



HIRDESHAH OF HIRAPUR, THE HERO OF THE 1842 REBELLION

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Biased historians gave the credit of waging the first war against the British to Mangal Pandey, whereas before him Hirdeshah of Bundelkhand area Hirapur had kept the British watered to such an extent that even the throne of Queen Victoria sitting in London was shaken. Telling about the indomitable courageous real hero Hirdeshah. (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338541449_bundelkhand_me_durg_nirman)

It is a common belief that one who is brave must be a Kshatriya and one who is learned must be a Brahmin. Not only this, the caste system has also been accepted as universal and universal. Although the varna system started in the Ganges-Yamuna valley in the north and it had spread to South India, but the Bundelkhand and Mahakoshal provinces were more or less free from this system till the 1000 CE. The presented research paper is based on the sacrifices made by Lodhi warrior Hirdeshah and his family in the freedom struggle of India. Raja Hirdeshah was the main hero of the Bundelkhand Revolt of 1842. Although this rebellion was suppressed by the Company government, Hirdeshah again played a sacrificial role in the summer of 1857, in which his entire family was martyred. In the rebellion of 1842 against the British and in the summer of 1857, Raja Hirdeshah was supported by other Lodhi kings, talukdars, jagirdars and subjects of his fraternity and Gond kings and their subjects. British documents consider Raja Hirdeshah as the main culprit of the rebellion of 1842 and the mutiny of 1857, but his sacrifices and sacrifices are deliberately ignored by prejudiced Indian writers and historians. And he was a unique ally. Once when Prithviraj Chauhan attacked Mahoba in the absence of Veer Alha-Udal, King Ishwardas sent his two sons along with the army to help King Parmal, Prithviraj Chauhan had to be defeated in this war. A son of King Ishwardas Lodhi had to lose his life in this war. In the 11th century, apart from the internal war in India, foreign Muslim invasions were also intensifying, in that period the fierce and powerful people of Bundelkhand-Mahakoshal province were being included in the varna system and being made Kshatriyas. But the community which had attained the status of Kshatriya one or two generations back, the new Kshatriyas were called low caste only. Among the new Kshatriyas were Lodhi, Gond, Ahir, Khangar etc. Gonds had attained the status of Rajput during the Mughal period. The side effect of this incident was that the Gond king abandoned his egalitarian culture and distanced himself from his Gond subjects, in return the subjects also distanced themselves from the king and did not support the king in the war



with their hearts. Result: Gondwana kingdom disintegrated. To include the Lodhis in the Kshatriya Varna, some new Puranas and Codes were written or Kshepak were added. Thus the Lodhis were proved to be Chandravanshi Kshatriyas. Although the Lodhi kings (aristocrats) of Bundelkhand and Mahakoshal region maintained their intimate relations with the subjects and farmers, which came in handy during the 1842 rebellion and the 1857 independence war. At present, the Lodhis claim to be Rajputs or Kshatriyas, like other Hinduised local communities, but this claim is considered ridiculous outside the Bundelkhand and Mahakoshal regions. The writers of charan vritti did not give any place in history books to the people who died for the country. King Hirdeshah Lodhi and his entire family are among such great freedom fighters.

The rebellion of 1857 is famous as the first freedom struggle in the history of freedom struggle. But 16 years before this, in the year 1841, the bugle of revolution against the British was rang in Virbhoomi, Bundelkhand, which continued till 1843. This was the first militant attempt to overthrow the Company Government. This Bundelkhand rebellion is an important event in the history of Bundelkhand. The leading leader of this Bundelkhand rebellion was Hirdeshah Judev, the king of Hiragarh. In that period, the king was not only the ruler of his kingdom, but he used to be the head of his caste. And there was ethnic unity among them. That's why on the call of King Hirdeshah, Lodhi Raja, Jagirdar, Malgujar and Talukdar and all the farmers of Bundelkhand had joined the rebellion against the British. Bundela Thakur and Gaur caste Raja Jagirdar and Zamindars also participated in this struggle. This struggle was spread in the vast Bundelkhand region of 'It Jamuna, it Narmada, it Chambal Uttar Tons', which could not take a widespread form like the struggle of 1857, but the seeds of the freedom movement of 1857 were hidden in this first struggle. In the Revolt of 1857, all the Lodhi people of Central Province had joined the war against the British (R.V. Russell-1916). Dr. Suresh Mishra writes on page 11 in his book 'Ramgarh ki Rani Avantibai' that "The Lodhi jagirdars actively participated in the rebellion that took place in the Sagar-Narmada region during the Bundela rebellion of 1842. Hirdeshah of Hirapur in Narsinghpur district and Madhukar Shah of Sagar district were prominent among them. This legacy of Lodhi resistance to British rule became more pronounced in 1857 and was led by Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh. While in fact Hirdeshah was the main historical source of inspiration for the Independence Summer-1857 of Central Province.

After the Bundelkhand rebellion of 1842, the independence of 1857 In Trya Samar, King Hirdeshah Judev and his entire family again joined the armed rebellion against the British. His brother Sawant Singh attained Veergati in the war of 1857 and another brother Gajraj Singh was also arrested fighting with the British and was hanged in the middle of 1858 and Raja Hirdeshah also received Veergati on 28 April 1858. Meharwan Singh, son of Raja Hirdeshah,



was martyred in 1857 while fighting with the British. Thus the generations of the Lodhi dynasty of Hirapur fought from 1841 to 1858. This family has a unique place in the history of freedom struggle. R. V. Russell has written on page number 62 and 63 of the Narsinghpur District Gazetteer that 'It is worth noting that the chief instigator of both the Bundela rebellion of 1842 and 1857 was a Pahari Lodhi Raja of Hirapur'. But historians have not done justice to the heroes of the Bundelkhand rebellion.

The bravery stories of brave-heroines like Alha-Udal, Rani Durgavati, Chhatrasal etc. have been a source of inspiration for the youth of Bundelkhand. The Bundelkhand region was coming under attack from the Mughals for a long time. Therefore, in the entire Bundelkhand, the feelings of bravery, valor and bravery were created in every citizen.

In 1839, some princes and zamindars of Bundelkhand went to see the Budhwa Mangal Mela to be held in Kashi. There he came to know about the injustice and atrocities being done by the British in Bengal, Bihar and Awadh region. Public dissatisfaction against the English state was visible all around. This increased his rebellious spirit. Raja Zamindar, who returned after taking inspiration from Kashi's Budhwa Mangal Mela, engaged in awakening the spirit of rebellion against the British.

In the next year, in the year 1840, Budhwa Mangal Mela was organized in Supa (Charkhari) village on the lines of Kashi's Budhwa Mangal Mela. In Supa, Lodhi Jagirdars of Supa, former king Mandanshah of Charkhari state and descendants of Vikat Rai used to reside. Lodhi landlords of Supa Took over all the responsibility of this fair. Many kings and jagirdars of Bundelkhand were secretly contacted and the purpose of this fair was explained. The fair was publicized clearly. In this fair Bundela Raja Parikshit of Jaitpur (Mahoba), Raja Hirdeshah of Hirapur, Raibahadur Bhagat Singh of Chirgaon Jhansi, Jagirdar Madhukar Shah Bundela, Jagirdar Jawahar Singh of Chandrapur, Amar Singh Mahato, Zamindar of Gohand (Rath) and Lodhi and Bundela of the area. The landlords participated in large numbers, together they secretly decided to fight against the British and prepared a plan. Raja Parikshat of Jaitpur (Mahoba) was elected the leader of the rebels of the northern Bundelkhand region. The message of making the rebellion a success and establishing a people's rule was being carefully spread everywhere. Hirapur's King Hirdeshah, Narat's vassal Madhukarshah was lighting the fire of revolution by contacting the Sagar Narmada Territory area in the south of Bundelkhand. In this campaign, Gaur Samant Dillanshah of Madanpur (Narsinghpur) also became a rebel by taking along the disgruntled zamindars, land owners of his area, in this way the flame of rebellion started in the southern part of Bundelkhand.



Under the leadership of King Hirdeshah Judev, the company government bases were attacked, first took control of Gajpura outpost and chased away the British, but with complete preparation, the English army under the leadership of Captain Brown attacked Hiragarh. The rebel army evacuated the city. The English army demolished Hiragarh and looted the city. After the destruction of Hiragarh, Hiragarh came to be known as Hirapur. King Hirdeshah reached Tej Garh with the rebel army. Tej Garh was ruled by the ancestors of King Hirdeshah. Now a Lodhi Jagirdar of his lineage, he welcomed the rebel army and gave all kinds of cooperation. Raja Hirdeshah besieged Narsinghpur and chased away the British from there. Took many parts of Damoh, Jabalpur and Narsinghpur under authority. The rebel army kept moving forward, surrounded the district headquarters of Sagar and defeated the British and freed Sagar. Jabalpur was the stronghold of the British, their huge army was gathered there, so King Hirdeshah escaped from it and took the rebel army from one side and moved forward. The rebel army crossed the river Narmada, the farmers there supported them. The rebels searched and defeated the officers of the Company Government and brought them out. They went on getting towns and villages vacated by the British. The whites started trembling after hearing the name of King Hirdeshah. A reward of five hundred rupees was announced for his arrest. King Hirdeshah now went underground and started conducting guerilla war. The Company government was surprised that even after more than a year the rebels could not be caught. The rebels used to fight in guerilla mode. Along with this, the rebels used to know about the activities of the British, but the plans of the rebels could not be known to the officers of the Company Government. Big moneylenders used to give them food and used to warn them about the dangers. The fear of rebels was so ingrained in the people that no one used to speak against them.

Both the Governor General Lord Ellenborough and the Chief of the British Army were alarmed, because at this time their entire attention was focused on achieving their prestige in Afghanistan. Secondly, the area of Bundelkhand was completely unfamiliar to the British soldiers. Frustrated, a man named Madan Singh was killed for the British. A guide was made, but he was associated with the rebels. He led the army astray in the dense forest in such a way that they could not find a way out. He entangled the army in the deep forest and informed the rebels and got the English army badly beaten. When the rebels could not be caught for a long time, Captain Woland of Hoshangabad suggested to the commissioner of Sagar that if the process of pardon and surrender is adopted instead of repression and force, the results can be beneficial. On this suggestion, T.H. Medak, political representative of the Governor General of Bundelkhand and Secretary to the Company Government, announced on behalf of the Governor General Lord Ellenborough on November 2, 1882, that the rebels would surrender with the desire to live a social life by renouncing criminal tendencies. The company government forgets their crimes and promises pardon. Along with this, to



increase the pressure on the rebels, forces were called from Allahabad, Banaras, Nagpur, Jhansi, Kanpur and Etawah for help. Major Sleeman was given the command of the army. Holkar sought help from the kings of Datia, Jhansi, Bijnor, Panna, Chhatarpur, Charkhari, Shahgarh and Rewan to arrest the rebels. Heavy rewards were announced for those who caught the rebels. An attempt was also made to create division among the rebels.

The enthusiasm of the rebels got loose due to the spread of this announcement. Greed for the prize, brother became enemy of brother. Shahgarh's Raja Bakhtbali Bundela and Banpur's Raja Mardan Singh Bundela and many other Raja Jagirdars, inspired by the announcement of pardon and rewards, became active in getting the rebels surrendered or captured. Raja Bakhtbali Bundela of Shahgarh got the leader of the rebels, Lodhi Raja Hirdeshah Judeo of Hirapur, arrested on 21 November 1842. Raja Hirdeshah was imprisoned in Chunar fort and tortured a lot. Their capture severely damaged the rebel campaign. Along with King Hirdeshah, his entire family was also taken prisoner.

In January 1843, the rebel Raja Parikshat Bundela of Jaitpur (Mahoba) was arrested in Jatara by Jaitpur resident Strong Singh Kayastha. He was imprisoned and hanged in Kanpur. Raja Hirdeshah, Raja Parikshat and Madhukarshah were the main pillars of the rebellion, after their arrest many rebels had to surrender. Daulat Singh of Dongar kept creating terror for many days. After hard work, the English soldiers were able to catch him. He was hanged in Jhansi. In this way, from 1841 to the end of 1843, the heroes of Bundelkhand tried to overthrow the company's rule, expressing dissatisfaction with the dictatorship and administrative system of the company government, although this rebellion was suppressed, but the fire that King Hirdeshah Judeo put out. It was ignited in Bundelkhand, kept smoldering inside, and in the year 1857 it exploded in the form of a fierce explosion.

King Hirdeshah Judeo was definitely imprisoned in Chunar fort on November 21, 1842, but his arrest led to widespread rebellion against the company government, which was not possible for the company government to suppress, so in 1843 immediately he was released with the humble condition that he would not rebel further. But freedom lover and self-respecting Hirdeshah did not accept any condition. That's why as soon as he got the opportunity, in the freedom struggle of 1857-58, his whole family along with the entire military force again got involved in the war against the British. In this freedom struggle, King Hirdeshah was martyred on 28 April 1858 while fighting, while one of his brothers Sawant Singh Judeo was martyred in the summer of 1857 and another brother Gajraj Singh Judeo was also arrested while fighting with the British and died in 1858. He was also hanged in the middle and Rajkumar Meharban Singh, son of King Hirdeshah Judeo, was martyred on December 20, 1857 while fighting with the British.



Rani Avantibai carried forward the legacy of King Hirdeshah's freedom struggle and attained Veergati. When Queen Victoria of Britain took over the reins of India from the East India Company, showing generosity, forgave all the rebels and kings and provided land and pension to their descendants for livelihood, but did not forgive Raja Hirdeshah. did. From this the enmity of the British towards King Hrideshah Judev can be inferred.

There were 1883 villages under Hiragarh state of King Hirdeshah Judev. They had 80 big guns, 100 small guns, 200 gurabas, 7 elephants, 1600 horse and cavalry soldiers, 21686 foot soldiers, 500 saris (camels), 200 mules. His descendant, Raja Koshendra Singh Judeo, was given only one hundred acres of land by the Madhya Pradesh government out of the total land taken away from his forefathers, that too has been taken back by the Forest Department. Today he is a simple farmer.

The fact to be noted here is that the Lodhi and Gaur people of Bundelkhand had declared criminal tendency in 1843 itself by the Company Government for not seeking pardon from the Governor General. After this, in 1857, the Lodhis and the Gaudas again launched an armed rebellion against the British rule. After rebelling for more than a generation and not seeking pardon from Queen Victoria of Britain after the failed Independence Summer, they were considered hereditary criminals and were declared as born criminals under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.

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