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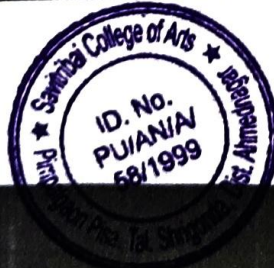


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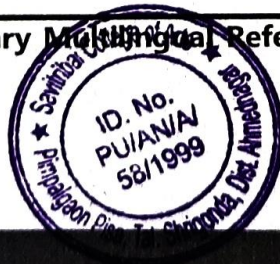
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## The Role of Ahmednagar in Civil Disobedience Movement

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**Abstracts:** Ahmednagar was played very important role in Indian freedom struggle. Ahmednagar had a great history from ancient period to modern period. Ahmednagar district was formed as a district by British in 1869. When Indian National Congress was founded in India, the freedom struggle was started against British rule. Lokmanya Tilak organized political movement in the whole of India. Mahatma Gandhi took up the leadership in 1920. Thousands offered Satyagraha and courted arrest. "Minimum sacrifice of Maximum Peoples" was a policy of Mahatma Gandhi. Under leadership of Mahatma Gandhi elite classes freedom movement became mass movement. The Indian National Congress organized Non-cooperation Movement ( 1920 ) , Civil Disobedience Movement ( 1930 ) and Quit India Movement ( 1942 ) against British rule under leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Maharashtra played crucial role in Freedom struggle. Ahmednagar district played also important role in all this movement , specially in Civil Disobedience movement and Quit India Movement. The Civil Disobedience movement was spread in over all talukas of Ahmednagar. Jungle Satyagraha was organized in Sangamner and Akola Taluka's. So many volunteers was engaged in Civil Disobedience movement. People had actively participated in Nished Sabha , Morcha and procession of flag . The Congress leaders addressed peoples in rural area and expanded span of movement. Thus

the role of Ahmednagar was very important in Civil Disobedience movement .

**Keywords :** Civil Disobedience, Satyagraha, elite classes , Mass , Non- violence , Non-cooperation , Hartal , boycott, freedom struggle, propagandists, processions etc.

**Review of Literature:** A role of Ahmednagar in Indian Freedom struggle was discussed by some intellectuals. Y.D.Phadake, Kumar Ketkar mentioned the role of Ahmednagar in his Marathi books "Visavya Shatkatil Maharashtra Vol. 4 & 5 " and "Katha Swatantryachi". The role of Ahmednagar was mentioned in local Marathi books. " A source Material for a History of freedom movement- Vol.- XI " is a very useful source . Maharashtra Archives Bulletin No. 15 & 16 "A Calender of the 'Quit India' Movement in the Bombay presidency" is a another source which is important source for history of Quit India movement in Ahmednagar .There are some contemporary news paper , who noted the activities of Ahmednagar in Indian freedom struggle like Bombay Congress Bulletin etc.

**Research Methodology :** A researcher has used a descriptive method of research methodology. The researcher has used an interdisciplinary approach in research paper also.

**Introduction :** Indian Freedom Struggle against British rule , it was so proud issue for all Indians. When Indians identified actual policy of British ruler then they was really against British power . After foundation of Indian National Congress ( 1885 ) Indians had available a stage for express their emotion , feelings and reaction against British rule. Lokmanya Tilak organized political movement in the whole of India and was put behind bars by the British Government . But he passes away in 1920 . Mahatma Gandhi took up the leadership in 1920 and carried on the responsibility of organizing Civil Disobedience Movement.<sup>1</sup> Thousand offered Satyagraha and courted arrest .The Satyagraha

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movements were launched many time between 1920 to 1947.

**The Role of Ahmednagar in Civil Disobedience Movement :** When Mahatma Gandhi took the leadership of Indian National Congress , elite classes movement became movement of mass. Mahatma Gandhi gave a courage to the Indian peoples. Non- violence , Non- cooperation, Civil Disobedience , Satyagraha etc. became weapons of Indain freedom struggle under leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi used way of non-violence and made a great revolution in India . Under leadership of Mahatma Gandhi so many people inspired and played a very important role for freedom struggle . The people became part of boycott , long march , nishedh sabha and so many things. " Minimum sacrifice of maximum people" was a policy of Mahatma Gandhi. So many peoples were came for minimum sacrifice in Indian freedom struggle.<sup>2</sup>

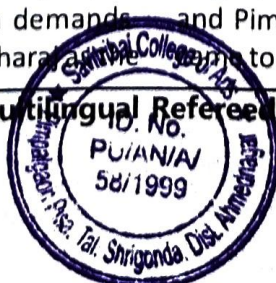
Mahatma Gandhi was started a mass movement in all India level from 1920. They got good response from peoples . Under leadership of Mahatma Gandhi Non-cooperation movement (1920) , Civil disobedience movement (1930) , Quit India movement (1942) was organized . Such of this movement Maharashtra played very important role and Ahmednagar district was played also important role in India's freedom struggle

During the civil disobedience movement Ahmednagar district was actively participated. So I am going to discuss the role of Ahmednagar in Civil disobedience movement. When the movement was started by Indian National Congress , on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1930 , a meeting resolved to take out a procession of the National flag on 6<sup>th</sup> April and to commence picketing liquor and tea shops. The organizers of the meeting 18 in number include five muhamadans. At a meeting at Rahata on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1930 with an audience of 1000 persons stress was led on Gandhi's eleven demands. Gandhi was compared to Shivaji Maharaj.

saviour of the oppressed. Satta said that his occupation was to spread treason against the British Government.<sup>3</sup> On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1930 about 150 merchants formed a procession of the National Flag , after which one Ramchandra Bhagvant Godane read out Gandhi's ultimatum to the Viceroy and Kashinath Vaishampayan of the Rashtriya pathshala , Yeola also spoke.<sup>4</sup>

Other meetings are reported as below . Belapur on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1930. The speakers were 1. Pandit Shankarrao Gurur Shradhanand , Arya samajist of Bhavnagar, Kathiawar. He asked village officers to resign 2. Nassarwanji Naoraoji Satta of Ahmednagar compared the British Government unfavorably with the Mogul Government and called for volunteers . 3. Vyankatesh Shridhar Chinchorkar of Ahmednagar appealed to the audience to give up all differences of cast and creed and join the Civil disobedience campaign. 4. Vinayak Jaywant Takte a cultivator of Ghan , taluka Rahuri said that he had given up the post of a sub-inspector of police in Bombay to prepare himself for the cause of the nation. He read out Gandhi's Ras speech. The audience numbered about 300 .<sup>5</sup>

On 11 April 1930 the first batch of volunteers from the Ahmednagar District. A batch under Krishnaji Narhar Chaudhari camped at Ramangaon where a meeting about 75 was held. The same batch came to Vaghondi ( Waghunde ) in Parner taluka. On 12 April 1930 where a meeting of 150 persons was held. On 13 April 1930 they came Chambhurdi and Pimpalgaon Pisa in Shrigonda taluka and held a meeting of about 250 persons. On 16 April 1930 they came to Kolgaon in Shrigonda taluka. Where a meeting was held , attended by 250 persons at which Rs. 11 were presented. On 16 April 1930 they proceeded to Belvandi and thence entrained for Dhond. The third batch (C) of volunteers under Purushottam Hari Patwardhan left Nagar on 14 April 1930 for Vambori via Shendi and Pimpalgaon Malvi. On 15 April 1930 they came to Jeur , where a meeting attended by 200





persons was held, but showed no enthusiasm. The "C" batch then proceeded to Vambori on 16 April 1930 where a meeting of about 200 was held with Premraj Mukundas Mutha in the chair.<sup>6</sup>

The same batch then went via Khadamba and Sada to Rahuri on 17 April 1930. Where Patwardhan addressed a meeting of 100. On 18 April 1930 the batch went to Taklimiya. Where Patwardhan gave a lecture and then returned to Rahuri, where another meeting of 300 including 10 women was addressed by Patwardhan. On 19 April 1930 the batch of 22 volunteers from Sangamner were given a send off by 500; their goal is Ville Parle. A flag procession of 50-60 from Belapur to the station dressed in Khaddar was formed.<sup>7</sup> On 21 April 1930 in presence of 500-600 peoples, P.M. Mutha blamed Government for the quarrel between touchable and untouchables at Nasik. There was Gandhi Raj, and not British Raj in Gujrat. The days of Government were numbered. Leave Government service and join the movement.

At Shevgaon on 27 June the boys of the Maratha school hoisted the national flag. On the school headmaster ordered its removal; result of hartal. Hartal was also observed on account of the arrest of Satta. An order under section 48, District Police Act has been issued for Ahmednagar city and Camp, which has resulted in considerable diminution of morning rounds, processions etc. both there and elsewhere even though not applicable. The leaders have apparently decided not to take passes which would be freely given but are avoiding defiance of the order by sending out pitiful and very self conscious batches of three and four.<sup>8</sup>

On the second day of arrests for picketing the crowd got rather excited and cries of Police Maro were heard. The sub-inspector arrested 12 of whom 9 were prosecuted under section 506, I.P.C. and 68, District Police

Act of a later batch of 5 arrests two were prosecuted under section 68 District Police Act. Kundanmal Sobhachand Firodia, pleader of Ahmednagar is keeping out of the movement on payment of Rs. 1000. Similarly Kashinath Pandharinath Bhalerao has paid Rs. 200 and promised a year's income if required.<sup>9</sup>

The following pleaders have been reported for action under the Pleader's Act. Uttamchand Ramchand Bogawat of Nagar, Keshav Raghunath Garud of Nagar and Moreshwar Digambar Vaidya of Kopargaon. Climatic conditions appear to be damping the enthusiasm for forest Satyagraha in Sangamner and Akola talukas and very little activity is reported with the removal of Ramkrishna Buwa, Paregaonkar, Satta and Sardesai driving spirit seem to be lacking.<sup>10</sup>

A batch of propagandists were not allowed to hold a meeting in Narayan Dhon village in Ahmednagar taluka. Headmaster of Maratha school at Rahuri gave a holiday for a procession which ended in the bonfire of foreign cloth on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1930. At Shrigonda a boy who cried out "Gandhi - Ki- Jai" was ordered to leave the class-room by the master. The boys of the class 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> followed him, numbering about 140 and went in procession with a flag. They attended school next morning.

Hartal was observed and attempt made to picket the vernacular school in Bhingar on August 29 as a protest against the arrest of the 10 leaders. Other meetings and processions were very poorly attended and there is friction among the leaders. Meeting were held at the following Places: 1. Pathare Budruk- Police station Belapur on August 21, audience was 500 to 600 2) Rahata on August 24, 27 and 30. The audience about 300. 3) Pathardi on August 22, 24 and 26. Audience was 400. 4) Rahuri on August 28 and 29. Audience 750 and 450. 5) Parner, on August 21, audience 500 6) Kanur, on August 24, Audience was 500 7) Shrigonda on August 29, audience 300. At Belapur on August 25,



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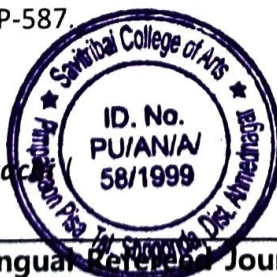
during the flag procession one Narayan Shankar Teli, wearing a hat, coat and spectacles rode on a donkey which had been garlanded with shoes. Laxman Chunnilal Dutt walked in the procession inscribed "My sign is an ass; votes should be given to me" Mohanlal Jagannath Mantri Marwadi who advocated non-payment of taxes etc. at the meeting at Pathare Budruk has been convicted. A Rashtriya Bahiskar sapatkaryakram has been arranged at Rahuri from 23 August 1930 to 3 September 1930 inclusive with daily meetings processions etc.

**Conclusion :** Ahmednagar played very important role in Civil Disobedience movement and Quit India movements. So many leaders emerged during this period from Ahmednagar. Raosaheb Patwardhan was underground for many days. Achyutrao Patwardhan was never arrested by the British.<sup>11</sup> Senapati Bapat was the most fearless and was one of the greatest disciplines of Mahatma Gandhi. All the readers of India including Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. Sayeed Mohamad, Shankarrao Deo were arrested. Most of the leaders excepting Mahatma Gandhi were kept in the Ahmednagar Fort. Jawaharlal Nehru wrote his famous book "The Discovery of India" in Ahmednagar fort.

#### Foot Notes

1. Y.D. Phadake, *Visaya shatakantil Maharashtra, Vol.-4 (1930-1939)* (Marathi), Shrividya Publication, Pune, 1993, P-69.
2. Bipan Chandra, *India's Struggle for Independence* (Marathi Edition), K. Sagar Publication, Pune, 2003, P-615.
3. *A source Material for a History of Freedom Movement*, Vol. XI, Gazetteers Dept., Govt. of Maharashtra, Bombay, 1990, P-587.
4. Ibid, P-587.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid, P-619.
7. Kumar Ketkar, *Katha Swatantrya* (Marathi), Pune, 1985, P-223.

8. *A source Material for a History of Freedom Movement*, Vol. XI, P-728
9. Ibid, P-728.
10. Ibid.
11. Maharashtra Archives Bulletin No. 15 & 16, *Calendar of the "Quit India" movement in Bombay Presidency*, Dept. of Archives, Bombay, 1985, P-62.



*[Signature]*

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