appointment, Appa Saheb demanded a huge amount from Bikaji Gopal, the then Subedar of Chhattisgarh. But when Bikaji Gopal expressed his inability to fulfill their demand, Appa Saheb removed him from the post. After this, one Subedar after another was appointed in Chhattisgarh. Therefore, in a short span of time, many subedars ruled here. The appointment of several subedars in a short span of time was a reflection of the instability of the Bhonsale regime. All these incidents also tell that the Bhonsle rulers wanted to get arbitrary money from Chhattisgarh. He had nothing to do with the administration here or the welfare of the people.

Subedars appointed for Chhattisgarh during suba rule

Sn	Subedar	Major Events
1.	Mahipatrao Dinkar 1787-90 AD	Chhattisgarh's first Subedar, all powers of governance in the hands of Bimbaji's widow Anandi Bai, European traveler Forester's arrival in Chhattisgarh
2.	Vitthal Dinkar 1790-96	Second Subedar of Chhattisgarh, father of 'Pargana system' in Chhattisgarh, arrival of European traveler Captain Blunt to Chhattisgarh

3.	Bhavani Kalu 1796-97 AD	Third subedar of chhattisgarh
4.	Keshav Govind 1797-1808 AD	Chhattisgarh's Subedar remained for the longest period, European traveler Colebrook's arrival in Chhattisgarh
5.	Vinkoji Pidri and Diro Kullukar 1808-09 AD	Subedar of Chhattisgarh appointed for short term
6.	Bikaji Gopal 1809-17	The riots of the Pindaris, the death of the Viceroy of Chhattisgarh, Vyankoji Bhonsla (1811 AD), the demand of more money from Bikaji Gopal by the new Viceroy Appa Saheb, the removal of Bikaji Gopal from the post of Subedar on the manifestation of his inability
7.	Sakharam Hari in 1817 AD. Sitaram Tantia in 1817 AD.	Subedar of Chhattisgarh remained for only three months, Subedar who became a victim of bullets by disgruntled farmers Subedar of Chhattisgarh remained for only six months
8.	Yadavrao Diwakar 1817-18.	Last subedar of chhattisgarh

Maratha Administration

1. The post of Subedar, the highest official appointed for the governance of Chhattisgarh, was neither permanent nor hereditary; his appointment was done according to the contractual system (*Ijaradari system*). The person who promised to send the maximum amount from Chhattisgarh to Nagpur, was appointed to the post of Subedar.

2. Pargana system : The second Maratha Subedar Vitthal Dinkar introduced a new change in the revenue system. This change came to be known as the 'Pargana system'. The Marathas abolished the unit of old grahs by removing the Diwans and Daus appointed by the Kalchuri rulers. Instead he divided the area into different parganas. The number of parganas formed by the Marathas was 27. This new system was in line with the prevailing Peshwa rule in Nagpur.

3. Under the Maratha rule, the entire rule of Chhattisgarh was divided into two parts- Khalsa region and Zamindari region. The Marathas kept their direct rule over the Khalsa region, but they made the zamindari area under the control of various zamindars. They were free to rule in their territory, but they had to pay regularly the amount fixed by the Marathas.

4. The crop year in Chhattisgarh used to start in June every year.

5. The Marathas made provision for the appointment of Patels in the field of revenue. These Patels looked after the revenue of one or more villages.

6. Marathas started a new system '*Talukdari system*' in the field of land system in Chhattisgarh. In this practice land related pattas were used. According to this custom, the fixed land area for a fixed period was put in the possession of a particular person according to the contractual practice. After the expiry of the

stipulated period, the contract was either terminated or it was renewed for the future. The Marathas created *two talukas-Tarenga and Lormi* during their reign. There were 45 villages under the talukdar of Tarenga and 103 villages under the talukdar of Lormi.

7. In the Maratha rule, the income received from revenue was divided into two parts - '*Jama Revenue*' and '*Sevai*'. The tax levied on the produce of the land was called jama revenue. The additional tax levied on the land on the basis of various reasons was called service. An example of service – Tax levied on the public in the form of gifts on the occasion of various festivals.

8. Chief Officers of Maratha Administration

- *Subedar*: As the representative of the Bhonsle prince of Nagpur, the most important officer of the province's administration, the head of the civil, military, military, civil and goods departments of the state.
- *Kamavisdar*: The chief officer of the pargana.
- *Fadnavis*: The chief officer keeping track of the income expenditure of the pargana.
- *Badkar* : The general condition of the pargana, the condition of the crop and other matters to be sent to the pargana head Kamvisdar.
- *Gontia*: The head of the village (the post of gontia existed before the Maratha rule.)
- *Patel*: The one who helped the government in the determination and recovery of land tax in the village.

9. The Marathas used the currency prevailing in Nagpur state in place of shells in the purchase and sale of goods in Chhattisgarh.

10. The *official language Marathi* and *script Modi* were prevalent during the

rule of the province.

III. Maratha rule 1818-30 AD under British protection.

British and The ruler of Nagpur - Appa Saheb

Raghuji II, the Bhonsla ruler of Nagpur, died on March 22, 1816. After his death, a power struggle broke out in the state. Two rival parties emerged. The leaders of one party were Banka Bai and Dharamji, who wanted to hand over the throne of the kingdom to Parsonji Bhonsla, son of Raghuji II. The leader of the second party was Appa Saheb, who was Parsonji Bhonsla's uncle. Raghuji II's son Parsonji Bhonsla was made the new ruler of Nagpur state while Appa Saheb was appointed as the regent for the administration.

The appointment of Appasaheb to the post of Regent proved to be an unfortunate event for the state of Nagpur in terms of future events. Appa Saheb was an ambitious and selfish person. Governor General Lord Hastings decided to support Appa Saheb for the expansion of British influence in Nagpur State. Appa Saheb agreed to sacrifice national interest to fulfill his personal wish. As a result, on May 27, 1816, there was a subsidiary treaty between the British and Appa Saheb, which was definitely in the interest of the British. According to the terms of the treaty, Appa Saheb agreed to give 7 lakh rupees per year to the British and to keep the British army in Nagpur state. This treaty was announced in the Nagpur court on June 9, 1816 AD. Ultimately this subsidiary alliance became the reason for the downfall of Appa Saheb. This treaty paved the way for the establishment of British power in Nagpur state. Malkam writes: 'No event was so important in the then conditions of India as the subsidiary treaty made by the British with the Nagpur state.

On February 10, 1817, when the mysterious sudden death of the Bhonsla ruler.

When Parsonji Bhonsla died, it was suspected that Appa Saheb had poisoned him. After the death of Parsonji, his wife Kashi Bai became a sati. On April 21, 1817, Appa Saheb became the successor of Nagpur State. Appa Saheb got down on his arbitrariness after finding his position secure in the state. Against the wishes of the British, Appa Saheb established his relationship with the anti-British Peshwa Bajirao II. Appa Saheb also received the title of '*Sena Sahib*' from Peshwa on November 14, 1817. These actions of Appa Saheb were considered by the British as a violation of the terms of the subsidiary treaty. Peshwa Bajirao II launched a rebellion against the British, which led to the Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817–18). All the Maratha chieftains were vengeful and wanted to get rid of the humiliating treaties made in the past with the British. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Appa Saheb also took up arms against the British. In Sitabuldi there was a fight between the British and Appa Saheb. Appa Saheb was defeated in this battle. Appa Saheb had to make a humiliating treaty on December 15, 1817. According to the terms of the treaty, Appa Saheb had to accept that due to the anti-British policies, the state of Nagpur has been made dependent on the grace of the British and now he has to accept the grace of the British. You have to act accordingly. Appa Saheb also had to accept that he would now have to come and reside in the British Residency. On January 6, 1818, there was an interim agreement between Appa Saheb and the English resident Jenkins of Nagpur. The terms of the agreement were –

- (i) Appa Saheb should be reinstated on his throne till the approval of the Governor General on the final treaty.
- (ii) The Bhonsale ruler should abandon the northern part of the state, Gwalior, Surguja, Berar and Jabalpur.
- (iii) Staying under the protection of the British army, the king should run the rule of the state according to the instructions of the resident.

This agreement was a sign of the decline of Appa Saheb and the establishment of English dominion in the state of Nagpur. Hurt by this agreement, Appa Saheb

decided to revolt against the British and started instigating the Gond kings of the state. Angered by the anti-British work done by him, the British imprisoned Appa Saheb in the palace on March 15, 1818. On May 3, 1818 AD, the soldiers were sent to Allahabad under guard. But on the way, Appa Saheb managed to escape towards Mahadev mountain by dodging the British officers near Jabalpur. After fleeing, he took refuge with the Gonds. After some time he reached Lahore via Asirgarh. Finally he died in the year 1840 AD at the age of 44.

Establishment of British protection (June 26, 1818)

On May 31, 1818, the British resident Jenkins based in Nagpur made a declaration regarding Nagpur state:

(i) In this declaration Appa Saheb was called a fugitive and a cash reward of Rs 2 lakh and a jagirdari worth Rs 10,000 was announced for anyone who caught him alive or dead or for giving information about him.

(ii) Raghuji III, the youngest grandson of Raghuji II, will be made the new ruler of Nagpur state.

(iii) The administration of the state would be kept under British protection until Raghuji III attained adulthood. According to this announcement, on June 26, 1818, Raghuji III was made the successor of the Nagpur state (except for the territory located north of the Narmada river).

Thus, the British took over the rule of Nagpur state under the guise of youthfulness of Raghuji III, the ruler of Nagpur. As a result, the rule of Chhattisgarh, which was under the rule of Bhonsle of Nagpur, also came under British protection. Accordingly, the British superintendent Edmund was appointed as the administrator of Chhattisgarh. A British Resident at Nagpur,

Jenkins was given a clear order from the Central Government that they should not make any changes contrary to the traditions prevailing in the state rule during the Maratha period. The purpose of British patronage should be limited to systematizing and regulating the rule there. For the convenience of administration, the entire area was divided into 5 subas- Nagpur, Bhandara, Chanda, Chhindwara and Chhattisgarh and a British superintendent was placed at the headquarters of each province.

As a British resident, Jenkins lived in Nagpur for a long time. In fact, he was the architect of the new arrangement made by the British government for Chhattisgarh. On 12 April 1827 AD, as the successor of Jenkins, Wilder was made the British Resident of Nagpur.

British Superintendent of Chhattisgarh 1818-30 AD:

Captain Edmund (1818 AD)

Captain Edmund was appointed the first British superintendent for Chhattisgarh. But he could not remain in this post for long. Being the first officer of British rule, all his power was engaged in establishing peace and order in Chhattisgarh. The major event of his reign was the rebellion against British rule by the Zamindar of Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh. But Edmund took control of him. Edmund died a few days after this incident.

Agnew (1818-25 AD)

After Captain Edmund, Agnew was made the superintendent of Chhattisgarh. Agnew wrote a book about Chhattisgarh. This book written by him is the only book which provides original and authoritative information related to that period.

Agnew made the following changes in the administration of Chhattisgarh

1. Making Raipur the capital of Chhattisgarh in place of Ratanpur (1818 AD):

After assuming the responsibility of governance, the first important change that Agnew made was the change in the capital of Chhattisgarh. Agnew decided to make Raipur the capital of Chhattisgarh in place of Ratanpur and accordingly developed Raipur city as the capital. Thus, in the year 1818, Raipur became the headquarters of the British Superintendent and the capital of Chhattisgarh for the first time.

2. Reorganization of Parganas (1819-20 AD) : Agnew reorganized the

Chhattisgarh province in 1819-20 AD. Agnew reorganized the 27 parganas of the province and reduced them to only 8 parganas. After some time, in addition to these 8 parganas, the parganas of Durg Balod were also handed over to Agnew. The names of the parganas reconstituted by Agnew are Raipur, Ratanpur, Rajro, Dhamtari, Durg, Balod, Dhamdha, Nawagarh and Karaund. Among these, Raipur was the largest pargana and Rajro was the smallest. Agnew reorganized the parganas and gave the form of government a simpler and less expensive unit than before.

3. Other Improvements of Agnew : Agnew again made proper arrangements for

keeping the government records safe. He tried to bring uniformity in the field of currency exchange by removing the existing inequalities. Apart from this, he took many such steps which increased the production of goods here and there were many improvements in its trade, transportation etc.

In addition to the above administrative changes, Agnew quelled the rebellion of the fake Gond king of Dhamdha and forced him to return the Khalsa land captured by the zamindar of Sonakhan. When Agnew visited the southern part of Chhattisgarh, the Zamindar of Bastar met him at a place called Rajur and

complained about Kotpad being usurped by the Zamindar of Jaipur. Superintendent Agnew urged the British Resident to resolve the Kotpad dispute between Bastar and Jaipur. In the year 1820 AD, the British Resident of Nagpur, Jenkins visited Chhattisgarh and solved the case of Maharasiya (a descendant of Nawagarh landlord and involved in anti-British work) and Sawant Bharti (notorious rebel and murderer of Chhattisgarh). Maharasiya was released from prison on assurances not to do anti-British work, while Sawant Bharti, who was sentenced to death, was reduced to life imprisonment. Agnew resigned from his post in 1825.

Captain Hunter (1825 AD):

After Agnew's resignation, Captain Hunter became the superintendent of Chhattisgarh. He could stay in the post of superintendent for only a few months. So not much information is available about them.

Sandis (1825-28 AD)

After Captain Hunter, Sandis became the superintendent of Chhattisgarh. He had previously been a military officer of Nagpur. An important event in the reign of Sandis was the treaty of December 13, 1826, which was concluded after the British and Raghuji III became an adult. According to this treaty, new relations were established between the British and Raghuji III, according to which the administration of Nagpur district was kept experimentally under the authority of Raghuji III. The rule of Chhattisgarh remained unaffected by this treaty and the control of the British continued there as before. Another important task of Sandis was to issue the English Calender in Chhattisgarh. Apart from this, for the first time the English language was made the medium of official work.

The Tahutdari system started in Chhattisgarh during the tenure of Sandis. The basic objective of this system was to bring the barren and abandoned land of the region under agricultural work with the help of influential people. The Sandis built two tahutdari named Lormi and Tarenga, the head of the tahutdari was called 'Tahutdar'.

During the tenure of Sandis, the Zamindar of Bastar again complained that he was yet to get the area of Kotpad and his patience was running out. The Sandis forwarded this complaint to the Resident at Nagpur for appropriate action. During the tenure of Sandis, the Raja of Karaund arrived in Raipur. On his arrival, according to the pre-tradition, the Sandis presented some things as a gift. The resident expressed his displeasure and said that now the practice of giving gifts to the landlords has been abolished; Therefore, unless there is a real necessity for it, it should not be done.

Wilkinson and Crawford (1828-30 AD)

After Sandis, Wilkinson became the superintendent of Chhattisgarh. Wilkinson's tenure was brief and insignificant.

After Wilkinson, Crawford became the superintendent of Chhattisgarh. During the tenure of Crawford, a new treaty was signed between the Bhonsle ruler of Nagpur and the British Resident Wilder at Nagpur on December 27, 1829. According to this treaty, Crawford handed over the administration of Chhattisgarh to Krishnarao Appa, the officer appointed for Chhattisgarh by the Bhonsle ruler. This transfer of power was completed on June 6, 1830 AD. Thus the short-lived but important twelve-year patronage rule of the British came to an end in Chhattisgarh.

Administrative changes made during the Maratha rule under British protection :

1. The British allowed the name of the highest officer of the pargana to be *Kamavisdar*, but now he was given a cash salary.

2. The British appointed a new officer named '*Amin*' or '*Peshkar*' in the parganas. It was kept independent of the *Kamavisdar* so that the revenue accounts maintained by the *Kamavisdar* could be controlled.

3. Apart from this, the British appointed an additional but new employee named '*Pandya*' for every 20-30 villages. It used to be a temporary revenue employee. He was appointed to complete special tasks with *Amin*. This post was abolished at the end of the work.

4. The post of *gontia* (head of the village) remained the same.

5. The post of *Patel*, prevalent during the Maratha period, was abolished.

6. The work of payment of tax was now done through rupees.

7. *Agnew* took steps for uniformity in currency and a proper system of measurement.

8. According to the convenience of the farmers, favorable changes were made in the predetermined dates of the Maratha collection of rent.

9. The land tax ranged from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the yield.

10. The land was classified into 6 classes- Black soil, *Dorsa*, *Bharti-Bhatha*,

Deeh, kachhar and rocky land.

11. Waste land was encouraged to be brought under holding.

12. *Revenue department officer* : Kamavisdar (Head Revenue Officer of Pargana), Amin (Keeper of Revenue Account of Pargana), Fadnavis (Keeper of income and expenditure from Pargana), Bararpande (Visit each village to prepare the revenue register), Potdar (account of the amount to be deposited in the treasury of the superintendent), pandharipande (recipient of drug income in the villages), pandya (temporary revenue servant appointed to assist in the work of Amin), Maal chaprasi (helper in revenue related works)

13. Non-land tax : Siyar (import-export tax), kalali (tax on narcotics), sevai (collective name of small temporary taxes), pandri (tax levied on non-farmers like carpenters, potters, barbers etc.), Ovari (received from landlords).

14. In the year 1819-20, there was a famine in Chhattisgarh.

15. The British formed a Territorial Army for Chhattisgarh. Captain Maxon was the first commander of the Territorial Army of Chhattisgarh.

IV. Again Bhonsle rule 1830-54 AD.

Raghuji III (June 6, 1830-11 December, 1853 AD):

According to the treaty between the British and Raghuji III on December 13, 1826, only the area of Nagpur district (as used) was handed over to Raghuji III for governance, while three years later, according to the treaty on December 27, 1829, the remaining part of his kingdom was also to be handed over to the Bhonsale ruler. The Treaty of 1829 received the approval of the Governor General

on January 15, 1830. This treaty freed the Bhonsale ruler Raghuji III from the influence of the residents in the area of governance.

The British Resident Wilder at Nagpur sent a clear instruction to the British Superintendent of Chhattisgarh, Captain Crawford, for the transfer of rule. On June 6, 1830, the governance of Chhattisgarh was transferred to Raghuji III, the ruler of Nagpur, and from that day the superintendent stopped interfering in administrative matters. Raghuji III, the ruler of Nagpur, was requested to appoint an officer to govern Chhattisgarh. According to this, the Maratha officer appointed to rule was called '*Zilladar*'. Krishnarao Appa was the first Jiladar of Chhattisgarh. It took over from Crawford, the last British superintendent of Chhattisgarh. Established by the British as the capital of Chhattisgarh, Raipur became the headquarters of the Jildar.

During the second Bhonsla rule, the Zilladar appointed for Chhattisgarh

1. Krishna Rao Appa	Chhattisgarh's first zilladar
2. Amritrao	
3. Sadruddin	Dismissed zilladar on charges of embezzlement of government funds
4. Durga Prasad	
5. Intuk Rao	
6. Sakharam Bapu	
7. Govindrao	
8. Gopal Rao	Last zilladar of chhattisgarh

Major events of the reign of Raghuji III

1. Suppression of Multani thugs and robbers : The gangs of Multani thugs and

robbers were active in Chhattisgarh for many years. The reason behind this was that by this time the Multani people had come and settled in Chhattisgarh and their main business was to cheat and loot. The heads of the gang of Multanis in Chhattisgarh were Salawat, Uдахusn and Pyare Jamadar. Apart from these there were some other leaders like Hira Nayak, Umar Khan and Dilawar Khan. The British tried to destroy the gang of Multani thugs, but the Bhonsle ruler Raghuji III was unable to give his direct cooperation in this work. Therefore, the British independently took active steps in this direction. Later he also got the support of the Bhonsale ruler. For this task, Captain Sleeman was appointed to the post of general superintendent. Captain Sleeman successfully suppressed the thugs and robbers. In this way the people of Chhattisgarh got freedom from the terror of thugs and robbers.

2. End of male sacrifice : The British came to know that the practice of human sacrifice is prevalent among the people of Chhattisgarh, especially the tribal people of the Zamindari region of Chhattisgarh such as Bastar and Karaund. The British decided to end it considering it inhuman. Colonel Campbell was posted as the British representative to end the practice of human sacrifice.

3. End of Sati practice: The practice of Sati was also prevalent in Chhattisgarh. The British considered this practice cruel and inhuman. Therefore, the British Resident requested Raghuji III, the ruler of Nagpur, to take necessary action to eradicate this practice. Raghuji III passed an order in the state in 1831 AD for the abolition of this practice. The British had already circulated an order in Bengal-Bihar for the abolition of this practice on September 4, 1829.

4. Revolt of the Gond king of Dhamdha: During the reign of Raghuji III, the Gonds under the leadership of a priest in Dhamdha pargana wanted to revolt secretly against the rule, but somehow this information was received by the Zilladar. The Zilladar sent some of his men to Dhamdha. As a result, this

disturbance of the Gonds was easily pacified.

5. Status of official language to Marathi and Hindustani: Before the reign of Raghuji III, Persian language was used in administrative work. Raghuji III abolished it and gave the status of official language to Marathi and Hindustani.

Raghuji III took an active interest in governance in his early years. But in later years he fell in love with Sundari and Sura. He became more attracted to a prostitute named Jani and got into a bad habit of drinking alcohol. This had an adverse effect on his health and he became unwell. He died on 11 December 1853 AD after a month-long illness. They were childless. Therefore, the Governor General Lord Dalhousie annexed his kingdom under the Doctrine of Lapse. In March, 1854 AD, Nagpur state was made a part of the British Empire. Due to the merger of Nagpur state with the British Empire, the area under the Bhonsle ruler of Nagpur automatically merged with the British Empire.

13. British rule 1854-1947 AD.

Merger of chhattisgarh with british empire

Due to the childlessness of the Bhonsle ruler of Nagpur, Raghuji III, it was decided to merge the Nagpur state with the British Empire. In March, 1854 AD, Nagpur state was made a part of the British Empire. Although after the death of Raghuji III, the British Resident took over the administration of the state on December 11, 1853, however, the formal announcement of the merger of the state with the British Empire was made on March 13, 1854. The Resident Mansel of Nagpur was made the first commissioner of the British occupied Nagpur State.

Due to the merger of Nagpur state with the British Empire, the area under the Bhonsle ruler of Nagpur automatically merged with the British Empire. Gopal Rao, the last Maratha Zilladar of Chhattisgarh, handed over his governance

charge to the representative of the British government on February 1, 1855. A Deputy Commissioner was appointed by the British Government for the governance of Chhattisgarh. Charles C. Elliot was made the first Deputy Commissioner of Chhattisgarh. Thus, in the year 1854 AD, the English state was established in Chhattisgarh which lasted until 1947 AD.

Steps taken for the administration of Chhattisgarh during British rule

1. At the time of the beginning of British rule in 1855, Chhattisgarh was given the status of a district, whose chief officer was called Deputy Commissioner. An Assistant Commissioner was appointed to assist the Deputy Commissioner in the work of administration. Apart from this, provision was also made for the appointment of additional assistant commissioners, which was safe for Indians. Hence the former Maratha Zilladars Gopal Rao and Mohibul Hasan were appointed as Additional Assistant Commissioners in Bilaspur and Raipur respectively. Thus, the British Government created new posts for the administration of the Chhattisgarh region.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chhattisgarh introduced the *Tehsildari system* in Chhattisgarh. Under this, Chhattisgarh district was divided into three tehsils – Raipur, Dhamtari and Ratanpur. The chief officer of the Tehsil was called '*Tehsildar*'. This post was reserved for Indians. Tehsil was divided into parganas. The chief officer of the pargana was called '*Naib Tehsildar*'. This post was also reserved for Indians.

The newly appointed deputy commissioner of Chhattisgarh was advised that the regional administration should be established keeping in mind the local customs and traditions and such former government servants who are willing to serve the British rule and have the potential to become government servants should be appointed on the vacant seats as per their merit. It was also asked that while restructuring the civil administration of the Chhattisgarh region, instead of

reviving the various offices of the Maratha period, the administrative system of Punjab, which has proved useful in Punjab, should be implemented.

2. On November 2, 1861, a central region was formed by merging Nagpur and its subordinate regions, which was named Central Province. Central Province was placed under a Chief Commissioner and administratively its area was divided into two parts- 1. Sagar-Narmada region 2. Nagpur region - Raipur, Bastar and Karaund were kept under the Nagpur region.

3. In 1862, Chhattisgarh was given the status of an independent division. Accordingly, a commissioner was appointed there. At this time Sambalpur was included in the Central Provinces and Chhattisgarh was divided into three districts Raipur, Bilaspur and Sambalpur. The headquarters (capital) of Chhattisgarh division was kept at Raipur. After this, till the year 1905, no special changes were made in the administrative system of the Chhattisgarh division.

4. In the year 1905 AD, Sambalpur district was merged with Bengal and in turn five princely states- Chang-Bhakhar, Koriya, Surguja, Udaipur and Jashpur were included in the Central Provinces of Bengal. Due to this arrangement, according to the new change that came in the administrative system of Chhattisgarh in the year 1906, the princely state of Surguja came to Chhattisgarh and three districts Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg were created in Chhattisgarh. The name of the Chhattisgarh division remained the same. This administrative system remained more or less till the year 1947 AD.

14. Freedom Movement 1857-1947 AD.

I. National Movement

Revolt of 1857

The Revolt of 1857 during the reign of Governor General Lord Canning was an important event in Indian history. Like most parts of the country, Chhattisgarh was also affected by the incident of this rebellion.

Rebellion of Veer Narayan Singh of Sonakhan



Veer Narayan Singh, the Zamindar of Sonakhan, took interest in public welfare works. When there was a severe famine in this area in 1856 AD, he opened all his grain collection to the people to save the lives of the people. When this too fell short, he distributed the grain from the godown of a merchant named Makhan Bania to the famine-stricken people. The businessman complained about this to the Raipur Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner arrested Veer Narayan Singh on August 24, 1856, accusing him of robbery and dacoity and put him in Raipur jail.

The spark of the Revolt of 1857, which started from Meerut on May 10, 1857, spread throughout the country. The fire of rebellion flared up in the army of Raipur. On August 20, 1857, Veer Narayan Singh managed to escape from the jail with the help of the soldiers of the 3rd Native Regiment based at Raipur. After escaping from prison, Veer Narayan Singh reached Sonakhan and there he organized an army of 500 soldiers under his leadership. On receiving information about Veer Narayan Singh's escape from prison, the Deputy Commissioner sent a British army under the leadership of Smith to Sonakhan.

Smith reached Deori via Kharod, where the Zamindar Maharaj Sai was a family enemy of Veer Narayan Singh. While staying there, Smith made such arrangements so that Sonakhan could not get outside help from anywhere during the war. He left for Sonakhan from Deori on December 1, 1857. The zamindars of Deori were guiding the British army. The army of Veer Narayan Singh attacked Smith's army near a drain three furlongs before Sonakhan. Here a fierce battle took place between the two armies. After an initial failure, Smith's position was stabilized due to external aid and he proceeded with his army. Veer Narayan Singh's army started retreating. In the afternoon, the English army entered the Sonakhan settlement and set fire to the empty village. Sonakhan got badly burnt. On December 2, 1857, Katangi's army joined Smith. After lunch, Smith walked towards the hill where Veer Narayan Singh was ready with his army. Smith's large army surrounded the mountain from all sides. Bullets were fired from both sides. In the end, Veer Narayan Singh was arrested and again put in Raipur jail.

Veer Narayan Singh was tried for sedition. On December 10, 1857, Veer Narayan Singh was executed at JaiStambh Chowk. Thus, this first fighter of Chhattisgarh became a martyr in the country's freedom movement. He was a tribal hero. Jai Stambh Chowk is still situated while singing the praises of Veer Narayan Singh. After the sacrifice of Veer Narayan Singh, his son Govind Singh was also arrested. He was kept in Nagpur jail, but he was released in 1860. He came back to Sonakhan. He saw that Sonakhan's zamindari had been occupied by the zamindar of Deori and his uncle Maharaj Sai. The Zamindari of Sonakhan was awarded by the British to Maharaj Sai as a reward because he had helped the British in the arrest of Veer Narayan Singh.

Rebellion of Surendra Sai of Sambalpur



At the same time, Surendra Sai reached Raipur district, taking iron from the British. Govind Singh, with his help, attacked the zamindar of Deori. Govind Singh cut the body of Maharaj Sai, the Zamindar of Deori, into two pieces with the edge of his sword. Thus his betrayal was avenged. After this Govind Singh along with Surendra Sai set out to revolt against the British. Together, both of them gave sleepless sleep to the British from Raipur to the border of Bastar. The British announced rewards for their arrest. On January 23, 1864, Surendra Sai suddenly got surrounded. He was arrested. Surendra Sai and his companions were imprisoned in the fort of Asirgarh. There he was tortured till his death. Govind Singh probably later made a treaty with the British because now the fire of rebellion had been quelled. Surendra Sai had become blind. On February 28, 1884, Surendra Sai died naturally in the fort of Asirgarh.

Rebellion of Hanuman Singh of Raipur

In the Raipur military cantonment, the magazine Lashkar Hanuman Singh led the rebellion in Raipur. He was originally a Rajput of Baiswara. He was about 35 years old at the time of the rebellion. On January 18, 1858 AD at 7.30 pm, Sergeant Major Sidwell of Hanuman Singh's third detachment entered his house and killed him. This incident started the rebellion in Raipur. After the killing, he addressed the soldiers of the police camp and called them to take part in this

rebellion. In response, the government army warned the soldiers to leave the side of the rebels. Lieutenant C.B. Smith attempted to control the rebels. The number of rebel soldiers was 17. They were tried and proved guilty. He was hanged in front of the entire army on the morning of January 22, 1858. One of the 17 people hanged, whose name was Ghazi Khan, was a Havaldar and the rest were Golandaj. Names of the Golandas: Shivnarayan, Guleen, Abdul Hamat, Pannalal, Matadeen, Baliyu Thakur Singh, Akbar Hussain, Lal Singh, Parmanand, Badlu, Durga Prasad, Shobharam, Noor Mohammad, Devdin and Shiv Govind. Along with the execution, all his property was also confiscated. It is clear from these names that people of all castes and religions were involved in this rebellion.

The leader of this rebellion, Hanuman Singh, fled after the incident. The government worked tirelessly to get him and announced a reward of 500 from the government to catch him. The British feared that Hanuman Singh would try to kill other British officers like Smith, Elliot etc. After this, no information is available about Hanuman Singh.

Effect of rebellion

Although the Revolt of 1857 failed to achieve its immediate goal, it had far-reaching effects. It became a source of inspiration for the patriots and played an important role in the rise and development of the national movement.

Rise and development of national consciousness in Chhattisgarh 1857-1947 AD.

Various scholars, social literary institutions, magazines etc. played an important role in the rise and development of national consciousness in Chhattisgarh.

1. **Scholarly Contribution** : Babu Revaram Kayastha of Ratanpur presented the glorious history of Chhattisgarh by writing '*Tawarikh-e-Haihaivanshi*' and

Shivdutt Shastri Gauraha '*Ratanpur Itihaas samuchya*' and Kavyopadhyay Hiralal of Dhamtari by writing '*Chhattisgarhi grammar*'. Apart from this, the scholars of Chhattisgarh created a sense of nationalism in Chhattisgarh by writing essays, editing of magazines, debates, formation of committees etc.

2. Contribution of Social Literary Institutions : Debate Committee in Socio-Literary Institutions (1857 AD); Scientific and Literary Committee, Raipur (1870 AD); Reading Club, Raipur, Malini Reading Club, Raipur, Bal Samaj, Raipur Kavi Samaj, Rajim (1899 AD); Samitra Mandal (1906 AD), Saraswati Library, Rajnandgaon (1909 AD) etc. were prominent.

3. Contribution of Journals : Newspapers played an important role in the national awakening in Chhattisgarh. Notable in newspapers are: '*Chhattisgarh Mitra*' (1899 AD) Madhav Rao Sapre, '*Saraswati*' (1900 AD) Padumlal Punnalal Bakshi, Hindi Granth Prakashan Mandali (1905 AD) Madhav Rao Sapre, Hindi Kesari' (1907 AD) Madhav Rao Sapre, '*Vikas*' (1920 AD) Journal of Bilaspur Zilla Parishad, Arunodaya (1921-22 AD) Thakur Pyare Lal Singh, '*Krishna Birth Place Newspaper - Jail Patrika* (1922-23 AD) Pandit Sunder Lal Sharma, '*Utthan*' (1935 AD) magazine of Raipur Zilla Parishad, '*Congress Patrika*' (1937 AD) - magazine of Raipur Congress Committee etc. Sapreji's Hindi Kesari was the most provocative and controversial newspaper.

The rise of nationalism at the all India level is considered to coincide with the establishment of the Congress (1885 AD). After the establishment of the Congress, the nationalist activities of Chhattisgarh got associated with the Congress and, inspired by this, it got organized. The relationship of the residents of Chhattisgarh with the Congress was associated with the Nagpur session held in December, 1891. Representatives from here participated in this convention. But the activities of the Congress had a direct impact in Chhattisgarh through the first Provincial Political Council held in Nagpur in 1905. The forerunner of

the national awakening in Chhattisgarh was Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma. He became a member of the Congress in 1906 and remained a Congressman for life. In 1906, the second Provincial Political Council was organized in Jabalpur. In this, Dadasaheb Khaparde's proposal on the Swadeshi Movement was accepted.

Third Provincial Political Council 1907 AD, Raipur

On March 29, 1907, the Third Provincial Political Council was organized in the town hall of Raipur. Dr. Hari Singh Gaur was the welcome president of the convention. On the question of starting the meeting with the song 'Vande Mataram', the Raipur District Congress was divided into two parts - the soft party and the hot party. Hari Singh Gaur, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Dr. Madholkar were supporters of the Moderate Dal while Dadasaheb Khaparde, Dr. Munje, Madhav Rao Sapre were supporters of the Garam Dal. In this convention, the responsibility of bringing out a Hindi magazine named '*Hindi Kesari*' was entrusted to Madhav Rao Sapre and its publication started from April 13, 1907.

Sapreji was arrested on August 21, 1908, due to the articles published in 'Hindi Kesari' in protest against the British rule - 'The plight of the country' and 'The secret of the bomb shell'. As a result of presenting an apology before the government, he was released from jail on November 2, 1908. The Bastar tribal rebellion of 1910 in Chhattisgarh, the rebellion in Ratanpur, the rebellion of the Oraon caste in 1911, etc. were such incidents which affected the forestry here.

On April 28, 1916, Bal Gangadhar Tilak founded the Indian Home Rule League in Belgaum (Poona). The Second Home Rule League was founded on 3 September 1916 by Annie Besant in Adyar (Madras). The national movement was made nationwide through the Home Rule League. Its branches were also established in Chhattisgarh. The efforts of Mool Chand Bagri, Madhav Rao Sapre and Lakshmana Rao are notable for its success. Waman Rao Lakhe raised an objection motion in the provincial political conference of 1918 regarding the

support of the British in the First World War, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla supported it and said 'until the government is ready to give home rule, the tasks of the world war. It would be difficult to cooperate. In 1918, a session of the Home Rule League was held in Raipur. Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla was the head of the Nagar branch. Madhav Rao Sapre, Munje and Ane etc. delivered effective speeches at the convention.

Conductors of public consciousness in Chhattisgarh

Raipur	CM Thakkar, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Madhav Rao Sapre, Laxman Rao Udaygirkar, Vaman Rao Lakhe etc.
Dhamtari	Babu Chhote Lal Srivastava, Narayan Rao Meghawale, Nathuji Jagtap etc.
Bilaspur	E. Raghavendra Rao, Kunj Bihari Agnihotri, Barrister Chhedi Lal Singh, Yadunandan Prasad Verma etc.
Rajnandgaon	Thakur Pyare Lal Singh, Shiv Lal Master, Shankar Khare, Chhavi Ram Choubey, Gajju Lal Sharma etc.
Durg	Ghanshyam Singh Gupta, Ram Prasad Deshmukh, Y. V. Tamaskar, Ratnakar Jha, Uday Ram, Ganga Prasad Choubey, Ganesh Prasad Singraul, Chandrika Prasad Pandey, Raghunandan Singraul etc.

Gandhi Era (1917-47 AD)

With the Champaran Satyagraha (Bihar) in 1917, Mahatma Gandhi took an active step in Indian politics and was completely dominated by it till 1947. That is why this era was called the 'Gandhi Era'.

Gokhale's arrival at Raipur (1918 AD)

In May 1918, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the famous leader of Congress, arrived in Raipur. The purpose of his arrival was to awaken and activate the intellectuals from the politics of the country. He organized a conference at the residence of Vaman Rao Lakhe, which included Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Laxman Rao Udaygirkar from Raipur, Narayan Rao Meghawale, Nathuji Jagtap, Babu Chhote Lal from Vaman Rao Lakhe Dhamtari; Thakur Pyare Lal Singh from Rajnandgaon, Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma from Rajim etc. attended. In this conference it was decided that 'Swaraj is our birthright' should be propagated from village to village. While implementing this decision, speeches were given in the village, pamphlets were distributed and the goal of achieving independence was publicized.

Anti-Rowlatt Act Satyagraha (1919 AD)

The Rowlatt Act was passed on March 21, 1919 on the basis of the report of the Sedition Committee headed by Justice Sidney Rowlatt to curb seditious activities in India. This was called the 'Black Law'. Since there was no trial against this law, it was said of 'no appeal, no counsel, no plea'. Countrywide strikes and public meetings were organized against this law. There were demonstrations under the leadership of Congress in the whole of Chhattisgarh Congress and Home Rule League meeting was held in Raipur. The Muslim League's session was held in Bilaspur in which this law was condemned. In this sequence, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in Amritsar on April 13, 1919. In May,

1919 AD in Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, the second tehsil political council meeting was held under the chairmanship of Ganesh Krishna (Dada Saheb Khaparde). Madhavrao Sapre, Pandit Shukla, Shri Lakhe, Mahant Lakshmi Narayan, Mahant Purushottam Das etc. from Raipur in this meeting; Raghavendra Rao, Kunj Bihari Agnihotri, Pandit Dwarka Prasad Tiwari etc. from Bilaspur attended. These leaders condemned the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and expressed their anger over this misdemeanor of British rule.

Khilafat Movement (1919-22 AD)

The movement launched in India with the aim of establishing the supremacy and power of the Turkish Caliph, the religious leader of the Muslims, is called the 'Khilafat Movement'. The Khilafat movement was led by the Ali brothers (Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali), in this movement, along with the Muslims, the Hindu public and the Congress also supported. Gandhi appealed to the Congress platform to take a fully positive and cooperative stand in the Khilafat case keeping in mind the Hindu-Muslim unity.

The effect of the Khilafat movement was also visible in Chhattisgarh. In the year 1920, there was a convention of the Raipur District Congress and on March 17, 1920, a public meeting was held, in which the Khilafat sub-committee was constituted. At this time Asghar Ali thanked the Hindu brothers for being sympathetic to the Muslims. At the same time, in 1920 AD, a conference of the District Congress was held in Bilaspur, which was presided over by Dr. Munje. It supported the Khilafat movement.

Bengal Nagpur Cotton (B.N.C.) Mill Workers Strike (April, 1920 AD)

The freedom fighter of Rajnandgaon, Thakur Pyare Lal Singh did his B. N. C. Started organizing the mill workers. Under his leadership in April, 1920 AD, B. N. There was a historic strike of the workers of C.K. which lasted for 36 days. In

this connection, the labor leader Shri Giri arrived here. Ultimately this strike ended in the interest of the workers. The popularity of Thakur sahib did not go down well with the government officials. As a result he was expelled from the border of Rajnandgaon. Thakur sahib appealed against this government order before the governor. The verdict was in favor of Thakur sahib and his expulsion was canceled. The workers' strike gave great strength to the national movement.

Kandel Satyagraha (July-December, 1920 AD)

The Kandel Canal Satyagraha movement has a special significance in the history of Chhattisgarh. This movement was a result of government injustice, which ultimately ended in the interest of the farmers. This peasant movement gave new strength to the national movement of Chhattisgarh.

Kandel is a Village in Dhamtari Tehsil. On the banks of the Mahanadi, the canal was built by the British government at two places named Rudri and Madamsilli. To get the water facility, the villagers were required to enter into a contract for 10 years. The amount of the contract was huge, the burden of which was difficult for the villagers to bear. For this reason, the Canal Department was not able to bring more villages under the contract. With a view to bring Kandel village under contract, water was flown there without any demand. But the villagers refused to make the contract. In August 1920, the government issued a warrant for the recovery of Rs 4,033 forcibly on the villagers. In protest, the villagers staged a satyagraha. On this the government started the process of recovering the amount of the fine illegally by accusing the villagers of water theft. The people of the village revolted against these wrong policies of the government. A meeting of prominent leaders of the tehsil was held to consider the matter, which was attended by Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, Narayan Rao Meghawale and Babu Chhotelal Srivastava. Babu Chhote Lal Srivastava was already involved in the work of spreading public awareness in Kandel. It was decided in the meeting that satyagraha should be held in protest against the

government atrocities and the amount of fine should not be paid. On this the government started running the cycle of repression. The government confiscated the cattle of the villagers and arrested many people. Babu Chhote Lal Srivastava and his cousin Lalji were prominent among those arrested.

But the farmers did not bow down before the government. This Satyagraha movement of Kandel village continued for several months. Government atrocities increased day by day. In such a situation, it was thought to hand over the leadership of the movement to Gandhiji. A prayer to the same effect was made to Gandhiji, which he accepted. In this connection, on 2 December 1920, Pandit Sunderlal Sharma went to Calcutta to meet Gandhi ji.

The government became active after getting information about this. After visiting the site of the agitation, the Deputy Commissioner of Raipur took stock of the situation. After the allegations leveled against the villagers proved to be baseless, the Deputy Commissioner announced to waive the fine and return the seized animals to the villagers. Thus, this Satyagraha movement ended successfully even before Gandhi ji came here. In its success, the successful guidance of Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, Narayan Rao Meghawale, Babu Chhotelal Srivastava, Nathuji Jagtap and the determination and belligerent nature of the villagers contributed significantly.

Gandhi Ji's first visit to Chhattisgarh (20-21 December, 1920 AD)

Gandhiji was invited to lead the movement by the Satyagrahis opposing the canal tax in Kandel village. At that time Gandhiji was on a tour of Bengal. Pandit Sunderlal Sharma went to Calcutta to invite him. Gandhiji accepted the invitation.



Raipur Arrival : Gandhiji along with Pandit Sharma landed at Raipur railway station on 20th December, 1920 AD. He was accompanied by Shaukat Ali, the leader of the Khilafat movement. As soon as they reached Raipur, the excited public gave good news of the success of Kandel Satyagraha. Gandhiji addressed the enthusiastic public from Gandhi Chowk in which he threw light on the program and the importance of the non-cooperation movement.

In Dhamtari: On the second day, on December 21, 1920, Gandhiji reached Dhamtari with Shaukat Ali at 11 am by car. Gandhiji was welcomed by the enthusiastic public at Makai Bandh Chowk in the city. The venue for the meeting was fixed as Jani Hussain's enclosure. After reaching there and getting down from the open car, a crowd of people gathered to see and meet him closely. In such a situation, Umar Seth, a kutchi merchant from Gurur, made Gandhi sit on his shoulders and took him to the stage. Bajirao Kridutt, a reputed zamindar of Dhamtari tehsil, paid Rs 501. He greeted them by presenting them with a bag. Here Gandhiji addressed the public for about an hour. In his speech, he congratulated the people for the success of the Kandel movement and appealed to them to actively participate in the Congress program. Gandhiji had lunch at Nathuji Jagtap's place. From there they left for Raipur at around 3 pm. On the way, Gandhiji met the people of Kurud.

Again in Raipur : After reaching Raipur, Gandhiji addressed a gathering of

women near Anand Samaj Reading Room at Brahmanpara here and called upon them to join the freedom movement. Women donated around Rs 2,000 for the Tilak Swaraj Fund. Worth donating jewelry.

After this, Gandhiji left in the night in the third class coach of the train from Raipur to Nagpur, where the annual convention of the Congress was going to be held from 26 December.

Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22 AD):

The movement led by Gandhiji based on non-cooperation with the government against the injustice of the British government – Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Khilafat question etc. is called the 'Non-cooperation Movement'.

The annual session of the Congress began in Nagpur on 26 December 1920, which lasted till 31 December 1920. Vijay Raghavachari presided over this session. In this session the non-cooperation movement passed by Gandhiji in the special session of Congress (September 1920; Calcutta) was again supported. The main programs of the non-cooperation movement were renunciation of official titles, non-payment of government taxes, English: boycott of education, boycott of foreign goods, boycott of courts, boycott of council, promotion of alcohol prohibition etc. Prominent among the participants of this convention from Chhattisgarh were Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Vaman Rao Lakhe, C.M. Thakkar, Thakur Pyare Lal Singh, Narayan Rao Meghawale, Nathuji Jagtap, Babu Chhotelal, Narayan Rao Dixit, E. Raghavendra Rao, Thakur Chhedi Lal etc.

When all these leaders came back to their area from the convention, they started promoting the programs fixed for non-cooperation with great intensity. Under various programs, the leaders here did the following:

A. Negative programs

1. Court boycott: Thakur Pyare Lal Singh (relocated from Raipur after exile from Rajnandgaon) and Pandit Ram Narayan Tiwari from Raipur for boycott of courts; E. Raghavendra Rao from Bilaspur, N. R. Khankhoj Thakur Chhedi Lal and D.K Mehta etc. left the profession of advocacy.

2. Relinquishment of titles : Vaman Rao Lakhe of Raipur renounced the title of 'Rai Saheb'. For his work, the public organized a public meeting and honored him with the title of 'Lokpriya'. Others also renounced the titles, whose names are Kalyanji, Morarji Thekar and Seth Gopi Kishan (renunciation of the title 'Rai Sahib'), Qazi Sher Khan (renunciation of the title 'Khan Sahib') etc.

3. Council boycott : Under the boycott of the council, the Legislative Council and the District Councils were boycotted. Among those who boycotted the council were Bajirao Kridutt, Yadav Rao Deshmukh etc.

4. Boycott of foreign goods: For this work, on August 1, 1921, a huge procession was taken out in Raipur. Holi of foreign clothes was burnt everywhere. Prabhu Lal Kabra and Ratnakar Jha of the city presented all the foreign saris of their respective wives on Holi. Similarly, foreign goods were boycotted in Dhamtari, Bilaspur, Durg, Rajnandgaon etc.

5. Alcohol Prohibition: Under this program, the boycott of the auction of liquor, opium, etc. to be done by the Excise Department, protest against the sale of narcotics, picketing at liquor kilns, etc. were included. The prohibition program in Chhattisgarh was very successful and the consumption of intoxicants came down.

B. Creative programs

1. Establishment of Satyagraha Ashram : In the year 1921 AD, to make the non-cooperation movement alive and to train the regional youth, Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma established the Satyagraha Ashram in Raipur on February 7, 1921.

2. Establishment of national schools : Government schools were boycotted and national schools were established in their place. On February 5, 1921, a public meeting was held in Raipur under the conduct of Madhav Rao Sapre, in which Rs 10,000 was spent for the establishment of a national school. amount was collected. Seth Gopi Kishan arranged the building for the school. Its operation was done by Vaman Rao Lakhe. The responsibility of the headmaster was taken over by Pandit Ram Narayan Tiwari of Dhamtari, who had renounced the practice in the past. Similarly, in Dhamtari, Babu Chhotelal Srivastava established the National School in his house in July, 1921. Azizur Ramhan took over the responsibility of the headmaster. The National School was opened in the house of Badrinath Sao in Bilaspur. Similarly, national schools were opened in Durg and Rajnandgaon.

3. Establishment of National Panchayat : After the boycott of government courts, Panchayati Courts were formed to provide justice. In February 1921, Panchayati Adalat was established in the house of Bajirao Kridutt of Dhamtari. Similarly, on March 4, 1921, the National Panchayat was constituted in Raipur.

4. Establishment of Khadi Ashram : Khadi and Charkha had an important place in the promotion of indigenous goods. Charkhas were distributed free of cost to the poor in the city by the Raipur Congress Committee in 1921. On October 11, 1921, a three-day exhibition of Khadi was organized at Ravanabhatha ground. On the second day this exhibition was only safe for women, which was conducted by Anjuman Begum. The work of promotion of Khadi in Dhamtari

was started by Chhotelal Srivastava, the Malguzar of Kandel, at his residence at Khadi Production Center in August, 1921 AD. Dau Domar Singh and the women here gave him full support in this work. Similarly, Devadin Tiwari opened a Khadi clothing shop in Bilaspur and Kailash Saxena contributed to the promotion of Khadi by opening Swadeshi stores near the Normal School.

Arrest of Makhanlal Chaturvedi (12 May 1921 AD)

During the provincial political conference in Bilaspur, on March 12, 1921, Makhanlal Chaturvedi, the editor of 'Karmaveer', had a powerful speech at Shanichari Pad. The speech was deemed seditious and he was arrested on 12 May 1921 in Jabalpur on charges of sedition. From here he was sent to Bilaspur Jail. After two months of trial, he was sentenced to eight months of additional rigorous imprisonment. During his imprisonment in Bilaspur Jail, he composed poems full of national love like 'Puri Nahi Sunoge Tan', 'Push ki desire', 'Mountain's desire' etc. Later on March 1, 1922, he was transferred to the Central Jail Jabalpur, from where he was released on March 4, 1922.

The Forest/Jungle Satyagraha of Sihawa-Nagri (1922 AD):

Sihawa Nagari located in Dhamtari Tehsil is a tribal dominated area. The tribals started the Van Satyagraha (Jungle Satyagraha) in violation of the Forest Act. They started taking wood from the reserved forests. This movement was against the officers who exploited them. It started on January 21, 1922, which was informed to the concerned authorities. A few days after the start of the movement, a team of armed police along with British police officers reached the city to terrorize the satyagrahis, accusing the satyagrahis of theft and court decisions were given against them in the village itself. The Satyagrahis justified their movement without worrying about these atrocities. Many satyagrahis were severely punished and people were beaten up badly. Women were not

spared either. Some persons like Vishambhar Patel, Pancham Singh, Harkaram Som etc. were punished.

Almost all the Congressmen from this area had gone to attend the Ahmedabad Congress session. On returning from there, leaders like Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, Narayan Rao Meghawale etc reached the city. These leaders inspired the satyagrahis to call off the satyagraha till the approval of the Provincial Congress Committee. At the same time he condemned government repression. The Satyagrahis were pacified by this. The Forest Department also agreed to pay minimum wages to the laborers. Thus the Van Satyagraha of Sihawa city ended with success.

End of non-cooperation movement (11 February 1922 AD)

On February 5, 1922, the police opened fire on a Congress mob of 3,000 farmers in Chauri-Chaura village in Gorakhpur district of the United Provinces (Uttar Pradesh). An enraged mob attacked the police station and set it on fire, killing 22 policemen. Gandhiji was deeply saddened by the Chauri-Chaura incident and he decided to suspend the non-cooperation movement on February 11, 1922 at the Bardoli (Gujarat) meeting of the Congress Working Committee.

Although Gandhiji withdrew the non-cooperation movement, the process of arresting the leaders continued. Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma and Narayan Rao Ganodwale were arrested from Chhattisgarh. Both of them were arrested in May, 1922 AD under Section 108 of the IPC for promoting the works and programs of Congress in the Sihawa area. Both of them were tried but both did not participate in the proceedings of the trial from beginning to end. Therefore, taking unilateral action, the court sent Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma to Raipur Jail by giving a sentence of 1 year and Narayan Rao Ganodwale to 8 months of rigorous imprisonment. A huge mass of people sent these two leaders off with

garlands of flowers, the people of Dhamtari and Raipur city showed their respect to these leaders by holding a strike. Newspapers also condemned the move of the government. 'Hitvad' from Nagpur published critical articles in the May, 1922 AD issue under the title 'Daman in Central Province' and 'Karmaveer' published from Jabalpur in the May, 1922 AD issue.

Raipur District Political Council Conference (May 22, 1922 AD)

Conference of Raipur District Political Council on May 22, 1922. Chhindwara's lawyer U. B. Had to be headed by a deficit. Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla was made the receptionist. Only pass holders were to be admitted to this conference. The then District Collector (Deputy Collector) Clark and Police Captain Jones demanded five passes (tickets) free of charge, which the organizing committee refused. When the conference started, these officers along with the police tried to enter the pavilion forcibly, but were stopped by Ravi Shankar Shukla and Vaman Rao Lakhe. Angered by this, the police arrested Shuklaji.

The atmosphere of the entire Raipur city became tense. The people surrounded the Kotwali, but the leaders like Madhav Rao Sapre, E. Raghavendra Rao, Vaman Rao Lakhe etc. did not let the situation go out of control. On the second day, a rally was taken out in protest against the arrest of Shukla, in which Makhanlal Chaturvedi gave a speech. On this occasion, 200 people of all classes voluntarily gave arrest under the leadership of Pandit Madhav Rao Sapre. Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra also gave arrest. On this day these officers wanted to enter the conference again without a ticket, when Sapreji stopped them. In the end, after a serious conversation, both these officers entered inside with a ticket. This calmed the atmosphere. It was a victory for the Congress in a way. After a few days Shuklaji was released, which was accepted as a victory for the people.

Swaraj Dal

Due to the suspension of the non-cooperation movement, the Congress did not have any program. In such a situation, some leaders were willing to enter the councils to interfere with the work of governance, while some leaders were against it. Thus, a dispute arose among the Congressmen on the question of admission to the council. Due to this, on January 1, 1923, a new 'Swaraj Dal' was formed within the Congress, which was an advocate of council entry. The leader of this party was Chittaranjan (CR) Das. In Chhattisgarh region, the workers of this party were E. Raghavendra Rao, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Barrister Chhedi Lal etc.

The leaders of the Swaraj Dal entered the councils and created disturbances in the work of the government. But in the year 1925, the chief leader of this party, Chittaranjan Das, died, due to which the lack of leadership was visible in the party. Due to this lack, this party was unable to get the desired success in the election of 1925. As a result, the Swaraj Dal ceased to exist in 1926.

Participation in Nagpur Flag Satyagraha (May-August, 1923 AD)

The Nagpur Flag Satyagraha started on May 1, 1923, which lasted till August 18, 1923. Satyagrahis from all the regions started reaching Nagpur to participate in this Jhanda Satyagraha. Congress started giving importance to the tricolor flag by making it its symbol. Now it has become mandatory to have the tricolor in every program of the Congress. This flag was considered as an insult to the Union Jack in the eyes of British rule, so the British tried to reduce its importance. On the other hand, with the aim of establishing its importance, the Congressmen started taking out peace processions daily with flags. Dhamtari Tehsil made a special contribution to the Jhanda Satyagraha. Despite the opposition of the government, the people there went to Nagpur on foot and participated in the Jhanda Satyagraha. Shyamlal Som, Pardeshi Ram Dhruv and

Vishambhar Lal Patel were prominent among the people who went to Nagpur on foot.

Participation in Kakinada session (December, 1923 AD)

In December 1923, the annual session of the Congress was scheduled to be held in Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh). Enthusiastic Congress workers decided to walk from Dhamtari to Kakinada. A large number of people left for this work. This party was led by Narayan Rao Meghawale. The names of other prominent people are: Rajim's Dau Shyamlal Gupta, Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma, Ramji Lal Soni, Pandit Girdhari Lal Tiwari from Nagari Shyam Lal Som etc. After a few days, he reached safely to attend the Kakinada convention. The issue of untouchability was mainly raised in this session.

Chhattisgarh was greatly influenced by the Kakinada session. This was the reason that Pandit Sunderlal Sharma worked diligently for the upliftment of the untouchables. He advised the untouchables to live in cleanliness, to wear the thread and not to drink alcohol. With the efforts of Sharmaji, Satnami Ashram, Harijan Putrishala, a hostel and reading room were established in Raipur. Pandit Sharma composed 'Satnami Bhajanmala'. The contribution of Thakur Pyare Lal Singh, Chhaviram Choubey and Ghanshyam Singh Gupta is also important in the editing of this work. Sharmaji started the Shuddhikaran movement for the expelled Hindus. Sharmaji was a supporter of the entry of Harijans in temples and on the basis of his moral strength, he made Harijans entry into the temple of Rajim possible in that era. In fact, Pandit Sharma had started the work of untouchability long before Gandhiji. That is why when Gandhiji visited Chhattisgarh for the second time, he was astonished at Pandit Sharma's untouchability program. In this case, he addressed Pandit Sharma as his forefather or guru.

Simon Commission (1927 AD), Nehru Report (1928 AD) and Jinnah's 14 point demand (1929 AD)

The Simon Commission was appointed in 1927 to consider the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Act (1919 AD). There were a total of seven members in it and all of them were British in 1928. When the Simon Commission came to India, it had to face opposition all over India. The commission made several recommendations which were rejected by all political parties. On this, the Minister of India, Birkin Head, challenged the Indian leaders to prepare and present such a constitution which could be valid for all political parties.

The National Congress gladly accepted this challenge of the British Government. Therefore, for the formulation of the constitution, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Pandit Motilal Nehru, which considered the legal problem as the basis of fully responsible governance. This committee prepared the report within three months, which was named 'Nehru Report'. Its major recommendations were the division of power between the center and the provinces, the establishment of fully responsible government at the center and the provinces, the end of separate electorates on the basis of communalism, the establishment of the Supreme Court, declaration of fundamental rights, etc.

The Muslim League opposed the Nehru Report. The leader of the League, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, presented 14-point demands in March 1929, in which his minimum 4 14 demands for Muslims were formulated.

Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-31 AD and 1932-34 AD)

The Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-34 marks an important period in the anti-imperialist struggle. The Civil Disobedience Movement was completed in two phases - the first phase - from the Dandi Yatra to the Gandhi Irwin Pact

(March 12, 1930 - March 5, 1931) and the second phase - after the Second Round Table Conference, the movement returned to the Patna meeting of the Congress. Until formal announcement (March 3, 1932 - May 1934)

The first phase (March 12, 1930 – March 5, 1931 AD)

In the Calcutta session of the Congress (December, 1928), the British government was given an ultimatum to either accept the Nehru report by the end of the following year or face the movement launched by the Congress. The one-year deadline set in the Calcutta session expired without any definite answer from the government.

The annual session of the Congress was held in Lahore in December 1929, which was presided over by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In this session, a resolution for complete independence was passed by hoisting the tricolor flag on the banks of river Ravi and it was decided that every year 26 January would be celebrated as Independence Day. The political and economic environment of the country at this time was not good. The repression cycle of the regime was the cause of the displeasure of the people. There was great despair among the people against the rule. In such a situation, in the year 1930, the Congress allowed Gandhiji to start the Civil Disobedience Movement.

On March 12, 1930, Gandhiji started this movement by starting his famous Dandi Yatra. They violated the law by making salt there. The major programs of this movement were salt making, picketing by women at liquor and foreign goods shops, renunciation of untouchability, boycott of government institutions etc.

This movement started all over the country. Women participated in large numbers in this. The repression cycle of the government began, yet the movement continued with intensity.

Progress of movement in Chhattisgarh

The whole of Chhattisgarh was agitated by the Civil Disobedience Movement. Efforts were made to convey the message of the movement to the people through meetings and processions. The area-wise details of the movement are as follows:

Raipur : The movement in Raipur city was started by making salt by Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla. Boycott of foreign goods and picketing were held against drugs. Thakur Pyare Lal Singh and Mahant Laxmi Narayan Das and others actively participated in this movement. On April 13, 1930, the conference of the Mahakaushal Political Council was held, which was to be inaugurated by Pandit Nehru. In the meantime, they were arrested at Chiyuki (Ibadat Ganj) station and consequently the conference was inaugurated on 15th April by Seth Govind Das. Pandit Sunderlal Sharma was elected as the President of the Provincial War Committee. The process of arresting the leaders started. Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla was arrested at Balaghat and put in Jabalpur Jail. The credit for systematically establishing the civil disobedience movement in Raipur is attributed to five persons, whom the public named as 'Five Pandavas'. Pyarelal Singh, Nakul, Maulana Abdul Rauf and Sahdev, Shivdas Daga.

Dhamtari : Narayan Rao Meghawale started this movement in Dhamtari Nagar by making salt. Pandit Sunderlal Sharma was the head of the ashram system that was opened for the purpose of training the volunteers. Every swayamsevak had to undertake satyagraha and it would come out with a tricolor flag, Gandhi cap and saffron bag to spread the national spirit.

Bilaspur : According to the program of the Civil Disobedience Movement, first a dharna was held at a liquor shop under the leadership of Diwakar Karlikar. All the liquor in the shop was spilled. Diwakar Karlikar was arrested for this work.

To give impetus to the movement, an organization of students was formed there, which was named 'Vanar Sena'. This monkey army was organized by Vasudev Devasan. The task of the monkey army was to picket the shops of foreign goods and liquor.

A political conference was held under the leadership of Thakur Pyarelal Singh. During this it was decided to hoist the tricolor flag in the town hall. Despite the opposition of the government, this work was completed on August 8, 1930 AD. Similarly, Kranti Kumar Bhartiya and some others together hoisted the tricolor flag in the Government High School. The flag was waving for three days and when it was brought down by the police, the students protested against it. For this work a person named Kalicharan got imprisoned.

The Satnamis of Mungeli also contributed to this movement. The people here used to picket in the liquor shop and shout slogans Ram Gopal Tiwari, Gajadhar Sao and Kalicharan etc., awakening the movement in Mungeli tehsil. Many people were arrested during this movement. Among those arrested were Baldev Satnami, Yakub Ali, Manik Lal, Sakharam Baiju etc.

Durg : This movement started in Durg district on August 3, 1930 AD. Balod's Narsingh Prasad Agarwal appealed to the people to disobey the government rules. For this work he was arrested on August 13, 1930 AD. On the same day Ghanshyam Singh Gupta was arrested for giving a provocative speech in Jabalpur. Ram Prasad Deshmukh, V.Y. Tamaskar and Ratnakar Jha etc. were also arrested. In the same year, Uday Ram formed the Kisan Sabha. Gangaprasad Choubey, Ganesh Prasad Singraul, Chandrika Prasad Pandey founded the Vidyarthi Congress.

Forest / Jungle Satyagraha (1930 AD) in Chhattisgarh during the Civil

Disobedience Movement.

Location	Leadership
Gattasilli Village, Dhamtari	Meghawale and Jagtap
Rudri Navagaon, Dhamtari	Meghawale and Jagtap
Mahasamudra (Tamora), Dhamtari	Shankar Rao Ganodwale, Yati Yatan Lal Jain, Dayavati (Girl), Anjor Singh Thakur
Labhri	Arimardan Giri (Principal), Anand Gond, Shyamlal Gond, Firturam Gond, Mangallu Gond
Pondi, Bilaspur	Ramadhar Dubey
Mohabna, Durg	Narsingh Prasad Agarwal
Bandhakhar, Korba	Manohar Lal Shukla, Hem Singh, Itwar Singh Gond
Saranggarh, Raigarh	Dhaniram, Jagatram Kunwarbhan

Phase II (March 3, 1932 - May 1934 AD)

On March 5, 1931, the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed, as a result of which the Civil Disobedience Movement was withdrawn. But when Gandhiji was arrested after the Second Round Table Conference, the second phase of this movement

started.

Progress of movement in Chhattisgarh

By this time, many ordinances of the government had been issued, due to which the government had got the right to take strict action against the agitators. On January 10, 1932, Thakur Pyaare Lal Singh called upon the people to firmly oppose the oppressive actions of the government. He also requested people not to pay taxes. As a result, Thakur Sahib was arrested on January 29, 1932. The District Congress nominated 8 Dictators (Sarvardhikaris) so that if one is arrested, the other can continue the agitation. The names of the 8 Dictators were: Ravi Shankar Shukla, Shankarrao Ganodwale, Sunderlal Sharma, Madhav Prasad Paganiha, Radhabai, Ramnarayan Mishra 'Harshul', Brahmdev Dubey, Laxmi Prasad Tiwari. First Dictator Ravi Shankar Shukla toured the entire area to campaign for the movement.

Shuklaji gave a provocative speech in a meeting organized on the occasion of 'Peshawar Day, due to which he was arrested. Mahant Laxminarayan Das, Khubchand Baghel and Nand Kumar Dani were also arrested on the same day. The agitation continued under the leadership of Shri Ganodwale even after the arrest of senior leaders. People kept on dharna at Kika Bhai's shop. On March 29, 1932, a large number of people were arrested, spectators were beaten up and women were abused. Prominent among those arrested were Ganodwale, Tretanath Tiwari, Mantora Bai, Bhutki Bai, Futnia Bai, Koja Bai etc. But despite all this the movement continued. A large number of people from outside came to Raipur for Satyagraha. Section 144 was imposed in Raipur city. People started being arrested. Many people were accused of sedition but the meetings continued and Section 144 was violated. Meanwhile, police atrocities continued. Bharat Teli, a resident of Sara village, was beaten up till he fainted. Kranti Kumar Bhartiya, Ram Narayan Mishra 'Harshul', Ramanand Dubey etc. were

arrested. Ram Narayan Mishra 'Harshul' presented a revolutionary plan of a symbolic attack through letter bombs during the movement. In this, a piece of phosphorus was pasted between two ink-soaked papers and it was placed in an envelope and posted in the name of the anti-movement people. His hands and mouth would burn when he opened the letter.

A 'Vanar Sena' was also formed in Raipur. The Vanar Sena was organized by Baliram Dubey and Yatiyatan Lal. The main center of the activities of the monkey army was Brahmanpara. The task of the monkey army was to cooperate in the movement. They used to work on the instructions of the leaders. He was beaten up by the police on several occasions, yet his work went on. Several student leaders were also arrested.

On February 12, 1932, Narsingh Prasad Agrawal was arrested for inciting Congress volunteers. People were very agitated by this incident and they started running the movement with full force. The attitude of the government was repressive here too. On December 31, 1932, the right to advocate Ghanshyam Singh Gupta, Narsingh Prasad Agrawal and Tamaskar was revoked at Gandhi Chowk. Many people were also arrested.

Gandhiji's second visit to Chhattisgarh

22-28 November, 1933 AD Gandhiji's second visit to Chhattisgarh was related to Harijnodar. Kumari Meera Ben (original name Madeleine Slade (English)], daughter of Jammalal Bajaj, Thakkar Bapa (tribal freedom fighter of Jhabua) and Mahadev Desai (private secretary) accompanied her on this journey. They visited Dhamtari, Bhatapara, Durg, Bilaspur. Visited places etc. On arrival at Raipur, he was welcomed at Amanaka School. He was presented with an amount of Rs 7,400. He also visited Satnami Ashram and Orphanage. Pandit Ram Dayal Tiwari was impressed by Gandhiji's stay in Raipur district. Wrote a treatise named

'Gandhi Mimamsa', the work of Harijanodar was already going on in Chhattisgarh. This work was started by Pandit Sunderlal Sharma in 1917. Gandhiji was very happy knowing this and he called Sharmaji as his Guru.

Seeing the lack of enthusiasm for the movement among the people, Gandhiji withdrew the civil disobedience movement in May 1934 in the Patna meeting. After this Gandhiji separated from the Congress and started giving full-time to the Amritoddhar program. At the end of the movement, the trend of the Congress again turned towards the legislatures. The central leadership was followed by the leaders of Chhattisgarh.

After the movement

In 1934, the election of the Central Legislative Assembly was held. Congress was successful. Ghanshyam Singh Gupta was elected as a member from Durg. A magazine named 'Mahakaushal' did important work for national awakening in this region.

The elections to the provinces were held in 1935. Thakur Pyarelal Singh was elected from Raipur. Administratively, Berar was merged with the Central Provinces by the Government of India Act, 1935. In 1936, Raghavendra Rao was appointed as the Governor of Central Provinces and Berar. He was the first person from Chhattisgarh to be appointed to this post.

Congress Cabinet of Central Provinces and Berar: July 4, 1937-October 23, 1939 AD.

According to the Government of India Act, 1935, elections to the Provincial Legislative Assemblies were held in 1937. Congress came in full majority in the Central Provinces and Berar. Among those elected were Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla from Raipur, Raghavendra Rao from Bilaspur, Ghanshyam Singh Gupta

from Durg etc. There was a difference of opinion among the members of the assembly regarding the election of the Prime Minister. At that time only the designation 'Prime Minister' was used for the head of the provincial government. To resolve the differences, Pandit Shukla appointed L. Proposed the name of P. Khare. On July 4, 1937, L. The cabinet of Central Provinces and Berar was formed under the leadership of P. Khare. Ghanshyam Singh Gupta was made the President of the Legislative Assembly and Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla was made the Education Minister. Education Minister Pandit Shukla started the famous Shiksha Mandir scheme, whose aim was to eliminate illiteracy in the province and develop self-reliance through education. Due to policy differences in the party, Khare Saheb had to resign and on July 29, 1937, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla took charge as the Prime Minister (Chief Minister).

During this time many social organizations were formed in Raipur district. 'Bal Samaj Reading Room' and 'Mahavir Library' were established in Raipur. The work of national awakening was done by both these libraries. The credit of starting the nationalist movement in Raigad princely state goes to Amar Nath Tiwari. In 1938, in the princely state of Khairagarh, Sukhram and Padumlal Punnalal Bakshi formed the 'Seva Dal'.

World War II started in September 1939. On October 23, 1939, the Congress ministries resigned in protest against India being dragged into World War II without its consent. Among them the Shukla cabinet of Central Provinces and Berar was also one.

Individual Satyagraha (1940-41 AD)

In July, 1940, the Congress raised the issue of supporting the British government in World War II, but the condition was that the government should make a clear declaration of India's independence. On this, the Viceroy Lord Linlithgow

presented the August Offer on August 8, 1940. The Congress rejected the August resolution because there was no date for declaring India as a colonial state in this resolution, secondly, Muslims were given veto power in this resolution.

Therefore, on August 15, 1940, in the meeting of the Congress Working Committee in Bombay, Gandhiji passed a resolution regarding individual Satyagraha. Gandhiji decided to run an individual movement instead of a collective movement because he did not want to put the British government in any deep trouble. Vinoba Bhave and Jawaharlal Nehru were elected as the first and second Satyagrahis respectively.

Progress of movement in Chhattisgarh

On the call of Congress, the movement of individual satyagraha started in the whole country. The number of satyagrahis from the Mahakaushal region was fixed at 550, but later this number increased. In this respect Raipur district was leading in the whole of Chhattisgarh. Congress Bhawan was constructed in Raipur in the same year, which was inaugurated by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Raipur : On November 27, 1940, the Individual Satyagraha movement in Raipur was started by Ravi Shankar Shukla at Mana (near Raipur). As a result he was arrested. A complete strike was held in Raipur city in protest against his arrest. More people were also arrested that day. Prominent among those arrested were Mahants: Laxminarayan Das, Yatiyan Lal Jain, Maulana Abdul Rauf, Budhram Sahu, Sukhchain Das and Kejuram Verma etc. With the beginning of Satyagraha, the cycle of suppression of governance started. Despite this the movement continued. On April 2, 1941, a batch of Satyagrahis left for Delhi on foot. They kept raising anti-war slogans. The names of Rajaram Sahu and Rameshwar Sahu are notable among the people involved in this batch. The members of the group were arrested near Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Bilaspur : This movement also started in Bilaspur. Hundreds of people took part in it. Many people who participated in this movement were arrested. Prominent among those arrested were: Ram Gopal Tiwari, Chhedi Lal Singh, Chintamani Otalwar, Pachkaur, Mukund Singh Kshatriya, R. P. Rai and Kishan Chand Kayastha etc.

Durg : Many people were arrested during this movement in Durg. Prominent among them were: Ghanshyam Singh Gupta, Mahant Pusau Das, Dongaonkar, Tamaskar, Mohan Lal Bakliwal, Dau Dhal Singh, Uday Ram, Ram Kumar Singraul, Ram Ratan Gupta, Ball Lal Banchore, Vishnu Prasad Choubey, Ramadhar Nayak, Ratnakar Jha and Govardhan. Red.

In the Second World War, the situation of Britain and the Allied countries began to be in turmoil. Encouraged by his victory in Europe, Hitler attacked Soviet Russia on June 22, 1941. In such a situation, India's full support in Britain's war effort became extremely important. It became necessary for the British Government to please the Congress. Therefore, on December 3, 1941, it was announced to release all the individual Satyagrahis.

In response, in the meeting of the Congress Working Committee in Bardoli (Gujarat) on December 21-30, 1941, the Congress announced the end of the individual civil disobedience movement.

Raipur Conspiracy Case (1942 AD)

Some youths of Raipur believed in the revolutionary methods of Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad etc and they were ready to do some sensational incident following their footsteps. In this context, the name of Parasram Soni, a resident of Awadyapara, Raipur, is particularly noteworthy. He was the hero of the

Raipur Conspiracy Case. Parasram learned the art of making and operating pistols, revolvers from Girilal Louhar. Parasram got the help of many people in the manufacture of bomb explosives, cartridges, country-made guns etc. He got tools, iron goods and technical assistance from Amritlal, trolley manufacturer of Bengal Nagpur Railway, necessary chemical acid, phosphorus from Horilal, assistant salesman of CP Medical Stores and financial assistance from big traders and mill owners of Raipur.

Idgah Bhata and Ravan Bhata (Raipur) areas were chosen by Parasram Soni and his associates to arrange for the manufacture and maintenance of weapons. Once, due to the sudden Idagabhata bombing, the police swung into action on the basis of a report made by the then Principal Peers of Rajkumar College. Then the owner of the then Oriental Hotel on Malviya Road provided him a place for these dangerous works. The hotel became the secret office of the organization at this time. Ranveer Singh Shastri, Sudhir Mukherjee, Dashrath Lal Dubey, Premchand Wasnik, Kranti Kumar Bhartiya, Bihari Choubey etc. were associated with this organization. One of these revolutionaries, Sivanandan became a police informer. According to a plan made on July 14, 1942 AD, Parasram was going to get the Soni revolver and cartridges the next day. On the behest of Sivanandan (informer), the police arrested Parasram Soni on the road connecting Sadar Bazar and Edward Road on July 15, 1942 AD. Revolver and cartridges were recovered from him. The house of Parasram Soni was searched and there the police found many objectionable material. Other revolutionaries were also arrested and their homes searched.

Famous advocates like P. Bhaduri, Beni Prasad Tiwari, Ahmed Ali, Chandorkar Pendharkar, Harshad Ali, Chunilal Aggarwal etc. defended these revolutionaries in the court. After a long process of 9 months, on April 27, 1943 AD, 10 people were punished in the arrest under the Arms Act: Girilal Lohar-8 years of strict imprisonment, Parasram Soni-7 years of strict imprisonment, Sudhir

Mukherjee - 2 years rigorous imprisonment, Kranti Kumar Bharti - 2 years rigorous imprisonment and 6 others - light sentences.

An appeal was made against this decision of the District and Sessions Court, Raipur in the then Nagpur High Court. Here the justice acquitted 4 out of 10 accused. Meanwhile, Jaidev Kapoor, a friend of Sardar Bhagat Singh, arrived in Raipur in May 1946. In his felicitation, a general meeting was organized in Gandhi Chowk, in which a resolution was passed by the public urging the release of Parasram Soni, Girilal Lohar etc. According to this proposal, Kranti Kumar Bhartiya and Sudhir Mukherjee, who were released from the High Court, went to the capital Nagpur to present the public's side before the government. The Prime Minister (Chief Minister) Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla immediately accepted their request and ordered the release of these Rajbandis. Thus, on June 26, 1946, Parasram Soni and Girilal Lohar were released.

Quit India Movement (1942 AD)

British Prime Minister Churchill sent Cripps Mission to India to solve India's constitutional crisis in view of Japan's successes and international pressures-American President Roosevelt, Chinese President Chiang Kai-shek, Australian Foreign Minister Dr. Iwatt. Cripps Mission reached India on 22 March 1942 AD. Cripps's proposal (29 March 1942 AD) led to the division of India into many provinces and princely states, so the Congress rejected it. Cripps said - 'Either accept it or leave it. After this Britain closed all the doors of agreement. The failure of the Cripps Mission had an adverse effect on Indo-British relations. After this, in the Bombay meeting of the Congress Working Committee (August 7-8, 1942 AD), the historic resolution - Quit India - was passed. Gandhiji gave the famous slogan 'Do or die' to the people on this day. As soon as this movement started, the repression cycle of the government started. Gandhiji and many other leaders were arrested.

In the absence of leaders, this movement took the form of a mass revolt. Opposing the rule, people took out processions, held meetings and organized strikes. The government used force against the protesters. In such a situation, the public came down on violent action. This was the last major attempt by Indians to attain independence. Undoubtedly, this movement could not stand in front of the mighty power of the government, but it presented a unique example of valor and combativeness of the Indian people. This proved to be the final blow to British power in India. It became clear that it was impossible for the British to rule India for long.

Progress of movement in Chhattisgarh

Along with the arrest of national level leaders, many regional level leaders were also arrested. The leaders of Chhattisgarh who were arrested were Ravi Shankar Shukla, Khubchand Baghel, Mahant Laxmi Narayan Das, Chhedi Lal etc. These leaders were arrested at a place called Malkapur (located on the border of the erstwhile Central Provinces) in order to return to Chhattisgarh from the Bombay session and were sent to Nagpur jail. This angered the regional people and they went on a violent agitation.

Raipur: On August 9, 1942, all the schools, colleges and markets of Raipur remained closed. A huge procession was taken out in the evening of the same day, in which all kinds of people participated. As soon as the procession reached Kankalipara, the police started arresting the people. Despite this, the procession continued to move forward. Aerial was fired on the crowd near City Kotwali. If Raipur Deputy Commissioner R.K Patil had not intervened in time and handled the situation, the situation would have worsened. Due to the efforts of Jai Narayan Pandey, Ranveer Singh Shastri and Kamal Narayan Sharma, the crowd could not go unchecked. On reaching Gandhi Chowk, the procession turned into

a meeting. Tretanath Tiwari led this meeting. On August 10, 1942 AD, a procession of students took place under the leadership of Ranveer Singh Shastri. Shastriji was arrested near Gandhi Chowk. Many other people were also arrested. Students were also arrested in large numbers. The leadership of the movements in Raipur city was mainly in the hands of the youth.

Raipur Dynamite Case : The youths planned to blow up the wall of Raipur Jail with dynamite in order to release the prisoners, which is known as 'Raipur Dynamite Kand' in the history of Chhattisgarh. Bilakh Narayan Agarwal had come from Jabalpur to Raipur and had a powerful dynamite. Agarwal put dynamite on the back wall of the jail and set it on fire. Although the jail wall was damaged, there was no success in freeing the prisoners. This incident alerted the administration and arrested some people on the basis of suspicion. Among those arrested were Bilakh Narayan Agrawal, Ishwari Charan Shukla, Nagar Das Vavaria, Narayan Das Rathore, Jai Narayan Pandey etc. But the charges against them could not be proved and they were released.

Bilaspur : Many people were also arrested in Bilaspur. The key persons to be arrested were Chhedi Lal Singh, Yadunandan Prasad Srivastava, Chintamani Otawar etc. On August 15, 1942, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Kalicharan, which was tried to be foiled by the government. That is why the crowd gathered in the meeting was lathi-charged. Kalicharan was arrested. Raj Kishore Verma was appointed as the Dictator to conduct the agitation in Bilaspur Jail. After suffering from government tyranny, many people started working underground. It was decided to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti celebrations on October 2, 1942. Despite Section 144 being imposed in the city, the youths took out a procession that day, but the government harshly arrested them all. Political prisoners were subjected to severe torture in prisons.

Durg : Many agitators were also arrested in Durg district. Raghunandan

Singraul was influenced by revolutionary ideas and wanted to do some extraordinary work. Therefore, together with his companions, he made a plan to set fire to the Durg district court. On the night of August 28, 1942, he set fire to a part of the court by dodging the guards. The fire took hold by 9 pm. On the basis of suspicion, the police arrested Singraul. He was severely tortured to find out the real culprit, but he did not reveal anything. His house was searched, but the police did not find anything there either. On September 5, 1942 AD, he set fire to the municipal building located near his house with the help of Jaswant Singh Thakur. The office was completely gutted. Blaming Singraul for this act, he was again caught. He was badly beaten up with shoes and sticks, but he refused to divulge anything. 10,000 from the government to the person giving the address of the offender. Prize award was announced. The suspicion of the police on Singraul increased, they were being terrorized every day. One day he was so thrashed that he fainted. The next morning Dr. Dubey treated him. The night of September 12, 1942, proved to be very frightening for him. He was subjected to all kinds of torture. Expressing his protest, he attacked the police officer Narendra Sinha who came from Delhi. Narendra Sinha fainted. There was a flurry of canes and kicks on Singraul. He was sent to Raipur Jail. Due to continuous beatings, his body became unwell. Later in 1946, he was released by the Prime Minister (Chief Minister) Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla.

Wavell Plan and Simla Conference (14 June 14 July 1945 AD)

Seeing the deteriorating condition of Gandhiji, the government released him on May 6, 1944. The Quit India resolution was also withdrawn. Viceroy Lord Wavell presented a plan on June 14, 1945 AD to overcome the political crisis of India, which was called the Wavell Plan in the name of Lord Wavell. All political prisoners were released soon after the Wavell plan was presented. The Simla conference was called to discuss the wave plan with all the parties. This conference lasted from 25 June 1945 AD to 14 July 1945 AD. This conference was

unsuccessful because of the dogma of Muhammad Ali Jinnah of the Muslim League.

Formation of Congress cabinet in the province (April 1946 AD)

On September 19, 1945, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced the conduct of general elections for the Central and Provincial Legislatures in India in the winter of 1945-46 AD. The elections were held as per Attlee's announcement. Congress got huge success in this election. Congress got 84 seats out of 112 seats in the Central Provinces and Berar Legislatures. Governor's rule was abolished from the provinces in April, 1946. On April 27, 1946, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla took oath as the Prime Minister (Chief Minister) of Central Provinces and Berar for the second time. Ghanshyam Singh Gupta was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Dwarka Prasad Mishra was made the Home Minister. D.K. Mehta, S. V. Gokhale, R. K. Patil, P.K. Deshmukh, W. S. Barlinge and S. Hassan were also made ministers. After taking office, the Prime Minister (Chief Minister) Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla freed all political prisoners and restored the freedom of the press.

Cabinet Mission Plan (May 16, 1946 AD)

On March 29, 1946, the Cabinet Mission arrived in India. Three members in the Cabinet Mission were Pethick Lawrence (Chairman), Stafford Cripps and A. According to the V. Alexander Cabinet Mission plan, the elections to the Constituent Assembly began in July, 1946. Congress got huge success in the election while Muslim League got little success. Enraged by the election results, the Muslim League, which had earlier accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan, now withdrew its approval and called upon the Muslims to resort to 'direct action' for the attainment of Pakistan. Since the then Prime Minister (Chief Minister) Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla was a supporter of Hindu-Muslim coordination, Chhattisgarh was not affected by direct action.

Formation of Interim Government at the Center (September 2, 1946 AD)

On September 2, 1946, the Interim Government was formed under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, which replaced the Viceroy's Executive. After the arrival of the British in India, for the first time the rule of India came in the hands of Indians.

Mountbatten Plan (June 3, 1947 AD): Indian Independence Act, 1947

In place of Lord Wavell, Lord Mountbatten came to India on 22 March 1947 as the new Viceroy of India. Mountbatten presented a plan of transfer of power with the partition of India on June 3, 1947, which was called the 'Mountbatten Plan' or '3 June Plan'. The Mountbatten plan was accepted by all Indian political parties. The Indian Independence Act, 1947, was passed by the British Parliament on July 18, 1947, to legalize the Mountbatten Plan. According to this act, India was divided into two independent dominions – Pakistan and India. Thus, on August 14, 1947, two new nations named Pakistan and on August 15, 1947, India came into existence.

The morning of independence (August 15, 1947 AD)

On the morning of August 15, 1947, independence was celebrated in the Central Province like other parts of the country. On the morning of August 15, the Prime Minister (Chief Minister) of Central Provinces and Berar, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla unfurled the tricolor at the historic Sitabuldi Fort in the capital Nagpur. Veteran freedom fighter Baliram Lakhe unfurls the tricolor at Gandhi Chowk in Raipur. The then Food Minister R. K Patil was present at the government level to do this work. The foundation of Jai Stambh Chowk was laid by him. In this sequence, he addressed a general meeting at Gandhi Chowk. In Durg district, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Ghanshyam Singh Gupta

addressed a general meeting after hoisting the flag. Similarly, independence was celebrated in other parts of Chhattisgarh.

The merger of the princely states of Chhattisgarh (January 1, 1948 AD)

History : About 1/3rd of the Chhattisgarh area was under the Zamindari area. Some of the zamindars were Rajputs and some of the zamindars belonged to the Gond caste. Most of these zamindari areas originated in the period of the Kalchuris (875-1741 AD). Some of the zamindari areas, such as Rajnandgaon, Chhui Khana and Khujji, originated during the Maratha rule (1741–1818 AD). The amount paid by the zamindars to the central power was called '*takoli*'. In 1818, when British control over the zamindari areas of Chhattisgarh started, the total number of zamindars there was 27. Sambalpur in the year 1826 AD. And the zamindars of Surguja were separated from Chhattisgarh. In 1854, when Chhattisgarh was merged with the British Empire, the British allowed the Zamindari areas to remain. In the year 1862, Richard Temple made a fresh survey of the position of the landlords. On the basis of this survey the landlords of Chhattisgarh were classified into two categories. The first class consisted of large zamindari territories and was named '*Riyasat*' or '*Jagirdari*' and its head as '*Fudatory Chief*' (later '*Ruling head*' or '*Raja*'). In the second class, small zamindari areas were placed and its head was given the name of '*ordinary zamindar*'.

Zamindari area of Chhattisgarh

Category	Head	Names of Zamindari Areas
Large Zamindari Areas (Princely/Jagirdari)	Jagirdar / King	1. Bastar - Largest princely state (headquarter- Jagdalpur), 2. Kanker 3. Rajnandgaon 4. Khairagarh 5. Chhui mine 6.

		Kawardha 7. Sakti 8. Raigarh 9. Saranggarh 10. Surguja (Ambikapur) 11. Udaipur 12. Jashpur 13. Korea (Baikunthpur) 14. Chang Bakhar.
Small Zamindari Areas	Ordinary Zamindar	<p>Bastar District : Antagarh, Sukma, Cuttack, Bhopalpatnam, Bhiji, Chintalnar, Katpalli-Pamend, Phutkal, Kutru and Paralkot.</p> <p>Durg District: Bairia, Bhonda, Rengakhar, Pandariya, Sahaspur, Sylheti, Barbaspur, Gandai, Thakur Tola, Parpoda, Gundardehi, Khujji, Panabaras, Aundhi and Korea.</p> <p>Raipur District : Katangi, Bhatgaon, Bilaigarh, Suarmar, Kodia, Phulwar, Narra, Fingeshwar and Bindranwagarh.</p> <p>Bilaspur District : Pendra, Matin, Lafa, Churi, Kenda, Korba, Kanteli, Pandri and Champa.</p>

Note:

1. The name of the founder of the princely state of Bastar was Annamdev. The name of the Kuldevi of Bastar is Danteshwari Devi. The residents of Bastar are called 'Muria'. The western part of Bastar is hilly which is called 'Abujhmad'.

Male sacrifice was practiced in Bastar.

2. The princely state of Rajnandgaon was formed during the Maratha rule. This zamindari was granted to a recluse saint Ramdas by Raghuji, the Bhonsla ruler of Nagpur. The famous king here was Ghasidas. The kings here were more civilized than others.

3. Chhui Khadan, princely state of Nagpur, King Raghuji had given it to a recluse saint named Rupdas.

4. The founders of Sakti princely state were two real brothers named Hari and Gujar.

5. The name of the founder of Raigarh princely state was Madan Singh.

In the year 1865 AD, 14 zamindars of Chhattisgarh were recognized as 'Jagirdar' or 'Riyasat Pramukh'. Out of these 14 princely states, 9 states – Bastar, Kanker, Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Chhui Khadan, Kawardha, Sakti, Raigarh and Saranggarh – were Hindi speaking; The remaining 5 princely states - Karaund (Kalahandi), Patna, Raikhol, Bambara and Sonpur - were Odia speaking. In the year 1905, 5 Odia-speaking princely states were included in the Bengal Province (Orissa) along with Sambalpur district, while Surguja (Ambikapur), Udaipur, Jashpur, Koriya (Baikunthpur) and Chang Bhakhar from the Chotanagpur region of Bengal Province were included in the Central Provinces. It was merged into the Chhattisgarh Division (Commissary). Thus, even after the change, a total of 14 princely states remained in Chhattisgarh. The largest of these princely states was Bastar, whose total area is 33,438 sq km.

Fusion/Merge : After attaining independence on August 15, 1947, the idea of merger of the princely states of Chhattisgarh with the Union of India was started. For this the meeting of the jagirdars was held at Rajkumar College, Raipur. According to the decisions taken in this meeting, he formed his own organization and named it 'Eastern States Union'. Some princely states of Chhattisgarh like Bastar and others kept themselves away from this

organization. Bastar was a big princely state, so Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the head of the princely department, paid special attention to it. He invited Praveer Chand Bhanj Deo, the then ruler of Bastar, to Delhi.

Sardar Patel intensified efforts to include all the princely states of Chhattisgarh in the Union of India. He visited Chhattisgarh on December 15, 1947 and personally met the rulers of the princely states here. The kings of some princely states opposed the merger. The king of Korea demanded a 'privy purse'. Sardar Patel assured the rulers that the interests of all the princely states would be protected under the Indian Constitution. On this assurance, some rulers gave their consent to the merger document. Finally, under the Provincial Boundaries Act, 1947, the Government of India's Central Provinces was authorized to govern the princely states of Chhattisgarh. In protest, the Government of Bihar encouraged the Raja of Jashpur to join the state of Bihar. Christians had a large population of this princely state and the headquarters of the missionaries working in their interests was Ranchi, but in the end this matter was also resolved.

Thus, according to the decision of the Central Government, all the princely states of Chhattisgarh were made a part of the Union of India and all their administrative powers were handed over to the Union of India. They were merged into the Central Provinces (Madhya Pradesh) on January 1, 1948.

II. Tribal / Tribal Movement

In the context of Chhattisgarh, the tribal/tribal movement means the movement of the tribals of Bastar because Bastar is a tribal dominated area and almost all the tribal movements have taken place in this zone. The details of the revolts / agitations carried out by the tribals of Bastar are as follows -

1. Halba Rebellion (1774-79 AD):

The Halba rebellion took place in the Dongar area. The Chalukya rulers failed to stop him and he fell. They became subject to the Marathas due to the conspiracy of the Company government.

Dongar was once an independent state of Halba which was later included in the princely state of Bastar. After that the king of Bastar made it the vice-capital and appointed his sons as the governor there. Raja Dalpat Singh of Bastar appointed his son Ajmer Singh as the governor of Dongar. In the year 1774 AD, when Dariyavdev became the new king of Bastar, he grossly neglected the Dongar area and started putting pressure on Ajmer Singh out of enmity. In the same year, there was a severe famine in the Dongar area and there was chaos. At the same time, Daryavdev attacked Dongar. At this time the army of Kanker was deployed for the security of the Dongar area. A fierce battle ensued between the two armies. Daryavdev was defeated and fled to the capital Jagdalpur.

The position of the rebels was strengthened. They planned to capture Bastar. By doing this they wanted to stop the interference of the Company government in Jagdalpur. The rebels continued to advance and Daryavadev's army was defeated. Daryavdev fled to the kingdom of Jaipur. Staying in Jaipur, Daryavdev tried to regain his lost power. Daryavadev made separate treaties with the Company Government, the Marathas and the Raja of Jaipur and prepared a large army of 20,000 soldiers. With the help of this army, he defeated the rebels at Jagdalpur. Establishing his authority in Jagdalpur, Dariyavdev attacked Dongar. Ajmer Singh was killed in the battle. The Halba rebels were massacred.

Thus, the Halba rebellion came to an end. But due to this the position of the Raja of Jagdalpur became very weak. Bastar fell under the Maratha Bhosale and paved the way for the arrival of the British in the future. After the end of the

revolt, Raja Dariyavdev of Bastar signed a treaty on April 6, 1778, according to which he had to accept the subjugation of the Bhonsles. The king of Jaipur had to give Kotpad pargana as a reward in return for his help.

2. Bhopalpatnam Struggle (1795 AD):

This struggle was limited and short lived. In the year 1795 AD, when the British traveler Captain J. T. Blunt reached the border of Bastar, the tribals did not allow him, opposing his entry into Jagdalpur. As a result, Blunt was forced to return to Calcutta.

3. Paralkot Rebellion (1825 AD) :

The revolt of the Abujhmadis against the Marathas and British officers in the Paralkot Zamindari area is known as the 'Paralkot Rebellion'. Genda Singh led this rebellion.

Abujhmad rebels were armed with arrows, axes etc. They used to gather their companions and attack the Marathas and British officers by playing the drums. They used the guerrilla method of war. They were troubled by the presence and arbitrariness of non-tribals in this tribal area. So the non-tribals were their target.

In such a situation, the combined forces of the Marathas and the British surrounded Paralkot on January 10, 1825. The rebel leader Genda Singh was arrested and hanged in front of the palace. The biggest reason for the failure of Genda Singh was that the Abujhmadis had conventional weapons and the opponents had modern weapons.

4. Tarapur Rebellion (1842-54 AD):

The Maratha rule had increased the Takoli of Tarapur pargana, which was opposed by Dalganjan Singh, the governor of Tarapur. The tribals advised Dalganjan Singh to revolt against the Anglo-Maratha rule.

Due to foreign rule, the tribal farmers of Tarapur pargana were facing many difficulties. Illegal taxes were being collected from this area. He held Dewan Jagabandhu responsible for many types of taxation on the tribals. So they caught him one day after getting a chance and presented him in front of his leader Dalganjan Singh. On the request of Bastar King Bhupal Dev, who was the brother of Governor Dalganjan Singh, Dalganjan Singh left the Diwan despite the opposition of the tribals.

After his release, Diwan Jagabandhu went to Nagpur and requested the officials there to quell the rebellion. Accordingly, the Nagpur army moved towards Bastar. He fought against the tribals of Tarapur. The rebel army was defeated. Dalganjan Singh had to surrender. In order to pacify the rebellious spirit of the tribals, the Diwan was later removed and all the taxes imposed by him on the tribal ryots were removed. This calmed the tribals. Dalganjan Singh was taken to Nagpur. He was sentenced to 6 months in prison.

5. Maria Rebellion (1842-63 AD)

It was a rebellion against the invasions of their traditions against the Anglo-Maratha rule by the Meria tribesmen of Dantewada. The rebellion took place due to interference by the British authorities in the local tradition—the practice of sacrifices by the Meria tribesmen at the Dantewada temple.

The British government ordered the king of Bastar to end the practice of human sacrifice. Despite this the tradition continued. Accordingly, an army from Nagpur was deployed in the temple of Dantewada for the purpose of stopping

the human sacrifice. Angered by this incident, the tribals revolted. Declaring the Dantewada area prohibited, Sher Khan, the then Tehsildar of Raipur, was sent there to stop the human sacrifice. Shyam Sundar Jia, the then priest of the Dantewada temple, opposed this action of the British government and instigated the tribals to revolt. Meria rebels led by Hidma Manjhi demanded withdrawal of troops from Dantewada. His words were ignored and on the contrary the Muslim soldiers started oppressing the Meriya people. Due to this the rebels started attacking covertly. In such a situation, an additional army was called in and with its help the rebellion was completely crushed.

6. Lingagiri Rebellion (1856-57 AD)

In the year 1854 AD, British rule was established in Chhattisgarh. Tired of the exploitation and repression of the British officers, Dhurva Rao, the Talukdar of Lingagiri Taluka of Bhopalpatnam Zamindari area, organized an armed revolt against the British. On March 3, 1856, there was a war between the British and the soldiers of Dhurva Rao in Chintalwar. The landlord of Bhopalpatnam was injured while fighting on the side of the British in the war. Dhurva Rao was caught by the British and hanged on March 5, 1856. The taluka of Dhurva Rao was given to the zamindar of Bhopalpatnam because he had helped the British.

7. Koi rebellion (1859 AD):

In the year 1859 AD, the local landlords and some tribals of southern Bastar revolted against the British officer and outside contractor. The reason for the discontentment of the zamindars and some tribals was that the British government had given the contract to cut the forests to the traders of Hyderabad and the contractors used to do arbitrariness in connivance with the British officials. When a complaint was made against the contractor Haridas Bhagwandas to the British Government Officer, he did not pay any attention.

In this, sent in the year 1859 AD, the landlords of Kotapalli and Fotkel collectively decided that the Sal tree would not be allowed to be cut in Bastar in future. Accepting this as a challenge, the British government sent gunmen along with the workers. On hearing this information Koi tribals got furious and they ran towards the forests with their weapons carrying torches and attacked the woodcutters and raised the slogan 'A man's head behind a Sal tree'. Many contractors were killed in this rebellion. The rebellion was led by Jugga, Jumma, Raju, Dora, Pam Bhoi etc. In the end, the British were forced to end the contracting system.

8. Muria Rebellion (1876 AD)

In the year 1876 AD, the rebellion of the Muria tribesmen against the atrocities of the Raja of Bastar, especially his Diwan and Munshi and the exploitative policy of the British, was called the 'Muria Rebellion' or 'Revolt of 1876'.

The British government, like the kings of other princely states of India, ordered Raja Bhairamdev of Bastar to attend the Delhi Durbar organized in honor of the Prince of Wales. According to British orders, when King Bhairamdev of Bastar reached Marenga on his way to Delhi, Muria tribesmen requested him not to go to Delhi. The Muria tribesmen feared that in the absence of the king, the atrocities of Diwan Gopinath and Munshi Adil Prasad would increase. Therefore the Muria tribesmen surrounded the king and requested him to return to Bastar. Seeing the situation deteriorating, Diwan Gopinath opened fire on the crowd in which some people were killed and some were arrested. The king was forced to return to Bastar.

Diwan Gopinath started the cycle of repression. Frustrated by this, the Muria tribesmen decided to revolt under the leadership of Jhada Sirha. He started sending an arrow to each village. Around 700 rebels gathered at a place called

Arapur and started collecting arms. On knowing about the activities of the rebels, the king himself reached to pacify and explain to them. But there was no result. The rebels attacked the security forces. A battle ensued between the king's army and the rebels in which six rebels were killed. When the king's elephant soldiers arrived, the rebels laid down their arms and fled from Arapur.

The Raja and the Diwan returned to the capital Jagdalpur. They secured the fort from all sides as they feared the attack of the rebels. His guess turned out to be correct. The rebels under the leadership of Jhada Sirha surrounded the palace on March 2, 1876. To get rid of this, the king requested the British officer. The responsibility of controlling the administration of Bastar was entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner, Sironcha. The Deputy Commissioner sent a British army under the leadership of Mark George to protect the king. Mark George first tried to find out from the rebels what was the reason for the rebellion. The rebels said that their fight is not with the king but with the Diwan and Munshi. The rebel tribals put their one-point demand before the administration that Dewan Gopinath and Munshi Adil Prasad should be expelled from Bastar. Mac George organized a special court on April 8, 1876 and gave instructions according to the demand of the rebels. As soon as the demand was met, the rebellious tribals lifted their siege. Thus the Muria rebellion ended with success.

9. Rani Choris / Queen's Rebellion (1878-82 AD)

Rani's rebellion was limited and short-lived. It is also known as 'Queen's Kop'. The queen of Bastar, Jugraj Kunwar, revolted against the wrong actions of her husband Bhairamdev. In favor of the queen and the king, two rival parties of the tribals were formed, which became enemies of each other. The British conspiracy was suspected behind this. Ultimately the queen won and the king was back on the right track.

10. The Great Earthquake (1910 AD)

Bhoomak or Bhumkal means earthquake or vibration of the land. The tribal movement in Bastar in the year 1910 was a big and widespread movement. That is why it is called the 'Great Land'. The prominent leaders participating in this movement were Gundadhur, Kunwar Bahadur Singh, Bala Prasad, Nazir, Dular Singh etc. In which Gundadhur's place was prominent.

Causes:

1. Conspiracy in the Royal family : Lal Kalindra Singh, the uncle of Raja Rudra Pratap Dev of Bastar, was very popular among the tribals and with their help he wanted to get an important position in the princely state. This desire of his gave rise to the rebellion of the year 1910. Queen Suvarna Kunwar, step-mother of King Rudra Pratap Dev, was dissatisfied with her neglect, so she supported the agitators.

2. Proceedings of Diwan Baijnath Panda : The tribals were angry with the Diwan Baijnath Panda because the Diwan had promoted the reserve forest system. Disputes related to forced labor and land made the situation more explosive. For this, the tribals considered Diwan to be the sole culprit. The tribals were also angry with the Diwan because he did not allow them to meet the king directly.

3. Exploitation by officers, employees, contractors : The officers and employees of the princely state used to misbehave with the tribals. They used to make unjust demands before the tribals. The people who came from outside in Bastar exploited the tribals through trade. The exploitation of liquor contractors was also the reason for the discontent of the tribals.

4. British intervention : British interference was a major reason for the

discontent of the tribals. The tribals of Bastar considered their king to be omnipotent and wanted to be ruled by their king. They were not ready to accept any British officer imposed from outside. With British intervention, the tribals agitated and raised the slogan 'Bastar, Bastar Walo ka hai'.

Rebellion :

On February 2, 1910, the looting of Puspal market marked the beginning of the rebellion, which lasted for about 2½ months. The king was very upset by the news of the rebellion and he informed the officials. On receiving the information, the British officer sent a force under the leadership of Geyer and Debre to Bastar, consisting of about 500 soldiers from Madras and Punjab.

On February 16, 1910, when the British army reached near Khadak Ghat, it was surrounded by rebels. Seeing the number of rebels, firing was ordered in which five tribes were killed on the spot. The troops of Gair and Debris were successful in reaching the capital Jagdalpur. Lal Kalindra Singh was arrested on February 25, 1910. But the activities of the rebels continued. The rebels burned many schools, police posts and government offices. Many government employees also became victims of anger, some of whom were killed and some fled. Their properties were burnt. A Rohilla merchant named Noor Baksh Khan was killed. The tribals were very angry with the Diwan. A group of rebels moved towards South Bastar with the aim of killing the Diwan. As soon as Diwan, who was on tour, came to know about this, he ran out of the border towards Chanda district.

Here the tribals were not ready to bow down. On the other hand, the British were also ready to teach them a lesson, in such a situation there was bound to be bloodshed. On March 9, 1910, the second encounter took place in the small Dongar area in which 12 tribals were killed. On March 26, 1910, the British got information that a group of tribals was resting in the forest of Alnar. As soon as the British soldiers reached there, they started firing bullets. In this conflict 21

tribals were killed and hundreds were injured.

Result :

Thus, this rebellion was ruthlessly suppressed. In quelling this rebellion, Rs 60,000 was spent by the government. Spent. The rebels were prosecuted. Seven were sentenced to death. Lal Kalindra Singh was placed under house arrest in Elichpur Jail and Rani Suvarna Kunwar was exiled.

III. Peasant movement

After the establishment of British rule in Chhattisgarh in 1854 AD, the farmers had to be victims of exploitation and oppression by foreign rulers and their agents, local landlords, moneylenders etc. As a result, the exploited and oppressed farmers agitated. These movements were mainly launched against begari, increase in rent, eviction, usury of moneylenders etc.

The most perverted form of exploitation of the peasantry was forced labor. In those days the practice of forced labor was prevalent at many levels. The muqaddam used to take begari from the farmers. The muqaddam had to do forced labor at the goods market. The Malguzar had to do forced labor with the zamindars and the zamindars with the officials. Thus a vicious cycle of forced labor was created. The farmers raised their voice against this forced labor system. Rajnandgaon was a pioneer in this direction. Mahant Ghasidas was appointed jagirdar of Rajnandgaon in 1870 AD. Rajnandgaon became a city and forced labor increased in the villages. Sevata Thakur revolted for the first time against forced labor. Similarly, the farmers of Surguja and Bastar also revolted. Pandit Sunderlal Sharma (Rajim), Babu Chhotelal (Dhamtari), Nathuji Jagtap (Raipur), Narayan Rao Meghawale (Raipur) later gave a new direction to the farmers' movement.

Kandel Satyagraha (1917-20 AD):

Kandel village's canal water satyagraha was an important satyagraha of the farmers, which started in 1917 AD and its successful completion in 1920 AD. The farmers made the basis of non-violence in the conduct of Satyagraha. Due to non-payment of canal water tax, the cattle of the farmers of Kandel village were forcibly captured and taken to big cities for auction. But the auction could not be held due to the moral influence of the Satyagrahis, due to which the government had to bow down. Thus, when the government failed to stand up to the perseverance of the villagers, it had to announce the waiver of the entire rent imposed in an unreasonable manner. This Kandel village of Babu Chhote Lal of Dhamtari tehsil became famous because of its success.

Peasant movement of Dondilohara fort (1937 AD)

The organized form of the peasant movement was visible in 1937 in Dondilohara and Durg. The peasant movement in Durg was led by Gandhian leader Narsingh Prasad Agrawal and his younger brother Saryu Prasad Agrawal. There was a special terror of Manaram Pandey Dewan, the Zamindar of Dondilohara. Due to this the discontent of the peasants reached its peak. Chari Nistari was dominated by more bottlenecks and evictions. On August 28, 1937, the farmers organized a general meeting at Malithodi market in front of the landlords, in which complaints were made against the Diwan, but it did not have any effect. As a result some prominent farmers went to Saryu Prasad Agrawal and urged him to lead against this atrocity. Saryu Prasad Aggarwal accepted his prayer and started preparations for Satyagraha. He kept on giving speeches by roaming around for three consecutive years. This movement also spread to the nearby zamindaris like Panabaras Chowki etc. Vasudev Deshmukh and Narsingh Agrawal of Durg continued to support the farmers.

Wali Muhammad sat down in a tent outside the settlement in Dondilohara. 94 persons were arrested in this Satyagraha. The Agarwal brothers of Balod were

sent to Seoni Jail. Many cases were filed against the Satyagrahis on behalf of Manaram Diwan. Raipur's lawyer Triveni Lal Srivastava argued on behalf of the farmers. The Barrister Jakatdar of Nagpur also supported the farmers.

At the time when this peasant movement took place, the Central Provinces was ruled by the Congress cabinet. Central Province Education Minister Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla and Home Minister Dwarka Prasad Mishra called Agrawal brothers to Nagpur with a view to mediate in the movement, but agreement could not be reached. As a result, Saryu Prasad Agrawal started Satyagraha. This Satyagraha was completely controlled and disciplined. Saryu Prasad Aggarwal fasted for 9 days. Congress leaders wanted to break this movement, so Saryu Prasad Agarwal was arrested. A major result of this Satyagraha was that the Nistari Haq Act was enacted.

IV. Labor movement

Industrialization started in India with the construction of railways in India in the year 1853 AD. In the context of Chhattisgarh, the beginning of industrialization is considered to be with the establishment of CP Mills in 1890 AD. As a result of this industrialization two new classes emerged – the capitalist and the working class. There was a great disparity between these two classes. Government policies were also not in favor of the interests of the workers. As a result, the workers were simultaneously subjected to the double exploitation of the imperialist political system and the capitalists. Therefore the workers had to agitate for the protection of their interests.

Establishment of CP Mills (1890 AD):

On June 23, 1890, CP Mills was established in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh during the reign of Raja Balram Das. The construction of this mill was done by the

Macbeth Brothers of England. This mill is located near Rajnandgaon station. The construction work of the mill was completed in 8 years; the work of production by the mill started in 1894 AD. The chairman of the board of directors of the mill was Balram Das, the then ruler of Rajnandgaon princely state. Kedarnath Bagchi was appointed as the director of the mill.

For some time the business of this cotton mill went well but later it suffered losses due to the inexperience of the arrangers. As a result, in the year 1897, it was sold to M/s Shaw Wallace Company, Calcutta. The new buyer changed its name to Bengal Nagpur Cotton (B.N.C.) Mills.

First labor movement (1920 AD)

Since Rajnandgaon was the industrial center of Chhattisgarh, the main center of labor movement also became the same, the credit for starting the labor movement goes to Thakur Pyarelal Singh. In this work he got the support of Shivlal Master and Shankar Rao Khare. During the non-cooperation movement in 1920 AD, B. N. The workers of C. Mills went on strike under the leadership of Thakur Pyarelal Singh. This strike lasted for about 36 days. These laborers had to work 12-13 hours a day in the mill. Therefore, expressing dissatisfaction against this injustice, the workers started the movement under the leadership of Thakur Sahib. This movement was successful due to the efficient leadership of Thakur Sahib. The officers had to bow before the mill workers. The working hours of the workers were reduced.

The demands of the workers were met, but Thakur Sahib had to pay the price for leading this movement. As a punishment, he was expelled from the border of the princely state of Rajnandgaon. Against this order, Thakur sahib complained to the then governor. The governor overturned this order.

Second Labor Movement (1924 AD)

In 1924, under the leadership of Thakur Pyarelal Singh, the workers of Rajnandgaon agitated for the second time. This time B. N. The workers of C. Mills went on a long strike. Many arrests took place during this long struggle. Due to the repressive policy of the police, the workers there got agitated time and again. Thakur sahib kept trying to restrain him. During the strike period the workers organized a caste feast. At the same time, a soldier of the princely state appeared there wearing a shoe, stumbling on the food utensils, which caused excitement among the workers. But the workers, keeping themselves under control, complained about it to the princely officer. When the angry laborers were returning, on the way they saw a corrupt Babu Gangadhar Rao of the princely state. One of the laborers slapped him. The incident led to the police taking 13 chiefs into custody. This caused anger among the workers. Section 144 was imposed by the government. Meetings were banned.

Cases started against the captive laborers. Expressing dissatisfaction against this action, the workers surrounded the court from all sides. Thakur sahib pacified the agitated crowd. When the arrested laborers were being taken to jail, their relatives and friends attacked and rescued them. But later the police caught him again. On not finding a person, the police surrounded Thakur Saheb's house from all sides. When the public came to know about this, they got angry and started chasing the political agent. The government ordered firing using force. One worker was killed and 12 were injured. Thakur Sahib, strongly condemning this incident, complained about it to the Governor. But the government blamed Thakur Sahib for this and ordered him to leave the state. After being expelled from Rajnandgaon, Thakur Sahib started living in Raipur and there in 1925 AD.

Third Labor Movement (1937 AD):

The workers of Rajnandgaon once again agitated under the guidance of Thakur Pyarelal Singh in 1937. B. N. The owners of C. Mills cut the wages of the workers by 10%. This created deep discontent among the workers and they started preparing for the strike. The mill owners tried to break the workers' union. On the other hand, he kept talking to Thakur sahib for a settlement, but Thakur sahib remained adamant in the interest of the workers. Staying in the rest house of Rajnandgaon railway station, he continued to conduct the workers' strike. Ultimately the authorities had to bow down and were forced to accept the agreement reached through Ruiker. But this agreement did not prove beneficial for the workers. According to the agreement reached under Ruiker's leadership, 600 workers were rendered useless. The production of cloth remained closed for about 11 months. This broke the patience of the workers. Finally he came to Thakur sahib and requested a solution to the problem. Thakur sahib presented a new agreement, which was accepted literally by the Samjhauta Board. Accordingly, the fired laborers were taken back to the job. The expulsion order of Thakur sahib was also withdrawn.

15. Chhattisgarh State Formation Movement

The first idea of a separate Chhattisgarh state was made by Pandit Sunderlal Sharma in the year 1918. In 1924, the Raipur unit of Congress put forth the demand for a separate Chhattisgarh. The demand for a separate Chhattisgarh was debated in the annual session of the Congress held in Tripuri (Madhya Pradesh) in 1939. Vishwanath Yadav Tamaskar proposed the creation of Chhattisgarh state in the Congress conference of 1946 AD held in Raipur, but none of the leaders involved in the conference supported Tamaskar and this proposal was rejected.

After independence, in the year 1955 AD, in the discussion on the State

Reorganization Bill in the then Legislative Assembly of the state, Lala Shyam Shah strongly advocated the creation of Gondwana (Chhattisgarh). He recalled that before the State Reorganization Commission, the Minister and Deputy Minister of the then Tribal Department had also given a memorandum to create Gondwana state. Vishwanath Yadav Tamaskar, participating in this discussion, strongly advocated the creation of Gondwana state. Similarly, Brajlal Verma also gave a speech in favor of the Gondwana region while discussing history and natural boundaries. Thakur Ram Kripal Singh and John also cast their votes in favor of Chhattisgarh. The then Congress Chief Minister Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla rejected the demand of Chhattisgarh state, despite these members keeping the public sentiment in the assembly so powerfully. Meanwhile, on January 28, 1956, '*Chhattisgarh Mahasabha*' was formed in Rajnandgaon under the chairmanship of Dr. Khubchand Baghel. Its President Khubchand Baghel, General Secretary Dashrath Lal Choubey and Joint Secretaries Hari Thakur and Care Bhushan were appointed. This Mahasabha passed a resolution for the creation of a separate Chhattisgarh. The Chhattisgarh Mahasabha sent this passed resolution to the government, which was rejected by the government.

After the formation of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh became a part of Madhya Pradesh, the people here started to feel that Chhattisgarh was being neglected. Instead of paying due attention to development here, exploitation is taking place. Dr. Khubchand Baghel expressed these sentiments. He resigned from the cabinet of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla (then Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh) alleging neglect of Chhattisgarh. The Congress took this step of Dr. Baghel seriously and threw him out of the party. After getting independence from Congress, Dr. Baghel dedicated himself to the Chhattisgarh state building movement. He wrote articles, got pamphlets printed and organized movements to awaken the consciousness of creating a village-city state. When this movement was progressing rapidly, he died untimely on February 22, 1969.

After the emergency of 1975-77, Shankar Guha Niyogi organized a movement for the creation of a separate Chhattisgarh, which continued to receive public support. Unfortunately, in 1991, Mr. Niyogi was killed.

After this, Pawan Diwan was actively associated with this movement. Unprecedented performances took place under his leadership. There was some fierceness in this movement. But this movement did not deviate from its peaceful path. Pawan Diwan formed a political party named 'Separate Chhattisgarh Party' in 1983 AD. This party also fielded its candidates in the upcoming assembly elections, but it did not get the desired success in the elections.

The demand for the creation of a separate Chhattisgarh state intensified again in the 1990s. A state-wide political forum named "Chhattisgarh Rajya Nirman Manch" was established. It was led by Chandulal Chandrakar, a senior Congress leader and editor-in-chief of Dainik Hindustan. This forum took out rallies and organized strikes from place to place. The strike also had the support of many other political parties including Congress and BJP. It was the effort of Chandulal Chandrakar that the Congress included the issue of the formation of Chhattisgarh in its manifesto for the 1993 election. It is a different matter after the elections. Congress forgot its election promise. The Congress government of Madhya Pradesh took the first legal step for the creation of Chhattisgarh, when it made a resolution on March 18, 1994, based on the demand for a separate Chhattisgarh State Legislature, passed unanimously in the assembly.

The culmination of these movements took place during the Lok Sabha election season of 1998, when BJP leader Atal Bihari Bajpai, favoring small states, accepted public sentiment in an election meeting of Ramesh Bais held at Sapre School in Raipur on January 14, 1998. While promising to create Chhattisgarh state in case his party wins. BSP and Shiv Sena also promised to create

Chhattisgarh state. In the end the Congress too had to make this promise. The BJP government at the center came to power, but before the government could do anything special, the government fell. In the year 1999, the Lok Sabha elections were held again, the BJP returned to power. This time he got ample opportunity and he presented three bills for the creation of three new states in the Lok Sabha on July 25, 2000. One of the bills was related to the Chhattisgarh - Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Bill, 2000. On July 31, 2000, the Lok Sabha passed the bill and on August 9, 2000, the Rajya Sabha passed the bill. On August 25, 2000, the President gave his assent to this bill. After the President's assent, this bill became the Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2000. The Government of India fixed the date of November 1, 2000, for the division of Madhya Pradesh into two states- Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Thus, on November 1, 2000, Chhattisgarh came into existence as the 26th state of the Union of India.

Important Dates

875 AD	Establishment of Kalchuri rule in Tumman
1075 AD	Establishment of Kalchuri rule in Ratanpur
1369 AD	Establishment of Kalchuri rule in Khallari
1410 AD	Establishment of Kalchuri rule in Raipur
1741 AD	Maratha Bhaskar Pant's attack on Chhattisgarh
1758-87 AD	Reign of Bimbaji Bhonsla
1787-1818 AD	Period of Suba Governance (Suba Sarkar) in Chhattisgarh
1816 AD	Death of Bhonsala ruler Raghuji II, Subsidiary treaty between

	Bhonsala ruler and British
1817 AD	Death of Parsonji Bhonsla, Ascension of Appa Saheb, Appa Saheb receiving the title of 'Sena Sahib' from Peshwa Bajirao II, Battle of Sitabuldi
1818 AD	Appa Saheb being imprisoned by the British, young Raghuji III becoming the ruler
1818-30 AD	Maratha rule under British protection in Chhattisgarh
1818 AD	Appointment of the first British Superintendent Captain Edmund
1818-25 AD	Second British Superintendent Major Agnew's Era
1818 AD	Making Raipur the capital of Chhattisgarh
1820 AD	The visit of the British Resident of Nagpur, Jenkins to Chhattisgarh
1826-28 AD	British Superintendent Sandis
1826 AD	British-Bhonsla Pact
1828-30 AD	British Superintendent Wilkinson and Crawford's Era
1829 AD	Second British Bhonsla Treaty
1830 AD	Establishment of textile mill in Rajnandgaon
1830-54 AD	Bhonsla rule again in Chhattisgarh
1853 AD	Death of Raghuji III
1854 AD	Nagpur State merged with British Empire
1855 AD	Charles C. Elliot, the first deputy commissioner of Chhattisgarh,

	ended the practice of Nagpuri rupee
1861 AD	Formation of the Central Provinces
1862 AD	Chhattisgarh got the status of a division (Commissionary)
1876 AD	Muria tribal rebellion
1890 AD	Establishment of CP Mills, Rajnandgaon
1910 AD	Great Bhumikal (Tribal Movement)
1917-20 AD	Kandel Satyagraha
1920 AD	Gandhiji's first visit to Chhattisgarh, first labor movement in Chhattisgarh
1924 AD	Second labor movement in Chhattisgarh
1933 AD	Gandhiji's second visit to Chhattisgarh
1937 AD	Third labor movement in Chhattisgarh, peasant movement of Dondilohara fort
1948 AD	The merger of the princely states of Chhattisgarh with the Union of India
1955 AD	During the passage of the State Reorganization Bill in the Central Provinces Legislative Assembly, the demand for the creation of a separate Chhattisgarh state was rejected.
1956 AD	Formation of Chhattisgarh Mahasabha in Rajnandgaon by Dr. Khubchand Baghel
1967 AD	Formation of 'Chhattisgarh Brotherhood' in Raipur by Dr. Khubchand Baghel

1969 AD	Dr. Khubchand Baghel passed away
1983 AD	Formation of 'Separate Chhattisgarh Party' by Pawan Diwan
1991 AD	The murder of Shankar Guha Niyogi, the leader of the separate Chhattisgarh mass movement
1994 AD	Resolution passed by the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly based on the demand for a separate Chhattisgarh (the first legislative step towards the creation of a separate state)
1998 AD	BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee promised the creation of a separate Chhattisgarh state in an election meeting in Raipur.
2000	President's assent to the Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Bill, 2000 on August 25, to be fixed on November 1, 2000 by the Government of India for the division of Madhya Pradesh into two states - Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh - on November 1, 2000. Establishment of Chhattisgarh as the 26th state of the Union of India

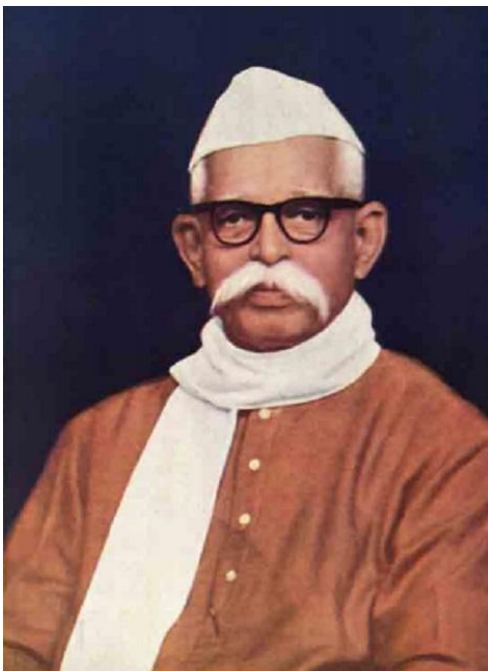
Personalities In Chhattisgarh



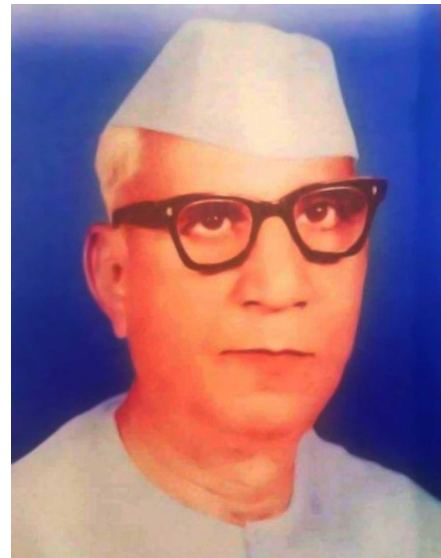
Thakur Pyarelal Singh



Pt. Sundar Lal Sharma



Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla



Dr. Khoobchand Baghel



Narayan Rao Meghawale



Babu Chhotelal Srivastava



Vaman Rao Lakhe



Ghanshyam Singh



Madhav Rao Sapre



Barrister Chhedilal



Minimata



E. Raghvendra Rao