CHAPTER FIRST

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
(A) GEOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

The city of Jaipur is situated at 26° 55' north of latitude and 75° 50' east of longitude lying about 300 kms south-west of Delhi and 240 kms west of Agra. It exists on the Agra-Ajmer Trunk Road\(^1\) in an irregular valley\(^2\) on the northern limit of the Alwar hills of North Arawalli mountain system\(^3\), among steep hills which encompass the city on the north, east, and west, opening only towards the south. In the south there is an open space\(^4\), known as basin, which might have been the bed of a dried-up lake\(^5\). Jaipur is the largest city in the erstwhile Rajputana\(^6\), its area including suburbs, being about 23 square kilometers\(^7\).

The whole geographical area below the city is surrounded by the hills having peaks and a number of water bodies. Almost all the peaks of surrounding hills are occupied by forts.\(^8\) These hills are members of the North-Arawalli ranges. The range on the north-eastern side belongs to the Alwar hills while those in the east belong to the Lalsot hills\(^9\). Jaipur is surrounded by Nahargarh, Jaigarh, Ganeshgarh and Shankargarh, and further by Raghunathgarh and Ambagarh in the north and south of Galtaji, all existing on the high peaks of hills. In this way a defense line around the city through these fortifications was created\(^10\). Nahargarh fort seems to be built to supervise the city, the rock face of which is scarped on the south or city side, while on the north the ridge slopes towards Amber.\(^11\) The main elevation of the peaks are 648 m at Jaigarh, 599 m at

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6. In the British period the area of Rajasthan (a sanskritized form of the Dingal word Rayathana) was called 'Rajputana'. According to Tod, Rajputana stood for Raethana. It was also known as 'Rajwada', which meant abode of the Rajas (James Tod, *Annals And Antiquities of Rajasthan*, V.I., 1832, rep., 2002, N. Delhi, p. 1). In the 18\(^{th}\) century, Rajasthan comprised chiefly of the principalities of Mewar, Marwar, Jaipur (Amber), Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Kota, Bundi and Sirohi. It was bounded by the Mughal provinces of Delhi in the north, that of Agra in the east, Malwa in the south-east, Gujarat in the south and Multan and Sindh in the west, B. L. Gupta, *Trade and commerce in Rajasthan during the 18\(^{th}\) century*, Jaipur, 1987, p.1.
7. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, op. cit, p. 400.
8. Ibid.
Nahargarh, 786 m at Barwara, 747 m at Manoharpura, 775 m at Bilali and 656 m at Bichun.

The centre of the Jaipur City is an elevated table land of triangular form having elevation of 430 to 500 meters above sea-level. It is bound on the south by a base-line running west from the city of Jaipur; the eastern boundary consists of hills running north and south along the Alwar border. Towards the north and west this plateau is bound by a broken chain of hills, a portion of the Aravalli range. The highest elevation of the triangle is near Khetri in Shekhawati. This range of hills on the north-west forms a natural boundary between the sandy desert tracts of Shekhawati and Bikaner on the one side, and the more fertile soils of Jaipur on the other.

To the east of Jaipur, beyond the range of hills, there is a rapid fall of 100 to 130 meters in the first three-five kilometers, after which there is a gradual fall along the valley of the Banganga River to the Bharatpur border (in the extreme east); here the land becomes gradually more open. To the south of latitude of Jaipur City, the country slopes gradually to the south-east towards the Banas River, only a few hills appearing above the plain; but in the extreme south the hill-ranges reappear. Westward from Jaipur City the country rises gradually towards the Kishangarh border and consists of a great measure of broad open treeless plains, dotted with occasional hills. The hills for the most part rise very abruptly from the plains and many of them are peaked; others are flat at the top with the edges steeply scarped for some way down the hillside, thus forming natural fortifications.

The soil of Jaipur, immediately west and north of the city, is generally sandy while as in some places there are tracts of mere barren sand. An extensive dune field covers the western part to the city in the Sambhar-Jobner-Renwal-Ramgarh tract. Sand dunes are present along the border of Sikar district to the north of Jaipur City. The hills prevent the movement of sand particles and, therefore, deposition of sand is a regular feature near the foot hills particularly during the summer season. Eastward along the Banganga valley, the soil is usually a rich loam; and in the extreme east, towards

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\(^{15}\) Ibid., p. 3

Hindaun, it is still sandy. Southward from Jaipur the soil is, for the most part, rich and fertile; and the tract to the extreme south, enclosed by the Banas River, consists of a rich alluvial loam, and is the most fertile portion of the region. Shekhawati, to the north of the Aravalli range, consists almost entirely of shifting sands, and the great scarcity of water prevents the growth of any other than the Kharif Crop (moth, bajra and guwar) rose during the rains.\textsuperscript{17}

Bishop Heber when arrived at Jaipur in 1820s beautifully sketched the topography of this region as:

"...our own tract emerged on an elevated but sandy and barren plain, in which, nevertheless, some fields of wheat were seen, and what surprised me, some fine peepal-trees. This plain which seems to have been a lake, is surrounded on three sides by the same barren stony hills, and has in its centre the city of Jaipur, a place of considerable extent, with fortifications so like those of the Kremlin, that I could almost have fancied myself at Moscow..."\textsuperscript{18}

The main axis of the city i.e. the east-west axis, aligned with the natural ridge running at a slight angle of 15 degrees to the south-east. Stretching in line with the foot of Nahargarh hill on the west for about 4 kilometers till the sand dunes on the foot hill of Galtaji this ridge now exists as the main road from Surajpol to Chandpol\textsuperscript{19} and the distance between these two gates is about 3.2 kms. Its breath, south to north i.e., from Ajmeri Gate to the foot of Nahargarh fort, is about 2 kilometers\textsuperscript{20}.

The region where Jaipur City exists is depended on the scanty source of water in the absence of any perennial river. Source of water consists of rainy water which was harvested in the form of lakes, tanks, etc. and ground water approached through wells and step-wells. Jaipur City and area around is consisted of a number of water bodies i.e. natural or man-made. There is a small water body popularly known as Talkatora, and the lodge which was being used by Kachhwahas for hunting purposes.\textsuperscript{21} Budhivilas (18th c source) mentions the construction of a hunting lodge in the Talkatora area of Jaipur by Mirza Raja Jai Singh which was later on developed by Sawai Jai Singh as his favourite

\textsuperscript{17} Sarkar, A History of Jaipur, \textit{Op.cit.}
\textsuperscript{20} Sarkar, \textit{A History of Jaipur}, p. 206.
\textsuperscript{21} Ibid, p. 98.
hunting ground. On the north and east of Talkatora, there was a bigger water body known as the Rajamal Ka Talab, spread in an area of about 100 acres infested with crocodiles. Unfortunately, it was filled up and lost its practical existence. To the north of Talkatora about 2.5 kms away there was a marshy land (having a flowing water stream) which was later converted into a lake. In the central and eastern divisions of the region, water is fairly near the surface, varying from a few feet in low-lying ground to 30 or 40 feet.

The general direction of drainage is towards south in the southern part of Jaipur; towards east in the eastern part and towards north-east in the northern part. The Banas, which rises in the Aravalli hills, flows through, or along the border of the present Jaipur District. It has numerous tributaries, such as the Dain, the Mashi, the Dhil, the Galwa, and the Morel. The Banganga, a river of Jaipur, is about 145 kilometers, flowing first in a south-easterly direction and then almost to the east. Among other rivers are the Bandi, a tributary of Mashi, originated from hills near Samod in Jaipur District, passes through Phulera and Phagi tahsil before entering the Tonk district. The Mash, a tributary of Banas, originates from Ajmer district, traverses through Phagi tahsil. The main tributary of Morel River is Dhund. It traverses in Chaksu (Chatsu) tahsil before joining Morel River near village Hingonia. The Morel originates in Dosa tahsil and is tributary of river Banas, and it enters in Sawai Madhopur district. The Sabi River originates in Neem-ka-Thana tahsil, and it enters Jaipur district in Viratnagar tahsil and traverses in north-eastern direction.

The ‘Amani-i-Shah’ or ‘Amani Shah-Ka-Nala’ originates in the foothills north of the Jaipur City, it supplies the city with sweat drinking water, and joins the Dhund south of Sanganer after flowing 35 kms, in it water sustains whole year. The Mendha flows into the Sambhar Lake; the Sabi or Sahibi, which flows north-east into Alwar, and thence through Kot-Kasim, which after a northerly course of some 95 kms through Shekhawati, loses itself in the sand just within the Bikaner border. Almost all the minor rivers are dry

during the summer months. The only natural lake of any importance is the salt lake at Sambhar, which is famous as one of the largest source of salt in the country, the eastern portion of which was jointly held by Jaipur and Jodhpur Darbars.²⁹

Jaipur is a City of harsh climate and seasonal variations as temperature going as high as 48° c in summer and very cold in winters with temperatures dropping below 10°c. The annual rainfall averages about 57 centimeters, of which 50 centimeters are received in the three months of July, Aug. and Sept., and it is 62 centimeters in the City.³⁰ Writing about the climate of Jaipur, Heber says,

"The climate of Jyepoor is described as less disagreeable than I should have expected. The rains are never heavy, the cold months are bracing and healthy, and the hot winds, fierce during the day, generally cease at night".³¹

Winds are generally light to moderate but in summer and the early south-west monsoon season, winds may strengthen on some days. Westerly or south-westerly winds prevail in the south-west monsoon season. In the post monsoon and winter months winds are mostly south-westerly. In the summer season the winds blow from direction between south-west and north-west.³²

Agricultural conditions vary in different parts of the Jaipur region. Shekhawati consists almost entirely of shifting sands, and generally produces only one harvest in the year, raised during the rainy season, i.e. *Kharif* harvest. This consists of *bajra*, *mung*, *guwar* and moth (lentil), and a little wheat and barley are grown in winter season (*Rabi* harvest). To the east of the City, along the Banganga Valley, the soil is for the most part either black cotton or a rich alluvial loam. Here *jawar*, cotton, and *til* (oil seed) are grown in the rains, while the winter season crops are wheat, barley, gram, sugar cane and poppy.³³

The Jaipur Region is characterized with a particular type of flora and fauna. The following trees are common: *babul* (*Acacia Arabica*), *ber* (*Zizyphus Jujuba*), *dhak* (*Butea frondosa*), *dhokra* (*Anogeissus pendula*), *gular* (*Ficus glomerata*), *jamun* (*Eugerica*}

jambolana), khair (Acacia Catechu), nim (Melia azadirachta), and peepal (Ficus religiosa), and in the south, shisham (Dalbergia sissoo) and bamboo\textsuperscript{34}. Jaipur has no particular breed of cattle or horses, the camels of Shekhawati are of a good stamp, being strong and hardy. Sheep and goat are reared\textsuperscript{35}. The better known wild animals found in the area are tiger, hyaena, wolf, bear, sambhar, deer, pig, etc\textsuperscript{36}.

Jaipur is popular for the mining of some metals and the building stones. The salt, which is a very important item of trade, is largely manufactured at the Sambhar Lake. Iron occurs near Khetri, and at Karwar close to Hindaun, but the mines have long been abandoned; but in this neighbourhood, particularly at Babai, cobalt found in a thin layer between the veins of copper is much used for emanating.\textsuperscript{37}

Good building stone, chiefly sand stone and marble, is plentiful. At Bhankri, 36 miles east of the City, and at Toda Rai Singh in the south-west, huge slabs of a foliated mica schist are quarried, and are used for roofing and flagging purposes. Course grey marble comes from Raiala near the Alwar border; and a black marble, used for inlaying work, is obtained at Bhainslana near Kot Putli in the north-east. Abundance of excellent limestone is procured from Rahori, about 14 miles north-east of the City, and Kankar is found almost everywhere; generally in flat beds instead of in scattered nodules. Garnets of the best kind are fairly common in the Rajmahal hills near the river Banas in the south-west, and turquoises are said to have been found in Toda in the same neighborhood\textsuperscript{38}.

\textsuperscript{35} Ibid, p.390.
PHYSICAL MAP OF JAIPUR

Fig. 1
(B) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The territory now comprising the city of Jaipur (Amber) was the capital of the Kachhwaha Rajputs, existing in a region which was known in ancient and medieval times as ‘Dhoondhar’\(^{39}\), and formed a part of the Matsyadesh or Matasya Janapada of the Mauryan period\(^ {40}\). It was till early twelfth century, held partly by the Minas and partly by the Rajputs of the Badgujar clan\(^ {41}\). Among the Minas there were five leading families who were known as the Panch-wara or Confederacy of Five and who had long tracts of the country (south-east of the present city of Jaipur) under their sway\(^ {42}\). But they were neither well organized nor well led and suffered from perpetual mutual feuds. Though, the family of Amber was regarded as a senior house, the Badgujars were sovereign to Minas and many of the forts of the region were occupied by them. The main among Badgujars was the Raja of Deoti to whom the Minas used to appeal, as to a sovereign, whenever they were in trouble\(^ {43}\).

The Minas were later on ousted by Kachhwaha Rajputs whose three families ruled on either side of the Chambal River. One family ruled at Gwalior (10-12\(^ \text{th} \) c.), the second family was that of Dubkund (11\(^ \text{th} \) c.) and the third one was that of Narwar which ruled in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Of these three the most important was the dynasty which ruled at Gwalior from about 950 to 1128 A.D\(^ {44}\). Whether it was the Narwar branch or the Gwalior branch of the Kachhwahas who migrated to Eastern Rajasthan can not be definitely determined because the traditions are conflicting and confusing\(^ {45}\). Many conflicting versions of the origins of Kachhwaha settlement, in the land they now hold, have been written down from oral tradition only in the eighteenth century\(^ {46}\).

\(^{39}\) Bhargava, V.S., Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar(Jaipur), Ajmer, 1979, p. 1; According to James Tod, the etymology of Dhoondar is from a once celebrated sacrificial mount (d’hoond) on the western frontier, near Kalik Jobner, James Tod, Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan, p.280.


\(^{43}\) Ibid., p. 23 : Rajasthan District Gazetteer-Jaipur, p. 1


\(^{45}\) Ibid.

\(^{46}\) Sarkar, A History of Jaipur, p. 22.
Bardic literature and tradition holds that the founder of Dhoondhar's *Kachhwaha* dynasty, Prince Dulha Rai or Tejkaran\(^47\) was a descendant of a branch of the solar dynasty that traced its origins from Kush, one of the twin sons of Rama\(^48\). On the basis of the few genealogies and literary works, such as the *Kachhavamsha Mahakavya* and *Kurma Vilas*, it can be established that Dulha came from Gwalior. However, writers such as Nainsi, Bankidas and Tod, believe that Dulha Rai came originally from Narwar near Gwalior\(^49\).

There are several theories regarding the origins of the name of the clan *Kachhwaha*\(^50\). In the Balban inscription of 1288 A.D., Chatsu inscription of 1499 A.D., Sanganer inscription of 1601 and Rewasa inscription of 1604 A.D., the *Kachhwaha* has been mentioned as *Kurmas* or *Kurmbha*. The term ‘Kachhawa’ became more popular during and after the reign of Raja Man Singh-I, in the second half of 16\(^{th}\) century\(^51\). Pt. Jhabarmal Sharma, while dealing with the origin of the clan’s name, is of the opinion that on immigration to *Kachhawaghar* from Rohtasgarh, the invaders found the region ruled by the *Kachhapas* (of Chambal), whom they conquered. In honour they assumed proud title of ‘Kachhapaghat’, ‘Kachhap-ari’, ‘Kachhapha’ which in its corrupt form is the *Kachhawa* or *Kachchwaha* of today\(^52\).

The early history of this family is obscure; but they are said to have settled at Rohtas on the Sone River\(^53\), where they constructed a fort, then they migrated towards west, and founded the kingdom and city of Narwar near Gwalior and ruled before and during the 11\(^{th}\) century\(^54\). According to popular tradition and bardic chronicles, Dulha Rai left Gwalior around 1128 V.S. /1071 A.D.\(^55\) and subdued Badgujars and Minas and


\(^{49}\) Bhargava , *The Rise of the Kachhwas in Dhundhar*, p.4; *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, XIII, p.384.

\(^{50}\) Jain ,Shikha (ed.), *Princely Terrain*, p.48

\(^{51}\) Bhargava , *Rise of the Kachhwas in Dhundhar*, pp. 2-3

\(^{52}\) Ibid, p. 2; *Kachhapa or Kurma* is shortened form of *Kachhapaghada*, V.S. Bhatnagar, *Life and Times of Sawai Jai Singh*, Delhi, 1974, p. 4.

\(^{53}\) *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, *Op.cit.*

\(^{54}\) Bhargava , *Rise of the Kachhwas in Dhundhar*, p. 21

\(^{55}\) So far as the departure of Dulha Rai from Gwalior is concerned, Shyamaldas is of the opinion that he left Gwalior around 976 A.D. James Tod also agrees with him but V.S. Bhargava does not accept it, *Vir Vinod*, V.II, p.126, Tod, *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, V.II, p. 280, Bhargava, *Rise of the Kachhwas in Dhundhar*, f.n.3, p. 4.
settled at Dausa, 48 km east of Jaipur. Thus, Dausa became the first capital of the *Kachhwahas* in Dhundhar. Later on he expelled the Minas from Manchi, 22 km northeast of Jaipur, which he named as Ramgarh and from Khoh. Dulha now turned to crush the Bargujar’s fort of Deoti and became master of its accumulated treasure. Khoh (along with two other forts) 8 km east of Jaipur City, was taken from its lord, a Mina named Chanda, and it became Dulha’s capital. Then Getor, 3 km north-east of Sanganer, formerly held by Geta Mina, was annexed, followed by Jhotwara; 5 km west of the modern city of Jaipur. Dulha employed the Mina youths as watchmen and permanent servants of the State.

The successor of Dulha Rai, Kakil captured and occupied Amber from Rao Bhutto, a Mina of the Susaot family, and laid the foundation of the fort of Amber. Kakil was also credited to found a new fort known as Kakilgarh. Later on the *Kachhwahas* established matrimonial alliance with Prithviraj Chauhan of Ajmer and accompanied him in battles of Terrain. The bard Chand Bardai, has sung a lot about Pajvan, a contemporary *Kachhwaha* king, in his famous epic, *Prithvi Raj-Raso*. The History of the *Kachhwahas* from Pajvan’s successor Malesi to Prithvi Raj is full of legendary accounts. The only fact which deserves our notice is that they multiplied into a number of clans.

In the beginning of the 16th Century, *Kachhwaha* king Prithvi Raj, joined the Rajput Confederacy formed by Rana Sanga and participated in the battle of Khanwa against Mughal Ruler Babar. He is famous in the history of Amber for assuming twelve

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56 Rise of the *Kachhwahas* in Dhundhar, p.4; The Imperial Gazetteer of India, V.XIII, pp. 384-285.
58 As per a long-standing tradition, it was the Minas of Kali-Kho, who were displaced from their position of local supremacy by the coming of the *Kachhwahas* and were entrusted with the protection of the state treasures of Kachhwaha-ruled Dhundhar. According to some 19th century records, although this custom had gone out of practice, the application of the ‘raj tilak’ the mark of coronation, on the forehead of the Kachhwaha kings had formerly been a privilege given to the *Meenas* of Khoh, Todd, *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, V.II. pp.347-348; Fateh Singh, Brief History of Jeypore State, 1889, p. 10.
59 He established his authority over a territory of 80 km in length and 50 km in width and to keep the newly conquered territory under his control he shifted his capital from Dausa to Khoh, M.L.Sharma, History of Jaipur State, p. 23.
63 Bhargava, Rise of the *Kachhwahas* in Dhundhar, f. n .2, pp .7-8.
appanagas i.e. Bara-Kotris to his sons and their successors. The holders of these Kotris formed the highest nobility in Amber. His successor Puranmal, who ruled from 1527 to 1534, helped Hindal (Humayun’s brother who held the fief of Mewat) in his struggle against Tatar Khan and died fighting in the battle. The period from the death of Puranmal to the accession of Bharmal is shrouded with controversies, quick successions resulting in intrigues, murders, etc.

With the inception of Akbar’s period, the history of Kachhwahas has entered into a new phase. When Mughal ruler Akbar came to the throne and fought initially to establish Mughal Empire, Dhoondhar was being ruled by Bharmal who became the king of Kachhwahas in 1548 A.D. In this period, a new political equation between Amber and the Mughal Empire began to establish.

During the initial phase of his reign, Bharmal was faced with considerable opposition, not merely from various relatives who were rival contenders to the throne, but also from Haji Khan Pathan, a former slave who became a military commander of Sher Shah Suri, and the Mughal Subedar of Mewat Mirza Muhammad Sharifuddin Husain. While Bharmal was managed to placate Haji Khan Pathan, Husain supported the cause of Suja, a son of king Puranmal, and in 1558, Mirza Husain led a large army to Amber, which Bharmal was in no position to resist. He came to terms, promised a fixed tribute to Mirza and handed over his son Jagannath and his nephews Raj Singh and Khangar Singh as hostages for its due payment. But Mirza Sharfuddin was not really satisfied. He made preparations, with a large force, for renewing the invasion next year (1562) and extirpating the family of Bharmal and annexing Amber. At the same time, insecurity arisen due to the expansionist policy of Marwar ruler Maldeva who occupied some territory of Amber. In these circumstances, while facing internal and external problems as

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65 James Tod, Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan, V.II, p.285 ; Sarkar, A History of Jaipur, p. 32
66 Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, p.9
67 Sarkar, A History of Jaipur, p.33; Bhargava put his period from 1528 to 1536 A.D., cf. Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas, p.9
68 Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, ibid.
69 Ibid., p.9
71 Ibid., pp. 56-57.
73 Ibid, pp.35-36.
well, Bharmal sought Akbar’s protection through Chaghtai Khan, a Mughal noble, and met the Emperor, then on his way to Ajmer, at Sanganer, 11 km south of Jaipur, and on the advice of Chaghtai Khan and Maham Anaga, offered his daughter’s hand to the Emperor.

The marriage was solemnized at Sambhar in Feb. 1562, when Akbar was on his way back from Ajmer to Agra. Bharmal’s eldest son Bhagwandas and his grandson Man Singh were attached to the Emperor and accompanied him to Agra. This marriage was a significant event in medieval Indian History. The little principality of Amber attained sudden prominence after Feb. 1562, and was destined to play an important role in the medieval period.

The political alliance between the state of Amber and the Mughal King was immensely advantageous to both the parties. Bharmal succeeded, without any battle, in regaining his lost territory from Raja Maldeva of Jodhpur, and in making Sharfuddin desist from his aggressive designs on Amber. The Kachhwahas, before their alliance with Akbar, were a non-entity among the ruling tribes of Rajasthan. They had occupied the rich eastern plains of Rajasthan and were always exposed to the attacks of the rulers of Agra and Delhi. Amber, their capital, was very often under the influence of one or the other of its powerful neighbours. With his accession opens a completely new chapter in the history of Amber.

Thereafter, the state of Amber became one of the most prominent Rajput states not only in Rajasthan, but in the whole of northern India. In the words of M.L. Sharma, “The policy initiated by Beharimal and pursued by his worthy successors was responsible for the high prestige the princely house of the Kachhwas enjoyed in the Mughal Court, the brilliant military career which the Kachhwa sardars or the leaders obtained in Mughal service, and the continuous peace and prosperity which about two million subjects of Amber enjoyed for about two centuries before the Marathas appeared on the horizon. Raja Beharimal’s house supplied the Mughals the cool penetrating brain power,

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74 Abul Fazl has given detailed account of Bharmal’s submission in Akbarnama, V.II, Eng. Trans., pp. 240-244.
75 Bhatnagar, Life and Times of Sawai Jai Singh, Op.cit, p.8
79 Cf. Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, p.10
the unfailing political insight and the great administrative skill, as also the inborn power of leadership of generals like Man Singh, Mirza Raja Jai Singh".\footnote{80}

The alliance also secured solid and loyal support of the \textit{Kachhwahas} to the Mughal throne and became an important cause of the empire's expansion and stability. It produced a profound effect on Akbar's imperial policy as well as personal life\footnote{81}. The \textit{Kachhwahas} to begin with, and the other Rajputs who followed their example, supplied the Mughal monarch with the greatest strength in the troubled days of the new born empire\footnote{82}. Long before his death, Bharmal was appointed to the rank of 5000, which was the highest position conferred upon the person outside the Mughal family, and during the two Gujarat campaigns; Akbar even left the capital in his charge\footnote{83}. Moreover, Akbar left his infant son Daniyal to the care of Bharmal's rani\footnote{84}.

Bharmal's son Bhagwandas (1574-1589 A.D.) held the title of \textit{Amir-ul-Umra} and the rank of 5000. He played an important role in the campaigns in Rajputana, Gujarat and Kashmir, and served as the Subedar of Lahor from 1583 to 1589 A.D.\footnote{85} In the battle of Sarnal (1572 A.D.) Bhagwandas has distinguished himself and was therefore honoured with the grant of a standard and a Kettle drum. He saved Agra in 1573 from the surprise attack of Ibrahim Husain\footnote{86}. His daughter Man Bai (afterwards known as Sultan-un-Nisa) was married with Prince Salim (later Jahangir)\footnote{87}. Marriage was performed according to Hindu and Muslim customs\footnote{88}. He died in Nov. 1589, and was succeeded by his son, Man Singh who ruled from 1589 to 1614 A.D.\footnote{89}

First as a prince and then as the ruler of Amber, Man Singh took part in as many as sixty-seven important Mughal military campaigns and battles (including the famous battle of Haldighati, which was fought against Maharana Pratap of Mewar in 1586 A.D) that took him from Kabul, Balkh and Bukhara in the north-west to Bengal in the east, as

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\item[84] Cf. Bhargava, \textit{Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar}, p.15.
\item[87] Ibid. p.21.
\item[89] According to Tod, Man Singh was the most brilliant character of Akbar's Court, cf. Tod, \textit{Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan}, V.II, p. 286.
\end{footnotes}
well as the southern and central part of the sub-continent. In recognition of his accession, Emperor Akbar sent Man Singh the ceremonial coronation teeka along with an order conferring the title of ‘Raja’ with a mansab of 5000, which later increased to the highest 7000 (the only equal Mughal mansabdar was Mirza Aziz Koka). From his times, Amber became one of the best known and the prosperous states in the country. The Raja united ability with courage and genius with strenuous action; he administered the province of Bihar excellently.

In 1605 A.D, after summoning Man Singh from Bengal, Akbar being highly pleased with his glorious feats there rewarded him with a mansab (official rank) of 7000 zat and 6000 sawar. The five-coloured flag or ‘Panchranga’ of the Amber State (which continued to be used until after Dhoondhar’s integration into independent India) is said to have been designed by Man Singh.

Man Singh was considered as one of the nine jewels (nav-ratna) of Akbar’s court, and was renowned for his skills as a warrior and general, as well as an able administrator and diplomat. Man Singh encouraged scholarship, literature, poetry, architecture, and the arts. Moreover, he himself was well versed in Sanskrit, Persian, Rajasthani and Hindi. ‘Pothikhana’ the private library of the Amber-Jaipur rulers was mainly the collection of Man Singh’s period. It was during his reign that aspects of the Imperial administrative pattern, such as the use of the ‘Pargana’, a group of villages, were introduced.

A large number of buildings were built by Man Singh. It mainly includes palaces within Amber fort, the Man-Mandir, Man-Ghat and Sarovar-Ghat at Varanasi, the Govin-Deva temple at Vrindavan, and the temple of Pushkar and Puri. Moreover, Man Singh was also responsible for the construction of the forts at Salimpur (Bengal), Manihari (Bihar), and Ramgarh (Dhoondhar), and founded the towns of Akbarnagar (Rajmahal) and Manpur (near Gaya) as well as the small township of Baikunthpur (Bihar’s Patna.

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91 Ibid. p. 61.
92 Cf. Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, p. 31.
93 Ibid, p.36.
96 Ibid, p.63. The size of the parganas varied, with each comprising 400 to 1000 villages. In 1715, the pargana of Amber consisted of about 700 villages, and by 1737, it had grown to 998, ibid, f.n.23, p.77.
district). He also adopted Bengali architectural features in his later constructions at Amber.

After the death of Man Singh in 1614 A.D, Bhau Singh became the King of Kachhwahas with recognition of Mughal Emperor Jahangir. He was also conferred the title of 'Mirza Raja'. His mansab or the rank was increased to 4000 zat and 3000 sawar, and he was later on given the rank of a ‘Panch Hazari Mansabdar’ (rank of 5000). After his death, Bhau Singh was succeeded by eleven year old Jai Singh-I who was better known as Mirza Raja Jai Singh. His rank was increased to 2000. He fought under the Imperial banner in every part of the empire, from Balkh in Central Asia to Bijapur in the Deccan, from Kandhar in the west to Monghyr in the east. In the first decade of Aurangzeb’s reign, after Mir Jumla’s death, he attained an eminence and position of importance.

In the long period of his rule from 1622 to 1667 A.D, Jai Singh-I got the opportunity to serve under three Mughal Emperors- Jehangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb, and obtained innumerable jagirs and other honors for his contributions to the Mughal Empire. In recognition of his brilliance and meritorious service, Jai Singh’s rank was increased from 1000 to 7000, which was a privilege usually reserved for the Mughal princes. Mirza Raja was soon proved his worth as an able worrier, tactical commander, and diplomat.

Jai Singh started his military career under the Mughals by fighting against the rebel Prince Khurram (later Shah Jahan). During Jai Singh’s absence Khurram looted Amber (April, 1623). In the battle of Hajipur (1634) which the Mughal army fought against Khurram, Jai Singh was posted in the reserve with his 5000 horses. Jai Singh was with Mahabat Khan when the latter chased Khurram from east to the Deccan. He did not take part in the civil war following the death of Jahangir. But on receiving a call from Emperor Shah Jahan he reached Delhi (1627 A.D.), posted in the Deccan along with Khan Jahan Lodi whom he deserted when the Khan revolted against Shah Jahan. In the same

98 Ibid, p. 42.
100 Sarkar, A History of Jaipur, ibid, p. 98.
102 Ibid.
year his mansab was raised to 4000 zat and 3000 sawar and Khayat, studded sword and Nakhara were awarded to him. In 1630 A.D., his mansab was raised by 1000 sawar. He was also granted jagir worth 37,48820dams in pargana Deoti Sanchari in appreciation of the meritorious services rendered by him\textsuperscript{103}.

Jai Singh earned fame in the conquests of Balaghat, Gulbarga and Bijapur in the Deccan, as a reward of which he was appointed as Subedar of Akbarabad (Agra) and Faujdar of Mathura in June, 1631A.D. with an increment of 4600 sawar and 5,20,00,000 dams in Inam (gift)\textsuperscript{104}. Shah Jahan’s Farman to Jai Singh dated 26\textsuperscript{th} Jamadi-ul-Akhir, 1043A.H (18\textsuperscript{th} Dec.1633) which is preserved in Kapad-Dwara (No.176/R) informs us that the land utilized for the Taj-Mahal belonged to him and in compensation for the plot of land, four havelis or the mansions belonging to Bhagwan Das, Madho Singh, Roopji Baigi and Chand Singh son of Swarup Singh were granted to Maharaja Jai Singh\textsuperscript{105}. His services in the Deccan campaigns were appreciated by the Emperor. As a result he was promoted to the rank of 5000 and the Pargana of Chatsu was added to his Jagir\textsuperscript{106}.

In March, 1638 A.D, he was deputed along with Prince Shuja to take possession of the fort and the district of Qandhar, which its Persian governor Ali Mardan Khan had offered to hand over to the Emperor and there he was given the title of ‘Mirza Raja’, like his great-grand father Man Singh, who had received a similar honour from Akbar\textsuperscript{107}. For many years Jai Singh rendered his services on the north-western frontier of the Empire, including Kabul and Qandhar, under the command of the Mughal princes Shuja (1638), Murad (1641), Dara Shikoh (1642) and Aurengzeb (1648)\textsuperscript{108}. In 1644 A.D, Jai Singh was appointed the Governor of the Deccan, where he ruled for two years and impressed the Emperor with his administrative ability\textsuperscript{109}. From 1649 to 1653A.D, he was mostly engaged in the three sieges of Qandhar, which were proved great failure. But Jai Singh’s role in every siege was courageous and creditable\textsuperscript{110}.

\textsuperscript{103} Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, Op.cit, p. 45.
\textsuperscript{104} Ibid, p. 46.
\textsuperscript{106} Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, Op.cit, p. 47.
\textsuperscript{107} Ibid, pp. 47-48.
\textsuperscript{110} Cf. Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, p. 48.
Jai Singh's role in the war of succession among the sons of Shah Jahan reveals him a practical and shrewd politician, an opportunist, loyal to the throne and not to the person\textsuperscript{111}. The great achievement of his career was treaty of Purandhar (June, 1665) and his role in persuading Shivaji to visit the Mughal Capital. Shivaji’s escape from Agra and the failure of the Bijapur campaign clouded the glory of Mirza Raja Jai Singh. Due to an accidental fall from his elephant, he died in 1667 A.D. at Burhanpur\textsuperscript{112}.

After the death of Mirza Raja, the Emperor recognized Ram Singh (r.1667-1689 A.D.) as the ruler of Amber with the rank of 4000/4000, an elephant\textsuperscript{113}, and 20 parganas were also assigned to him\textsuperscript{114}. Ram Singh served at Jalalabad, Lamghan, Ali Masjid, Gandamak, and Ghazni and proved his administrative talent\textsuperscript{115}. After the death of Ram Singh in 1688 A.D, he was succeeded by Bishan Singh (r.1688-1700 A.D.)\textsuperscript{116}. In July 1688, he was deputed to protect the caravans between Mathura and Agra. He gained rapid promotions in Imperial service. In Aug.1688, he was appointed Faujdar of Mathura with an increase of 500 zat in his rank for having captured Pithor and Kasot forts of the Jats. In Jan.1690, he rendered out standing service in capturing Sinsani fort\textsuperscript{117}.

Bishan Singh’s operations against the Jats were appreciated by Aurengzeb who granted him zamindari of Sinsim in view of his good services. The pargana of Malarana, which was earlier taken away, was restored to him in Sep.1689. Zamindari of Sonkh was granted to him in Nov.1689\textsuperscript{118}. later on Bishan Singh had captured Soghar (1691), Harsoli (1693), Kasehrar (1693), Sonkher (1694), Pinghar, Batholi (1694), Jawahar-Ki-Garhi (1695) and a number of other Jat fortresses\textsuperscript{119} (50 such mud forts were taken and demolished by his son Jai Singh II)\textsuperscript{120}. In 1692, he was granted Faujdar of Hinduan and Bayana, Pargana of Chatsu, Tonk, Malpura and Dausa. Kol (Aligarh) with 50, 00,000

\textsuperscript{111} Cf. Bhargava, \textit{Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar}, p. 50.
\textsuperscript{112} Bhatnagar, \textit{Life and Times of Sawai Jai SinghII}, Op.cit, p. 11; \textit{Akhbarat} (Jaipur), Sep.6, Oct.30, 1667, \textit{Kapad-Dwara}, Jaipur
\textsuperscript{113} Ibid, p.11.
\textsuperscript{116} Ibid, p. 12.
\textsuperscript{117} Ibid, pp. 13-14.
dams were granted to the Maharaja, in lieu of his success against Jats. He died at Peshawar on Dec. 19, 1699 A.D.

After the death of Bishan Singh, Jai Singh-II (r.1700-1743 A.D.) ascended the throne of Amber on Jan. 25, 1700 A.D. A few days later the Emperor conferred upon him the title of Raja Jai Singh and upon his brother the title of Bijay Singh, and his mansab has been increased from 1000/1200 to 1500/1200.

With the accession of Jai Singh II, the history of Jaipur (Amber) enters a new stage. Since the accession of Man Singh after the death of Bishan Singh the Kachhwaha rulers were absentee rulers for their principality. At the time of his accession only three parganas (Amber, Dausa and Baswa) constituted watan jagir (home territory) of the Kachhwaha Raja, which yielded an annual income of Rs. 3,80,000 and having area about 5,000 square kilometers.

Soon after his coronation, Jai Singh was called upon to render military service to the Mughal Empire. Prior to his accession, Jai Singh had served in the Deccan for about eight months when he was a ten year old, and in his first meeting with Emperor Aurengzeb, he received the famous title of ‘Sawai’ (literary one and a quarter). Once he became the ruler of Amber, Jai Singh was again sent to the Deccan. This time he was posted under Prince Bidar Bakht. During the next few years, the young Raja and his contingent demonstrated their military worth on many occasions, particularly against the Marathas at Khelna, Khandesh, Malwa and Burhanpur. Emperor Aurengzeb was a witness to Jai Singh’s valour at the time of conquering the fort of Khelna. His mansab was raised by 500 zat making him mansabdar of 2000 zat.

His appointment in 1705 as Deputy Governor (Naib Subedar) of Malwa similarly helped him refine those skills pertaining to administration, law and order, revenue

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124 Ibid.
collection, and statesmanship. Among Jai Singh’s various responsibilities was the safe transit of treasures intended for the Imperial treasury, and of arms and ammunition to the Deccan.

During the war-of-succession that followed the death of Aurengzeb in 1707 A.D, Jai Singh initially supported Prince Azam’s cause. Azam made Jai Singh the Governor of Malwa and increased his mansab. Later, in the final decisive battle for the crown between Azam and his brothers Muazzam at Jajau, near Agra, on 8 June 1707, Jai Singh changed his loyalties to Muazzam who came out victorious in the war of succession.

Muazzam’s accession as Emperor Bahadur Shah-I, who ruled from 1707-1712 A.D, marked a period of disfavour for Jai Singh. He was ousted from his seat at Amber, and control of Amber was handed over to Bijay Singh, his younger brother, who had supported prince Muazzam in the war-of-succession. At the same time an Imperial garrison was established at Amber and the Emperor changed its name as Mominabad. Jai Singh now had to resort to all diplomatic skills as well as his sword in dealing with the situation. Matters were arranged so that Jai Singh could personally meet the Emperor at Ajmer and urge him to return Jai Singh’s confiscated watan jagir. At Bahadur Shah’s command, Jai Singh joined the Imperial Camp moving south ward to deal with the Mughal prince Kambaksh. Jai Singh soon realised that despite his attempts at arriving at conciliation, Bahadur Shah was in no hurry to return Amber to him. Thereupon, both he and Marwar’s Ajit Singh surreptitiously left the Emperor’s Camp on 30 April, 1708, and accepted the hospitality of Rana Amar Singh II of Mewar at Udaipur, in May 1708.

Bahadur Shah’s stern attitude towards Jai Singh and Ajit Singh not only brought them closer to each other, but Maharana Amar Singh of Mewar also rose to the occasion by forming a joint front of the Rajputs against the Mughal Emperor. Sawai Jai Singh had studied very carefully the decadence of the Mughal power, the dissensions in the imperial family, and the general upsurge and discontent in the country. He therefore,

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decided to part with the Mughal Emperor at a convenient place and time. Further more, the shrewd Jai Singh convinced his allies that the three states ought to strengthen their ties through matrimonial alliances. Consequently, Jai Singh married Maharana Amar Singh’s daughter, princess Chandra Kunwar, and guaranteed that any son born to her would succeed to the throne of Amber, regardless of the natural rights of primogeniture favouring any of Jai Singh’s older sons borne by any of his other queens. Jai Singh had also forged a matrimonial alliance with Marwar, with the engagement (and a decade later, marriage), of Jai Singh with Princess Suraj Kunwar, the daughter of Ajit Singh of Marwar.

There after the forces at the command of Mewar marched along side the contingent of Ajit Singh and Jai Singh towards Jodhpur. Their combined forces retook this capital from Imperial hands and in early July 1708, Ajit Singh was reinstated on his ancestral throne. The three armies of Mewar, Marwar and Dhoondhar then went on to ensure the return of Amber to Jai Singh. Almost simultaneously, this ‘triple alliance’ defeated the Imperial army near the famous salt-lake town of Sambhar and occupied Sambhar in Oct. 1708. This battle was an important landmark both in the life of Sawai Jai Singh and the history of Rajasthan. The results of the battle were far reaching: Firstly, Sawai Jai Singh was proclaimed as ruler of Amber at Sambhar, Secondly, Ajit Singh regained his rule over Didwana, Thirdly, Ajit Singh and Jai Singh agreed to enforce joint rule in Sambhar, and Finally, the sway of Rajputs was established at Hindaun, Bayana, Rewari and Rohtak.

The battle of Sambhar was responsible for change in Bahadur Shah’s attitude towards Jai Singh and Ajit Singh. The Emperor restored the mansab to both the Rajas on 6th Oct. 1708. Restoration of their capitals (watan jagirs) was subject to their withdrawal from Sambhar and Didwana and their accepting appointments to the provinces of Kabul and Gujarat. But the Rajas asked for the posts of Subedars of Malwa.

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139 Ibid, pp. 74-75.
141 Cf. Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, p. 76.
143 Cf. Bhargava, Rise of the Kachhwahas in Dhundhar, p. 77.
144 Ibid, pp. 78-79.
and Gujarat. So the question of final settlement with them lingered on till Oct. 1711, when both of them arrived at the Mughal Court. In mean time (May-June 1710), individual Imperial Farmans confirming them as rulers of their lands were issued.

After the death of Emperor Bahadur Shah-I in 1712 A.D, Jai Singh’s position at the Mughal Court enhanced. The new Emperor Jahandar Shah’s brief reign ended in Dec. 1713 with his defeat at the hands of Farrukhsiyar. During this period a perceptible change took place in Sawai Jai Singh’s relations with the Mughal Court. At the instance of Asad Khan the Jizya (a toll tax) was abolished. The pargana of Amber (Mominabad) which yielded an annual income of 3.3 crores dams, besides Dewasa and Chatsu were granted in jagir to Jai Singh. His son Chimna was also granted Jagir of Bhogi (Phagi). During the reign of Emperor Farrukhsiyar (r. 1713-1720) Jai Singh continued to hold a high position at the Imperial Court. However, as long as the Sayyid brothers, the Wazir (Prime Minister) Sayyid Abdullah Khan and the Bakshi Sayyid Hussain Ali who became the ‘King-Makers’-were powerful at the Imperial Court, Jai Singh’s contributions were marginalized by their influence. Despite their attempts at undermining Jai Singh, the Emperor conferred the Subedari of Malwa on Jai Singh in Oct. 1713 and Faujdari of Mandsaur on his son Chimnaji.

Jai Singh’s appointment as Subedar of Malwa coincided with the appointment of Balaji Vishwanath as the Peshwa (Nov. 16, 1713). The incoming of Marathas was checked and in the absence of aid from the local Afghan and Hindu chiefs were subdued. These achievements earned honour and appreciation from the Emperor Farrukhsiyar. Revolts of Afghans at Dhamoni were suppressed in March, 1715 but the revels could not be finally subdued because the Marathas with 30,000 troops had reached up to Ujjain after pillaging Dhar, Mandu, etc. Jai Singh reached Ujjain by May 1715. The Marathas took to flight. With a force of 10,000 Jai Singh, accompanied by Chhatrasal and Budh

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150 Akhbarat (Jaipur), March 27, 1712, Kapad-Dwara, Jaipur; ibid.
151 Parvana (Jaipur), No. 62 (S. No. 43) & 260 (S. No. 53), Kapad-Dwara, Jaipur; it is corroborated by the Arzdasat of Jagjiwandhas; ibid.
154 Farman (Jaipur), No. 40 (S. No. 67), Kapad-Dwara, Jaipur.
Singh Hada, after pursuing defeated the Marathas who took shelter in the mountains of Pilsud. It became possible only by tireless movement and prompt demonstration of force on Jai Singh’s part. The Emperor praised him highly.

Jai Singh’s prolonged absence from Malwa prompted the Marathas to resume their incursions into that province. In Oct. 1717, at the advice of Sayyid Abdullah, the Emperor replaced Jai Singh as Subedar of Malwa and sent him away from the Imperial Court. In Feb. 1719, Farrukhsiyar was deposed in a palace intrigue, and was murdered shortly thereafter. The Imperial Mughal throne briefly went to Rafi-ud-Darazat (r. Feb-May 1719) and then to his brother, Rafi-ud-Daulah (r. May-Sept. 1719), before Prince Roshan Akhtar became Emperor, and assumed the title ‘Muhammad Shah’ (r. 1719-1748 A.D.). Ajit Singh at this point helped Jai Singh in partially re-gaining Imperial favour, and Jai Singh was given the title of the Faujdar of Sorath. The downfall and death of the Sayyids towards the end of 1720 saw Jai Singh’s re-ascendancy at the Mughal Court.

Emperors who occupied the Mughal throne in quick succession following Bahadur Shah’s death and with the rulers of the various Rajput states are examples of statesmanship, diplomacy, covert and overt negotiations, and strategizing. In addition, Jai Singh further strengthens his position by establishing cordial relations with the Marathas and the Bundelas.

With in a year of being called by Emperor Muhammad Shah had assigned Jai Singh the task to deal with the rising power of Jats under Churaman in 1721 A.D. Churaman’s nephew, Badan Singh, was won over by Sawai, and in the face of a family feud, Churaman took his own life as Jai Singh’s forces reached Thun and encircled it. The stronghold of Thun was staunchly defended for a couple of months by Churaman’s son, Mokham Singh, but won finally by Jai Singh’s forces. The fort was thoroughly destroyed so that the site would never again be considered worthy for fort. Mokham sought Maharaja Ajit Singh’s shelter at Marwar, while Badan Singh, now formally recognized as the chief of the Jats and granted the title of ‘Braj-Raj,

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159 Ibid.
acknowledged Mughal suzerainty. In recognition of Jai Singh's role in securing the subordination of the Jats, the Emperor added the title of 'Raj Rajeshwar' to those of 'Shri Rajadhiraj Maharaj Maharaja' and 'Mirza Raja Sawai' already held by Jai Singh\textsuperscript{161}.

Jai Singh spent the next seven years (1723-1729 A.D.) in cultivating the arts and science for which he is popular and laying out a new capital city\textsuperscript{162} in 1727 A.D. on a scientific ground and named it as 'Jai Nagar' (Sawai Jaipur)\textsuperscript{163}. It was a fully planned city unparalleled in contemporary India. He built astronomical observatories at Delhi and Jaipur these were huge masonry structures in stone, unique in the contemporary world\textsuperscript{164} (these are still in well preserved conditions). Later on three more observatories were also built by him at Benaras (Varanasi), Ujjain and Mathura\textsuperscript{165}. When the Mughal Subedar of Malwa, Nizam-ul-Mulk was defeated by the Marathas, in the battle of Sakarkheda, the Emperor issued a Farman in the name of Sawai Jai Sigh granting Rs.50 lakhs for the expenses and other assistance to control the affairs in Malwa. Since Amin Khan was appointed Governor of Malwa, Jai Singh was apathetic to the Imperial interest, so he did not move from Amber\textsuperscript{166}.

In Oct. 1729, Jai Singh was again appointed Subedar of Malwa for the second time, and held this office for about 10 months\textsuperscript{167}. In Sept. 1732, he was designated Subedar of Malwa for the third and final time in his career\textsuperscript{168}. The appointment was an important one as the incessant Marathas raids into Malwa – a geographically crucial zone-now posed a greater danger to the Mughal Empire than they had before. In Dec. 1729, with the military assistance from Mewar, Jai Singh engaged in battle with the attacking forces of Malhar Rao Holkar, Ranoji Scindia and other Maratha troops near Mandsaur. The Marathas proved stronger and obtained an indemnity of Rs.6 lakh, along with the promise that 28 parganas would be ceded to them in lieu of Chauth. The

\textsuperscript{165} Kaye suggests that these observatories were built after early months of 1734 A.D., Kaye, \textit{A Guide to the Old Observatories At Delhi, Jaipur, Op.cit}, p. 6
Maratha victory dealt a blow to the prestige of the Mughal Empire and the Rajasthani rulers.\(^{169}\)

During this period, Marathas inroads were taken place in Rajputana. Jai Singh and the Maharana of Mewar played a prominent role in the convening of a conference of Rajput rulers and chiefs in July, 1734 to find out ways and means to check the Marathas from coming beyond Narmada\(^{170}\), which ultimately resulted in ‘Hurda Pact’. This pact was not enforced adequately by all the concerned parties, Jai Singh’s contribution to this conference and the pact re-confirmed his position of regional eminence\(^{171}\).

The threat from the Marathas remained real, and in late 1734, the Mughal Mir-Bakshi, Khan-e-Dauran accompanied by Sawai Jai Singh, Marwar’s Abhay Singh, and Kota’s Durjansal, were sent to deal with the Marathas who came under Malahr Rao Holkar and Ranoji Sindhia. They clashed with Marathas at Rampura, but were defeated. Marathas encircled the Imperial army at Tonk-Toda, Jai Singh stood aloof at Jaipur. The Marathas advanced towards Kota, Bundi and Jaipur. Jai Singh represented Khan-i-Dauran to make peace but the latter considered it below his dignity. The Marathas went as far as Sambhar and looted immense wealth from them. Khan-i-Dauran suffered loses at Bundi also. At last Khan accepted Jai Singh’s suggestions, and paid the Marathas Rs.22 lakhs as Chauth for Malwa, but it was not approved by the Emperor\(^{172}\).

Now, Jai Singh decided to appease and support Baji Rao. He invited him to Jaipur and gave a warm welcome to his mother-Radha Bai, in June 1735, when she was going on pilgrimage to Varanasi. He attempted to secure an agreement between the Mughal Emperor and the Maratha Peshwa. The Peshwa was asked to submit an application for grant of the Subedari of Malwa and to assure that he would remain loyal to the throne. Baji Rao did all this accordingly. A Farman was issued on July 4, 1741 conferring the


Naib-Subeari of Malwa on the Peshwa and Subedari in favour of Prince Ahmad Shah. It was agreed on both sides. Sawai’s policy proved successful.\footnote{Bahura, \textit{ibid}, P. xi}

Jai Singh’s position in the Mughal Court can be further proved with the confirmation of Subedari of Agra to him. By this time his political position at the Imperial Court, his influence with the Marathas, his standing with the king of Mewar, and his involvement in the affairs of the neighboring kingdoms of Bundi, Bikaner, Marwar and Kota, had made his position unchallengeable. So too had the military defeats he inflicted on many of the above, including Prince Bakhat Singh, the ruler of Nagaur and the brother of the Marwar Maharaja, who was beaten in the battle of Gagrana.\footnote{Cf. Shikha Jain, \textit{Princely Terrain}, p. 74.}

Jai Singh made the kingdom of Dhoondhar one of the largest tributary states of the Mughal Empire. With an area about 32,000 sq. km, Sawai’s kingdom was far bigger than the 5,000 sq. km. that he had inherited at the time of his accession to the throne of Amber.\footnote{Ibid. p.76, Out of these territories, some was acquired as ‘ijara’ or Mughal State-granted sub-lease holdings.} Modern researches confirms that Jaipur acquired its position as a major state of Rajputana in the first half of the 18\textsuperscript{th} century as a cumulative result of the position enjoyed by its rulers in the service of the Mughal Emperors. The expansion of the territorial jurisdiction of the rulers did not take place essentially as a result of military conquests but mainly due to the transfer of various parganas in course of time by the Mughal authorities to the Jaipur rulers.\footnote{Gupta, S.P., \textit{The Agrarian System of Eastern Rajasthan}, Delhi, 1986, p.17; “the rulers of Jaipur State began to take ijaras from the time of Sawai Jai Singh. His sons also followed this practice, but they were prudent enough to take ijara of such mahals, Tahsils and parganas as were adjoining their vatan lands”; cf. Bahura, \textit{Catalogue of Historical Documents in Kapad-Dwara}, Jaipur, p. iii.}

Besides the foundation of the Jaipur City, Sawai Jai Singh was also responsible for the building of numerous temples, forts and caravan serais. Among these were the Jaigarh fort, Raghunathgarh, Ambagarh, Nahargarh and a Sun-temple at the pilgrimage-site of Galta, near Jaipur City. Caravan serais for travelers were built not only in his territories,
but also in other provinces, as an act of charity\textsuperscript{177}. In 1741 A.D, he performed \textit{Ashvamedha-Yagna} or the horse sacrifice, a Vedic Ceremony which was performed by a small number of powerful monarchs of the early historical period, which had fallen into disuse over time\textsuperscript{178}. In his life time, Jai Singh made the Jaipur City as a renowned centre of learning both secular and religious. Jaipur gained prosperity quickly after its foundation and has remained more or less a prosperous place since then. In order to rectify variations in the existing calendars, he compiled a famous set of astronomical tables known as \textquote{Zij-i-Jadid Muhammad Shahi} on the basis of astronomical observations taken at different observatories. He got translated many Persian, Arabic and European works on mathematics and astronomy brought by his delegates. He maintained his Royal Library (\textit{Pothikhana}) which contained books on different subjects. He died on 21 September, 1743 A.D. leaving behind a strong State and a reputation of a statesman, scholar, mathematician, town planner, legislator, social reformer and above all an observational astronomer.

\textsuperscript{177} Jain, Shikha (ed.), \textit{Princely Terrain, Op.cit.}