

CHAPTER - 8

CHHATTISGARH (A BRIEF HISTORY)

In the centre of India, situated adjacent to Madhya Pradesh, located at the south-eastern part, this part of land is known as Chhattisgarh. In ancient times south Kosal, Mahakantar, Dandkaranya, Mahakosal, Mekal etc. areas were included in it. During the Kalchuri periods according to the number of forts of the ruling kings was named as Chhattisgarh. In Ratanpur estate there were 18 forts and also in Raipur estate there were 18 forts. River Mahanandi and Shivnath were its border.

Proof of Civilization of early man can be seen at Singhanpur at Raigarh, Kabra mountain, form of art (Picture) in Chitwadongri at Durg, Sora at Balod-Dhamtari route, Mujgahan, Karkabhat, And also at Basna, Saraipali near Barlia village we can see some tombs in the form of stone pillars. Rajim is known as the holy pilgrimage (*pryagtirath*) of Chhattisgarh. In Panduka village near Sirkitti river some remains of river port can be seen. Through the river water route of Mahanandi river (Hirakud) trade was done by boat to Sambalpur.

In Sarguja district an old theatre is situated. It is said that great poet Kalidas, wrote the poem Meghdoot here. According to the peoples belief, in Dandkaranya (Bastar) God Rama had come here. Chhattisgarh's Ramgiri Sitabengra, Bhimkhoj etc. places are related to the period of Ramayan and Mahabharat.

Chhattisgarh has its importance in every period of Indian History, like-paleolithic age, vedic age Ramayan- Mahabharat period, great civil period, Maurya, shung, Satwahan, Wakatak, Gupta period, Sharabpurya, Somvansh, Panduvansh, Nal, Nagvansh, Kalchuri period, Maharatha period and also with the British rule. This place was influenced with all these incidence.

In Bilaspur region remains of ancient Sculpture and relics were found in Mallhar village, Statue of popular Rudra Shiv at Talagaon, Laxman temple made out of bricks in Sirpur, Rajive Lochan temple at Rajim, Mahamaya temple at Ratanpur, Raipur and Ambikapur, Danteshwari temple of Dantewara, Shiv temple of Bhormdev, Ganesh temple of Barsoor Bastar are popular. In Mallhar, Sirpur, Aarang, Rajim, Ratanpur ancient remains are found related to Jainism and Budhism. Pali, Janjgir, Kharoud, Nagri Sihawa, Bastar, Dongargarh, Khairagarh, Sarangarh, Patrahi, Dev-Baloda, Gandai, Champaran, Raipur, Durg, Dhamtari etc. are the important historical places.

In Chhattisgarh near about from the end of tenth Century to the mid of eighteenth century Kalchuri or Haivanshi kings ruled. But later on in 1741 Marathas came.

Bhonsle's of Nagpur, Rajkumar Bimbaji Bhosle ruled Chhattisgarh from Ratanpur. And later on (Subedari) rule of feudalism started. Again English interfered in it. After the death of Raja Raghuji third, English rule again started from 1854 to 1947 British rule prevailed in Chhattisgarh. Here there was 14 feudal ruled areas and many zamindars were there.

In the society of Chhattisgarh there were followers of Kabir Panth and Satnam Panth. Its ideals influenced the people 'Guru Ghasi Das' was a era originator. In the beginning of the 19th century he brought social awakening among the people.

Veer Narayan Singh Zamindar of Sonakhan fought Against the outrage and injustice done by English. He was the leader of 1857 Struggle in Chhattisgarh.

On 10th December 1857 at Raipur in the presence of people and soldiers he was hanged publicly. Under the leadership of Hanuman Singh Rajput on 18th January 1858 at Raipur camp (fouji chouni) revolt took place. There one English officer Sidnell was killed Britishers on 22nd January 1858 arrested the revolutionist' and hanged them. Among the Martyrs' were-Gaji Khan,



Veer Narayan Singh

Abdul Haque, Mulla, Shivrinarayan, Panna Lal, Matadin, Thakur Singh, Akbar Hussain, Balli Dubey, Lalla Singh, Buddhoo, Parmanand, Shobha Ram, Durga Prasad, Nazar Mohammad, Shiv Govind and Devidin, These martyrs cannot be forgotten. Their sacrifice and martyrdom gave rise to awakening in the people. Revolutionist leader Hanuman Singh Rajput could not be arrested.

Chhattisgarh literary scholars were Pandit Gopal Mishra, Pandit Makhan Mishra, Poet Khande Rao, Babu Rewa Ram Kayasth, Pandit Shivdutt Shastri, Gowraha, Padum Lal, Paunnilal Bakshi, Mahamanav Upadhyay, Heera Lal, Raja Kamal Narayan Singh, Pandit Madhav Rao Sapre, Pandit Sunder Lal Sharma, Pandit Lochan Prasad Pande, Pandit Mukutdhar Pande, Babu Pyarelal Gupta, Pandit Balshastri, Jha, Pt. Kedar Nath Thakur, Pt. Ramdayal Tiwari, Moullana Abdul Rauf, Mawli Prasad Shrivastav, Pt. Dwarika Prasad Tiwari, Vipra, etc were the main. They played an important role in the development of literature and culture of the area.

In Chhattisgarh awakening of political and literary consciousness was done by Pandit Ravishankar Shukla, Waman Rao Lakhe, Pt. Narayan Rao Megha wale, Thakur Pyarelal Singh, Barrister Chhedi lal, Pt. Ratnakar Jha, Dr. Khubchand Baghel, Smt. Mini mata, Pt. Umadutt Pathak, Pt. Vidyarthi Thakur, Pt. Dhruvnath Thakur, Ghanshyam singh Gupta, Pt. Jwala Prasad Mishra, Babu Chote lal Shrivastav, Pt. Sunder lal Tripathi, Dr. Radha Bai and Smt. Daya Bai who all had an important role.



Minimata

Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, Thakur Pyarelal and Khoob Chand Baghel, did important work for the welfare of the backward class, peasants and workers. Mahatma Gandhi praised Pandit Sunderlal Sharma for the reformation of society.

Chhattisgarh youths, formed armed movement before Quit India movement. This incident was known as Raipur conspiracy case or it is also known as Sur brothers case. Paras Ram Soni, Pt. Devikant Jha, Sudhir Mukharjee, Surbrothers, Ranveer Shastri are the youths who took part. In 'armed Back movement' (Quit India movement) Thakur Ram Krishna Singh, Pt. Kamal Narayan Sharma, Pt. Ramanand Dubey, Ranveer Singh Shastri, Pt. Ratnakar Jha, Pt. Ram Gopal Tiwari, Mahant Laxmi Nayaran Das Motilal Tripathi were active.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's potential was also over Chhattisgarh, Barrister Chhedi lal and (Baja master) Band master Tripuri were also active in Congress. Former Collector of Raipur and Durg Shri Ramkrishna Patel left government service and joined the National movement. Police officer of Durg Pt. Lakhna Lal Mirsha give up the uniform and dedicated to work for the National movement.

On 15 August 1947 with the sunrise of the message of Independence, prosperity was enlightened to all of us. We should always move towards development. Our Chhattisgarh is also a part of it. Equal respect to all religion and Equal fraternity in the society are the sentiments, which are in the minds of the people of Chhattisgarh.

Culture of Chhattisgarh is glorious and the customs are remarkable. That makes the people to come closer to each other. Like flowing water of Holy river Mahanadi the sentiment to respect for all religion is assimilated in the ideas of the people of Chhattisgarh.

EXERCISE

I. Give one word: -

- (a) Dynasty which ruled for longest span.
- (b) Jamindar of Sonakhan.
- (c) Where is the ancient theatre of Chhattisgarh located?
- (d) Under whose leadership Raipur unitary camp revolution took place?
- (e) Which police officer sacrificed his uniform and devoted his work in national movement?

II. Match the following :-

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| (a) | Bhonsle Rulers | - | Hanuman Singh |
| (b) | Revolutionist leader | - | Bimbaji |
| (c) | Literary scholar | - | Guru Ghasi Das |
| (d) | Social Reformer | - | Pt. Gopal Mishra |

III. Answer the following questions :-

- (a) Why is this region known as Chhattisgarh?
- (b) How did political development take place in Chhattisgarh?

IV. Collect information along with a photograph about any one freedom fighter of C.G. also write the sources of information.

