



History of jind: Princely state

Dr. Neelam Rani¹, Rajeev Kumar²

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of History and Archaeology, Ch. Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Haryana, India

² Research Scholar, Department of History and Archaeology, Ch. Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Haryana, India

Abstract

This paper brings an initial report of formation of Princely state Jind. The main purpose of this paper is to understand the history of this area and what was the importance of this state. It is also tried to understand the formation of princely state and what was the procedure to be a modern district. The result of this paper will solve many problems to new scholar who wanted to understand the regional history, because the regional history is the integral part of the national history.

Keywords: Jind, Princely state, british rule, Haryana

Introduction

Location and extent

Haryana is one of the 28 states of India, it was formed in November 1966 and Jind district is a part of Haryana State. Presently Jind city is a district headquarters. Which is located at a distance of 128 kilometers in the north-west direction from Delhi on the Delhi-Firozpur railway line. Its latitudinal extent is from 29°03' to 29°51' and longitudinal extent is from 75°53' to 76°47' (Haryana District gazetteer, Jind, 1986:02) ^[13] and its height is 227 meters above sea level (Cunningham, A. 1871).

Administrative units

The district has been bordered with Hissar and Fatehabad district in the west, Rohtak district in the south and Karnal, Panipat and Sonapat districts in the east side. The northern boundary of this district boarded with Kaithal district and also touches the state of Punjab. Altogether its boundary touches 7 districts and it is an intermediate district of Haryana. it is connected to different parts of the country by road and railway line. As per district gazetteer report, the area of this district is about 3311 square km (Haryana District gazetteer, Jind, 1986:02) ^[13] and it is the fourth largest district in terms of area. The district has been divided in four tehsils for administrative purposes namely Jind, Narwana, Julana and Safidon (District Census Report 2011:11). Narwana Tehsil is the biggest Tehsil of this district by area (Rajpal:2019) ^[10].

Nomenclature

The establishment of this city is linked to the Mahabharata period. According to Mahabharata and Padampuraana, this area comes under the area of 48 cos of Mahabharata war (Singh, Amar:1981). When the Pandavas built a temple at this place in honor of Jayanti Devi (the goddess of victory). He had worshiped here to win over the Kauravas. Later, this city has been developed around this temple. This temple, still known as *Jayanti Devi Temple*. The temple is situated on the banks of the *Chetang River*, near the Sun Temple, in the north-west of the current city (Phulkian States Gazetteer. 1904:334) ^[7].

The pronunciation of the classic name '*Jayant*' worsened

through time, during the British rule, it was changed several times in English - *Jayantapuri*, *Jayantpuri*, *Jiyani*, later *Jhind* and finally in its current forums as *Jind* which is still prevalent today (District Census Report 2011:07).

Historical background

The region between the Himalayan Mountains in the north, the desert region of Rajasthan in the south, the Yamuna River in the east and the Sutlej River in the west is currently known as Haryana. This area has been the playground of many historical works. In the history of India, three major cities have been the center of political power i.e. Pataliputra, Kannauj and Delhi.

When the *Pataliputra* city has been developed, then there were many republics in the area of Haryana, and they were ruling in a democratic way (Raychaudhery, H.C. 1953).

Then the second center named *Kannauj* has been developed, then the region of Haryana remained under the rule of Vardhan dynasty and Gurjar-Pratiharas (Raychaudhery, H.C. 1953).

After the downfall of above said centres, when Delhi became the center of political power of our country, not a single state or princely state developed in this area. Because of the closeness of Delhi, there were fierce wars among many powers to take ownership in this area, and all these wars were fought on the land of Haryana itself. So, not a single permanent princely state could develop here, but in the 18th century, when there was political upheaval in our country, many princely states were established (Cunningham, A. 1882). One of them was the *Jind* princely state, which existed till 1947.

Formation as princely state

This princely state was established by the Jat Sikhs of Siddha Jot in the middle of the 17th century. Descendants of Jaisal Rajputs who migrated from Jaisalmer settled in East Punjab in the 12th century. After coming here, these Rajputs established matrimonial relations with Jats and then their children became Jats later. On adopting Sikhism, these Jats became Sikhs in the 16th century and established a village named 'Phool' in his name in the Nabha region. Phool's elder son Tilokha established the princely states of Jind and

Nabha. Phool died in 1645 at the age of 45 years. Shah Jahan had appointed Phool as the ruler of a large part of Punjab. After Phool's death, his son Tilokha's greed got its fill and after that his son Sukhchain became the chauthari of this area. He had made a successful attempt to give it the form of a princely state (Dhingra, Biharilal). He had captured Sirhind in 1763 as well but he died in 1764.

Raja Gajpat Singh

After his death, Gajpat Singh (1764-1789) became the master of the princely state of Jind. In the jurisdiction of Jind princely State the area of Karnal, Panipat, Gohana, Rohtak, Safidon and Jind were occupied, but he miscalculating his power, he stopped giving land revenue to the Mughal government. So, Mughal Governor Najib arrested Gajpat Singh and he spent three years (1767-70) in Mughal captivity but he realized his mistake and after paying 3 lakh rupees, he was released and on behalf of the Mughal government Through a royal announcement, he was accepted as the official king of the princely state of Jind, since then all the rulers of this princely state used the title of king. Raja Najpat Singh also issued his own coin and established the capital at a place called Badrukhan. Famous King Maharaja Ranjit Singh was also the son of Raja Gajpat Singh's daughter (Prakash, Buddha 1967) [8].

Raja Bhag Singh

After the death of Gajpat Singh, Raja Bhag Singh (1789-1815) played an important role as the ruler of this princely state, during his tenancy, the Marathas had become more interfered in the politics of northern India and the Mughal power had declined. The East India Company had more influence and It was growing day by day in this reign. George Thomas strengthened his power by making capital to Hansi and make a struggle to grab many areas between with Raja Bhag Singh. After the British occupied Delhi, Raja Bhag Singh established friendship with the company and accepted the subordination of the company to save his princely state.

Raja Pratap Singh

Raja Bhag Singh had become addicted to drugs at the end of his life, and he declared his eldest son Pratap Singh as his successor, but the British refused to accept him as the ruler. Thus, Pratap Singh rebelled in 1814 AD. So, the Britishers arrested him and put him in jail where he died in 1816.

Raja Sarup Singh

After his death, Raja Sangat Singh was crowned, his attention was more in indulgence luxury than in office works, due to which disorder spread in the princely state. He also died childless. But later Sarup Singh was accepted as the king. This king expecting the common man and supported the British government in the first freedom struggle of 1857 (Bates, Crispin. 2013) [1]. Due to which the company was successful in suppressing this rebellion. Apart from this, he had taken the side of the British rule in the Anglo-Sikh wars also. During his tenancy, *Bhura* and *Nikaiya* warriors of Lajwana village rebelled, but their rebellion was suppressed and, in the end, they were hanged. During the tenure of ruler Sarup Singh, the governance system became completely disorganized and there was no respect for the rulers of the princely state among the

common people and the public started hating them, but because of favoring the British Raj and helping them, the British were pleased with them and given the pargana of Dadri to Jind Riyasat as a reward. In 1863 announced by British government to honor Sarup Singh as 'Voice of India'.

Raja Raghbir Singh

Raja Raghbir Singh (Successor of Sarup sing) faced a rebellion in Dadri which he successfully suppressed. During occupancy of Raghbir Singh (1864–1887), the total area of the princely state Jind was 1236 square meters, the population was three and a half lakhs and the annual recovery as different taxes was seven lakh rupees. This ruler also ignored the difficulties of the common people and engaged in pleasing the Company Raj (Prakash, Buddha 1971) [9].

Raja Ranbir Singh

Raja Ranbir Singh (1887-1947) became the last ruler of this princely state. At the time of becoming the ruler, he was only 8 years old, so he was considered only as a formal ruler, while the work of the princely state was carried on by a council formed under the supervision of the Britishers (Yadav, K.C. 1981) [14]. The Britishers gave him G.C.I.E. (The most eminent order of the Indian Empire, founded by queen victoria) awarded for achievements etc. He lived in Jind, Sangrur and Dadri alternately to keep his relations sweet with the peoples. The country became independent during his time and with the independence of the country, the existence of this princely state also came to an end.

At the time of independence, the peoples here gave their majority in favor of abolishing the princely state, but the British government created a separate state namely *Patiala and East Punjab States Union* (PEPSU) which was formed on 15 July 1948. By making a separate state the area of Jind also made a part of new state. This arrangement continued for eight years and Riff PEPSU was dissolved and the area was given the status of a tehsil under Sangrur district of Punjab state (Yadav, K.C. 1987) [15].

When Haryana became a separate province on 1 November 1966, the area was made a district. The Narwana and Safidon formed as Tehsil of this district and an important administrative reshuffle was done in January 1973. In which 54 villages were obtained from Kaithal tehsil of Jind district. These were adjusted as follows. In which 43 villages were given to Jind tehsil, 5 villages were given to Safidon tehsil and 6 villages were given to Narwana tehsil and then in 1974 one village Barsola of Hansi tehsil was also given to Jind tehsil. Then in 1979, when Kaithal was made a district, Kalayat and Rajound, which were part of Jind district, were transferred to Kaithal district, after which no further changes were made in the form of this district. Today's district Jind was a part of it in the name of a princely state before 1948 (Gulia Yashpal).

Conclusion

The pace of history never stands still. Every event related to the society and its form keeps on changing according to the time and situation. This area is not only related to the medieval period, but it is also clearly related to the civilizations of ancient times. While Jind was not only the southern gate of the battle field during the Mahabharata period, it has also been the place of landing and workplace of four of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Varah, Narasimha, Parshuram and Krishna). This area has been

under the influence of history from Chandragupta Maurya, King Harsha, Prithviraj Chauhan, Firoz Tughlaq, Sher Shah Suri, Akbar to the founder of *Jind Riyasat*, Raja Gajpat to the last ruler Ranbir Singh.

References

1. Bates Crispin. "Mutiny at the Margins: New Perspectives on the Indian Uprising of 1857", Sage Publishing India, Delhi, 2013.
2. C Chandermouli. "District Census Handbook, Jind", Chandigarh, 2014.
3. Cunningham A. "The Ancient Geography of India", Trubner & Co., London, 1871.
4. Cunningham A. "Report of a tour in the Punjab in 1878-79", Oxford.
5. Dhingra Biharilal, "Jind State: A Brief Historical and Administrative Sketch".
6. Gulia Yashpal, "Princely History of Haryana", Haryana Sahitya Akademi, Panchkula.
7. Phulkian States Gazetteer- Patiala, Jind and Nabha, 1904.
8. Prakash Buddha. "Glimpses of Haryana", Kurukshetra, 1967.
9. Prakash Buddha. "Haryana Through the Ages", 1971.
10. Rajpal. "History and Archaeology of Ancient Haryana (With Special Reference to District Jind)", B.R.Publishing Corporation, Delhi, 2019.
11. Raychaudheri HC. "Political History of Ancient India", Calcutta, 1953.
12. Singh Amar. "Archaeology of Jind and Karnal Districts (Haryana)", Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana, 1981.
13. Singh Raghveer. "Haryana District Gazetteer, Jind", Chandigarh, 1986.
14. Yadav KC. "Haryana Ka Itihas", Macmillan India Ltd., New Delhi, 1981.
15. Yadav KC. "Haryana ka Itihas", Kurukshetra University Press, Kurukshetra, 1987, 2.