

PREFACE

The establishment of the Indian National Congress on 28th December, 1885, in Bombay was a revolutionary step in the Movement for freedom in India. The first phase of the Congress(1885-1905) was dominated by the Moderates. By their constitutional ways and means, to a large extent, they laid the foundation of India's emmanicipation from the Tyrannical Yoke of the British Raj. From 1905 onwards, due to the partition of Bengal, due to excessive economic exploitation of India, and the Indians and owing to so many other factors, the Congress had come under the influence of the Extremist led by the famous trio - Lal-Bal-Pal . They were also responsible for the independence of India. However, the Father of the Indian nation Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) played a pivotal role in achieving independence for the mother land. The Gandhian era was full of colourful and inspiring events. His non-violent as well as humanitarian ways and means struck ^{the} death-knell to the British Raj in India. Gandhiji's three major movements - the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement had greatly shattered the foundation of the suppressive British Rule in

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India. Mahatma Gandhi's was a many-sided personality. Consequently, various spheres of human life in India got flourished. It is no exaggeration to state that Mahatmaji produced a huge crop of devoted, selfless, freedom fighters. Maharashtra did not lag behind in it. This new leadership represented various stratas of the society.

With the advent of independence the new leadership represented by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru tried to decentralise the political power and to strengthen the democratic set-up of the newly born nation. For the real decentralisation of power and for building up a new democratic and socialistic nation, a number of new states on lingual basis came to be created during his tenure.

Maharashtra (formerly known as Bombay Presidency) has played a heroic role in the freedom struggle and in the social reforms movement in India. Whosoever reads even the scattered information about the agitations, personalities and institutions is easily enchanted by it. The present state of Maharashtra which came into being on 1st May, 1960, is stated to be grateful to the herculean role played by late Shri. Y.B.Chavan in its creation and its astounding progress. There are only a few books available in English

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and Marathi which provides us either biased or unhistorical information about this architect of Modern Maharashtra.

Most of these works have neglected the original sources while most of them do not present a fair and impartial account of Late Shri. Y .B.Chavan. While going through Mohammed Yunus's book entitled Persons, Passions and Politics which has criticised YB.Chavan as a light-weight politician, it came to my mind that as [~] a humble student of History I should try to produce an authentic and impartial account pertaining to the political ^e ~~career~~ of Shri. Y.B.Chavan.

~~Late Shri.~~ Y.B.Chavan was born on 12th March, 1913 and he breathed his last on 25th November, 1984. As he was involved in the freedom struggle since his school days, his political life covers a vast span of time. For the sake of convenience of the study I preferred to throw a searching light on the colourful events of his career, namely his active participation in the freedom struggle during the period 1930-1947 and his role as a Parliamentary Secretary, as the Chief Minister of the Bilingual Bombay State, as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State and as the Minister of various portfolios in the Central Ministry led by Pt. Nehru,

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Lal Bahadur Shastri and Smt. Indira Gandhi. It means that upto 1977 he was in power. Until the Congress debacle in the General Elections of 1977 he had to shoulder the responsibility of the Opposition Leader in the Lok Sabha. It was he who was responsible for the removal of the Janata Government from power in 1979. Thus, most of the major events of the political life of Shri. Y.B.Chavan had taken place during this period. As his leadership provides us an insight into the then political life of his Home State and the country I thought it proper to confine my work to the aforesaid period only. In the preparation of my work I have made an extensive use of published as well as unpublished primary and secondary sources pertaining to my topic of research available both in Marathi and English. I have made use of the book - " Yashwantrao Chavan - A Political Biography ", by Karnik, D.B.; Kunhi Krishnan's book : " Chavan and the Troubled Decade "; 'Winds of Change' by Y.B.Chavan himself, Brecher, Micheal's book " Succession in India "; India's Democracy by Hanson & Douglas and so on.

As ~~ex~~ regards the original sources the Fourth Five Year Plan (Draft), Govt. of India Planning Commission, Reserve Bank of India, All India Credit Survey, Vol.II, and the Report of the Council for Social Development have been used to depict the

positive achievements of Y.B.Chavan.

The News Paper cuttings of the Indian Express(daily), the New Age (Weekly), The Times of India(Daily), the Statesman(daily), Link(weekly), The Hindustan Times(Daily), The Hindu(daily), The Times London(daily) and Sakal (a Marathi daily) have also been used to collaborate the information regarding contemporary events of the times of Y.B.Chavan.

As far as the relevant Marathi sources are concerned the primary sources such as the autobiography "Krishnakath" by Y.B.Chavan himself, collection of his speeches entitled "Sahyadrich Ware" and "Yugantar" as well as this letters to his wife in a book form entitled 'Videsh Darshan' have been made the most of in the preparation of this work.

So far as the Secondary Marathi sources are concerned the book entitled "Yashwantrao - Itihasache Ek Pan" By Rambhau Joshi, Dr. M.P.Mangudkar's book 'Yashwantrao Chavan : Prerana Va Karya'; B.L.Bhole's book entitled 'Yashwantrao Chavan : Rajkaran Ani Sahitya' as well as 'Yashwantrao Chavan - Ek Vaadgrastha Pan Kartabgar Mutsadi' by R.P.Patil and so on have been extensively used.

The work has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter entitled 'Early Life and Education of Y.B.Chavan' -

deals largely with the birth, his primary schooling at Deorashtre^a his High School Education at Karad and some of the painful conditions he was brought up. They have been minutely studied.

Since 1930 onwards Shri. Y.B.Chavan was actively involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement of 1942. Simultaneously he obtained his LL.B.Degree from the Law College, Poona. The Second Chapter entitled, ' Y.B.Chavan, a Freedom Fighter (1930-1947)' covers all these events.

The third Chapter attempts to throw light on Shri. Y.B.Chavan's role as the Parliamentary Secretary, as the Chief Minister of Bombay State, as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State.

In the Fourth Chapter an attempt has been made to study the political career of Y.B.Chavan as the Union Minister for various portfolios and the leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha.

In the fifth small chapter entitled ' Epilogue' my own findings and comments about the political career of late Shri. Y.B.Chavan have been narrated.

In brief, this Research Project moderately tries to analyse the political career of the gigantic personality of late Shri. Y.B.Chavan. An appreciation of the present work considering the vastness of the topic is kindly anticipated.
