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CHAPTER ONE

BACK - GROUND OF PHALTAN NATIVE STATE

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C H A P T E R - I

BACKGROUND OF PHALTAN NATIVE STATE

Phaltan state was one of the progressive native state's belonging to the Deccan, in the Bombay Presidency. Today Phaltan Taluka belongs to Satara District and it is a Taluka Place. Satara District is one of the district's of the Maharashtra state. The present state of Maharashtra can be divided into four major regions, Bombay Region, Western Maharashtra including Kokan belt consisting of 12 districts and it was part of the old Bombay Presidency. Vidharbha Region consisting of eight (8) districts and these were formerly located in the old Central Provinces and Berar, and lastly, Marathwada Region which comprises of five districts which were formerly part of the Nizam's Hyderabad state under Nizam rule. But all these Marathi speaking areas were culturally, socially and by virtue of common historical background a single community even before they became a single political unit.

Satara is one of the districts in Maharashtra. It is situated partly in the Bhima river basin and partly, in the Krishna river basin. The tahsils Khandala, Phaltan and Man are situated in Bhima river basin, while the rest of

these tahsils are situated in upper Krishna basin. Satara district has an area of 10,492 Sq. Kms; which lies between 17° 5' and 18° 11' North latitude and 73° 33' and 74° 54' East longitude.

There are two main system of hills in the Satara District. One of them is the Sahyadri range and other Mahadevo range to Western side and second Mahabaleshwar which stretches east and South.

River Krishna is the principle river, of the Satara district and other important rivers are the Koyana, the Nira, the Man, the Venna, the Banganga the Kudali the Urmodi the Vasana the Yerala and the Tarali.

Nira river which flows on the northern boundary of the district and area in the borders of Phaltan tahsil. The origion of Banganga river is in located the Mahadevo range, at Sitabai hills, which flows through south north and Phaltan, situated on the bank of Banganga. The Man river the South - East are tributaries of Bhima which meet Krishna. " According to census 1981 the population of Satara district was 20,41,409<sup>3</sup> Mens are 9,85,211 and Women 10,56,198.

#### RAINFALL IN GENERAL :

The rain starts by the middle of June and lasts till the end of September in the district. The rainfall is

not conform over all the district. The rainfall is very heavy in the Western region and it goes on recoding towards eastern part. The extreme west part gets over 5000 m.m. while the eastern part of Sahyadri zone gets rainfall between 1,000 m.m. 2,000 m.m.<sup>4</sup>

LOCATION OF PHALTAN :

Phaltan is a Taluka of Satara district. The location of Phaltan Taluka is virtually in the centre of Western Maharashtra.

LOCATION OF OLD PHALTAN STATE :

" Phaltan has an area of 397 Sq. Miles forming a compact rectangular block and is bounded on the north by the River Nira, the Poona district, on the east lies in the district of Solapur and on the South it is surrounded by Mahadevo range of hills. On the West there is a streamlet which separates Phaltan from Satara district. According to the census of 1931 of the population of state was 58,747."<sup>5</sup>

Out of 58,747 population 29,492 were Men and 29,269 Women. The average for per Sq. Miles was 148. The religious distribution of the population was as follows :

Hindu	96 %
Muslims	2.5 %
Jain	2 %
Parsi People	2
Christian	" 11 .

" Phaltan was the head-quarter of the state. It was situated on the banks of Banganga River. Location of Phaltan is 82 Miles East from Mahad, 65 Miles from Poona 47 Miles from Satara and 17 Miles from Southern Maratha Railway Station of Loanand.<sup>6</sup>

The East - West length of state was 33 miles and South North 12 Miles.

ATMOSPHERE CLIMATE AND RAINFALL :

Phaltan state has a modecate type of climate. In summer the atmosphere is very hot, in winter it is moderate the rainfall in the state is very poor. The annual percentage of rainfall is 15" to 18" or 473 M.M. In other areas the rainfall starts in June, July, but in Phaltan there is a rainfall in September-October.<sup>7</sup>

RIVERS :

There are three rivers which influence the life of the Phaltan state. Banganga river flows from South to North in state Manganga river flows from the South boundary of the state and Nira from North boundary. Phaltan state had no water so it is called as Marwad State. But in 1888 the Chief of state ( Jahagirdar ) Bapusaheb Naik-Nimbalkar brought drinking water from 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The name of that

village was Nirgudi. Afterwards the Nira Right bank cannal was created for water supply in the state. Phal tan state has been divided in two parts. On North side of cannal which is irrigated and the Southern side is comparatively a dry area.

Phal tan state had 214628 acere of total land out of which 185590 was brought under cultivation and the remain- ing 172748 acers is non-irrigated were as 12842 is irrigated.<sup>8</sup>

#### THE CROPS :

The main crops in Phal tan state is Jawar, wheat, groundnut and sugar-cane, cotton, other crops are chilli Banqna and vegetables.

#### EARLY HISTORY OF NAIK-NIMBALKAR FAMILY AND STATE :

The origins of the state can be traced as far as to the middle of 13th Century. As things stand at present the Chief of the Phal tan was a maratha who belonged to the Ponwar clan while his ancestors belonged to Rajaput (Parmar) family of North India; who came to the Deccan in 1270 A.D. and contrived to found principality of his own at the feet of the Shambhu Mahadevo range an offshoot of Sahyadri, Mountains. After some time he finally settled at Nimbalk ( A Village about Nine Miles to the East of Phal tan ).<sup>9</sup>

He took the family name of Nimbalkar from his village name of Nimbalk. Nimbraj I was the founder of this family ( Naik-Nimbalkar ) His son Podakale alias Dharapatrao had his father's Jahagir confirmed in his name by Mohamed Tughlakh, the emperor of Delhi in return for some valuable assistance rendered. The emperor continued his Jahagir and also bestowed upon Nimbaraj II the hereditary title of Naik along with rights of using morchess and Gold Thodas as insigna of Royality. The state was after words confermed on various occasion by the emperors of Bijapur and Delhi. It is interesting to note that this Nimbalkars Royal family had a number of material relationship with great Bhosale family, Shivaji's grand father Raja Maloji. Bhosale to whom Bahadur Nizam II gave estate of Poona and Supa as a grant, married a lady from this family by name Dipadevi. The great Shivaji himself married Saibai from this family, Mahadji Raje Naik-Nimbalkar of Phaltan married Shivaji's daughter Sakhubai.<sup>10</sup>

Many of the ancient rulers of Phaltan were enlightened women. For instance there was Sagunabai alies, Aisaheb. Her name is still remembered by the people of Phaltan for her just administration of state.

RULERS OF PHALTAN STATE :

Nimbaraj was the first ruler or founder of the state 1284 to 1291. Then the other ancestor of his family belong as follows :

In 1291 Podakal Jagadevo came to power. He went in South India for war and in it, he died in 1349. So he was known as Dharapatrao.

Sr. No.	Ruler	Period	A. D.
1)	Nimbaraj II	1349 to 1374	"
2)	Agitators	1374 to 1390	"
3)	Vangpal	1390 to 1394	"
4)	Wangoji	1394 to 1409	"
5)	Maloji I	1409 to 1420	"
6)	Baji I	1420 to 1445	"
7)	Pawararao	1445 to 1470	"
8)	Baji II	1470 to 1512	"
9)	Mudhoji I	1512 to 1527	"
10)	Baji Dharrao	1527 to 1560	"
11)	Maloji II	1560 to 1570	"
12)	Wangoji II alias	1570 to 1630	"



" Maloji Bhosale's grand father of Shivaji, and his brother came from Verul and lived in service of Jagpalrao Naik-Nimbalkar. Then Nizam of ~~Ahmed~~ Nagar called Maloji Bhosale and give Poona and Supa Jahagiri.<sup>11</sup>

Sr. No.	Ruler	Period	A. D.
13)	Maloji III	1630 to 1644	"
14)	Bajaji I	1644 to 1674	"
15)	Wangoji III	1674 to 1693	"
16)	Janoji I	1693 to 1748	"
17)	Mudhoji III	1748 to 1765	"
18)	Sagunabai alias Aisaheb wife of Mudhoji III	1765 to 1767	"
19)	Soyaraji	1767 to 1774	"
20)	Maloji III ( Adopted son by Sagunabai )	1774 to 1777	"
21)	Janaravo	1777 to 1825	"
22)	Under rule of Satara Gadi	1825 to 1827	"
23)	Bajaji	1827 to 1828	"
24)	Under rule of Satara Gadi	1828 to 1841	"
25)	Mudhoji alias Bapusaheb adpoted son of Janravo's wife Sahebjibai	1841 to 1916	"
26)	Shrimant Maloji alias Nanasaheb Naik-Nimbalkar.	1916 to 8th March 1978	" <sup>12</sup>

of all these rulers Shrimant Maloji alias Nanasaheb Naik Nimbalkar is considered to be the most enlightend ruler. He has contributed much to the socio-economic and political development of the Native State. He was considered as a one of the progressive ruler amongst the native state prior to independence as a native chief. He had contributed in his own way for the development of the state and in post independence period also he did much as an active politician for the progress of Phaltan.

BIOGRAPHY OF SHRIMANT MALOJI RAJE NAIK-NIMBALKAR :

A brief biography of Maloji Raje Naik-Nimbalkar Majour Shrimant Malojirao IV alias Nanasaheb was born on 11th Sept. 1896, when Ganesh Chaturathi was being celebrated at Nimbhore village. The name of his father was Shrimant Raghunathrao Sambaji alias Babaso Naik-Nimbalkar, who had served as a police officer in the police department of Phaltan state. He had great honour for Shrimant Mudhojirao alias Bapusaheb Maharaj. Yankatrao was the elder son of Mudhojirao who expired in 1887, Yankatrao had no son, so Mudhoji had adopted Raghunathrao's middle son Nanasaheb, after performing the required ceremonies ( Vidhipurwak ) in 1899; It is because of this adoption he was known as Malojiraje

instead of Nanasaheb. The name of Shrimant's mother was Shrimati Sitadevi who was from famous family of Ranaware of Nimbhore. Malojirao was four years old when he was adopted. Childhood of Mulojiraje was spent under the supervision of Mudhojirao alias Bapusaheb Maharaj. Mudhojirao was a kind and a disciplined Raja and father.

Shrimant completed his primary education under the supervision of Private teacher in Phaltan. In 1913 he was admitted in the Sardar school at Kolhapur. He completed his education in one and half year. Then he was admitted in Rajkumar College, Rajkot, the college in which many of the native chiefs sent their children for education. In this college he learnt all type's of games. He was good player in Tennes, Polo, Ridding, Shooting, Swimming and Hunting. He also took keen interest in the Music, Painting and Drawing. He took interest in learning many other things useful for a Prince. He took his diploma from the Sardar school in the year 1916 in Rajkot. When he returned back he took keen interest in the affairs of state administration. On 17th <sup>0</sup>ct. 1916 Mudhojirao expired at a ripe age of 79. The British Government appointed administator in Phaltan state

because Maloji was too young. The coronation ceremony of Malojirajesaheb was held on 15th November 1917, and from the very first day he started learning about the affairs of his state. He tried to introduced various reforms in the state administration to suit to the modern needs. When Maloji acquired the regiem the first world war had broken. In the British war efforts Phaltan extended all the help to the British government and did it best to contribute to the British in its war efforts. He was against absoulte monarchy and he always wanted to involve his subjects in state administration. Rajesaheb had progressive views in running of the administration. He got married at the age of 17, on 18th December 1913, with Shrimant Sou Laxmidevi daughter of First Class Sardar Shrimant Shambushin Raje. Amarshinrao Jadhavrao of Malegon Budruk ( Barmatti ) Shambhushnrao was the ancestor of great Maratha Sardar of Bhimthadi.<sup>13</sup>

" Rajesaheb was against the caste system and he always favoured its annihilation. He tried hard in spite of the adverse and sharp criticism of him in this direction. He stoped the evil costums which prevailed in Maratha and the Muslim community i.e., women were asked to do away with ' Ghosha ' and ' Pardha ' system while going out of their

houses which prevailed both in Maratha and Muslims. In the coronation ceremony Shrimant Ranisaheb participated without Pardha because of the Rajesaheb views.<sup>14</sup> He was the first native prince to do so.

Before independence of India, Maloji had modified his administration on the basis of Montague and Chelmsford Reform act. In 1920, he established mixed advisory council. In the mixed advisory council, some members were elected by the people and some nominated by him. In his council, one member belonging to Backward Class ( Mahadevo Ahiwale ) ( Mahar ) was included his 32th birth day he announced that " The aim of the state's administration would be responsible government and a government based on public opinion."<sup>15</sup> In 1929, he introduced new form of administration as per this act of 1929, in Phaltan state he established a powerful legislative council and judicial system.

He always issued directions to the administration taking into consideration the needs of the people and their public opinion. Amongst the various Native States Phaltan State was co-operative in nature and progressive in view, even though it was a poor state, Malojiraje had sent his secretary



( Karbhari ) K. V. Godbole to London to attend the Second and Third Round Table Conference. In 1933 he himself attended Third Round Table Conference on the problem to represent his views of representation to the Deccan states in federal house. Rajesaheb was successful in that which can be inferred from the letter send by Shri P. G. Patric - political adviser of Minister of India dated 31st July 1933 as follows " I hope very much that we shall be able to work out a scheme out of representation which does not do injustice to such a states as yours and I think we shall have been much helped in so doing by the able advocacy of Mr. Godbole and by your own presence here." <sup>17</sup>

He was conferred ' Raja ' title by the British in the year 1933. The year 1938 was very typical period in the history of Deccan states. The representative movement <sup>\*</sup> was taking last steps in that period so on 16th October 1938 the Deccan states conference was held in Shrimant Jamkhindikar's Palace at Poona. Rajesaheb of the Phaltan's in his speech asserted " It would never be expected that the strong wind of popular voice would stop at our boundries ..... No doubt

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\* Representative movement was against dynasty rule of the Native States, which demanded representation in the affairs of Native States administration.

we are preparing for its reception but we commensurate<sup>s</sup> with its speed it would be good in my opinion to take steps to establish contact with the Dakshini Sansthan Lok Sabha"<sup>17</sup> \*

THE DECCAN STATE LOK SABHA :

The Deccan state Lok Sabha was known by various names i.e. Deccan State Prajaparishad / Lok Sabha, Deccan Hitasanwardak Sabha. This institution was established by both, leaders who belonged to the Native State and also by other leaders who led the movement from other areas. Leaders like N. C. Kelkar A. V. alais Vamanrao Patwardhan, G. R. Abhyankar, Walchand Ramachand Kothari, Dr. Shirodkar, S. S. Vaze, R. Sharma etc., which was established on 24th & 25th May 1921 in Poona.<sup>18</sup>

The first and second session of the Deccan State Lok Sabha were conducted in Poona itself. The third session was held in Belgaum and the twelfth was held at Sangli in 1938. The Sangli session of Deccan state Lok Sabha which was held in May 1938 was presided by Sardar Valabhbhai Patel which was also attended by the members of All India Praja Parishad. Many eminent leaders of the All India Congress

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\* Dakshini Sansthan Lok Sabha was a similar movement as that of Representative movement.

like Pattabhi-Sitaramya. Gangadharrao Deshpande, Shankarrao Devo also took keen interest and also attended the session of the Deccan state Lok Sabha,<sup>19</sup> as this movement helped in creating the required environment for integration of Native State, of which Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the leader.

It is important here to mention the aims and objectives of the Deccan State Lok-Sabha.

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF LOK SABHA :

- 1) Create suitable environment for independence.
- 2) To develop co-operation between state and British India.
- 3) To solve the problems between states and its subject.
- 4) Use efforts to establish responsible government in the state.
- 5) To establish justice without corruption.
- 6) Increase political awareness in the people.
- 7) Refute dictatorial intentions of the officers.

On 24th April 1938, ' Deccan State Lok Sabha Phaltan ' (branch) was established with the initiative of A. V. Patwardhan, Phaltan Praja Parishad joined the British Lok Sabha. But on 11th December 1938, the relations of Phaltan



Praja Parishad with the Hindustan Deccan State Lok Sabha got strained, and with the resolution passed in General meeting of Phaltan Lok Sabha it came to be known as ' Phaltan Sansthan Lok Sabha. '

AIMS OF PHALTAN LOK SABHA :

- 1) To establish responsible government under the chief of the state with peaceful means.
- 2) Use efforts for the development of Phaltan state and the socio-economic and political development.

The welfare programme in the a Native State was the dominant objective of the Lok Sabha. It was democratic institution by which the general public could maintain some control over the native chiefs.

Such Praja Parishad got established in many of the native states their aim and objectives being more or less the same. In some native states, their did arise some conflicts between the native chiefs; rulers and Praja Parishads. Kolhapur Native State did not join this organization; nevertheless the Kolhapur Lok Sabha branch was established on 2nd October 1906.

The aim of this Sabha was :

- 1) To resolve the demands of the people with the chief of the state by peaceful means.
- 2) Suggestions of the people for the welfare of the people were to be discussed with the chief of state. ' As the Kolhapur Native State was not associated with the Lok Sabha on 2nd October 1906; The Native State of Kolhapur issued an ordinance against the conduct of Lok Sabha. ( Refere - Gazzate dated 13/10/1906) (declaration No. 8, General Department dated 2/10/1906)<sup>20</sup>

The Jamkhandi Native State established the Jamkhandi Lok Sabha Branch in 1916,<sup>21</sup> with more or less the same objectives. Both the Kolhapur Native Chief and the Jamkhandi Native States were against the Lok Sabha organization. All such Lok Sabha's organised in various Native States got affiliated with All India Praja Parishad, Deccan State Praja Parishad and the State Praja Parishad.

Rajesaheb announced on 12th November 1939, a new Bill of Political Rights for the people. It was reformation of the Act of 1929. Rajesaheb had complete sympathy with the freedom movement of India. On 28th July 1946, he met Mahatma Gandhi in Poona, and discussed about the Deccan Federation and other subjects.

Shrimant took active part in the establishment of ' Deccan State Federation '. The opening ceremony was held on 20th December 1947, at Miraj; which was dissolved on the very next day, Rajesaheb felt the Deccan States Federation would not work well under some Chiefs of State and would create problems.

After independence of India, India's Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took over the issue of integration of the Native States in the Indian union. Phaltan state was the first state to accept the merger by giving Rs. 65 Lakh to the government of India.

After the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, disturbances and commotions erupted in British India and they percolated in Phaltan state also. Law and order broke down in some of the villages. The anti-social elements burnt houses and disturbed life and peace in

many villages. To check, control and extinguish the burning agitation, a peace committee was formed by Rajesaheb. Rajesaheb along with this committee moved from village to village and toured the state, holding meetings exhorting and pacifying the wrong-doers and mischief mongers. The efforts of peace committee under the leadership of Rajesaheb resulted in restoring peace in affected villages.

The Native Chief of Phaltan was moderate, democratic and secular in his approach. He was nationalist right from the beginning. He was also known as social reformer. He was also appointed a representative of merger committee of the Bombay Council in 1948, nominated as a Congress candidate for General Election 1952 in which he got elected. After the election 1952 he was induced as a minister. Rajesaheb was successful and instrumental in developing the Koyana Dam project, which was launched. When Rajesaheb was the Public Works Department Minister of the Bombay State. It was inaugurated by the Hon. Shri Morarajibhai Desai, the Chief Minister of Bombay State. In 1955 Rajesaheb opened the second Sakhar Karkhana namely Shri Ram Sahakari Sakhari Karkhana, Phaltan. The first was opened in his state before India achieved independence, at Sakharwadi. He also served as the Local Self Government Minister in Balasaheb Kher's Ministry.

As a Local Self Minister he implemented many schemes and planned for rural and urban development. After 1957 he was elected as President of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee and served the party with zeal and fervour. This period was a very typical period for the Congress party in Maharashtra as the demand of linguistic state was in its full form. In the General election of 1957 Rajesaheb was unsuccessful as he failed to get elected for which there are various reasons. Even though he always worked for the betterment of his constituency. He also tried to be in the Congress party and contributed to develop the party on strong foundations. In the 1962 General election he was a nominated candidate of Congress party. In this election he got elected, but he was not given a berth in the ministry. In 1967, General election he was not given a Congress Ticket as he wanted his son to contest, and Mr. Y. B. Chavan did not support this idea. There was also a conflict within the Congress party as Morarjibhai Desai failed to become the Prime Minister of India. The Congress party got divided in Congress I and Congress organization. In 1968 in the Congress session held at Bangalore in which Mrs. Indira Gandhi dismissed many old Congress men and chose her men. Rajesaheb became the President of Maharashtra Organization Congress. Within a few days the

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Congress O got dissolved and a new party known as Bharatiya Kranti Dal was established at Indore. In this meeting Nine (9) Chief Ministers of various states came together to check Indira Congress. But it was a temporary phase. Rajesaheb continued work in Congress (O). After this he more or less remained aloof from politics.<sup>22</sup>

Due to his approach towards the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement, he got defeated general election of 1957. But his role in Sanyukta Maharashtra was Nationalist. His approach towards Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement will be assessed in the next chapter. He expired on 14th May 1978 at Poona due after a long illness. Rajesaheb was a true nationalist and he worked for the Congress. He was criticised by the Sanyukta Maharashtra leaders for his role. Rajesaheb was a very progressive native chief. He spent much of the time in social welfare activities. He always made it a point that rural upliftment was given due consideration, the Koyana Project is the result of his efforts. As both as Native Chief and Post Independence period as a politician he used much of his administration skill for social upliftments. He was great administrator; which is brought forth in the next chapter.

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