CHAPTER VIII

PROMISING PARTICIPANTS OF THE NO CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT
IN MADHYA PRADESH
The history of the freedom movement in Madhya Pradesh is best read through the lives of its prominent figures. Though their number is small, but their contribution to the freedom movement in the Province was tremendous.

Politically Madhya Pradesh was known as a backward province. Therefore national movement would not have caught fire here without the earnest struggle of dedicated leaders. The history of the Non co-operation Movement in M.P. would be incomplete without a brief account of those who contributed to make it a success:

CENTRAL PROVINCES ( Hindi Speaking Area )

1. Pandit Ravishankar Shukla (1877 - 1956)

Pandit Ravishankar Shukla was one of those leaders who played a notable role, both in the national freedom struggle from 1919 to 1947, and in shaping the administration of Madhya Pradesh in the early years of freedom.

Ravishankar Shukla was born at Saugor on 2 August 1877. His family was originally hailed from Unnao district of U.P. His grand father made Saugor his home in the beginning of the 19th century.

He had his early education at Saugor, Rajnandgaon and Raipur. He passed B.A. from Misiop College Nagpur
in 1899. For the next ten years he worked as a teacher and tutored the sons of princely families in Chhattisgarh. During this period he also began legal studies at Jabalpur, and after qualifying as a pleader he joined the Bar at Raipur. He made his mark in the legal profession and was known as an outstanding lawyer of the region.

With the result of his active participation in political activities, he occupied the key position among the leaders of Chhattisgarh. He was elected a member to the Raipur Municipal Committee in 1914 and held the office till 1924. In 1921 he was elected a member of the A.I.C.C. and in the same year he was elected a member of the Raipur D.C.C. and remained so till 1934.

During the Non-Co-operation Movement, Shuklaji sacrificed a very lucrative legal practice and plunged into the national movement. He was arrested during the N.C.O.M. but the Government was forced to free him because of a big public demonstration. Shuklaji also participated in Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements.

Later on Ravishankar Shukla held important portfolios in the ministry of C.P. government and became the first Chief Minister of independent Madhya Pradesh. Pt. Ravishankar Shukla breathed his last in 1956.

2. Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra (1901 - )

Pt. Dwarka Prasad Mishra was born on 5 August 1901. He comes from a Brahmin family of Padri village, Unnao district in U.P. His father, Pt. Ayodhya Prasad Mishra, was a contractor working at Raipur, where Mishra had his schooling. After passing his Matriculation examination from the St. Pauls High School, Raipur, Dwarka Prasad joined Christ Church College, Kanpur. Later he took his B.A. degree from Robertson College, Jabalpur. Subsequently he joined the History Department of Allahabad University, for his M.A. and obtained the law degree as well. For sometime he was in the editorial staff of Anjir Bazar Patrika (Calcutta) and afterwards became the editor of Shri Sharda (Jabalpur).

Dwarka Prasad Mishra was inspired by the nationalist movement as it developed during the First World War period. Thus when Mahatma Gandhi started N.C.O.M., Dwarka Prasad gave up his studies and joined it. He actively participated in N.C.O.M. and made a place among the top leaders of the province. During the movement he was brought into association with Pt. Ravishankar Shukla, Seth Govind Das, Brijlal Biyani and Seth Jamnalal Bajaj and organised the congress activities in Madhya Pradesh with Jabalpur as its centre.

After the N.C.O.M. was withdrawn, he resumed his university studies, but his political and journalistic
activities did not suffer. As a student of Allahabad university he made a history by getting elected to the Indian Legislative Assembly as a Swarajist member, with Pt. Motilal Nehru as his leader. He was arrested several times during the freedom movement.

From 1920 onwards he was been actively in the forefront of the national movement and was brought into close association with the top leaders of the country. He occupied important portfolios in the Ministry of C.P. government and at last became the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Apart from his political activities, he has also enriched Hindi Literature by his scholarly writing. An erudite scholar of Indian History and culture, Pt. Mishra has also made a positive contribution to the development of Saugar University, as its Vice-Chancellor.


3 Seth Govind Das (1896 - 1974)

Seth Govind Das was born at Jabalpur in 1896 in a rich Marwari family. He was the grandson of Raja Gokul Das of Jabalpur. He spent his early years in the luxurious surroundings of 'Raja Gokul Das palace' in Jabalpur. But
from 1915 onwards he began to react against this atmosphere, taking part first in literary activities and later in politics.

In order to promote the literary activities he established 'Sharda Bhavan' at Jabalpur in 1915. In 1916 he was elected Secretary of the reception committee of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. In 1920 he defied his father by supporting Gandhiji and joining the Congress at the Nagpur Session. Soon he developed intimate friendship with Pt. D.P. Mishra, Pt. Vishnu Dutta Shukul, and Makan Lal Chaturvedi. He was inspired by Tilak and Pt. Motilal Nehru. Tilak had thrown a new challenge. Gandhiji offered a new faith and Motilal gave him a new perception.

He filled the place in the Jabalpur D.C.C., left vacant by the death of Pt. Vishnu Dutta Shukul, and sought to establish his political credentials by taking a leading part in N.C.O.A. He started a new paper Lokmat from Jabalpur and also assisted for the publication of Karamavir and Shri Sharda.

Seth Govind Das was a dedicated worker and a nationalist leader of high calibre. His active participation in the Non-co-operation movement meant an exemplary sacrifice of property and wealth and also becoming an object of the British Government's wrath. He renounced his luxurious life to serve the motherland. He was
imprisoned five times during the freedom movement and remained for eight years in jails. He performed as president Mahakoshal P.C.C., President All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, and member of parliament since independence.

Apart from his political activity, he is also known as one of the best figures of Hindi literature.

Govind Das died at the age of 78 in 1974.


4. Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao (1889 - 1942)

Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao would always be remembered as one of the foremost parliamentarians of the country and the first Indian Governor of a Province who stuck to Khadi dress and the Gandhi cap even while discharging the responsibilities of the highest office in the province during the British regime.

E. Raghavendra Rao was born at Kamptee near Nagpur on 4th August 1889. He came of a well-to-do family which originally belonged to the village of Peddamaddali in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh and had migrated from the village in the early nineteenth century to settle down
at Kamptee. His father became a leading contractor at Bilaspur, in M.P.

E. Raghavendra Rao Matriculated from the Municipal High School, Bilaspur, and joined Hislop College, Nagpur for further studies. He went to England in 1909. He was an External Student of the Oxford University and qualified for the Bar from the Middle Temple.

Dr. Rao began his active political career in 1917 when he joined the Home Rule Movement launched by Tilak and Mrs. Annie Besant. Influenced by Tilak’s leadership, he fully shared in the country’s awakening and aspirations for freedom. He was soon regarded as one of the top leaders of Madhya Pradesh. In 1921 Dr. Rao was elected President of the Bilaspur D.C.C., President of the first Hindi Political Conference held at Jabalpur and also President of the first P.C.C. formed in Hindi region. Dr Rao actively participated in N.C.O.M. and made the boycott movement a success. He gave his whole hearted support for the publication of Karmavir from Jabalpur.

From the beginning of his career, Dr Rao held the view that co-operation should be given to the Government, whenever such co-operation was sought on terms of equality, to enable the country to advance towards Home Rule. In pursuance of this approach, he accepted Ministership twice in C.P. Government and was later appointed Home Minister
in 1930. In 1936 he acted as the Governor of the Province. He held the office of the Chief Minister in 1937. In 1937, he was appointed Advisor to the Secretary of State for India in London and finally in 1942, Civil Defence Minister in the Viceroy’s expanded Executive Council.

He died, comparatively in a young age on 15th June 1942.


5. **Makhanlal Chaturvedi (1889 - 1968)**

Makhanlal Chaturvedi was born on 4th April 1889 in a lower middle class Brahmin family at village Babai in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. He received his primary education at his village and took Teacher’s Training Diploma from Jabalpur. Here he came in contact with the young Bengali revolutionaries and joined their party in 1906.

Makhanlal Chaturvedi started his career as a school teacher at Khandwa. After his wife’s death in 1914 he devoted most of his time to literature and journalism. Subsequently he added politics to them. The assistant editorship of the Prabha and editorship of the Karamavir and the Pratap brought him reputation as a skilful journalist, a prose writer and a patriotic poet. In
politics his views at first were revolutionary. The ideology of Tilak appealed to him greatly. He was also greatly influenced by Madhav Rao Sapre.

Ultimately contact with Gandhiji made him a peaceful non-co-operator. Thenceforth his nationalism and literature remained indivisible for two decades. Quest for freedom, fight for its attainment and dream of new India became the key-notes of his poetry. Through journalism, literature, eloquent speeches and active political work he roused political consciousness in Madhya Pradesh.

As a front-rank freedom-fighter, Makhanlal Chaturvedi led the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1921 and suffered imprisonment in Bilaspur and Jabalpur jails for eight months. He had the credit of being the first man from Madhya Pradesh, to be imprisoned during N.C.O.M. In 1923 he was one of the organizers of the Flag Satyagraha. During the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 he suffered imprisonment for six months. After release he organised the 'Madhya Bharat Praja Parishad' as its President. In 1936 he became President of the Provincial congress Parliamentary Board.

Thereafter Makhanlal Chaturvedi dedicated himself mostly to literature and distinguished himself as a writer of poetry, prose, short stories and essays, under the
assumed name of 'Aek Bhartiya Atma'. He inspired two
generations of budding writers and became the poet of
poets in Madhya Pradesh. He was awarded several times
by Central government and various state governments.

His life was one of dedication, sacrifice and
poverty. He wore khadi throughout his life. His health
was ruined in jail but he never lost his buoyancy and
sense of humour. He always took delight in extending
patronage to young writers, shelter to revolutionaries
and help to the needy students and political sufferers.

Makhanlal Chaturvedi died on 30 June 1968 at Khandwa (M.P.).

Sources: DNB, Vol. I, pp. 288-289; Shrikant Joshi (ed.)
Makhanlal Chaturvedi: Yatra Purush (New Delhi,
1969); Shri Sharda, 2 Oct. 1921, pp. 41-44.

6. Pt. Bishnu Dutta Shukul (1877 - 1921)

Pandit Bishnu Dutta Shukul was born in October 1877
at Sihora in Jabalpur district, in the aristocratic family
of Pt. Shiva Dutta Shukul, who was a Talukdar of about
sixteen villages.

He had his school education from Rajkumar College,
Jabalpur. He passed F.A. from Canning College, Lucknow
and B.A. from Allahabad University. Afterwards he studied
Law under the guidance of famous lawyer Mr. Digrutor. In
recognition of his loyalty to the British Raj the govern-
ment appointed him an Honorary Magistrate in 1898, and in
1903 conferred a Sanad or award on him. In 1910 Shukul
was created Rai Bahadur, and the following year the
government selected him to attend the Durbar in Delhi,
held for George V, the King Emperor.

Shukul was quite popular among the farmers also.
He was elected honorary secretary of Co-operative Central
Bank in Sihora, President of the Central Provinces Co-
operative Bank, and in 1918 as Governor of the Federation
of Co-operative Banks of the C.P. He had a liking for
literature also. In 1919 Shukul was elected president of
the second 'Hindi Sahitya Sammelan' of the C.P. and Berar.

He was quite active in politics also. In 1914 he
was elected to the C.P. legislative council and in 1917,
to the Indian legislative council. He also represented
his region in Indian National Congress.

B.D. Shukul was never attracted by the government
honours. He was a staunch nationalist. In protest against
the Rowlatt Bill he resigned from the membership of Indian
legislative council. Later he became a disciple of
Mahatma Gandhi and took an active part in the N.C.O.M.
Under the boycott programme of N.C.O.M. he returned the
title of Rai Bahadur and gave up his powers of first class
Magistracy and also did not contest in the council elections.
Mahatma Gandhi asked him to accept the presidency of the
reception committee of Nagpur Congress, which he refused on
health ground. But he gave his whole hearted support for
the successful organisation of the Congress. With the result of his strenuous work, he was caught by influenza during the Nagpur congress session and breathed his last on 11 January 1921, thus laying down his life in the service of the country.


7. **Madhav Rao Sapre** (1871 - 1926)

Madhav Rao Sapre was born on 19th June 1871 in the village of Patharia in Damoh district. He had his education at Bilaspur.

He was influenced by Lokmanya Tilak, and published a weekly the *Hindi Kesari* in 1907. In August 1908 Sapre was arrested under section 124(A) I.P.C. on the charge of writing seditious articles. But afterwards Sapre had to cut short his 'seditious' work against the alien Government because his brother being a Government servant had threatened to commit suicide if he persisted in such activities.

Afterwards he came in touch with Seth Govind Das, and his untiring efforts resulted in the publication of the nationalist paper *Karamavir*. A great journalist of his time Madhav Rao Sapre inspired the national feelings
through his patriotic articles. He was greatly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, and plunged into the non-co-operation movement. He took part in the constructive programme of the Congress. With the efforts of Madhav Rao Sapre a National School was established at Raipur, which thereafter became a nucleus of various nationalist activities during the freedom movement. Madhav Rao Sapre died in 1926.


8. **Subhadra Kumari Chauhan (1904 - 1948)**

Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was born in 1904 at Nihalpur village, now a ward of Allahabad (U.P.). Subhadra Kumari belonged to a middle class Rajput family and was brought up in an orthodox atmosphere where untouchability was vehemently practised and purdah was strictly observed. She had her early education at Allahabad, mainly due to the efforts of her brother, who broke the family traditions and got all his sisters educated. She passed the middle examination in 1919 at the age of 15. On the same year she was married to Thakur Lakshman Singh Chauhan of Khandwa (C.P.). After her marriage Subhadra Kumari joined the Theosophical School, at Banaras. Till then her husband settled and practised law at Jabalpur.
As soon as the Non-co-operation Movement commenced she gave up her studies and rushed to Jabalpur to be beside her husband, who was busy in organising a big Hartal. From then onwards this husband-wife team of freedom-fighters was in spite of tremendous odds, always in the forefront of freedom struggle.

The first real test of her political career came in March 1923, during the famous 'Flag Satyagraha'. She was hardly 19 then in defiance of Government orders, Subhadra Kumari took out a procession with the national flag. Soon it became an all India struggle. Later on the centre of Satyagraha was shifted to Nagpur, where satyagrahis poured in from all over the country. Subhadra Kumari and her husband led a large batch of satyagrahis from Jabalpur.

To Subhadra Kumari belongs the rare distinction of being the first woman satyagrahi in the country. On her arrest the national leaders, paid glowing tributes to her bravery.

As one of the foremost leaders of the Congress in the Mahakoshal region, Subhadra Kumari threw herself heart and soul into the freedom-movement. In the thirties she presided over the women's section of the Mahakoshal P.C.C. She was not allowed to court arrest along with her husband in the Civil Disobedience Movement because she had small children. But she went to jail in 1940 and again in 1942
with a babe in arm. She was elected to the C.P. and Berar Legislative Assembly in 1936 and again in 1946.

Subhadra Kumari was a born poetess, and a short-story writer. Her poems are a vivid portrayal of the rising tide of nationalism that swept through the whole country. It was that soul stirring ballad 'Jhansi Ki Rani', the refrain of which was 'Khoob Lari Mardani Woh To Jhansi Wali Rani Thi', that made her famous throughout the country.

Throughout her life faith in Gandhian non-co-operation, secularism remained the main planks of her political ideas.

Subhadra Kumari died at the early age of 44 in a car accident on 15 February 1948.


Kashi Prasad Pandey was born in 1893 at Pratapgarh in U.P. He obtained his M.A. and LL.B. degree from Allahabad University. In 1916 he came down to Sihora, near Jabalpur and started legal practice.

He got elected to the Central Provinces Legislative Council in 1921. He participated in the non-co-operation movement. He was the first M.L.C. who frankly opposed the
proposal of welcoming the Prince of Wales, in the C.P. Legislative Council. He was imprisoned during the Civil Disobedience Movement.

He remained president, Co-operative Central Bank, Sihora, since 1921, Jabalpur District Land Mortgage Bank, since 1935, Governor, C.P. and Berar Co-operative Federation; Chairman, Madhya Pradesh State Co-operative Bank; Director National Co-operative Development Corporation, New Delhi; and member All-India State Co-operative Bank's Federation, Bombay.

Kashi Prasad Pandey was the member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly since the reorganisation of the States; and remained the Speaker of the House, since 1967.


Ghanshyam Singh Gupta was born at Durg on 22 December 1885. His father was a leading 'Malguzar' and a rich landlord of Chhattisgarh. Ghanshyam Singh passed his B.Sc. in 1906 and LL.B. in 1908 from the Allahabad University.

He started his career as a lawyer at Durg. Afterwards he was inclined towards freedom movement. He gave
up his legal practice during the non-co-operation movement and assisted in establishing 'Rashtriya Panchayats' in Chhattisgarh region. He was closely associated with the prominent leaders of the province, and remained the member of P.C.C. and A.I.C.C. for several years.


11. **Durga Shankar Mehta** (1887 - ?-)

Durga Shankar Mehta was born in 1887 at Hoshangabad. He had his school education at Saugor. He passed his B.A. from Jabalpur, and obtained law degree from Allahabad University. Later on he started his legal practice at Seoni.

He left his legal practice on the call of Mahatma Gandhi and joined the Non-Co-operation Movement. He was imprisoned for a period of 12 months, during the N.C.O.M. For some years he remained the President of Seoni D.C.C., and the President of Municipal Committee, Seoni. He actively participated in Nagpur Flag Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience Movement and in Quit India Movement. He remained a member of C.P. Legislative Council 1927-9; 1930-3; and of C.P. Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1939. He worked as the Minister of Finance (1937-39) in C.P. Government and Minister of Commerce and Industry in M.P. Government in 1952.

12. **Thakur Lakshman Singh Chauhan (1894 - )**

Lakshman Singh Chauhan was born at Khandwa in 1894. He passed Matriculation examination in 1912 from Khandwa. He had his college education from Agra College.

Lakshman Singh Chauhan was a patriot of highest order. He was a close friend of extremist leader Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi and Pt. Makhanlal Chaturvedi. He started his career as a lawyer at Jabalpur. He was married to a noted poet and patriot Subhadra Kumari Chauhan.

Lakshman Singh Chauhan took a leading part in the Non-Co-operation Movement. He left his legal practice during N.C.O.M. He along with his wife led the Flag Satyagraha at Jabalpur and joined the movement at Nagpur also. He was imprisoned several times for taking part in freedom movement. He also worked as a journalist and was well known for his fiery articles. Several times he was charged for his seditious writing but he never stopped writing such articles.


13. **P.D. Jathar**

P.D. Jathar was a leading pleader of Seoni. He gave up his legal practice during the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1921. Towards the end of that year he
delivered speeches of an inflammatory character which resulted in his being sentenced on 19th January 1922 to one year's rigorous imprisonment. On his release at the end of 1922 he became the President of Seoni D.C.C., and later took part in the Nagpur Flag Satyagraha and was sentenced on 12 June 1923 to 6 months R.I. Afterwards he was elected a member of C.P. Legislative Council, and held important portfolios in P.C.C.

Sources: NAI, Home (public), file 953, 1924; A Compilation of Important Political Trials in the Central Provinces and Berar, (Govt. Press, Nagpur, 1935), p. 1; NML/AICC/Papers, file 6/1922.

Pt. Badrinath Dube (1873 - ?)

He was born in 1873 at Jabalpur. He took an active part in N.C.O.M. and Flag Satyagraha. He resigned from the government service during the Civil Disobedience Movement. Thrice he was incarcerated and heavily fined for taking part in National Movement. He became the Chairman of Jabalpur D.C.C., Secretary, M.P.C.C. (Hindi) and Vice President of Tripuri Congress. He remained active throughout his life and earned great popularity in Jabalpur district.

Source: Hitavada, 9 March 1939.
15. **Thakur Pyarelal Singh (1891 - )**

Thakur Pyarelal Singh was born in 1891 at Rajnandgaon. After obtaining B.A. and LL.B. degree he entered in legal profession. He organised the B.C.-Mill workers strike in 1919. Afterwards he took part in the N.C.O.M. He was externed twice, imprisoned in 1930 and 1932. With the result of his participation in political activities his pleader's Sanad was cancelled for ever. He remained General Secretary of M.P.C.C. from 1933-37, M.L.A. in 1936, and President of Raipur Municipal Committee from 1937.


16. **Thakur Niranjan Singh (1906 - 1964)**

Thakur Niranjan Singh was born in 1906 at a village Narsinghpur district. He received his early education in Singhpur village and at Narsinghpur, town. He continued his further studies at Khandwa. At Khandwa he came in contact with Makhanlal Chaturvedi and started taking interest in literature and the nationalist movement. He passed the matriculation examination in 1921 from Bhopal. He left his education incomplete to participate in the Non-Co-Operation Movement and suffered imprisonment in the Nagpur jail. Later on he graduated from the Benaras Hindu University. He was a member of the Hindustan
Republican Party from 1928 to 1930. He participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement as a student of Law in Agra and suffered imprisonment for 18 months.

He also took part in the individual satyagraha and was sentenced to nine months rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 150/- on 6 December 1940 under section 38(5) of the D.I.R. and was kept at the Narsinghpur and Nagpur jails.

He remained underground during Quit India Movement and raised funds for the movement. After a long search he was arrested and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and kept in solitary confinement.

He was a member of the M.P. Legislative Assembly from 1946 to 1954 and again in 1956-57. He was also elected a member for Central Council of States and the upper house of parliament.

He died in 1964.

Sources: Based on the Jail Records; Matter collected from 'District Freedom Fighters Association' Narsinghpur.

17. Syed Ahmed Moosa (1895 - )

Syed Ahmed Moosa was born on 19 August 1895 at Sohagpur in Hoshangabad district. He had his school education at Sohagpur, Hoshangabad and Aligarh.
He joined Allahabad University in 1920, as a first year student of LL.B. He was greatly influenced by the magic personality of Mahatma Gandhi. He left his studies during the Non-Co-operation Movement and remained active in all the movements at Sahagpur. He resumed his studies only after the suspension of N.C.O.M. and finally passed LL.B. examination from Bombay University. Afterwards he settled at Sahagpur and joined the legal profession. He took an active part in the provincial politics and became the Director of Mahakoshal Congress Committee. He was imprisoned twice during the freedom movement. Afterwards he was elected a member of parliament. Syed Ahmed Moosa is still associated with social organizations and maintaining his reputation as one of the leading lawyers of Hoshangabad district.

Source: Personal interview, on 8 March 1980 (Hoshangabad).

18. **Lila Dhar Sharma (1892 - 1943)**

Lila Dhar Sharma, son of Madho Prasad Sharma, was born in 1892 at Khurpa, near Kareli in Narsinghpur district. He left his teachership during N.C.O.M. and took an active part in the freedom movement. He participated in the Civil Disobedience movement, and was sentenced to 6 months R.I. under Sec. 4 of Ordinance 5 of 1932 on May 6, 1932. He was kept in Narsinghpur and Jabalpur jails. He
participated in Quit India Movement also. He died in 1943.

Source:
Based on the information, collected from District Freedom Fighters Association, Narsinghpur.

19. Vasudeo Rao Subedar

He was born at Saugor. He belonged to the Subedar family which was migrated to the Bundelkhand with Bajirao Peshwa, from Ratnagiri. He was one of the best leaders of N.C.O.M. in Saugor district. A habitual wearer of khadi, he was the Secretary of Nagpur Flag Satyagraha. He remained Secretary, Vice President, and President of Saugor D.C.C., member, M.P.C.C. and A.I.C.C. for 19 years. He held important positions in Saugor Municipal Committee.

Source: Huddar, Who is Who, p. 121.


Shankar Lal Dubey was born in 1885 at Kartaj in Narsinghpur district. After graduating in arts and law he started legal practice at Narsinghpur. On the call of Mahatma Gandhi he gave up his legal practice and participated in N.C.O.M. He also took part in Flag Satyagraha.

Between 1920 and 1923 he was arrested twice and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 100/-. He also participated in the Individual
Satyagraha and was arrested on 21 December 1940 under Section 38(1)(a) of the Defence of India Rule.

During the Quit India Movement he was kept in detention in Hoshangabad and Jabalpur jails under Section 26(5) of the D.I.R. He was also elected to the Provincial Assembly.

He died on 15 August 1957.

Source: Information Collected From 'Narsinghpur District Freedom Fighters Association'.


Kedarnath Rohan obtained his B.Sc. and LL.B. degree from Allahabad University. He started his legal practice at Saugor in 1911. He was closely associated with the social activities of Saugor district. He suspended his legal practice during the Non-Co-operation Movement and helped in the establishment of 'National Panchayats' and 'National Schools' in Saugor district.

He remained a member of Central Provinces Legislative Council since 1926, Secretary Saugor D.C.C. 1920-35, and President of Saugor Municipal Committee for 12 years. He was imprisoned during the 'Quit India Movement'. Kedarnath Rohan died at Saugor in 1957.

Source: Information received from Dr. Durga Prasad Rohan, Saugor.
22. **M. R. Mazumdar** (1888 - 1983)

M. R. Mazumdar was born in September 1888 at Sahapur in East Nimar district. He had his school education at Harda, Nagpur and Indore. He obtained his legal degree in 1914 and thereafter joined as Lecturer in 'Nagpur Law College'. In 1917 he started his legal practice at Burhanpur.

He suspended his legal practice during the Non-Co-operation Movement and led the boycott movement at Burhanpur. He was imprisoned during 'Quit India Movement'. He remained President of D.C.C. for 24 years and member of parliament for two terms.

M. R. Mazumdar died at Burhanpur on 14 March 1983.


23. **Babulal Tiwari** (1894 - 1983)

Babulal Tiwari was born at Khandwa on 22 August 1894. His political life began in 1910, when he was hardly 16. Babulal Tiwari took an active part in the Non-Co-operation Movement. He led the 'Jungle Satyagraha' in East Nimar district (1923). He was imprisoned during 'Civil Disobedience' Movement, and 'Quit India Movement'.

A life member of P.C.C. and A.I.C.C., Babulal Tiwari also represented his constituency in Parliament.
He died at the age of 89 on 17 March, 1982.

Sources: Personal interview with Pt. Babulal Tiwari, on 3 April 1980; *Navybharat* (Bhopal), 17 March 1983.

**CENTRAL PROVINCES (Marathi Speaking Area)**

24. **Vinoba Bhave (1895 - 1982)**

Vinayak Narhari Bhave, commonly known as 'Vinoba Bhave' was born at Gagoda, Pen taluka, Kolaba district (Maharashtra) on 11 September 1895. He had his school education from Baroda. As one of the brilliant students of his school he passed Matriculation examination in 1913. Afterwards he discontinued his study and entered in public life.

With the persuasion of Mahatma Gandhi he, took part in N.C.O.M. and was appointed incharge of 'Wardha Ashram'. Soon he became the best disciple of Gandhiji.

He encouraged the programme of 'National Education' and delivered valuable lectures on this item.

He was one of the moving spirits of Nagpur Flag Satyagraha. He was imprisoned during this movement.

From 1924 onwards Vinoba Bhave remained at Wardha and took an active part in the national movement. *'Bharat Ratna', Vinoba Bhave died at the age of 87 on 15 November 1982.*

Jamnalal Bajaj (1889 - 1942)

Jamnalal Bajaj was born on 4 November 1889 in Jaipur state. At the age of four he was adopted as a son by a millionaire, Seth Bachhraj of Wardha (C.P.).

Since Childhood he came in contact with the great leaders of our country. In 1908 Jamnalal became an Honorary Magistrate. In 1918 he was given the title of Rai Bahadur. But, in spite of his position and status he always desired to take part in the freedom movement.

Later he was attracted by the magic personality of Mahatma Gandhi, and Gandhiji too accepted him as his 'fifth son'. He maintained this relationship till the end of his life.

In 1920 Jamnalal was unanimously elected as chairman of the Reception Committee of the historic Nagpur Congress. He functioned as the Treasurer of the Indian National Congress practically throughout his life. In 1921 he joined the N.C.O.M. and founded the "Satyagraha Ashram" at Wardha. Under the programme of Boycotts he surrendered the title of Rai Bahadur and gave up the post of Honorary Magistrate. He donated one lakh rupees in the Tilak Swarajya Fund. In 1923, Jamnalal led the National Flag Satyagraha at Nagpur and was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. In 1924, he was elected the President of Nagpur P.C.C., and Treasurer of the, 'Charkha Sangh' in
1925. He was the founder of 'Gandhi Seva Sangh' and 'Sasta Sahitya Mandal'. Jamnalal Bajaj died at the age of 53 only, on 11 February 1942.


26. **Peonam Chand Ranka** (1889 - )

Peonam Chand Ranka was born in 1889 and was adopted by a rich Marvari merchant. He owned a big cloth-shop at Nagpur.

He was closely associated with Jamnalal Bajaj, who inspired him to join in the Non-Co-operation Movement. Consequently he gave up his business and sealed the stock of foreign cloths. He participated in all the boycott movements launched by the P.C.C. He also took part in the Flag Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience Movement. He remained a member of Nagpur P.C.C. for several years. Till today he is remembered as one of the best social workers of Vidarbha-region.


27. **Manchersha Awari** (1898 - ?)

Mancersha was born on 29 May 1898 in Surat district of Gujrat.
Manchershna passed his Master's examination in civil engineering from Bombay University in 1919. On coming over to Nagpur in 1919, he plunged into the freedom movement in response to Gandhiji's call to youth. His political career was also influenced by his association with Mahatma Bhagwandin, Poornamchand Ranka, and Pt. Sunderlal.

During non-co-operation movement, Awari took part in the boycott of foreign goods and in order to win over the people to Swadeshi, he opened a khadi shop at Nagpur.

It was his leading role in the Flag Satyagraha of Nagpur in 1923, that secured Awari a place in the congress leadership in C.P. and Berar. In the following years he led the "Sashastra Andolan" to protest against the Government order, banning the carrying of weapons. He spent about 12 year in jail.

In appreciation of his courage and leadership the people gave him the popular title of 'General'. To this date he is popularly known as 'General Awari'.

He remained member of the A.I.C.C., President of the Nagpur Nagar Congress Committee for several years, and President of the Nagpur Municipal Committee in 1939.
28. **Narayan Rajaram Nagle (1885 - )**

Narayan Rajaram Nagle was born in 1885 and had his early education in Bombay. He passed LL.B. from Morris College Nagpur, and joined the Bar at Hinganghat in 1912. He took an active part in N.C.O.M. and suspended his legal practice under the boycott programme. He established the Tilak Vidyalaya. He remained Vice-President, Hinganghat Municipal Committee for several years, member, M.P.C.C., Member C.P. Legislative Council in 1926, President Bar Association, and Secretary of Merchants Association.

Source: Huddor, p. 72.

29. **R.R. Pathak (1886 - )**

R.R. Pathak, son of Ramchandra Pathak, was born in 1886. After obtaining B.A. and LL.B. degrees he started legal practice at Bhandara. He began to take part in political agitations from 1918 and soon became the leading figure of the district. He suspended his legal practice during N.C.O.M. and strongly supported the Gandhian programme. With the result of his active participation in N.C.O.M., he was sentenced to one year's R.I. Afterwards he joined the Swaraj Party and remained active in politics.

Source:
NAI, Home Public, F-953, 1924, p. 263.
30. **Keshav Lakshman Daptare (1880 - 1956)**

Keshav Lakshman was born on 22 November 1880, at Nagpur. After the school education was over, Keshav Lakshman passed his B.A. in 1900 from the Morris College Nagpur, where he was a fellow during 1900-1901. He passed his B.L. in 1905.

After leaving teaching service, Keshav Lakshman started practicing law at Katol, Nagpur, and Chanda. He discontinued his legal practice in 1920, on account of Non-Co-operation Movement. He supported the movement for national education and actually became a teacher, professor, and principal, of National schools and colleges (1921-1926).

He shared the congress ideas of nationalism and supported all the constitutional and non-violent movements from 1905 onwards.

Keshav Lakshman died in 1956 at Nagpur.

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31. **Waman Gopal Joshi (1881 - 1956)**

Waman Rao Gopal Rao Joshi (popularly known with the title 'Veer') was born at Amraoti (Berar) in 1881. He passed the Matriculation examination in 1899 but owing to
poverty could not take any college education.

Afterwards he followed Tilak, and became his trusted lieutenant in Berar. He was prosecuted and imprisoned in 1908, for his seditious speeches. He came to Bombay in 1909 and joined the editorial staff of the Rashtramat. Later on he remained active in Tilak's Home Rule Movement.

After Tilak's death, Mahatma Gandhi became the idol of Indian masses. Attracted by his magnetic personality, Waman Rao became his follower. He took up white Gandhi cap, a khadi shirt and Dhoti.

Waman Rao carried on the work of propagating the programme of N.C.O. in Marathi C.P. with the result of his active participation in N.C.O.C., Waman Rao was prosecuted under section 124-A of I.P.C. (Sedition) and was sentenced to 18 months rigorous imprisonment. He faced it bravely and after release again took up his political work with undaunted vigour. From this time he came to be called Veer Waman Rao which became his permanent title. He started the weekly 'Swatantra Hinduathan' at Amraoti and remained its chief editor for seven years. In 1930 he was elected President of Berar P.C.C. and held that office for several years. He was arrested during Civil Disobedience Movement and sentenced to two years
imprisonment.

Veer Waman Rao died in 1956.


32. Brijlal Bivani (1896 - 1968)

'Vidarbha Kesari' Seth Brijlal Bivani was born on 6th December 1896 at Hathrun, near Akola (C.P.). His father belonged to a rich Maheshwari family.

Brijlal graduated from Morris College, Nagpur. He was a close associate of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla, Seth Govind Das and Pt. Dwarka Prasad Mishra. He gave up his studies and threw himself into the thick of non-co-operation movement and courted arrest. He was imprisoned four times, for taking part in freedom-movement.

He was a member of C.P. Legislative Council from 1926 to 1929. He remained President of Vidarbha P.C.C. for 13 years, member of the Constituent Assembly, president of Berar Congress Parliamentary Committee and member of the A.I.C.C. throughout his life. He was also closely associated with several social organizations and did pioneering work for the welfare of the society.
He died on 27 September 1968.


33. **Dr Mahadeo Narayan Parasnis (1875 - )**

Mahadeo Narayan Parasnis was born in 1875 at Satara. After obtaining L.M.S. degree, he started medical practice at Khambaon in 1906. He joined the congress in 1907. He participated in N.C.O.M. and resigned from his honorary magistracy in 1920. He took an active part in all other satyagraha movements launched by congress. He held important positions in Municipal Committee, D.C.C., P.C.C. and A.I.C.C.

Source: Huddar, p. 75.