

Study Of Diplomatic Ties And Areas Of Cooperation Between Rajputs And Marathas

Ranjana Bhattacharyya ¹, Dr. Reshma Ara

**¹ Research Scholar, Department of History, Sri Satya Sai University
of Technology & Medical Sciences, Sehore, M.P.**

ABSTRACT:

Overt manifestation of hostility between the Rajputs and the Marathas over political affairs however, did not blur the possibility of mutual cooperation and gesture of goodwill in other areas. The Kharitas exchanged between the two sides clearly reveal the desire of the Marathas to interact with the Rajput rulers in social, cultural and economic spheres. Scholars have largely focused on the political aspects of the Maratha incursion into Rajasthan and how the Marathas strained the financial resources of the Rajputs. However, little attention has been paid so far to look into the Maratha presence in Rajasthan in totality. The Marathas established regular channel of communication with the Rajput rulers not only through the appointment of vakils representing the Peshwa and other Marathas sardars but also by entering into direct correspondences with them on more or less regular basis. The frequent dispatches of official representatives from both the sides with specific and urgent messages further strengthened the line of communication. The visits of the Marathas to Jaipur court are well documented in Dastur Komvar records.

KEYWORDS: Rajasthan , Hostility , Kharitas , Cooperation , Exchanged, Marathas

I INTRODUCTION:

Overt manifestation of hostility between the Rajputs and the Marathas over political affairs however, did not blur the possibility of mutual cooperation and gesture of goodwill in other areas. The Kharitas exchanged between the two sides clearly reveal the desire of the Marathas to interact with the Rajput rulers in social, cultural and economic spheres. Scholars have largely focused on the political aspects of the Maratha incursion into Rajasthan and how the Marathas strained the financial resources of the Rajputs. However, little attention has been paid so far to look into the

Maratha presence in Rajasthan in totality. The Marathas established regular channel of communication with the Rajput rulers not only through the appointment of vakils representing the Peshwa and other Marathas sardars but also by entering into direct correspondences with them on more or less regular basis. The frequent dispatches of official representatives from both the sides with specific and urgent messages further strengthened the line of communication. The visits of the Marathas to Jaipur court are well documented in Dastur Komvar records.

It may not be out of place to mention that one can trace the glimpses of goodwill between the Rajputs and the Marathas even during the earlier period. When the Marathas were trying to gain foothold in Malwa the biggest support to the Maratha forces came from the Jaipur ruler Sawai Jaisingh who served thrice as the Mughal governor of Malwa. Raghubir Singh has shown how the governorship of Jaisingh worked in favour of the Marathas.

Successive failure of the Mughal forces against the Maratha gave Jaisingh the opportunity to convince Khan-i-Dauran to make peace with the Peshwa by arguing that the Maratha occupation of Malwa was now inevitable despite the Mughal efforts to stop them. He entered into negotiations with the Peshwa's representatives after the Maratha ' victory over the Mughals in 1735 which paved the way for the Mughal grant of the right to collect chauth from 28 Parganas of Malwa to the Marathas. The anti Maratha faction at the Mughal court blamed Jaisingh for ruining the empire by his secret support to the Marathas. This tradition of friendship between Jaisingh (Bade Maharaja) and the Marathas was invoked in the letters from the Peshwa, Shinde and Holker to the subsequent rulers of Jaipur.

Security to Maratha Travelers in Rajasthan

The expansion of the Maratha power in the North witnessed a phenomenal increase in the movement of the Maratha officials of varying stature and people belonging to diverse social groups from the Maratha ruled areas.

The first and foremost was the safety of the Marathas traveling with in or through Rajasthan. The Kharitas exchanged between the Marathas and Rajputs bear testimony to the fact that co-operation of the Rajputs rulers was sought more or less on regular basis by their Maratha counterparts to facilitate large number of travelers from Malwa

and the Deccan who were visiting Rajasthan or passing through its territory by ensuring safe passage and protecting their belongings.

In his Kharita of 1750 Jayaji Shinde informed Madho Singh of Jaipur about the appointment of Pandit Mahadeo as Shinde's representative at Jaipur court. Further he requested Madho Singh to maintain the dignity of his office and treat him well¹. In 1757 we find Jankoji Shinde soliciting Madho Singh's cooperation with regard to the visit of Gopalrao who was on his way to Doab from Ujjain. Madho Singh was requested to depute a suitable contingent of troopers and horsemen as escort for his security and safe passage to Doab². Jankoji Shinde again sought Madho Singh's cooperation for the foolproof security of Ram Singh, the deposed ruler of Jodhpur who had taken shelter at Naraina in Jaipur territory. When Balaji Mahadev undertook his journey from Ujjain to Pushkar Mahadji Shinde informed Sawai Pratap Singh about his travel plan and requested for suitable arrangement for his journey. Shinde informed Pratap Singh about the visit of his two officers Imam Khan and Miyan Khan who were proceeding to Gwalier via Jaipur and Karauli. The Jaipur Raja's help was solicited to arrange for their stay at Jaipur. Further the Jaipur ruler was requested to depute 50 horsemen to accompany the officers up to Karauli which is situated on the boundary of Gwalier. Mahadji Shinde asked Prithvi Singh to extend hospitality to a physician (vaidya), Pandit Ganga Vishnu who was visiting Jaipur from Ujjain. The Jaipur Raja was requested to look after the visiting dignitary with due care.

II MUTUAL INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Information concerning mutual interests was shared between the both sides on regular basis. Success against the rival power was duly appreciated by highlighting the achievement and expression of happiness. Kedarji Shinde who was looking after the Maratha interests in Rajasthan informed Madho Singh about the resolution of outstanding dispute with Shivpur and the appointment of two Maratha officials Balaji Patil and Raghav Shankar for the settlement and management of the area.

The Jaipur Raja was requested not to render any military help to the chief of Shivpur.

¹ Gwalier Kharita No.1 Falgun Vadi 5, V.S. 1807/1750.

² Gwalier Kharita No. 15, Bhadon Vadi 15, V.S. 1815/1758.

The Kharitas reveal the desire of Maratha sardars to seek military support from the Rajput rulers in the campaign against their rivals. In 1752 Malharrao Holkar and Jayaji Shinde requested Madho Singh for military help as desired by the Peshwa in support of the Maratha campaign in the Deccan to install Ghaji-ud-din Khan as the Nizam of Hyerabad. The Marathas and Jaipur co-operated each other against the Jats.

The Jaipur ruler's arbitration in resolving the dispute between the chief of Shivpur and Holkar's officials at Tonk was sought by Shinde who requested him to make an amicable settlement between the two. Again, we find Shinde advising Pratap Singh of Jaipur not to be a party in the dispute that arose in Kota. He made a specific request to Jaipur not to support Raja Kishordas. He urged Pratap Singh not to intervene in the dispute and let both the parties resolve it through negotiations. Shinde expressed hope that Pratap Singh would act as per his desire. Shinde sought Pratap Singh's support for the military action that he was contemplating against Mohammad Beg Hamadani for ditching Shafikhan. He informed the Jaipur Raja about his resolve to punish Hamadani and that Ambaji Ingle has been deputed to accomplish this task. He requested Pratap Singh to extend help to his commander Ambaji Ingle. Shinde's Kharita of 1783 acknowledged the receipt of the letter of congratulation dispatched from Jaipur over the conquest of the fort of the Gwalier by the former. In the same year Pratap Singh again wrote to Shinde expressing his happiness over Shinde's success against the Jats of Gohad and the eviction of the fort by the Jats³.

III ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MARATHAS VS RAJPUTS

The Kharitas reveal growing economic interaction between Jaipur and the Maratha ruled territories. Trade and commercial relations between the two gained momentum throughout the later half of the 18th century. Mahadji Shinde took personal interest in promoting trade and commerce between Ujjain and Jaipur and sought the cooperation of Jaipur in the smooth conduct of movement of goods from Jaipur territory to Ujjain and beyond Malwa up to the Deccan. Commercial transactions between the sahuikars from Ujjain and Jaipur were brisk and Shinde made all efforts to protect the interest of the bankers and traders from Ujjain who were operating in Jaipur and had opened shops there. The trade solely conducted to meet the requirements of the Shinde's

³ Gwalier Kharita No. 116. Chaitra Vadi 13. V.S. 1840/1783.

household and his army was sought to be treated as preferred and given protection by the Jaipur rulers who were requested to help the traders and representatives sent to Jaipur to procure items needed by Shinde and Peshwa. The Jaipur rulers were asked to exempt these items from rahdari and other local taxes. Rajasthan become the hunting ground for the purchase of high breed horses and camels needed for the Maratha army. Peshwa Madharao wrote to Prithvi Singh and requested him to personally intervene and resolve a dispute that arose between Shambhu Dixit a trader from Poona who was conducting business in Jaipur and Balwant Rao sahuakar, a Poona based banker. The former had obtained a loan from the latter on the mortgagage of his mansion (haveli). The borrower was unable to pay back in time and the matter was reported to the Jaipur officials. Balwantrao's agent Motiram was sent to Jaipur for the recovery of loan from Shambhu Dixit. The Peshwa complained against the arrest of Motiram and requested for his immediate release from the prison. Prithvi Singh was requested to use his good officers to sort out this matter⁴. Mahadji Shinde sought Prithvi Singh's cooperation for the safe passage of Malhar Naik, a textile trader from Ujjain who was carrying textile goods to Jaipur.

Shinde sent Raja Himmat Bahadur to Jaipur for the purchase of horses, camels and other items needed for the Shinde's army. Prithvi Singh was specifically requested to provide security and safe passage to Himmat Bahadur. The Jaipur Raja's favour was also sought to exempt the items bought from the taxes levied on trade in the territory of Jaipur. How Shinde protected the professional interests of his traders and bankers operating in Jaipur territory with the support of Jaipur rulers is evident from his kharita to Prithvi Singh in which he requested the latter to extend help in the recovery of loan given by Seth Kewalram to the people belonging to Jaipur territory. The Seth who apparently was a Brahman had received village Hindon in charitable grant (udik) from Jaipur. Shinde who managed this land grant from the Jaipur ruler informed that a copper plate was issued to this effect but the grantee had not been given the control of the village.

Shinde made request to Prithvi Singh to facilitate the purchase of best quality horses by his broker Maujdeem who was stationed at Jaipur. Pandit Purshotom who was deputed by Shinde to visit Jaipur for the purchase of horses was cheated by the horse

⁴ Gwalier Kharita No. 67, Kartik Sudi 4, V.S. 1827/1770.

dealers of Jaipur who supplied horses of inferior breed. Shinde requested Parthap Singh to ensure that his representative is given quality horses. Shinde sought Pratap Singh's favour in procuring four imported horses of Turkish breed which had been brought to Jaipur for sale. These horses were required by the Peshwa for his personal use. The Jaipur ruler was assured of full payment for the above purchase. That the Marathas were depending on Jaipur for procuring horses is evident from Shinde's letter of 1791 to Pratap Singh in which request was made for the supply of imported horses to meet the requirement of the Peshwa⁵. Jaipur seems to have emerged as one of the major center for horse trade. Shinde also sought Pratap Singh's cooperation in promoting salt trade in Sambhar.

There is ample evidence to reveal the areas of cooperation between the Maratha and Rajputs. In a subsequent *kharita* to Pratap Singh, Shinde shared his concern with the Jaipur ruler about the declining state of his health. Further he expressed satisfaction over his recovery from bad health. He asked Pratap Singh to send Raja Sanjay Singh for discussion over pending matters and expressed the hope that he expects positive response from Jaipur⁶. In 1790 Shinde conveyed his satisfaction over Pratap Singh's positive attitude towards the Marathas.

The willingness of the Maratha sardars to improve their personal relations with the Rajput rulers is evident from Daulatrao Shinde's *kharita* to Pratap Singh who was engaged to Udaipur Princess.

The Marathas also tried to involve the Rajput rulers in the administration of the territory ceded to them in Rajasthan. After the battle of Patan and Merta pargana Sambhar was transferred to Mahadji Shinde.

The Maratha King Shahu, Peshwa Balaji Bajirao, Rajaram and Tarabai maintained diplomatic ties with the rulers of Jaipur through their representatives and exchange of gifts.

⁵ Gwalier Kharita No. 172, Posh Sudi 13, V.S. 1848/1791.

⁶ Gwalier Kharita No. 137, Kartik Vadi 10, \AS. 1842/1785.

Diplomatic relationship between Tarabai, wife of Rajaram of Satara and Madho Singh is evident from the number of visits undertaken by Tarabai's representatives to the Jaipur court.

Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao also made his presence felt in Jaipur by sending his officers and messengers to Jaipur right up to 1760. The leading Maratha Commanders serving under the Peshwa, Shinde and Holkar who visited the Jaipur court were Jaswant Rao Bable, Jan Rao Bable, Santaji Bable, Ambaiji Ingle, De Boigne, Bhau Bhaskar, Lakhwa Pandit and Parron.

Raghunathrao and Male Rao, the grandson of Malharrao Holkar came to Amber in 1753. Arrangement for their stay was made in Badaran Ka Bag near Amber Palace. Madho Singh went to meet them but Raghunathrao in order to assert his superior position made him wait for sometime before he came to the meeting place. The other notable Maratha sardar who visited Jaipur in 1750 was Jayaji Shinde. Madho Singh himself went up to Moti Dungari to receive him. He was embraced by the Jaipur ruler. Shinde was made to mount on elephant and taken to the palace where two elephants, dresses, ornaments and jewels were offered to him as presents. A sum of Rs 2000 was sent to him to meet his local expenses. In 1755 Madho Singh sent eighty-seven gift items for Shinde. These included fancy dresses, ornaments, one elephant and horses. Malharrao Holkar came to Jaipur to see Madho Singh on Posh Vadi 3 V.S. 1810 (1753). In 1757 Raghunathrao's brother-in-law, Gopalrao Pandit who was with Jankoji Shinde left his camp and proceed towards Jaipur from where he was to undertake onward journey to Kashi. He first went to the temple of Govind Dev and thereafter called on Madho Singh. He was received by the Jaipur ruler in Chandra Mahal and given a seat facing Madho Singh. At the time of his departure from the palace he and his entourage were given valuable gifts.

Tukoji Holkar visited Jaipur in 1791 along with Bapuji Nayak and set up his camp at Nayla near Jaipur city. Rao Chaturbhuj and the son of Shri Kirishan Tiwari went to receive Bapuji Holkar. He accompanied by his 500 followers came up to the court premises from where he was taken to the palace of Pratap Singh. Bapuji greeted the Jaipur ruler who in turn blessed him. Both set on the carpet and held discussion. The guest was offered betel leaf and perfume. He was given elephant, horses, dresses and ornaments by Pratap Singh. Next day he along with Bahadur Singh Rajawat of Jhilai,

a Jaipur noble revisited the Jaipur court. Pratap Singh held a private meeting, with him. He was taken back to Tukoji Holkar's camp by Bahadur Singh Rajawat. Rs 2,000 and 20 maunds of sweets were placed at his disposal for hospitality. His third visit to the Jaipur court took place after one week. Bapuji and his brother Mahipat Rai were received by Rao Shambhu Singh and Khwas Roda Ram in the lawn of Gobind Deoji temple. They were taken to the private chamber of Pratap Singh in Sukh Niwas palace for conversation. Khwas Roda Ram and Munshi Meetha Lai were sent to the Holkar camp to deliver gifts to Bapuji Holkar.

The Maratha Commander Jaswantrao Bable who was placed under the command of Mugal emperor Shah Alam in Delhi visited Jaipur court in 1772. Dalel Singh Khangarot, a Jaipur noble was deputed to receive him. Jaswantrao came to the court to call on the Jaipur ruler Prithvi Singh. He was offered betel leaf by the ruler himself and given a seat just four feet away from the ruler's seat. Prithvi Singh honoured him by presenting a turban and a sum of Rs 400 and 4 maunds of sweets were sent to his camp as hospitality.

Peshwa Balaji Bajirao's representative Antaji Mankeshwar who was posted at Jhansi was instructed to visit Marwar in 1755. He accompanied by his son and Tatya Pandit reached Jodhpur. Madho Singh honoured him by sending a turban which was delivered in Marwar territory.

In 1755 Naroshankar and Anandrao Pandit were sent to the Jaipur court as representatives of Raghunathrao and Malharrao Holkar. They were offered Rs 2,000 each as hospitality allowance and a sum of Rs 110 in lieu of sweets. A sum of Rs 34,000 was also handed over to them as partial payment of tribute. Naroji Shankar who also happened to be the subedar of Jhansi was accompanied by Aapa Tatya. Arrangements for his stay in Jaipur were made in Kirajila Bag.

Sethiaji Kherada, an official of the Peshwa visited Jaipur in 1750. Madho Singh instructed his officials to make appropriate arrangement for his stay and hospitality. Six dresses were presented to him when he called on the ruler. His second visit to Jaipur took place in 1753.

Raghunathrao, Malharrao Holkar and Jayappa Shinde dispatched Vithal Sahdev to Jaipur in 1753 to resolve the issue of tribute payment. Rs 1,500 were sanctioned to

take care of his local expenses. Udai Ram Nayak was sent to Jaipur in 1757 by Malharrao Holkar.

Sadashiv Pandit and Baburao Pandit visited Jaipur in 1764 on behalf of Malharrao Holkar. Sadashiv Pandit received Rs 200 as hospitality allowance and two maunds of sweets. On Holkar's instruction he was paid Rs 15,000 through Seth Kewal Ram to meet the salary claims of some Maratha officials stationed at Jaipur.

IV VISITS OF THE MARATHA SUBEDARS AND MOKASADARS TO RAJASTHAN

The Maratha subedar and mokasadar posted in the territories under the Maratha possession in Rajasthan were the other category of Maratha people who came to Jaipur either to call on the Jaipur ruler or to meet the higher authorities of Jaipur state to transact official work regarding revenue collection, realization of tribute and administrative control over the areas transferred to the Marathas. Sometimes these visits were merely curtsy calls to create goodwill and harmony. Gobindrao Pandit was appointed by the Peshwa as the subedar of Ajmer and his son Kishnajirao was holding the office of mokasdar in Udaipur. Kishnajirao visited Jaipur in 1764. He was given Rs 200 as expenses for local hospitality.

V MARATHA VS JAIPUR ALLIANCE AGAINST BHARATPUR

Those Marathas who visited Jaipur for participating in the battle against the Jats of Bharatpur were especially honoured and rewarded by the Jaipur ruler. Malharrao Holkar's Diwan Ragho Aapa came to Jaipur in 1755. He was to join the Maratha army to fight against the Jats. Madho Singh felicitated him by presenting one horse and various gift items. Mandu Patel who was also in Holakar's army that was sent to fight with the Jats received one horse and various gift items from Jaipur. Anayaji Dikhani's service was requisitioned by Madho Singh in 1767 when the Jaipur army fought with Jawahar Singh, the Jat ruler of Bharatpur. He was paid Rs 151,450/- to meet the expenses of his troops and received in reward an elephant, gold chain and variety of dresses. His representative Balaji Pandit visited the Jaipur court in 1768 and got cash reward and other gifts. In 1769 Santaji Bable, Janrao Bable and Jaswantrao Bable were campaigning against the Jats. When Prithvi Singh, the Jaipur ruler came to know about their presence in Jaipur territory he sent Rs 400 and 4

maunds of sweets to the Maratha commanders as hospitality from Jaipur side. They were given Rs 1,625 at the time of their departure from Jaipur. Manrao Bable the son of Janrao Bable was assigned iqar worth Rs 5,000 by Prithvi Singh in Phagi and Niwai parqanas of Jaipur. He was given twelve gift items when he left Jaipur. Rs 1,200 were given in reward to the vakils of Bable who visited the Jaipur court in 1768. Gifts were also sent for the family members of Santaji Bable. Tatyga Gangadhar who was under the service of Chhatrapati shahu was honoured by Madho Singh who offered him a horse and twenty three items of gift. Madho Singh felicitated him as he was joining the Maratha troops engaged in fight against the Jats. Dauia Mian who was participating in Shinde's battle against the Jats was given Rs 15,000 as faui Kharch.

VI MARATHA REPRESENTATIVES FOR TRIBUTE AT JAIPUR COURT

Peshwa, Holkar and Shinde also dispatched their representatives to Jaipur court on almost regular basis to seek explanation of the Jaipur ruler about the issues yet to be resolved and the issues raised by them in the Kharitas addressed to the Jaipur rulers. The main issue pertains to the complexity involved in the settlement of tribute amount and its timely payment. Transfer of control over the territories passed on to the Marathas was the other complicated issue which quite often created tensions between the two sides. In 1751 Nago Pandit was sent to Jaipur to demand money due to Malharrao Holkar. He was paid Rs 1,300 for his expenses. Shayam Rao Pandit was deputed to visit Jaipur in 1768 to question the stand of Jaipur ruler over the dispute regarding the control over Borada and other village in Ajmer. Jankoji Shinde dispatched Dabuji Chauhan and other officials to Jaipur to collect tribute money from Madho Singh. They were paid Rs 2,700 to meet the local expenses. Prithuji Pandit, Jujhar Singh Brahman and Anand Roop Brahmin, the Maratha vakils were sent to Jaipur in 1751, 1764 and 1765 respectively. Malharrao Holker dispatched maximum number of representatives to Jaipur in the year 1764. The visits of Jagananth Pandit, Jethmal Pancholi, Triyambakrao Pandit, Baburao Pandit, Parasram Mahadev Pandit, Sadashiv Pandit, Khanderao Pandit and Govindrao Pandit during year 1764 are recorded in Dastur Komvar.

Ramrao, Abhoji and Para Pandit were sent to Jaipur by Tukoji Holker in 1791 to

convey his message to Pratap Singh. Ramrao made an offering of gold coin and coconut to the Jaipur ruler. Ramrao was given one horse a necklace of pearls, robe of honour and gold ornaments when he took leave of the Jaipur ruler. Para Pandit received a robe of honour and two ornaments.

VII VISITS OF MARATHA TO NORTH INDIA VIA JAIPUR

The expansion of Maratha Power in north India led to increasing movement of the Maratha armies and representatives of the Maratha sardars to various places in Rajasthan and Delhi- Agra region. It is evident from the sources that many of the Marathas traveling from the Deccan to Delhi Agra region passed through Jaipur territory and some of them even halted at Jaipur city. The Maratha officials camping in Jaipur territory often came to Jaipur court and received robes of honour and presents from the ruler. Visits of all notable Marathas who passed through Jaipur are mentioned in Dastur Komvar. Aapaji Dikhani went to Mawar via Jaipur territory. He received a sum of rupees 600 from the Jaipur ruler to meet his personal expenses within Jaipur territory. Jaganathrao Dikhani visited the Jaipur court from an unidentified location where Maratha army was encamping. Three robes of honour were given to him by the Jaipur ruler. A number of Marathas stationed at Fagi visited Jaipur city and called on the ruler who gave them robes of honour and gifts according to their status. Man Singh Pandit and Madhorao Pandit came to the Jaipur court in 1752, Tukoji Nayak met the Jaipur ruler in 1755, Rane Khan, Manaji Shinde, Biraj Pandit, Gopal rao Pandit, Baharji and Tukoji Shinde all of them came to visit Jaipur from Fagi in 1765. Baburao Pandit carrying the farman from Delhi issued by the Mugal emperor to confirm the appointment of Madho Singh as the naib subedar (deputy Governor) of suba Agra was offered hospitality at Jaipur and received cash award when he departed from Jaipur. He maintained contact with Jaipur till 1766 as we find Jaipur ruler sending eight gift items for him to Delhi in 1764. His next visit to Jaipur took place in 1766. He attended the Jaipur court and received Rs 200 for local hospitality.

VIII MARATHA PARTICIPATION IN THE RAJPUTS RITUALS

Political ties between the Marathas and the Rajputs were strengthened by fulfilling social obligations. Peshwa, Shinde and Holkar dispatched senior officers to Jaipur to

represent them in the coronation ceremony, marriage in Jaipur royal family and to mourn the death of Jaipur ruler or any members of his family. On these occasions they carried all the material that suited the occasion and needed for particular rituals. In 1750 Peshwa Balaji Bajirao sent several gifts through his representative Damodar Mahadev Pandit which were delivered to Madho Singh at time of his coronation ceremony. The Peshwa's representative was given Rs 500 as hospitality allowance and two maunds of sweets. Various gifts numbering fifty were given to him by the Jaipur ruler when he departed from Jaipur. Madho Singh sent elephants, horses, pearls, diamonds and dresses for the Peshwa and one hundred sixty eight gifts for the leading Maratha sardars. Malharrao also sent customary tika to Madho Singh to felicitate him on the occasion of coronation ceremony.

Mahadji Shinde also sent Neelkanth Pandit from the Deccan to Jaipur to witness the coronation ceremony of Prithvi Singh. Dhundhoji Pandit and Aapaji Pandit Dikhani led the team sent by Mahadji Shinde to Jaipur to perform the ritual of tying the turban (Pagbandi) on the head of Prithvi Singh (a ritual performed after the death of his father Madho Singh). Tukoji Holkar's representative Vithalrao Pandit came to Jaipur to attend the coronation ceremony of Prithvi Singh in 1769. He presented gifts sent by Holkar to the Jaipur ruler in the presence of Jaipur nobles and high ranking civil officials. Tukoji Holkar's representative Ghanashyam Pandit visited Jaipur in 1770.

IX CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF INTERCHANGING OF GIFTS

The Jaipur rulers continuously delivered gifts to the Maratha Sardars, their family members and other Maratha dignitaries. In 1742 jewels and dresses worth Rs 1872.75 were presented to Uma Bai, the wife of Khande Rao Holkar. These gifts were taken to her by Har Prasad Khatri. She maintained contact with Jaipur ruler through her messengers who kept visiting Jaipur. Keshav das Khatri was deputed to visit the Deccan in 1748 and 1749 to deliver gifts comprising dresses, ornaments, diamonds etc valued at Rs 15000 to the Peshwa and his leading Sardars. In 1750 Rs 42, 53,000 were paid to the Marathas by the Jaipur representatives in the Deccan. In 1751 Jaipur Diwan Kanhi Ram went to the Deccan to meet Malharrao Holkar. He took one hundred and thirty four gifts and a robe of honour for Holkar. In 1752 gifts worth Rs 16,000 and ten horses were sent twice for Holkar. Horses and gift items were sent for Malerao Holkar, the son of Khanderao Holkar in 1755 and 1757. In 1756 gifts were

taken to the Deccan by the Jaipur representative for Raghunathrao and Malharrao Holkar. Raghunathrao received Rs 5.5 lakhs, one elephant, horses and other gifts in 1757⁷. All these were delivered to him in the Deccan. In 1771 a necklace from the Jaipur ruler was presented to him by Shaym Singh Hamirdeka who was sent to the Deccan to meet him. Raghunathrao's Diwan Chimaji Pandit who received a robe of honour from Jaipur in 1756 was offered gifts again in 1771 through Syam Singh Hamrdeka. Peshwa Balaji Bajrao's Diwan Anand Rao Pandit was also the recipient of several gifts from Jaipur. Jaipur rulers continuously delivered gifts to the Holkars for with the betterment of ties between the two.

X JAIPUR RAJA'S EFFORTS TO KEEP THE SHINDE AND HOLKAR HOUSEHOLD IN A GOOD HUMOUR

Attempts were made by the Jaipur rulers to keep the Holkars also in good humour.

This was accomplished by delivering them gifts from time to time. Two horses and 89 gifts were sent for Malharrao Holkar in 1756. In 1757 one horse and 14 gifts were dispatched for Holkar and 5 maunds of rice and tobacco to be used in the smoking pipe were sent for his daughter Gautam Bai. In 1765 Raja Sadashiv and Raj Singh Hamirdeka went to the Deccan where they presented several gifts to Malharrao and Malerao Holkar. During his visit to the Deccan in 1767 the Jaipur representatives Shyam Singh Hamirdeka carried gifts for Tukoji Holkar. In 1768 the Jaipur ruler sent for him an elephant worth Rs 8,000 and weapons made in Jaipur as gifts. These gifts were sent soon after Prithvi Singh's coronation ceremony. Holkar had also requisitioned 10 sers of raw silk, five diamonds and two gold rings from Jaipur. These were also sent as gifts from Jaipur.

XI CONCLUSION:

Associations between the Marathas vs Rajputs were not totally adversarial but were also marked by attempts to further mutual co-operation. Through mutual exchange of letters both sides tried to negotiate the quantum of tribute payable to the Marathas. Despite occasional bonhomie, the Rajputs did not desist from resisting Maratha

⁷ Dastur Komwar Dikhni, Vol. IX, Jeth Budi 7, V.S. 1812/1757.

occupation of Rajasthan.

REFERENCES:

1. Bhati, Narendra Singh, Thirty Decisive Battles of Jaipur, J.E.P. Works, Jaipur 1939.
2. Bhatnagar, V.S., Life and Times of Sawai Jai Singh 1688-1743, Imper India, Delhi, 1974.
3. Bhatt, S.K., 'Holkar-Rajput Relations,' in Maratha History Seminar Papers (May 28, 1971).
4. Chandra, Satish, 'Raja Jai Singh Sawai's contribution to Imperial Politics', in Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Eleventh Session, Delhi, 1948.
5. Chandra, Satish, Parties And Politics At The Mughal Court 1707-1740, People's Publishing House, New Delhi, 1972.
6. Compton, Herbert, A Particular Account of the Military Adventures of Hindustan, London : T. Fisher Unwin, 1892.
7. Nadkarni, Rajaram Vyankatesh, The Rise and Fall of the Maratha Empire, Popular Prakashan, Bombay, 1966.
8. Ojha, Gaurishankar Hirachand, Udaipur Rajya ka Itihas, Vol. II, Rajasthani Granthagar, Jodhpur, Second Edition, 1999.
9. Oturkar, R.V., 'Rajput-Maratha Cultural Relationship', Proceedings of Indian History Congress, 14 Session, Jaipur, 1951.
10. Pagadi, Setu Madhavrao, Studies in Maratha History, Vol. II, Shivaji University Publication, Kolhapur, 1971.\
11. Parihar, G.R., Marwar and the Marathas(1724-1843), Hindi Sahitya Mandir, Jodhpur, 1965.
12. Pearson, M. N. 'Shivaji and the Decline of Mughal Empire', Journal of Asain Studies, Vol. xxxv, 2, 1976.

13. Prasad, Ishwari, *The Mughal Empire*, Chugh Publications, Allahabad, 1974.
14. Qanungo, Kalika Ranjan, *Studies in Rajput History*, S. Chand, Delhi, 1960.
15. Rana, R.P., *Rebels to Rulers : The Rise of Jat Power in Medieval India c. 1665-1735*, Manohar, New Delhi, 2006.
16. Ranade, Mahadev Govind, *Rise of the Maratha Power and other Essays and leanings from Maratha Chronicles by K.T.Telang, Published by T.V.Chidambara, University of Bombay, Bombay, 1961.*