



The Legends of Prathviraj Chauhan

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ABSTRACT –

Today's day, tomorrow will become a day in history. We learn a lot from history. That learning helps us to make our future better. Many mighty kings have taken birth in the land of India. In this land of India, such a warrior was born. Whose spirits were high. Whose arms had immense strength. He was such a brave warrior. Whose stories of courage and bravery, on the pages of Indian history written in golden letters. He was an attractive, handsome warrior. He was proficient in all military disciplines. With his amazing courage, he defeated the enemies. Here we are discussing about The Great king Prathviraj Chauhan.

Delhi has always been important in our history. This is what every ruler wanted to rule. Prior to the Mughal rule, the last Hindu king to sit on this throne was Prithviraj Chauhan. Popular stories of Prithviraj Chauhan are fiction or reality, inscriptions and what is recorded in history books about Prithviraj Chauhan and what are the arguments of those who call some stories of Prithviraj Chauhan as imagination and reality of the poet, Let us discuss the heroic story of Prithviraj Chauhan on the basis of all these sources.

Most of our information about Prithviraj Chauhan comes from medieval legendary chronicles of the Battle of Tarain, as well as a few Muslim books on the Battle of Tarain. He is mentioned in several medieval epics written by Hindu and Jain authors, such as the Prithviraj Vijaya, the Hammir epic, and the Prithviraj Raso. . It is believed that Chandrabardai, who wrote Prithviraj Raso, was his court poet, but many incidents have been exaggerated in it, historians doubt its authenticity. Even historians do not consider Chandbardai as Prithviraj's court poet, according to them Prithviraj Raso was written much later, around 15th or 16th century. Let us discuss the heroic story of Prithviraj Chauhan on the basis of all these sources.

Rise of Chauhan Dynasty

It is a matter of ancient times, on Abu (Agoh) mountain, Rishi Muni used to live. He was a Brahmin from Kannauj. His life was peaceful. Used to do penance to God and lived peacefully in his ashram. But the demons used to trouble those sages a lot.

They used to break their Yagya. Then he organized a Mahayagya to protect himself from the demons. From that fire pit, four Kshatriya heroes were born. The descendants of those four heroes later came to be known as Parihar, Parmar, Solanki and Chauhan. There is evidence from many inscriptions that the Chauhans were Suryavanshi. While it is written in some books that he was Agnivanshi. The founder of the Chauhan Kshatriya dynasty was King Vasudev Chauhan. This time was of the sixth century. According to historians, people of Chauhan dynasty resided in Sambhar and Amber city near Jaipur. Along with this, Chauhan dynasty used to live in Pushkar of Ajmer district. King Ajayraj I had settled Ajmer. The reign of the Chauhan kings lasted for a long time. Someshwar Chauhan sat on the throne of Ajmer in 11th AD. He was a very mighty and brave king. He supported Raja Anangpal Tomar then. When Rathor's army started a war. Anangpal was the king of Delhi. King Anangpal won in this war. After this, Someshwar Chauhan and Anangpal became close friends. Which later turned into a relationship, King Anangpal married his daughter Karpuradevi to Someshwar Chauhan. Roop Sundari, the second daughter of Anangpal, was married to Vijayapala, the king of Kannauj. There was a lot of affection between both the sisters. King Someshwar and King Vijayapala also became relatives. King Jayachandra was the son of Vijayapala.

The great Rajput Ruler – Prathviraj Chauhan

Prithviraj Chauhan was a Rajput king, who ruled the Delhi and Ajmer kingdoms of northern India in the 12th century. Prithviraj Chauhan was the last independent Hindu ruler to rule the throne of Delhi. This Rajput king, known as Rai Pithora, was born in the Chauhan dynasty. Prithviraj Chauhan III, the last glorious ruler of the Chauhan dynasty, was born in 1166 AD (Vikram samvat 1223) in Anhilpatan (Gujarat). His father's name was Someshwar Chauhan and mother's name was Karpuri Devi (daughter of Delhi's ruler Anangpal Tomar).

Kannauj on the northern border and Gujarat on the southern border were his nearest enemies. The activities of Muslim invaders were increasing on the north-west border. In such circumstances, his mother Karpuridevi handled the work of governance with great skill and diplomacy. Someshwar Chauhan died in 1177 AD, after which he *took over the reins of his father's rule, at that time he was only eleven years old, at this time his mother Karpura Devi was his protector and for the first few years, his mother took control of Prithviraj. directed to At this time, many capable ministers were present at his*

place to help him, which has been mentioned in the Sanskrit poem Prithviraj Vijay, such as the minister Kandabvas. He was completely loyal to Prithviraj, he played a very important role in the early victories of Prithviraj. Another minister who played an important role in his early victories was Bhuvanaikamal, who was the maternal uncle of Prithviraj's mother Karpura Devi. He is described as a brave warrior in Prithviraj's victory. After becoming the king, Prithviraj started fighting with his neighboring states.

Conflict with The Neighbouring States

Suppression of Nagarjuna and Bhandankas

Shortly after Prithviraj took over the throne, his uncle Apargangya revolted to get the rule, who was defeated and killed, then Prithviraj's cousin Nagarjuna revolted. He was trying to become the ruler of Ajmer. That's why Prithviraj first defeated him with military force with the help of his minister Kaimas and took Gudapura (Gurgaon) and the surrounding area under his control. After this, in 1182 AD, Prithviraj put an end to the rebellions of Bhandanakas in the region around Bharatpur-Mathura and Alwar. Jinapati Suri mentions the suppression of Bhandanakas.

Victory over the Chandelas of Mahoba

By occupying the areas of Bhandankas, the boundary of Prithviraj Chauhan's kingdom was merged with the Chandel kingdom of Mahoba in the east. There was a vast area of Bundelkhand, Jejakbhukti and Mahoba in his kingdom.

In 1182 AD, Prithviraj defeated Parmal (Parmardi) Dev, the Chandela ruler of Mahoba, in the Tumul war and forced him to make a treaty. In this battle, Parmardi Dev's able and trusted generals Alha and Udal were involved in this war. Prithviraj merged a large area of Chandel state with his state and made his Samant Panjunrai the officer of Mahoba.

Victory over Chalukyas

The Battle of Nagaur took place between the Prime Minister of Gujarat's Chalukya ruler Bhimdev-II, Jagadeva Pratihar and Prithviraj's army, after which a treaty was made between the two and the long enmity of the Chauhans with the Chalukyas came to an end.

Relation to Kannauj

At the time of Prithviraj, Kannauj, located in the east, was ruled by Gahadwal ruler Jaichand. The ambitions of expansion of the state of both Jaichand and Prithviraj had created mutual enmity between them.

After that, the enmity between the two increased due to Prithviraj taking away his daughter Sanyogita from Swayamvara. For this reason, Jaichand did not help Prithviraj in the battle of Tarain and helped Muhammad Ghori. The story of Sanyogita has been accepted as a historical fact by Dr. Dashrath Sharma in his book 'The Early Chauhan Dynasties'.

War between Prithviraj and Muhammad Ghori

At the time of Prithviraj Chauhan, Ghiyasuddin Gauri was the ruler of Gaur region in the north-west. Ghiyasuddin Ghori made his younger brother Muhammad Ghori the governor of Ghazni in 1173 AD. Muhammad Ghori had captured Multan in 1175 AD by defeating the Uch and Karmethians from the Bhati rulers. In 1178 AD, he was defeated by the Chalukya ruler Bhimdev in an attempt to take Gujarat.

After this, Ghori took Sindh and Peshawar under his control and got the fort of Sialkot built in 1181 AD. In 1186 AD, Muhammad Ghori defeated Khusrushah Malik, the ruler of Lahore and took over the province of Punjab as well.

At that time Delhi and Ajmer were ruled by Prithviraj Chauhan III. Due to the aspiration of Muhammad Ghori's state expansion, there were many small battles with Prithviraj Chauhan. Chandbardai has mentioned 21 such battles of his in Prithviraj Rasau. Seven such battles with Prithviraj have been mentioned in the Hammir epic.

First war of Tarain (1191 AD)

During 1190–1191 CE, Muhammad of Ghor invaded the Chauhan territory, and capture Bathinda. He placed it under the charge of Zia-ud-din, the Qazi of Tulak, supported by 1200 horsemen. When Prithviraj learned about this, marched towards Tabarhindah with his feudatories, including Govindaraja of Delhi. According to the 16th-century Muslim historian Firishta, his force comprised 200,000 horses and 3,000 elephants.

The first battle of Tarain took place between the two armies in 1191 AD, in which Delhi's governor Govindraj injured Muhammad Ghori. The injured Gauri came out of the battlefield and in no time Gauri's army also left the field and ran towards Ghazni. Prithviraj captured Tabarhind (Sirhind) and imprisoned Qazi Ziauddin. After this victory, Prithviraj did not chase the fleeing Muslim army and let Muhammad Ghori and his army go. Which is considered his biggest mistake.

Second Battle of Tarain (1192 AD)

After the victory in the first war, Prithviraj got busy in having fun while Gauri regrouped the huge army with full dedication and was busy in preparations for the war.

A year later, in 1192 AD, Gauri again came to the plain of Tarain to avenge his defeat from Prithviraj with his huge army. As soon as Prithviraj got the news, he also moved towards the battlefield along with the army. He was accompanied by his brother-in-law, the ruler of Mewar, Samarsingh, and the governor of Delhi, Govindraj.

Muhammad Ghori sent his messenger to Prithviraj for a treaty and asked him to accept his submission, it has been mentioned by Hasan Nizami in his book. Prithviraj probably came under the illusion of Ghori and reached the plain of Tarain with the army with half-incomplete preparation, Muhammad Ghori's army suddenly attacked the disorganized Chauhan army at the time of defecation. There was a stampede in the Chauhan army. It is said that Prithviraj Chauhan's army had three hundred elephants and 3,00,000 soldiers, including a large number of horsemen. There can also be exaggeration in the description of the power of the armies on both sides. The Indian army may be larger in terms of numbers, but the Ottoman army was very well organized. In fact it was a war of horsemen on both sides. The victory of Shahabuddin Muhammad Ghori was due to the superior organization and the speed and efficiency of the Turkish horsemen. Indian soldiers were killed in large numbers. Thus the second battle of Tarain took place between the two armies in which Muhammad Ghori won.

End of Prithviraj / Uncertainty over Death

Different writings tell different things about how Prithviraj Chauhan III ended after the defeat in the Second Battle of Tarain, the following are the main views –

1. In Chandbardai's Prithviraj Rasau, After Prithviraj's defeat, the Sultan refuses to bow his head before Gauri and that is why Gauri's soldiers put hot irons in his eyes, due to which he becomes blind and helpless. Seeing his king helpless and suffering in pain, Chandvardai, who was present in the battle with Prithviraj, plays a trick, he tells Gauri that an archery competition should be held, because Prithviraj can shoot arrows with the help of sound. used to come. Gauri also thinks how a blind person will be able to hit the target and that's why Gauri agrees for this. Chandbardai tells his blind king the seat of the Sultan with the help of a couplet, this couplet was

chaar baans chaubees gaj, angul asht pramaan

ta oopar sultaan hain, mat chooko chauhaan

When Gauri orders Prithviraj to shoot, as per Chandbardai's hint, he fires an arrow which hits Gauri straight, causing Gauri to fall from her throne. After which Chandbardai and Prithviraj stab each other with daggers to avoid further humiliation at the hands of Gauri's soldiers. It is mentioned in the Hammir epic that Prithviraj was imprisoned and killed by Gauri.

2. Jain scholar Merutunga of 14th century writes in his book Prabandh Chintamani that after seeing some of the paintings in the Chauhan gallery, Gauri orders Prithviraj Chauhan to be beheaded because the paintings showed Muslims being whipped.
3. Some Historian believes that Prithviraj was allowed to rule as a vassal for some time, because coins of that period have been found, which have the name of 'Prithviraj' on one side and 'Shri Muhammad Sam' inscribed on the other, But soon after this, Prithviraj was executed for the crime of conspiracy.
4. Another source, Prithviraj Prabandha, states that after the defeat, Prithviraj was taken captive and kept in a building in front of the Raj Darvar, there Prithviraj makes a secret plan to kill Gauri and his The minister asks Pratap for a bow and arrow, but his minister tells Gauri about Prithviraj's plan, after which Prithviraj is thrown into a pit and stoned to death.
5. According to the Hammir epic, Prithviraj gave up eating after his defeat, due to which he died.
6. Prithviraj Chauhan died in the battlefield itself. Two contemporary Muslim writers Yufi and Hasan Nizami have writtn that the Sultan imprisoned Prithviraj and took him to Ajmer. Hasan Nizami has further written that Prithviraj was killed when he was found conspiring against the Sultan.
7. Minhas-us-Siraj and Farishta tell Prithviraj to be killed by Gauri after catching him running away.

In this way, different sources reveal different details of Prithviraj and Gauri's struggle and their death, so we cannot say for sure how Prithviraj Chauhan died. It can definitely be said that he did not live long after his defeat from Gauri.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that Prithviraj Chauhan was a legendary king of India, he not only made the name of Chauhan dynasty immortal but also ensured his count among the great Rajput rulers. History today remembers him as a powerful king who kept Muslim invaders away from his kingdom for many years.

In the memory of Prithviraj, memorials were built in the memory of this brave Rajput king in Ajmer, Delhi and many other places, the stories of his bravery still make Indians proud.

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