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Quit India Movement : Agitation on Tahasil offices in Satara District

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1. Introduction:

The history of Indian freedom struggle is found so thrilling innumerable streams. Armed, barehanded, moderate, extremist, revolutionary etc. are integral parts of this freedom fight. Early armed revolt of 1857 got failed. There after the attempts for freedom had been starting by constitution ways, since the establishment of congress in 1885. Under the leadership of congress. Indian people very often showed protest against British Empire through various movement.

Quit India Movement of 1942 is Known as the last stage of Indian freedom fighting. Common man contributed in this movement with extra ordinary valour. In the district of satara Underground Movement, agitations on administrative offices and establishment of parallel government are significant events under the leadership of krantisingh nana patil. The present research article has focused on agitations on tahasil administrative offices in satara.

2. Quit India Movement :

After failure of Cripps Mission congress inclined to start national movement. On 6th July 1942 the meeting of congress Working committee started at vardha. Original draft of ‘Quit India’ was approved there on 14th July 1942. The session of Indian national congress was organized at Mumbai on 7th – 9th August For getting approval of Quit India¹. Mean whil Winston churchill mandated to break down this movement oppressively after knowing the effects of aggression of Mahatma Gandhi and congress as well as planned movement in 1942. On 24th July 1942 Indian government planned there action accordingly. The details of this startergy occer in the letter sent by Indian home ministry to all province governments on 2nd August 1942 On 6th August, war cabinet approved this proposal. Thus on 8th August the executive commission of viceroy approved too.² The government already prepared to break down this movement.

On 7th August, the session of Indian National Congress held on the ground of Gowalia Tank. Pandit Neharu Propose the resolution ‘Quit India’ of congress working committee and Sardar Patel sanctioned it.³ On 8th August 1942 this resolution was approved after long discussion. Mahatma Gandhi delivered his aggressive speech. He provided the spell of ‘Do Or

Die' to the people. 'Quite India' was approved with extreme attitude against British Government. Zest of the members of congress was grown up due to Gandhiji's presence. Justifiable role in this approval was to fight with democratic way against imperialism and dictatorship as well as to get progress of common man through our independence.⁴

That day the session was ended at 10 pm. Government took their action rapidly before people leaving the session place. The code word 'Patloon' was sent in all provinces by telegram. This telegram means the order to take actions over the country simultaneously.⁵ Mahatma Gandhi was arrested with prominent congress leaders. This activists of 'A' and 'B' class leader in various provinces were started to arrest. In the dawn of 9th August, government broke down congress session with the order of ban in Gowalia Tank area. Thus sudden process of lathi charge, teargas was applied on thousand of congress activists. This action grew the terror of government in Mumbai. The activists came to attend the session over the country left for their places with avoiding police.

3. Movement in the district of Satara :

On 9th August 1942, the news of the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and other prominent leaders was spread by radio and news paper in the morning. It was reflected badly over the country. People in Satara district Outraged against government. Gandhiji was adorable person of the country and people followed his quote 'Do or Die' and participated enthusiastically.

Over hundred activists from Satara district attended the session in Mumbai. On 9th August they escaped from arrest by getting any vehicles. Almost all activists moved back to Satara till 11th August and started movement against British Government by arranging meetings, strikes and morning walks. Gandhiji became aggressive to the first time in the history of freedom struggle. Therefore the country become aggressive. People from different parts of the country interpreted differently to order 'Do or Die' Any violence programme was not planned during the movement in the district. British government attempted to break movement by suppression. The terror was created by firing. Still in satara Non violent and peaceful agitations were organized on taluka administrative office and decided to flaunt Tiranga for condemnation of firing. Collector office was last target.⁶

4. Karad Agitation :

On 24th August 1942 Yashwantrao Chavan planned agitation Activists were divided in to two groups. First group would go to talluka administrative office under the leadership of Balkrishna Anant Patil or Dadasaheb Undalkar. Second group would meet first group after stopping the work of sub Judge Court, Karad under the leadership of Dinkarrao Nikam and bhiku nana salunkhe (kivalkar). By plan Dadasaheb undalkar came with group of thousands people from villages i.e. undale, kale, tambave, charegaon, Indoli, shirgaon etc. Dinkarrao nikam meat first group with thousands people from kival, Masur, Shiravad, karve, shere, Dusher, Karad etc. after

stopping the work of judge court karad at 11 o'clock. the police prevented agitation to enter in tahasil administrative office. Mean while, Dadasabeb Undalkar addressed crowd. Police arrested undalkar after exposing the objectives of agitation. Therefore people outraged. Dadasaheb undalkar calmed down people and said, "Our agitation has become successful. We have win. Mease move back to your homes. Now we have grown mighty so that we can arrest those who need arrest us but it not our purpose. I have accepted my arrest peacefully Gandhiji told us do or die but he insisted us to be non violent. If you behave violently he wouldn't like it. So go back to your home"

People respected Mr. Undalkar's words and moved back to city. This rally was going with slogans and ended at Krishna Ghat. Durig going back to home People distributed war-pamphlets tore some old documents in village hall.

Police arrested responsible people of rally Dadasaheb Undalkar from Undale, Manohar Nivrutti Khatavkar, Hari Krishna Kumbhar from Tambave and Pandurang Nana Deshmukh.⁸ The first agitation of Karad was successful example of non- violence.

5. Patan Agitation :

Yashawantrao Chavan planned agitation in Patan as planned in Karad. On 24th August as soon as morning agitation in Karad were completed there was the strategy to bring agitations on tahasil administrative office in Patan. Vithoba Tukaram Ghadage or Buva Mhavashikar took responsibilities of agitation. Around two thousand peoples got together near the bridge of Kera river. This crowd moved with patriotic slogans towards tahasi administrative office leading Buva Mhavashikar. In the afternoon at 3.30 the agitation came near gate of administrative officer. Inspector interrupted crowd with armed police. Buva Mhavashikar told his intention. "We have come hear for flap a tiranga flag and we are going to celebrate it." But inspector opposed this activity and ordered the mob to quit. but people proclaimed slogans against government and flaunted Tiranga on compound of the office. Buva Mhavashikar after delivering his speech. There after the agitation was over and people went back peacefully with non-violence. police didn't arrest them.⁹ Agitation of Patan got huge success after the agitation of Karad.

6. Tasgaon Agitation :

Nana Patil planned to agitation at tahasil administrative office in Tasgaon. On 2 September 1942 near about 11 O'clock, thousand activists gathered with weapons as spears, axes, swords sticks etc. on yerala river bank. Vasant Dada Patil participated with his companions. also the workers of Kirloskar Engineering Works also joined agitation after going on strike in company. Dr. Salunkhe from Palus Dr. gosavi from bhilvadi and Dr. Divan from Kirloskarwadi joined agitation for helping people. People chose selected armed activities for preventing nana patil's arrest and unanimously decided to give charge of agitation to Krishnarao Kurhade.¹⁰

The crowd moved to the east towards tahasil administrative office with slogans against government and signing songs of freedom. Agitation came in front of the court of Sub Judge

Tasgaon. The mob appealed contemporary Judge to stop work of court and to respect Tiranga. Honourable Judge Patil approved their appeal and celebrated flaunting of Tiranga by wearing Gandhi cap There after the agitation moved to tahasil administrative office.¹¹

Sub Judge Patil who surrendere to mob sent a letter of advice to Mamledar S.T. Nikam. He wrote, “we shall keep quiet and won’t take any action. Everything will be better. Don’t bear any responsibility which will lead to risk.” After reading this letter mamledar locked the gate of tahasil office. PSI keskar, a treasury guard and thirty three armed police were there with Mamledar Nikam. Mamledar was hesitated after looking armed crowd and after reading the letter by Sub Judge. He asked to PSI for suggestion. PSI said, “don’t allow to enter the mob inside the gate in any situation.” Mamledar was not satisfied with this suggestion. He allowed to enter ten(10) to fifteen leader for discussion. Krishnarao Kurhade gave a letter to mamledar which included demands with his sign on behalf of people. The detail in this letter are given onwards. “ Indians have called over fight against British Government. So it is a crime for any Indian to continue employment of British Government Mamledar is also an Indian, so he is requested to close the office, resign his job and provide his authorities to people. also let the Tiranga flaunt on administrative office.” PSI and Mamledar permitted to flaunt the flag outside of office. The situation became critical. People stood outside raised their voice with slogans after long waiting for decision in the meeting inside. Mamledar knew the effects if the situation would be out of control. He ordered to open the gate and the mob entered inside of the gate. People flaunted Tiranga by hands of Mamledar wear Gandhi cap. This celebration was ended with singing Vande Mataram.¹²

The people demanded their second wish that Pandurang Shivade from Burli would be relieved from the arrest by police or shown him to the mob. Pandurang Shivade was arrested under the pinal code 26 of Defence of India Rules. Mameledar was hesitated due to this demand but he resisted to relieve him with firmness. nevertheless Mr. Shivade was shown to people for a few minutes. There after Kurhade delivered his speech with reading congress leaflet and crowd left administrative office with pleasure around 4 pm. some people burnt a part of inspection office of Satara District Board at Bambavade as well as broke down cables and poles of telegraph and telephone in area of Bhilavadi and Tasgaon.¹³

Thus the agitation in Tasgaon got great success Everyone felt as destroying British empire that day. district Magistrate of Satara,D.S.P and commissioner of Pune paid their attention and decided to break down such agitations. Mamledar S.T. Nikam was suspended and the security of other administrative offices in the district kept tight. Police undertook mission to arrest prominent ledars in agitation.

7. Vita Agitation :

After gettion success in Tasgaon Nana Patil, Bhagvanrao Patil Appasaheb Lad, Govindrao Mirage, Nathaji Lad, Mahaev Mirage, Maruti Salaunkhe and so on decided to get agitation on Mamledar office at vita On 4th September. D.S.P. appeared in the morning with armed police at Vita after learning the news of agitation.¹⁵ Nana Patil planned his strategy to let police pay their

attention to Vita and he was preparing for agitation in Islampur. This agitation in Vita was planned after the rally in Islampur. But activists turned on underground movement. Dun to government applied violent actions in upcoming agitations of Islampur and Vaduj. That's why the planned agitation of Vita was cancelled.¹⁶

8. Vaduj Agitaion :

After the success in Tasgaon people over the district turned enthusiastic. Under the guidance of Yashwantrao Chavan activists i.e. Gaurihar Sinhasane, Manikchand Doshi, Babu kachare, Rambhau Nalawade, Bondopant Lomate and so on planned agitation on vaduj tahasil administrative office. They made people enthusiastic by spreading news of agitation at taluka place. The leadership of agitation was entrusted to wrestler Parashuram Gharge. Bondopant Loamte from Vadgaon (Jayram Swami) informed memledar G.V. Ankali and Inspector K. B. Bendigiri about 9th september's agitation.¹⁷

On the day of agitation Parashuram Gharge reached at Vaduj by procession with activists from other ares. as soon as mob had reached near tahasil office. Mamledar and Inspector came out of gate. Mean while wrestler Parashuram Gharge stood with Tiranga in hands and crowd uttered slogans loudly. Inspector warned people to not come forward. Parashuram Gharge talked politely with Mamaledar "We wish to flaunt flag on administrative office." But Mamledar denied his wish and said to move back otherwise they would fire, but crowd was moving forward. The crowd replied 'no' to PSI's order to move back. Then police fired on the crowd.¹⁸ PSI fired nine Bullets from his revolver and thirty eight bullets were fired on people by other guards. Therefore almost people turned upside down on land by fear. Bustle grow up on that place, but parshuram Gharge stayed firmly with Tiranga in hands in front of police. Two bullets went through his chest nevertheless he didn't drop Tiranga. Third bullet went through his head and this brave freedom fighter was collapsed on land. It was great surprise that Tiranga was holded in his right hand by great martyr. Seven another activists become martyr.¹⁹ Vaduj agitation was beat by power of police. Thus government began to suppress humans in Satara.

9. Islampur Agitaion :

The news of firing in Vaduj was spread in the whole district. the agitation on tahasil administrative office Islampur was planned on 10th September by Nana Patil. DSP reached at Islampur after learning the news of agitation. By plan Nana Patil and Govindrao Khot leded one grup from Kirloskarwadi, Burli, Amnapur, Khed, Punandi etc. Nana Patil was dropped from agitation for escaping from his arrest. Thus second group entered in Islampur leded by Pandu Master, K.D. Patil, Chandroji Patil, Dattu Patil and so on. 10th September Thursday was weekly market day. that's why there was crowd in great quantity.²⁰

Agitaion was planned carefully but implementation was not systemic. People reached Islampur together but the technique to go together with crowd to administrative office was not

used Pandu Master entered Islampur at first with his companions. He didn't wait for others and delivered his speech against British Government. After learning about Pandu Master and his companions, Inspector Dalvi come there with armed police and applied attack of sticks without any warning. Pandu Master was injured and arrested by police he appealed crowd to keep the principle of non violence. The crowd respected his words and didn't interrupt in his arrest.²¹

Givindrao khot learnt the news of arrest of Pandu Master, away some distance from Islampur. That's why he went with his companions to tahasil office. Mamledar V. M. Kulkarni was there with DSP, Inspector and armed police. The mob demanded to release Pandu master. while Inspector interrupted them. They were starting to throw stones due to rejection of their demand. seven glasses were broken. DSP asked the mob angrily 'to stop throwing stones and tell what they exactly wanted.' Uma Shankar Pande or Pandya Engineer who was an engineer in Kirloskar engineering works replied 'We want self-government.' For a while DSP with imperial ideology lost his patience killed Pandya Engineer by shooting him and ordered police to fire. Vishnu Barbatte from Kameri was killed. also Govind Dhobale, Jayendra Kalanga, Dnyanu Shinde, Maruti Bhosale and Tukaram Mistri were injured.²² The crowd was dispersed. This period of agitation was stopped here due to government's suppression and parallel government was established at Satara district.

10. Conclusion :

In Satara district agitations to tahasil administrative offices are important and historical. The concept plan and agitation to tahasil office origin in the mind of leaders of Satara district. Agitations were arranged on taluka administrative offices non violently with flaunting Tiranga. Collector office was the last target. The agitation on administrative office began the period of agitation from Karad. This period was over after agitation of Islampur. thus the facet of this movement was changed. Before arranging agitation leaders of every place appealed their people to participate. People from each part of district gathered together by groups and moved to tahasil administrative office with slogans and singing songs regarding freedom under guidance of responsible leader in particular taluka. The reading of congress leaflets or resolution in August was arranged there in presence of Mamledar. There after leaders of agitation delivered their speeches. People in rallies left the place calmly with success. It was proper experience of agitations. During 24th August to 10th September 1942 five agitations in Satara district is the period of great significance of 1942's freedom struggle.

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