

# HISTORIC BATTLES IN RAJASTHAN



Tales of Sacrifice & Valour Through  
Ages



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## *Index*

738 A.D. Battle of Rajasthan.....	1
1178: Battle of Kayadara .....	3
1182: Battle of Mahoba.....	4
1191/1192: Battle of Tarain I/II.....	5
1295: First Jauhar of Jaisalmer .....	8
1299: Battle of Ranthambore .....	9
1301: Siege of Ranthambore .....	10
1303: First Jauhar of Chittorgarh.....	11
1308: Battle of Siwana.....	13
1310-14: Battle of Jalore .....	14
1437: Battle of Sarangpur .....	16
1442/46: Battle of Mandalgarh & Banas .....	17
1456: Battle of Nagaur .....	18
1514/17: Battles of Idar.....	21
1518: Battle of Khatoli.....	23
1519: Battle of Dholpur and Gagron .....	24
1520: Rajput Invasion of Gujarat.....	26
1520: Invasion of Mewar by Gujarat & Malwa.....	28
1527: Battle of Khanwa .....	30
1535: Second Jauhar of Chittor .....	32
1544 Battle of Sammel .....	34
1557: Battle of Harmada .....	36
1558: Siege of Ranthambore .....	37
1562: Battle of Merta .....	38
1567: Third Jauhar of Chittorgarh .....	39
1568: Siege of Ranthambore .....	41
1576: Battle of Haldighati.....	42

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## *Index*

1582: Battle of Dewair.....	44
1606: Second Battle of Dewair.....	46
1658: Battle of Dharmatpur.....	47
1679-1707: Second Mughal Invasion of Marwar.....	49
1680 - Battle of Udaipur and Aravalli Hills.....	50
1708 – Annexation of Amer & Jodhpur.....	52
1708 - Rajput Rebellion.....	53
1741 - Battle of Gangwana.....	54
1761 - Battle of Maonda and Mandholi.....	55
1768 - Battle of Bharatpur.....	55
1787 - Battle of Tunga or Battle of Lalsot.....	56
1790 - Battle of Merta.....	56
1800 - Battle of Malpura.....	56
1806 - Siege of Mehrangarh.....	56

## 738 A.D. Battle of Rajasthan

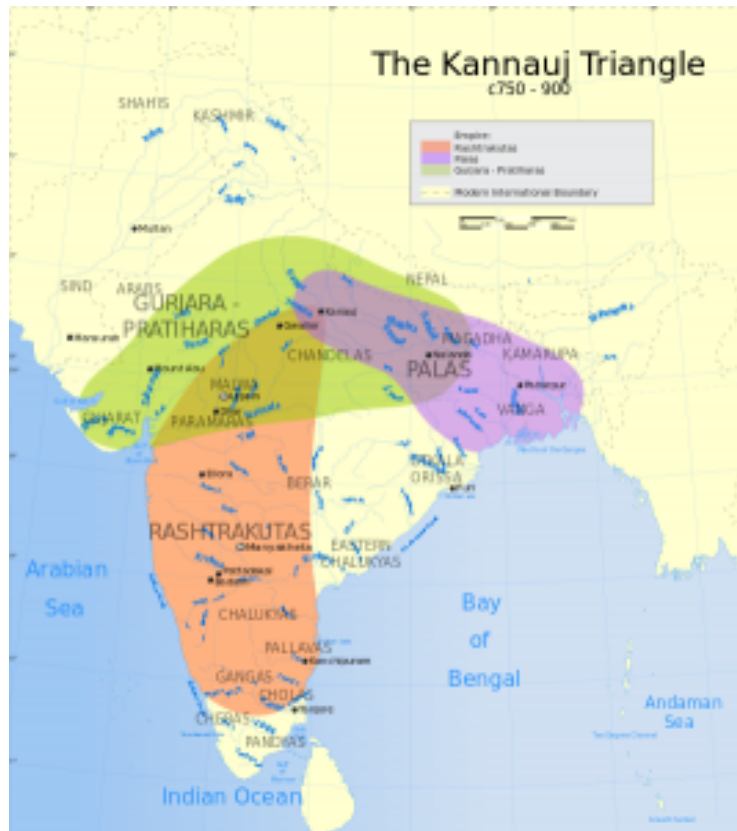
The Battle of Rajasthan is a battle (or series of battles), taken place in 738 A.D., somewhere on borders on modern Sind-Rajasthan. In this battle, the Gurjar-Hindu alliance defeated the Arab invaders and removed the Arab invaders and pillagers from the area east of the Indus River and protected whole India.

The main Indian kings who contributed to the victory over the Arabs were:

- Gurjara-Pratihara King Nagabhata I
- Jaysimha Varman of the Rashtrakuta Empire
- Bappa Rawal of Hindu Kingdom of Mewar

### Background:

By the end of 7th century A.D Islam had become a powerful religion and arabs a power force. Muhammad ibn Qasim captured Iran & Afghanistan. His successor, Junayd ibn Abd al-Rahman al-Murri, led a large army into the Hindustan region in early 730 CE. Dividing this force into two he plundered several cities in southern Rajasthan, western Malwa, and Gujarat.



Realizing the power of Arab forces, Pratihara king, Nagabhata appealed for showing a united front with Jaysimha Varman of the Rashtrakuta Empire. Jaysimha acknowledged and sent his son Avanijanashraya Pulakesi to support Nagabhata. The two forces, united with the already fighting Rajput forces under Bappa Rawal, at the border of Rajasthan.

### The final battle of Rajasthan & Result:

The battle was fought between 5,000-6,000 Rajput-Gurjar Infantry and cavalry facing more than 30,000 Arabs. The Rajputs under Bappa Rawal managed to kill the Arab leader Emir Junaid during the war. In

the words of the Arab chronicler Suleiman, *“a place of refuge to which the Muslims might flee was not to be found.”*

The Arabs took a long time to recover from their defeat. Junayd's successor Tamim ibn Zaid al-Utbi organized a fresh campaigns against Rajasthan but failed to get hold of any territories. Thus, the triple alliance of Indian Kingdoms saved Hindustan from Arab invaders, at-least for next 200 years.

## 1178: Battle of Kayadara

The battle of Gujarat or Kayadara (1178) was a defeat suffered by Muhammad of Ghur against Bhimdev II. The battle took place at Kayadra near Mount Abu (Sirohi District).

### Background of Battle of Kayadara

Mohd. Ghazni established the Ghaznavi Empire with capital at Ghazni. After his death, Ghazni was taken over by Oghuz Turks. Mohd. Ghori, defeated the turks and laid foundation of Ghurid empire. After having made his position strong and secure at Ghazni, Muhammad Ghori turned his attention to India.

In 1175, Muhammad Ghori captured Multan and occupied the whole of Sind in his subsequent expeditions. He then turned south, across the desert, towards Anhilwara (modern day Patan, in Gujarat).

### The battle of Gujarat or Kayadara (1178)

Gujarat was ruled by Mularaja II (1175-78: Chalukyan Dynasty) and as he was young, his mother Naikidevi, acted as the regent. In 1178, Mohd. Ghori crossed the desert and marched towards Gujarat. Naikidevi met forces of Ghori at Kayadara (near Mount Abu). Naikidevi inflicted a major defeat to Muhammad Ghori and he was forced to retreat.

In 1178 itself, Bhima II, brother of Mularaja II succeeded Mularaja II. As both the brothers occupied the throne during 1178, hence some historians also credit Bhima II with defeating Mohd. Ghori.

### Consequence of Battle of Kayadara

The invading army of Ghori suffered heavy casualties during the battle, and also in the retreat back across the desert to Multan. Ghori turned away from Gujrat and diverted his attention towards Punjab. In 1179, he took Peshawar from Khusrau Malik. In 1181, he ravaged Lahore and fortified Sialkot. By 1182 A.D. the whole of Sindh was captured. His conquest of Punjab and further inroads into northern India made the contest between him and the Rajput's inevitable.

## 1182: Battle of Mahoba

In 1182, Prithvi Raja III of Chouhan dynasty defeated Paradidev (Parmadi) of Chandella dynasty in battle of Mahoba.

### Background of Battle of Mahoba

While Muhammad Ghori was over-running Multan and Uchch, Prithviraj III known as Prithviraj Chauhan ascended the throne of Ajmer. In 1182 A.D. serious differences arose between Parmala and king Prithviraj who gave an ultimatum laying certain conditions to be fulfilled by Parmala or to surrender.

### Battle of Mahoba

Prthiviraj marched against the Chandela Empire and made seize of Mahoba. Soon, he captured Mahoba despite the brave fight put-up by the Banafer brothers: **Alha and Udal**. Brahmajit, Udal and the two sons of Jaichand were killed in the conflict. After his victory, Prithviraj sacked the Chandela capital of Mahoba.

### Consequences of Battle of Mahoba

The brave fight given by Chandela ensured that it was not an easy victory for Prithviraj III. Prithviraj also lost a huge force.



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## 1191/1192: Battle of Tarain I/II

The Battles of Tarain, also known as the Battles of Taraori, were a series of two battles fought in 1191 and 1192 A.D. between Prithviraj Chauhan III of Ajmer and Ghurid ruler Mu'izz al-Din Muhammad or Mohd. Ghori. The battles were fought near the town of Tarain (Taraori), near Thanesar in present-day Haryana.

### Background of Battle of Tarain

By 1182 A.D. the whole of Sindh was captured. His conquest of Punjab and further inroads into northern India made the contest between him and the Rajput's inevitable. In 1186 he attacked Punjab, and defeated Khusru Malik and added Malik's empire to his dominions. Ghori returned back to Ghazni to help his brother, only to return in 1191.

### The first Battle of Tarain (1191)

In 1191, Ghori proceeded towards India through the Khyber Pass and captured a fortress of Bathinda. This brought him on northwestern frontier of Prithviraj Chauhan's kingdom. Realising their grave situation, the Hindu princes of north India formed a confederacy under the command of Prithviraj Chauhan. Prithviraj's army, led by his vassal prince Govind Tai marched on to Bathinda and met his enemy at a place called Tarain (also called Taraori).

Ghori was wounded in personal battle with Govind Tai and so Ghori's army retreated, giving victory to Prithviraj Chauhan. However, Prithviraj did not pursue Ghori's army, not wanting to invade hostile territory or misjudging Ghori's ambition, instead electing to retake the fortress of Bathinda.

Alternatively it has also been mentioned that, Ghori's army surrendered and Muhammad was made prisoner. Muhammad of Ghor begged for mercy and Prithviraj pardoned him.

Hence, **Prithviraj Chauhan won the First Battle of Tarain, held in 1191.**

### After the First Battle:

Ghori returned to Ghazni, and started preparations to avenge the defeat. When he reached Lahore, he sent his envoy to Prithviraj to demand his submission, but the Chauhan ruler refused to comply.

### The Second Battle of Tarain (1192)

In 1192, Ghori challenged Prithviraj and a battle ensued at the same place (Tarain). Both Ghori and Prithviraj increased their army's strength. But Ghori changed his tactics as he did not want to engage in [melee](#) combat with disciplined Rajput warriors. He divided his huge troop into 5 parts and four units were sent to attack the Rajput flanks and rear. Hoping for Rajput attack, Ghori ordered his fifth unit to fast retreat. As Ghori expected, the Rajput's charged the fleeing Ghurid unit. The Ghurids then sent a fresh cavalry unit of 12,000 and they managed to throw back the Rajput advance.

### Ghori won the second Battle of Tarain.

Regarding, fate of Prithviraj after second battle, two stories emerge.

- The first story says that Prithviraj Chauhan was captured in the battle field and executed.

### The Second Story:

The second story, the more famous one in Rajasthan, is based on poem written by Prithviraj's court poet Chandbardai. The story says that Mohammad Ghori attacked Prithviraj Chauhan unfairly at night, defeated his armies and captured him. Later Chauhan was taken to Ghor and presented in the court. Ghori ordered Prithvi to lower his eyes to which Prithvi retorted that the eyelids of Rajputs are lowered only on his death. Feeling insulted, Ghori blinded the Rajput prince.

Chandbardai entered the court of Mahmud of Ghori in a disguise. Chand Bardai told Ghori that Prithviraj was a very skilled archer, and he could take aim based only on sound, and did not even need to look at his target. Ghori disdained to believe this and asked for the display.

When Prithviraj was given a bow and arrows into his hand and asked to take aim. Sighting opportunity, Chandbardai recited in a poetic stanza the location where Ghori sat. The stanza are:

*"Char bans, chaubis gaj, angul ashta praman,  
Ta upar sultan hai, Chuke mat Chauhan."*

(Four measures ahead of you and twenty four yards away as measured with eight finger measurement, is seated the Sultan. Do not miss him now, Chauhan).

Getting the direction and location Prithviraj shot his arrow through Ghori and killed him.

### Consequences of Second Battle of Tarain on India:

The second battle of Tarain was a decisive battle. It was a major disaster for the Rajputs and their political prestige suffered a serious setback. In 1193, Ghori's general Qutub-Din Aibak, took over Ajmer and soon established Ghurid control in northern and central India. Son of Prithviraj was moved to Ranthambore (laid foundation of Chauhan kingdom there). Further, In 1194, Battle of Chandwar took place, in which Aibak defeated Gahadavala ruler Jayachandra. In conclusion, the Battles of Tarain and Chandawar laid the foundation for establishment of Turkish rule in India.

Bakhtiyar Khilji extended the domain of empire to Bihar destroying Universities of Nalanda & Vikramshila in the process. Later in 1202, his army completed the occupation of Hindustan by taking the province of Bengal.

### Causes for the failure of Hindu kingdoms:

The most important cause for the downfall of Hindu Kingdoms was that the lack of unity. They were divided by factions and Rajput Kingdoms were engaged in eternal mutual conflicts. It was the result of these conflicts that Jai Chandra did not help, Prithvi Raj Chauhan in putting up a united front against invaders.

Secondly, the military methods of Indian Kingdoms were also out of date and inferior to those of Muslims. Indians continued to rely on elephants while the Muslims possessed quick-moving cavalry. More importantly, Ghori had spent the time carefully planning his campaign and his tactics proved a major winner in war.

## 1295: First Jauhar of Jaisalmer

The first Jauhar of [Jaisalmer](#) occurred in year 1294, when Allauddin Khilji, attacked [Jaisalmer](#) and laid a siege for almost eight years.

### **Background of Battle:**

Rawal jaitsi ascended the throne of [Jaisalmer](#) in 1276. The tribute of Tat'ha and Mooltan consisting of fifteen hundred horses and fifteen hundred mules laden with treasure and valuables was at Bekhar in progress to Allaudin Khilji at Delhi. The sons of Jaitsi, raided and captured the carvan. The king was outrage when the news reached him and ordered an expedition against [Jaisalmer](#).

### **Siege of Jaisalmer:**

Preparing for the war, Rawal Jethsi sent the children, elderly and sick to refuge into the interior of the desert. He build up a massive store of food within the fort, while destroyed the country around the capital, laying waste miles of area and made many towns desolate.

Alauddin laid siege to the fort. According to local ballads, the Bhaties defended the fort for almost 8 years during which the forces left outside of the walls occupied themselves attacking the supply lines of the Khilji's troops. During the siege, Rawal Jaitsi died and was succeeded by his son *Mulraj II*. By 1294 the besiegers had received sufficient reinforcements that they were able to impose a complete blockage of the fort which soon exhausted the Bhati's ammunition and food.

### **First Jauhar of Jaisalmer:**

By 1294, ammunition and food had exhausted in Bhati camp and facing certain defeat, queens were informed. *24,000 females* from infancy to old age surrendered their lives. The men 3,800, in number then threw open the gates of the fort and advanced to their death.

The Saka took place in 1295 A.D. Khilji's army kept possession of castle for two years and at length blocked up gateways and then dismantled and abandoned the place. The place remained deserted for long as Bhattis had neither the means to repair nor men left to defend it.

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## 1299: Battle of Ranthambore

Battle of Ranthambore took place in 1299 CE, in which, Chauhan King Hammir Deo defeated Sultan of Delhi, Alauddin Khilji, under Nusrat Khan.

### **Background of Battle of Ranthambore:**

After the defeat of Prithviraja Chauhan III in Second [Battle of Tarain](#) in 1192 CE, the Ranthambore fort came under the control of the Muslim Ghurid ruler Muhammad Ghori. Prithviraja's son Govindraja IV accepted the Ghurid suzerainty, and ruled Ranthambore as his vassal. Hammiradeva ascended the throne sometime between 1283 and 1289 CE.

In 1297 Allauddin sent army, under the generalship of Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan, to plunder Gujarat, . This army looted the temple of Somnath and the loot was being carried back to Delhi, when *Kanhad Dev Songara*, ruler of [Jalore](#) attacked and defeated Ulugh Khan. *Muhammad Shah*, a neo-Muslim general in Khilji's army, helped Kanhad Dev Songara in this war. Maharao Hammir Dev Chauhan (Hammir Deo) sheltered Muhammad Shah and refused to turn him over to the Sultan. This laid the foundational cause of battle.

### **Battle of Ranthambore:**

Ulugh Khan went and apprised Allauddin who ordered him and Nusrat Khan to conquer Ranthambore. In 1299, Ulugh & Nusrat Khan started out with 80,000 cavalry and a large infantry to attack Hammira. They also tried to negotiate with Hammira and demanded for Muhammad shah and Kamru's death, 10,000 gold coins, 300 horses, 4 elephants and the hand of Hammira's daughter Devaladevi. The terms were rejected and battle started.

Hammira's army repulsed the attack and killed Nusrat Khan. Ulugh Khan escaped and reached Delhi.

## 1301: Siege of Ranthambore

In 1301, Aluddin Khilji, Sultan of Delhi, laid siege of Ranthambore. A second battle of Ranthambore followed, in which Alluddin defeated Hammir Deo.

### **Siege of Ranthambore:**

In 1299, the first [\*battle of Ranthambore\*](#) took place, in which, Hammir Deo defeated forces of Alauddin Khilji, led by Ulugh Khan & Nusrat Khan. Khilji was taken aback by this defeat and to avenge laid a long siege in 1301. Hammir Deo was very well prepared, but Khilji resorted to diplomacy by taking advantage of dissatisfaction and treachery. Hammir's generals *Ratipal and Ranmal*, who were sent to the Khilji camp to negotiate, took bribe and joined Khilji's camp.

Ultimately war was declared. Hammir Deo died in the war. Consequently, Ranthambore fell on July 10, 1301.

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## 1303: First Jauhar of Chittorgarh

In 1303, Alauddin Khilji laid siege of Chittor. In the following battle, Rana Ratan Singh of Chittor died fighting & Rani Padmini committed Jauhar. The event is remembered as *First Jauhar of Chittor*. Years later in 1540, *Malik Mohd. Jayasi* wrote *Padmavat* on this jauhar.

### Background of Siege of Chittor:

Rawal Ratan Singh, ruled [Chittorgarh](#) during start of 14th Century. Raghav-Chetan, a musician in Ratan Singh's court was fired from his post for his evil deeds. He turned against and reached Alauddin Court in Delhi, where he incite Allauddin against Chittor using description of Rani Padmini's beauty.

Alauddin marched to Chittor.

### The Saka of Gora-Badal

Desperate to have a look at the legendary beauty of Padmini, he sent word of positive relation to King Rawal Ratan Singh. The Rana, out of politeness, allowed the Khilji to view Padmini through a set of mirrors. But this viewing of Padmini further fired Khilji's desire to possess her. After the viewing, as a gesture of courtesy, when the Rana accompanied the Sultan to the outer gate, he was treacherously captured. Khilji conveyed to the queen that the Rana would be released only if she agreed to join his harem.

Rani Padmini, informed about this fatal situation to Uncle *Gorah (Gora)* & his *nephew Badal*, who devised a scheme for liberation of their prince without hazarding her life or fame. A word was sent to Khilji camp that Rani Padmini would be sent, but, only in a manner befitting that of Queen which was surrounded by her females and handmaids and litters (containers with some material). Seven hundred covered litters proceeded to the camp and each of these litters was borne by six-armed soldiers disguised as litter-potter.

Half and hour meeting was granted between Prince and departing Rani Padmini. When Rani Padmini's Palki, occupied by Gora, reached Ratan Singh, he informed him of the arrangement to make him escape. Immediately, Gora & Badal, along with the rajput warriors started havoc in the camp. Alauddin was save beacuse of the tight security, Ratan Singh was safely returned to fort.

### Rani Padmini's Jauhar:

Sultan Alauddin was furious and ordered his army to storm Chittor. But his army could not break into the fort. Then, Ala-ud-din decided to laid siege to the fort. The siege was a long drawn one and

gradually supplied within the fort were depleted. Finally King Ratan Singh, gave orders that the Rajputs would open the gates and fight to finish with the besieging troops.

With their men-folk going into the unequal struggle with the Sultan's army in which they were sure to perish, Rani Padmini along with other womenfolk women of Chittor committed Jauhar. *Khilji won the battle of August 26, 1303.*

#### **Result of Battle:**

Alauddin remained in chittor for few days, after which, he delivered the charge of fort and city to Maldeo, the chief of Jalore, whom he had conquered and enrolled among his vassals.

The survivor of Chettore, Rana Ajeysi was transferred to security at kailwara.



## 1308: Battle of Siwana

**Siwana** is a Tehsil in [Barmer](#) district in Indian state of Rajasthan, located 151 km from Barmer. Battle of Siwana happened in 1308 when Malik Kamaluddin, a general of Alauddin Khilji defeated Sheetal deo of Siwana.

### **Battle of Siwana:**

In 1308, forces of Alauddin Khilji besieged the fort, the people led by Satal Deo (Sheetal Deo) mounted a heroic defence but could not prevent from falling. Later, in the period 1318-20, Luntiga Chauhan stormed the fort of Siwana and slaughtered its Muslim garrison. No future sultan of Delhi tried to recover this fort.

To commemorate this historic event, an annual fair called as the *Kalyan Singh Ka Mela* is held within the precincts of the fort in the month of Shravan (July-Aug).

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## 1310-14: Battle of Jalore

Allauddin captured Ranthombore (1301AD) defeating Hammir Deo in [Siege of Ranthambore](#) and Chittorgarh (1303AD) by defeating Rana Rattan Singh through [Siege of chittorgarh](#). He conquered the fort of Mandsore in 1305 AD. In 1311, Allauddin Khilji defeated Rao Kanhad Dev in Battle of Jalore.

### Background of Battle of Jalore:

KANHAD-DE-PRABANDH, written by *Padmanabhan*, provides the details regarding battle of [Jalore](#). It is said that *Firoza*, a daughter-princess of Allauddin Khilji fell in love with Viram Dev, son of Kanhad Dev Songara, who was on attendance at the court of Khilji in place of his father. The Sultan called up on Kanhad Dev, Viram Dev and put up the marriage proposal. Considering the situation at hand, Kanhad Dev agreed to the marriage and on pretext of making marriage arrangements left for [Jalore](#). However, the marriage was never unacceptable and on reaching [Jalore](#), Kanhad Dev started preparing for Battle.

Meanwhile, Allauddin had raised an expedition against Gujarat. In 1298, Khilji's Mongol general Ulugh Khan asked permission of Kanhad Dev to march through [Jalore](#) to conquer Gujarat. Kanhad Dev refused permission and Ulugh Khan had to take a longer route to Gujarat. In 1299 Khilji's army sacked the Somnath temple and broke the Shiva lingam that had been worshipped there. He was carrying the broken pieces back to Delhi. When this news reached Kanhad Dev, he was moved and decided to fight for his belief and religion. Prince Viram Dev Sonigra, son of Kanhad Dev organized the attack to free the captured men, women and children. The broken pieces of the *Shiva lingam* were recovered and 20,000 Hindu prisoners were freed.

### The Battle of Jalore:

The action of Songara father & son, enraged Allauddin Khilji and he attacked [Jalore](#) with a huge force of 50,000 men. Kanhad Dev with an army of 5,000 men defended Jalore and on going through the “ KANHAD-DE-PRABANDH ” it appears that Jalore resisted the invasion for 3-4 years before it fell. An insider at Jalore fort was bribed by Allauddin and he let the back door open to facilitate the entry of enemy troops of Turks. Rao Kanhad Dev with son Viram Dev fought bravely and sacrificed their lives for their country.

**Result of Battle of Jalore:**

Alauddin Khilji plundered the city and enslaved the populace. Mal Dev Sonigra, the younger brother of Kanhad Dev was the only survivor and rewarded by Sultan and was appointed as the governor of Chittore by Sultan. [Jalore](#) continued to remain under the sultanate until sultanate was overthrown.

## 1437: Battle of Sarangpur

**Rana Kumbha**, son of Rana Mokal, became the ruler of Chittorgarh in 1433. Rana Kumbha fought three battles with Mahmud Khilji, Sultan of Mandu:

- Battle of Sarangpur
- Battle of Mandalgarh
- Battle of Banas

In all three battles, Rana Kumbha inflicted defeat to Sultan of Mandu. While battle of Mandavgad took place in modern Madhya Pradesh, battle of Mandalgarh and Banas took place in [Rajasthan](#).

### **Battle of Sarangpur:**

Mahpa Panwar who was one of the assassins of Kumbha's father, Rana Mokal, was sheltered by the Mahmud Khilji, Sultan of [Mandu](#). Rana Kumbha demanded surrender of refugee from Mahmud Khilji but he refused. This initiated hostilities between Mewar & Mandu and Rana Kumbha advanced to attack [Mandu](#).

In 1437 A.D, the two armies met at Sarangpur in which the Sultan's army was utterly routed. Mahpa Panwar escaped to Gujarat and Rana Kumbha captured Sultan Mahmud Khilji and brought him captive to [Chittorgarh](#). He remained a prisoner in Chittorgarh for a period of six months, after which he was liberated without ransom, by Rana Kumbha.

Note:

- Rana Kumbha built the great Vijay Stambha(Tower of Victory) in the fortress of Chittorgarh to commemorate this victory.
- Ahmad Shah (ruler of Gujarat), and Muhammad Shah (ruler of Delhi) cooperated with Rana Kumbha in his combat against Mahmud Khalji. During this period, the Sultans of Delhi and Gujarat conferred on Rana Kumbha - the title of *Hindu-suratrana* ( Hindu Sultan ). Rana Kumbha was the first Hindu ruler to be given this accolade by the Muslim Sultans.

## 1442/46: Battle of Mandalgarh & Banas

### Hadoti Expedition of Rana Kumbha:

After the release, Mahmud Khilji was restored as Sultan of Mandu, however, he nurtured the desire to take revenge and wipe off his disgrace of his defeat in Battle of Mandavgad. An opportunity came in 1442 A.D, when Rana Kumbha left Chittorgarh for an expedition against Hadoti. Finding Mewar unprotected, Mahmud Khilji invaded Mewar.

### Battle of Mandalgarh:

The Sultan arrived at Kumbhalmer and prepared to destroy the temple of Bana Mata in Kelwara. A Rajput chieftain named *Deep Singh* successfully opposed the Sultan for seven days. On the seventh day, Deep Singh was killed and the temple fell into the hands of the Sultan. He razed it to the ground and burned the stone image that was kept in the temple. Flushed with success, Khilji advanced to attack Rana Kumbha, leaving a part of his army to take the fortress of Chittorgarh.

When information reached Rana Kumbha, he left Hadoti to return to his dominions and confronted Sultan's army near Mandalgarh. A battle ensued at Mandalgarh in which Kumbha defeated Sultan and he fled towards Mandu.

### Battle of Banas:

In 1446 A.D, Mahmud Khilji made another attempt to retrieve the disaster and marched towards Mandalgarh with a large army. On October 11-12,1446, Rana Kumbha attacked Mahmud Khilji, while he was crossing the Banas River. Mahmud Khilji was again defeated in the battle and again fled to Mandu.

### Result of the three battles:

For about 10 years after these defeats, Mahmud Khilji did not venture to take offensive against Rana Kumbha.

## 1456: Battle of Nagaur

The main battle of Nagaur occurred in 1455-56 in which Rana Kumbha, Ruler of Mewar defeated Rulers of Nagaur Sultanate. However, the history of Nagaur is preceded by a series of battles that kept on reversing its fortune.

### Preceding Battles of Nagaur

Rao Choonda/Chanda/Chundarji secured and found the kingdom of Marwar. Mandore, the capital of Rao Chonda, gave a convenient base for attacking Nagaur. Additionally, he setup an alliance with Mewar by marrying his daughter Hansa with Rana Lakha of Mewar (grandfather of Kumbha). On the strength of this alliance Chunda subdued Rajput clans like the Bhatias and Mohils and *invaded Nagaur*, forcing Muslim rulers to make peace by paying him tribute. However, Rao Choonda was killed in 1422 by alliance of the defeated Bhatias, Mohils & Sultans of Nagaur and Nagaur became an independent Kingdom.

Rao Choonda was succeeded by Rao Rinmull, who built-up the alliance with mewar and in 1428 he led the joint Sesodia-Rathore army to punish the *Turks of Nagaur* where he stormed the fort and killed Firuz Khan. As a result, the next Sultan of Nagaur Qiyam Khan *paid tribute* to Mewar.

However, in 1438, Rao Rinmull was killed by Rana Choonda (*Notice: he is Rana Choonda of mewar, earlier was Rao Choonda of marwar*) and the Sesodias invaded Marwar. The conflict between the two Rajput clans gave the opportunity to the Nagaur and it *regained independence* and its Sultans their former power.

In 1451 the minister of the last Sayyid ruler invited Qiyam Khan & Bahlul Lodhi to seize Delhi and become Sultan. Now, Bahlul Lodhi was Afghan governor of Sirhind and being closer to Delhi, reached first and established the Lodi dynasty, while the disappointed Qiyam Khan retired with his army to Nagaur.

### Background of Battle of Nagaur

Feroz Khan/Qiyam Khan, Sultan of [Nagaur](#) died in 1433/1455. (*doubt what is correct*). On his death, his elder son, Shams Khan, succeeded Nagaur throne, but his younger son, Mujahid Khan, deposed him. Shams Khan fled to Rana Kumbha for help. Kumbha who had long had designs on [Nagaur](#), agreed to place Shams Khan on the throne of Nagaur, on the condition that he acknowledged Kumbha's

supremacy by demolishing a part of the battlements of the fort of that place. Shams Khan accepted the terms.

### Battle of Nagaur:

Rana Kumbha marched with a large army to Nagaur, **defeated Mujahid Khan** and returned to Mewar. But Shams Khan did not keep his promise of demolishing the battlements of the fort. Instead, he started fortification of fort and sought help from Qutbuddin, the Sultan of Gujarat.

In 1456, Rana Kumbha again marched to [Nagaur](#) and defeated Shams Khan. He was driven out Nagaur and Kumbha himself demolished the fortification of [Nagaur](#). As a result, Nagaur again became the vassal state of Mewar.

Rana Kumbha completed his long-cherished design also carried away the gates of the fort and an image of Hanuman from Nagaur, which he placed at the principal gate of the fortress of Kumbalgarh, naming it the Hanuman Pol.

### After effects of the battle of Nagaur:

The battle of Nagaur of 1456 resulted in a series of battle, in which Rana Kumbha & Mewar found themselves surrounded by enemies.

- Rana Kumbha did not stop at [Nagaur](#) and also captured Kasili, Khandela and Sakambhari.
- Shams Khan fled to Ahmedabad and giving his daughter as wife to Sultan Qutb-ud-din, sought his help to regain [Nagaur](#).
- Mahmud Khilji of Mandu, who was defeated in battle of Banas in 1446, got the opportunity to again attack mewar. In 1456, he captured Ajmer and in December of same year, conquered Mandalgarh.
- Further, Mahmud Khilji and Qutbuddin, through the treaty of Champaner made an agreement to attack [Mewar](#) and divide the spoils. Qutbuddin captured Abu ( Sirohi), was unable to capture Kumbhalmer, and his advance towards [Chittorgarh](#) was also blocked.
- Taking advantage of Kumbha's preoccupation, Rao Jodha (the son of Rao Rinmull Rathore) captured Mandore.

Rana Kumbha not only successfully defended Mewar facing multidirectional attack from Mahmud Khilji of Malwa, Qutbuddin of Gujarat, Shams Khan and Rao Jodha of Marwar. Post 1458 after the death of Qutbuddin and taking advantage of hostilities between Mahmud Begara (the new ruler of

Gujarat) and Mahmud Khilji, Rana Kumbha was able to recapture his lost territories and expand his empire.

Battle of [Nagaur](#) & its aftermath battles are a tribute to Rana Kumbha's skills as warrior, king & war strategist.



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## 1514/17: Battles of Idar

The **Battles of Idar** were a series of *three major battles* fought in the principality of Idar between the armies of Bhar Mal & Rai Mal, the two princes of Idar. *Bhar Mal* who was supported by *Muzaffar Shah II* (Gujarat Sultanate ) and *Rai Mal* was supported by the Rajputs under *Rana Sanga*. In 1517 Rai Mal with the help of Rana Sanga was able to successfully defeat Muzzafar Shah II and retake his kingdom.

### Background of Battles of Idar:

Idar, was a small Rathor Rajput principality situated on the borders of Gujarat. To its north was kingdom of mewar where **Maharana Sangram Singh** famous as **Rana Sanga** succeeded his father, Rana Raimal, as king of Mewar in 1508. South of Idar was the Gujarat Sultanate, which was at that time at meridian of its power and prosperity under Muzaffar Shah II.

Idar's ruler, *Rao Bhan*, died, leaving two sons, Suraj Mal and Bhim. Suraj Mal succeeded to the throne but died after a reign of 18 months, leaving a minor son *Rai Mal*, who became the Rao of Idar. However Rai Mal was deposed by his uncle Bhim, who also died a few day later and eventually his son *Bhar Mal*, became Rao of [Idar](#).

### First Battle of Idar:

Rai Mal who had fled to [Chittorgarh](#) for shelter, made a claim on his patrimony with the assistance of Maharana Sanga. **In 1514**, first battle of Idar took place in which Rai Mal and armies of mewar under Rana Sanga defeated and expelled Bhar Mal from the throne of Idar.

### Second Battle of Idar:

Bhar Mal appealed for help to Sultan Muzaffar II of Gujarat Sultanate. When the envoys of Bhar Mal reached Muzaffar II, he sent Nizam-ul-mulk with an army to reinstate Bhar Mal on the gadi of Idar. **In 1517**, second battle of Idar took place and as per *Ferishta*, Rai Mal was defeated at Idar and he retired to the hilly tract of Bijanagar. Nizam-ul-mulk after reinstating Bhar Mal on the throne of Idar, went in pursuit of Rai Mal. In the subsequent battle that took place Nizam-ul-mulk was severely defeated.

Now, Bhar Mal occupied the throne of Idar and Rai Mal despite defeating Nizam-ul-mulk was situated outside Idar. A third confrontation was due.

**Third Battle of Idar:**

In 1517 itself, Rai Mal, assisted by the *Maharana Sanga*, re-entered the Idar territory. The Sultan of Gujarat sent his general *Zahir-ul-mulk*, with a large army against him. Rai Mal killed *Zahir-ul-mulk* and slaughtered the Sultan's army. The Sultan now sent *Nasrat-ul-mulk*, but he too failed to achieve any success against Rai Mal and was reinstated at throne of Idar.

**Result of Battles of Idar:**

The confrontation did not stop at third battle of Idar and Muzaffar Shah once again took Idar in 1520 leading to the Rajput Invasion of Gujarat in which Rana Sanga effectively weakened the Sultanates power by plundering its treasuries and by reinstating Rai Mal as the Rao of Idar.

## 1518: Battle of Khatoli

In 1518, Rana Sanga, ruler of Mewar defeated Ibrahim Lodi of Delhi Sultanate in battle of Khatoli.

### **Background of Battle of Khatoli:**

In 1517, Ibrahim Lodi became the Sultan of Delhi after death of his father Sikander lodi. By this time, Rana Sanga had extended his kingdom of mewar right up to western Uttar Pradesh and threatened to attack Agra. When news of Rana Sanga's encroachments reached upon sultan, he prepared an army and marched against mewar.

### **Battle of Khatoli:**

In 1517, the armies of Mewar & Sultanate met near the village of Khatoli, situated on the borders of Hadoti (Haraoti). Lodi's army could not stand the onslaught of the Rajputs, and was defeated after a fight lasting just two pahars (5 hours). Ibrahim Lodi was taken prisoner by Rana Sanga.

### **Result of Battle:**

Ibrahim Lodi was held prisoner by Rana Sanga and was released after a few days on payment of a ransom. There was a rebellion by Islam Khan against Lodi which occupied his immediate attention. However, he carefully nursed his desire to avenge Maharana Sanga for the defeat in Battle of Khatoli.

## 1519: Battle of Dholpur and Gagron

In 1519 A.D. armies of Rana Sanga and Ibrahim Lodhi met again in *battle of Dholpur* and Rana Sanga again defeated the Sultan of Delhi.

### Background of Battle of Dholpur

Rana Sanga had defeated Ibrahim Lodhi, the Sultan of Delhi in 1518 in [battle of Khatoli](#). Rana Sanga took Sultan as prisoner and released him after payment of ransom. To avenge the disgrace, Ibrahim Lodi made great preparations and moved against Rana Sanga.

### Battle of Dholpur

When Rana Sanga heard of the approaching Lodi army he started marching towards them, both the army came in sight of each other at [Dholpur](#). The lodi army was more organized with 30,000 horsemen led by warriors including Hussain Khan zar Baksh, Mian Khan, Khanan Farmuli, Mian Maruf, Mian Makhan, Said Khan Furat.

The Rajput army despite being very less in number as compared to lodi army, **slaughtered them and pushed them back to bayana.**

### Result of Battle of Dholpur

As a result of the battle, the territories of Malwa, acquired by Sikander Lodi got transferred to Rana Sanga. One such territory of Chanderi was bestowed by Maharana Sanga to Medini Rai for his contributions in battle of dholpur.

However, soon, the territories of Chanderi were encroached by Sultan of Mahmud Khilji II. Foundation for another battle was thus laid.

### Battle of Gagron

Rana Sanga advanced with a large army from Chittor reinforced by the Rathors of Merta under Rao Viramdeva, and met Sultan Mahmud Khilji II, accompanied by the Gujarat auxiliaries under Asaf Khan. The Sultan's forces could not withstand the furious onslaught of the Rajputs and sustained a complete defeat. Most of his officers were killed and the army was nearly annihilated. Asaf Khan's son was killed, and Asaf Khan himself sought safety in flight. Sultan Mahmud was taken prisoner, wounded and bleeding.

### Result of Battle of Gagron

Rana Sanga treated the Sultan with honor and restored him his kingdom but as a mark of subjection, the Sultan yielded to the Maharana as nazrana the jewelled crown and belt left as a family heirloom by Sultan Hoshang Shah, the first king of Malwa. The Maharana also kept at Chittor a son of the Sultan as hostage for his future good conduct.

## 1520: Rajput Invasion of Gujarat

In 1520 A.D. Maharana Sanga lead a coalition of Rajput armies and invaded Gujarat. He defeated the Muslim forces and plundered the wealth of the Gujarat Sultanate.

### **Background of Invasion of Gujarat:**

In 1517, Mahrana Sanga assisted Rai Mal to recapture principality of Idar. Sultan of Gujarat sent his generals Zahir-ul-mulk & Nasrat-ul-mulk. In the consequential, third battle of Idar, Maharana Sanga's army defeated army of Sultan of Gujarat and Rai Mal was reinstated at throne of Idar. However, the confrontation did not stop at third battle of Idar and Muzaffar Shah, the sultan of Gujarat, once again took Idar in 1520 and Nizam-ul-mulk became the governor of Idar.

It is said that one day (1520 A. D.) a Bhat extolled the bravery and generosity of Rana Sanga in open Durbar in Nizam -ul-mulk's presence on which Nizam-ul-mulk used disrespectful language towards the Maharana. When this incident came to the knowledge of the Maharana he decided to invade Gujarat and punish the governor of Idar. Maharana Sanga started with 40,000 horse and infantry and soon arrived at Vagadh, where Rawal Udai Singh of Dungarpur, Rao Ganga of Jodhpur and Rao Viram deva of Merta joined the Maharana with their forces.

### **Siege of Ahmednagar:**

On being apprised of the Maharanas invasion, Sultan Muzaffar Shah of Gujarat sent reinforcements under Asad-ul-mulk, Ghazi Khan, Shuja-ul-mulk and Saif Khan, to Nizam-ul-mulk. He appointed Qiwam-ul mulk, governor of his capital Ahemdabad, to lead the army and himself retired to Muhammadabad.

Nizam-ul-mulk was also alarmed of the news of Sanga's advance towards Idar, and instead of defending at Idar, fled to the safe refuge of the fort of Ahmadnagar. Maharana Sanga arrived at Idar a day after Mubariz-ul-mulk's had left. After reinstating Rai Mal on the throne of Idar, the Maharana started in pursuit of Nizam-ul-mulk (Mubariz-ul-mulk) and laid siege to Ahmednagar. The rajput army bravely captured the fort but Nizam-ul-mulk escaped again.

Nizam-ul-mulk stopped on the further bank of the river near fort and drew up his troops, the reinforcement sent by the Sultan from Ahmedabad also to reached. The combined army prepared to oppose the Maharana's advance. Rana Sanga's army came down heavily at them and Nizam-ul-mulk fled again, this time towards Ahmadabad.

**Result of Rajput Invasion of Gujarat:**

As the Sultan's army fled from Ahmednagar towards Ahmedabad, Rana Sanga now plundered the surrounding country at his leisure, he spared the Brahmans of Wadnagar, but finding Visalnagar defended against him, he took it by assault, slaying the Muhammadan governor.

After plundering Gujarat a little longer and finding that the Sultan dared not come to the protection of his subjects, and punishing Nizam-ul-mulk (Mubariz-ul-mulk) and seeing that the Rao of Idar had been restored to his patrimony, the Maharana returned in triumph to Chittor.

## 1520: Invasion of Mewar by Gujarat & Malwa

In 1520 A.D Sultan of Gujarat & Sultan of Malwa marched their army against kingdom of Mewar. The resultant battles were fought on multiple places in which Rana Sanga successfully defended his kingdom against the invasion. The most important event was siege of Mandsaur by combined armies of Gujarat and Malwa, which also failed.

### **Background of Invasion:**

In early 1520 A.D. Maharana Sanga lead a coalition of Rajput armies and invaded Gujarat. He defeated the Muslim forces and plundered the wealth of the Gujarat Sultanate. The Sultan of Gujarat returned to his capital after the Maharana had returned to Mewar. He was grieved to see his country devastated, and planned to avenge its ruin.

Additionally, a year before in 1519, Mahrana Sanga defeated & captured Mahmud Khilji II, the king of Malwa and released him only after sultan yielding jewel crown as nazrana and his son as security for good conduct. As a result kingdom of Mewar was surrounded by hostile kingdoms, ready to pounce on any opportunity.

### **Invasion of Mewar:**

To avenge ruin of Gujarat, in 1520 itself, Sultan of Gujarat sent his general Malik Ayaz with an army of 100,000 cavalry, 100 elephants and general Qiwan-ulmulk with 20,000 horse and 20 elephants against Mewar. The Sultans army ravaged Dungarpur and advanced towards Banswara.

### **Siege of Mandsaur:**

After a skirmish between 200 horsemen under Shuja-ul-mulk and others, and some Rajputs in the hills, the Sultan's army advanced and invested the fort of Mandsaur in Malwa, then in the Maharana's possession. The governor of the fort, Asoka Mal, was killed but the fort did not fall. The Maharana left Chitor with a large army.

Considering it a golden opportunity, Sultan Mahmud Khilji of Malwa arrived from Mandu to assist the Gujarat forces to repay the debt he owed to Muzaffar Shah. The siege was pressed but no progress was made.

The Maharana's army was reinforced by Medini Rai's army, Raja Silhadi, the Tomar Chief of Raisen, Rawal Udai Singh of Dungarpur, Rao Ganga of Jodhpur, Rao Viram deva of Merta. As a result, the Rajput army strengthened to 80,000 men with 500 elephants.



**Result of Invasion of Rajasthan:**

Malik Ayaz foreseeing the ruin of his forces in the prolongation of the struggle made peace and fell back on Khiljipur, and eventually retreated to Gujarat.

## 1527: Battle of Khanwa

**The Battle of Khanwa** was fought near the village of Khanwa, about 60 km west of Agra, on March 17, 1527, between the invading forces of the first Mughal Emperor Babur and the Rajput forces led by Rana Sanga of Mewar. Rana Sanga was defeated and the victory consolidated the rule of Mughal dynasty in India.

### **Background of Battle of Khanwa:**

In 1526, invading forces of Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in Battle of Panipat and brought down Lodi Empire. Rana Sanga thought that like his ancestor Timur, Babur would also withdraw from Delhi and Agra after seizing the treasures of these cities. But Once he realized that Babur intended to stay on in India, Sanga proceeded to build a grand coalition which would either force Babur out of India or else confine him to Punjab. In retaliation, Prince Humayun was recalled from campaigns in Eastern India and military detachments were then sent by Babur for the conquest of Dholpur, Gwalियar, and Bayana, strong forts forming the outer boundaries of Agra.

### **Battle of Khanwa:**

The commanders of Dholpur and Gwalियar surrendered their forts to Babur but Nizam Khan, the commander of Bayana opened negotiations with both Babur and Rana Sanga. Babur's initial military detachment to Bayana was also defeated and dispersed by Rana Sanga's forces. However, subsequently, Bayana surrendered to Babur.

### **Rajput-Afghan Alliance:**

Rana Sanga succeeded in building a grand military alliance against Babur. The forces of mewar were joined by those from Hadoti, Jalor, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Dhundhar, and Amber. Additionally, Mahmud Lodi, the younger son of Sikandar Lodi, whom the Afghans had proclaimed their new Sultan also joined the alliance with a force of 10,000 Afghans under him.

### **The Battle:**

Babur after due examination prepared a strong offensive-defensive formation. Rana Sanga, on the other hand, continued fighting in the traditional way. Once the advance of the Rajputs and their Afghan allies had been contained, Babur's flanking tactic came into play. Despite putting up a gallant fight, Rana Sanga and his allies suffered a disastrous defeat.

### Consequences:

The battle of Khanwa demonstrated Babur's superior generalship and organizational skills. Rana Sanga managed to evade capture and escape to Chittor, but died shortly after on 30 January 1528.

## 1535: Second Jauhar of Chittor

In 1535, Bahadur Shah of Gujarat laid seige to [Chittorgarh](#). This invasion of chittor resulted in Second Jauhar & Saka in history of chittor and ensued a series of battles that led to overthrow of Gujarat Sultanate.

### **Background of Invasion of Chittor:**

Rana Sanga was injured in [Battle of Khanwa](#) in 1527, and died in 1528 poisoned by his own people. He was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Rana Ratan Singh, who was assassinated in 1531. Ratan Singh was succeeded by his brother Rana Vikramaditya Singh. Udai Singh, the fourth son of Rana Sanga and Rani Karnavati (she was princess of Bundi) was still an infant.

Bahadur Shah became the sultan of Gujrat Sultanate in 1526 and started expanding his territory. He captured Malwa (1531) and Raisen (1532).

### **The Battle:**

Continuing the conquest, Bahadur Shah laid siege to the fort of Chittor. Vikramaditya was the ruler of chittorgarh at that time. The Rajput's made an appeal to Humayun for help with Rani Karnavati sending a Rakhi to Humayun. The emperor accepted the appeal, gave up his campaign in Bengal and immediately moved towards Rajasthan. However, help from Humayun did not reach on time and sighting the last day of chittor, young Udai Singh was sent to Bundi for safety.

On 8 March 1535, Rani Karnavati committed Jauhar with 13,000 women, while the Rajput army rallied out to meet the besieging Muslim army and committed saka. This was the second of the three Jauhars performed at Chittor. During the seige and storm thirty-two thousand Rajputs were slain.

Bahadur Shah was victorious, but was not able to confront the Mughal canons and was advised by one "Rumi Khan" of his army to not to confront with the Mughal army. This victorious Gujarat army confided itself into a camp and the soldiers inside got starved, as the Mughal enemy cut their supplies. In the dead of the night, Bahadur shah fled the scene and his army immediately dispersed in all directions. Humayun, all of a sudden found himself in undisputed possession of the camp.

### Consequence:

The mughal ruler, Humayun did not stop at expelling Bahadur Shah from Chittorgarh and marched to capture Mandoo and invaded the Sultanate of Gujarat. Bahadur Shah ran from place to place from Mandoo to Champner, Cambay and finally to Goa. By that time, the entire Malwa and Gujarat had come under Humayun.

Humayun appointed his brother Askari as the governor of Gujarat. But, Askari proved incompetent and Bahadur Shah took the full advantage and captured Gujarat. Malwa was occupied by Mallu Khan in the name of Bahadur Shah.

## 1544 Battle of Sammel

In 1544, near the villages Giri and Sumel of the Jaitaran sub-division in the [Pali district](#) of Rajasthan, the armies of Sher Shah Suri and Hindu Rajputs led by Rao Maldeo Rathore, king of Marwar fought **the Battle of Sammel**, also known as the **Battle of Giri-Sumel**. Sher Shah Suri won the battle and his general Khawas Khan Marwat took possession of [Jodhpur](#) and occupied the territory of Marwar from [Ajmer](#) to Mount Abu.

### **Battle of Sammel: The background**

In 1543, Sher Shah set out against Marwar with a huge force of 80,000 cavalry. Maldeo allowed him to advance and formed an army of 50,000 Rajputs to oppose him. The judgement and caution exercised by Maldeo was so great that Sher Shah Suri was forced to fortify his camp at every step. Eventually, Sher Shah halted in the village of Sammel in the pargana of [Jaitaran](#), ninety kilometers east of Jodhpur.

### **Battle of Sammel:**

For one month the armies lay in sight of each-other, however, with every passing day Sher Shah's position became critical owing to the difficulties of food supplies for his huge army. To resolve this situation, Sher Shah resorted to a cunning ploy. One evening, he dropped forged letters near Maldeo's camp in such a way that they were sure to be intercepted. These letters indicated, falsely, that some of Maldeo's army commanders were providing assistance to Sher Shah. This caused suspicions in the camp and Maldeo suspected his commanders of disloyalty. Hence, Maldeo left for Jodhpur on 4 January 1544. with his own men, abandoning his commanders to their fate.

Even after Maldeo ordered withdrawal, his generals especially Pachain, Jaita and Kumpa decided to stay and fight in order to prove their loyalty. Heading an army of about 12,000 men they attacked Sher Shah Suri's camp of 80,000 men and routed a large part of the Afghan army. His general Khawas Khan Marwat was successful in slaying Jaita and Kumpa but not before Sher Shah had learnt about the valour and gallantry of Rajput commanders. Sher Shah emerged victorious in the battle but suffered heavy losses in the battle and is said to have exclaimed "*he had nearly lost the empire of Hindustan for a handful of Bajra*".

### Consequences of Battle of Sammel:

Sher Shah Suri defeated Rao Maldeo in battle of Sammel and his general Khawas Khan Marwat took possession of Jodhpur and occupied the territory of Marwar from Ajmer to Mount Abu in 1544. But by July, 1555 Maldeo reoccupied his lost territories.

## 1557: Battle of Harmada

In 1557, combined armies of Rao Maldeo of Marwar and Haji Khan Sur attacked and defeated Rao Udai Singh of Mewar in Battle of Harmada ( Harmaro).

### **Background: Battle of Harmada**

After defeating Rao Maldeo in 1544 at Sammel, Sher Shah marched towards Chittor. Rana Udai Singh realising his inability to defend the fort, surrendered its keys without offering any resistance. Sher Shah apparently appreciated this gesture and allowed the Rana to remain in possession of his territories. Rana recovered Chittor and made earnest efforts not only to consolidate but also to his kingdom.

However, even after defeat in [Battle of Sammel](#), Rao Madeo's powers & territories did not decrease much and by 1555 he was able to reoccupy all the lost territories.

In 1556, Haji Khan Sur ( a slave of Sher Shah) set out on campaign against Marwar and attacked Ajmer and Nagore. A number of neighbouring Rajput chiefs including Rana Udai Singh of Mewar and Rao Surjan of Bundi helped Haji Khan to conquer both the principalities.

Rana Udai Singh demanded payment and one of his dance girls (Rangray), from Haji Khan for supporting him against Rao Maldeo. Haji Khan was reluctant and serious difference emerged between Rana Udai Singh and Haji Khan(*Reference: Munhot Nainsi Ra Khiyat* ). As a consequence, new alliances were formed between Haji Khan and Marwar and together they launched an attack on Mewar and his supporters in a battle fought at Harmada in 1557.

### **Battle of Harmada:**

The forces of Rao Maldeo and Haji Khan defeated Rana Udai Singh and Mewar lost the territory of Merta.

### **Consequences of Battle of Harmada:**

Merta was captured and assigned to Maldeo's most trusted chief jagma. However, taking advantage of internal dissension and wars among Rajput chieftains the Mughal despatched an army under Qasim Khan and captured Ajmer in 1559.



## 1558: Siege of Ranthambore

Mughal Emperor Akbar besieged Ranthambore Fort but failed due to Rajput rebellions in Gwalior.

### **Background:**

Akbar succeeded Humayun on 14 February 1556 and was proclaimed *Shahanshah* but his general Bairam Khan ruled on his behalf until he came of age. He soon turned his attention towards Rajputana and Raja Bharmul of Amber enrolled himself and his son Bhagwandas amongst the vassals of Akbar.

Battle of Harmada (1557) further divided the rajput power and the region of Rajasthan was divided into two hostile camps comprising Haji Khan and Marwar on the one side and Me war alongwith about ten local chiefs including Rao Durga Sisodia on the other side.

Determined to take advantage of the internal dissension among Rajputs, Mughal forces were dispatched under Qasim Khan to capture Ajmer and Jaitaran.

### **Failed Seige of Ranthambore:**

Having occupied Ajmer, Akbar set our against the castle of Ranthambore. He sent an expedition under Qasim Khan against Rao Surjan Hada of Ranthambhore an ally of Rana Udai Singh. The Mughal army laid siege to the the fort of Ranthambore, however, there was a rebellion in Gwalior and Akbar had to abandon the siege to take care of it.

### **Consequences:**

The seige of 1558 failed but Akbar captured Gwalior, Lucknow and Jaunpur. It was only a matter of time before Akbar laid out his plans for Rajputana.

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## 1562: Battle of Merta

In 1562, Akbar with the help of Rajas from Bikaner and Amer defeated Rao Chandra Sen in Battle of Merta and advanced towards Jodhpur.

### Background of the Battle of Merta

In 1557, [Battle of Harmada](#), the forces of [Rao Maldeo](#) defeated forces of Udai Singh of Mewar and Merta was captured and assigned to Maldeo's trusted chief Jagmal. Rao Maldeo Rathore, broke the Rajput tradition of [primogeniture \(eldest son takes his father seat\)](#) and named his third son Rao Chandra Sen as his successor. Chandrasen Rathore crowned himself in the capital Jodhpur and ousted his elder brother, Rao [Udai Singh \(Marwar\)](#).

### 1562: Battle of Merta

As per Nainsi, in 1562, **Jaimal of Merta** (brother of Jagmal), presented himself at Sambhar and sought his help against Maldeo. Interested in taking advantage of these internal situation, emperor Akbar responded favourably to request of Jaimal and appointed Sharifuddin Husain Mirza along with Jaimal and Lonkarn Shekhawat to march against Rao jagmal.

The city was captured and was given back to Rao Jaimal.

### Consequence:

Jaimal became the governor of Merta under Sharifuddin Husain Mirza. But soon, Mirza revolted against Akbar and created disorder in the region of [Ajmer](#) and [Nagaur](#). Akbar sent an army under the command of Hussain Quli Khan-i- Jahan who successfully suppressed the rebellion and brought Ajmer and Nagaur under imperial control.

The fort of Merta which Jaimal held with the approval of Mirza Sharifuddin was transferred again back of Jagmal. Jaimal was dethroned and moved to seek refuge with Rana Udai Singh of Mewar.

## 1567: Third Jauhar of Chittorgarh

In 1567, extending his campaign against Rajputana, Akbar laid siege to the fort of Chittorgarh. Through their valour & sacrifice in defence of the fort, Jaimal & Patta became synonymous with house of mewar and chittor. The battle witnessed the third jauhar of chittorgarh & massacre that [Abkar](#) ordered after the victory.

### Background:

The mughal engagement with marwar during the period of 1556-66, gave Rana Udai Singh free hand to strengthen his power and position. In 1562, [Jaimal was ousted from Merta](#), at orders of emperor Akbar. Rana Udai Singh II of Mewar gave refuge to Jaimal and was given jagir of Bednore, along with position in his court. In 1563, after defeat at hands of Akbar, Baz Bahadur of Malwa also fled to chittor. Rana Udai Singh gave refuge to Baz Bahadur at utmost displeasure to Akbar.

After handling the rebellions of the Mirzas and the Uzbek nobles in 1567, Akbar turned his eyes towards the prestigious kingdom of Mewar.

### Siege of Chittorgarh 1567

Akbar marched towards fort of chittor and laid seige. Rana Udai Singh was compelled to quit and escaped the seige, giving the responsibility of defence to Jaimal of Merta. The imperial sappers were able to reach the walls of Chittorgarh fort after 58 days of siege.

Sahidas, heading the Chundawats of Salumbar stood as the first line of defence at his post "gate of the sun". When Sahidas fell, the command was taken over by Putta of Kailwa. Finally, on the night of 22 February 1568, the Mughals were able to breach the walls at several locations simultaneously to begin a coordinated assault. In the ensuing battle, Akbar was able to kill the Rajput commander, Jaimal, with a musket shot. The fatal Jauhar (third jauhar of chittor) was commanded, 8,000 Rajput soldiers ate their last beera together and prepared for Saka, while women folk prepared for jauhar.

The Mughal army killed all the Rajputs who walked out the fort. Akbar entered Chittorgarh and massacred around 30,000 of its inhabitants. As per Col. Tod Akbar measured the success of this conquest by quantity of zinar taken from necks of rajputs, **74 & 1/2 half mans**. To eternise the memory of this disaster, the numerals 74.5 are accursed and labelled as sins of the slaughter of chittor.

**Consequences:**

The fort of Chittor was assigned to Khwaja Abdul Majid Asaf Khan. However, Udai Singh II, found refuge with Gohil in the forests of Rajpipili & Girwa in aravalli. He continued to remain at large until his death four years later. Akbar did not stop at Chittor and started marching towards the fort of Ranthambore.

However, Akbar acknowledged the bravery & courage of Jaimal & Putta and erected statues of Rao Jaimal and Patta, mounted on a pair of black marble elephants, outside outside one of the gates of Fatehpur Sikri, Agra. Some time later the statues were moved to the Delhi Gate at the [Red Fort](#), where they are still.

The conquest of Chittor was quite significant for Akbar as soon after this victory almost all important states of Rajputana such as Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Bundi, Sirohi and Dungarpur accepted the overlordship of Akbar.

**Trivia:**

Another hero in this battle was: **Isar Das Chauhan**

Akbar had sent elephants to spread rampage and destruction in the battle-field. Initially, 50 and then about 300 elephants armed with swords in their trunks were let loose in the battle-field. As Abu'l Fazl records, Isar Das Chauhan - fought an elephant with a bare knife. He took hold of it's tusk and stabbed it with a dagger and asked him to "convey Isar Das's regards to Akbar" in the following words - "Be good enough to convey my respects to your world adorning appreciator of merit"

## 1568: Siege of Ranthambore

Emboldened by his victory in [siege of chittorgarh](#), Akbar lead a massive Mughal Army and besieged Ranthambore Fort. After being besieged for more than a month Rao Surjan Hada eventually surrendered.

### Background:

In 1558, Akbar laid his [first siege of Ranthambore](#). However, there was a rebellion in [Gwalior](#) and Akbar had to abandon the siege. After successful [Mughal](#) victories around [Rajputana](#) and the fall of [Chittorgarh](#), Akbar decided to capture [Ranthambore Fort](#), which was considered one of the strongest & impregnable fortress at that time.

Ranthambore fort was under the command of Rao Surjan Hada ([Bundi](#) State).

### 1568: Siege of Ranthambore:

The Siege of Ranthambore began in February 8, 1568 with elite Mughal force of 5,000 capturing an 8-mile circumference around Ranthambore Fort. Akbar then led an army of more than 30,000 Mughals along with cannons and started using them against the fort.

Rao Surjan Hada was demoralized by Akbar's victory during the [Siege of Chittorgarh](#) but refused to surrender at first. However, soon realizing the lost cause, Rao Surjan Hada finally surrendered to suzerainty of Akbar on March 21, 1568.

### Consequences:

Akbar appointed Mehtar Khan as the commander of the Mughal garrison at Ranthambore Fort. Rao Surjan Hada was sent to Bundi and gives him Mansabdari in Mughal army with the tittle of **Rao Raja**.

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## 1576: Battle of Haldighati

The **Battle of Haldighati** was a battle fought on 18 June 1576 between Maharana Pratap and the Mughal emperor Akbar's forces. While technically the mughals won the battle but it was futile one as they failed to capture Pratap, who continued the war and was able to take back most of the lost areas.

### **Background of Battle of Haldighati**

After losing Chittor in [siege of 1567](#), Udai Singh took refuge in forest of Rajpipili. In 1572, Rana Udai Singh died and after a brief war of succession Rana Pratap succeeded as the ruler of Mewar at Gogunda. Akbar dispatched a series of diplomatic embassies to Pratap, asking the Rajput king to become his vassal.

- In 1572, the first emissary sent was **Jalal Khan Qurchi**. He failed to convince Pratap to accept the overlordship of the Mughals and returned disappointed.
- Next in June 1573, **Raja Man Singh** of Amer was sent by Akbar. Although he was courteously received by Rana Pratap but he also failed to convince.
- In Oct. 1573, Akbar made another attempt and dispatched **Raja Bhagwant Das**, the Kachhwaha chief and the leading Rajput noble at the Mughal court. Bhagwant Das was more successful than his predecessors Pratap agreed to send his son Amar Singh(Umra) to Mughal court. But Pratap did not agree to personal presence at the mughal court, which was, deemed unsatisfactory by Akbar.
- A final emissary, [Todar Mal](#), was also sent to Mewar but returned without any favourable outcome.

With all diplomatic options having no result, war was getting inevitable.

### **Battle of Haldighati**

Akbar deputed Raja Man Singh against Maharana Pratap, who had set up the capital at Kumbhalgarh from Gogunda. Raja Man Singh setup his base at Mandalgarh. On 18th of June 1576, three hours after the sunrise the battle commenced at Haldighati, around 23 kms north of Gogunda.

Rana Pratap was assisted by [Hakim Khan Sur](#) of Suri dynasty, Bhim Singh of Dodia, Ramdas Rathor (son of Jaimal, who defended Chittor), Bida Mana and his clansmen of [Jhala](#).

However, the forces of Rana Mewar were outnumbered against the imperial mughal forces and the Mughal forces defeated Rana Pratap in the battle of Haldighati. Rana Pratap however, escaped from the battle field and took shelter at Koliyari a hilly town in the west of Gogunda (southern Mewar).

### Consequences of Battle of Haldighati

The loss in battle of haldighati was followed by capture of castles of Gogunda, Kumbhalgarh & Udaipur by Mughals. However, Rana was still at large in Aravalli's and vowed to continue his struggle for independence. By 1579, focus of Mughals shifted to other parts of the empire and seizing opportunities one by one, Maharana Pratap was able to recover much of the lost territory in the western parts of his kingdom. Chittor, continued to be in Mughal control.

### Trivia: Battle of Haldighati

- When tide of the battle shifted and Rana Pratap found himself wounded by arrow and spear. **Bida Jhala** seized the royal umbrella from his commander and charged at the Mughals, claiming to be the Rana himself. His sacrifice, and that of 350 other soldiers who stayed behind and fought to buy time, allowed their Rana and the remnants of their army to escape.

## 1582: Battle of Dewair

In 1582, On the occasion of Dashehra ([Vijaydashmi](#)), Maharana Pratap attacked Dewair. In the consequential battle of Dewair the Mughals were defeated resulting in the flight of the Mughal soldiers, surrender of about 36,000 mughal soldiers & the closing of all the 36 Mughal posts in Mewar.

### Background of Battle of Dewair

Following the [Battle of Haldighati](#), Maharana Pratap was left with 7,000 soldiers and Mughals captured Kumbhalgarh, Gogunda, Udaipur & Chappan. In such condition, Pratap changed his strategy from open to guerrilla warfare and did not allow Mughals to settle.

To suppress Pratap, Akbar had to send 6 massive military campaigns consisting not less than 1,00,000 soldiers each time.

- 1577: Bhagwabdass, Mansing alongwith Sayed Hashim, Sayed Kashim, Shahbazz Khan etc
- 1578: Shabaz Khan alongwith Kazi Khan Badkashi, Mansing, Bhagwandass etc.
- 1579: Again Shabaz Khan (Third time attacked Mewar)and others
- 1580: Rahim Khankhna (Ajmer) and others.

However, each of these were unsuccessful in capturing Pratap. When Maharana was facing shortage of funds, his minister Bhamashah, whose family held the office for ages, placed at Pratap's disposal their accumulated wealth, which with other resources, is stated to have been equivalent to maintenance of 25,000 men for 12 years. Thus name of Bhamashah got preserved as saviour of Mewar. With such help from Bhamashah, Maharana was able to arrange a new army of 40,000 soldiers and planned a major attack.

### Battle of Dewair

In 1582, on the occasion of Dashehra, Maharana Pratap motivated his soldiers to fight back and make Mewar independent once again . Accordingly Mewar army was divided under two groups: One under Maharana Pratap and other under Kunwar Amar Singh & **Battle of Dewair** was fought.

Col. Tod has famously remarked on Maharana Pratap's battles from Haldighati till Dewair into "Huldighat (Haldighati) is the Thermopylae of Mewar ; the field of Dewair(Dewair) her Marathon"



comparing the courage, determination, undaunted heroism, inflexible fortitude of Maharana Pratap to Spartans famous of their fight against the Persian empire.

### Consequence of Battle of Dewair

Maharana Pratap secured the decisive victory in Battle of Dewair and it resulted in permanent closure of 36 Mughal check posts in Mewar. Additionally, close to 36,000 Mughal soldiers surrendered. Maharana Pratap continued his fight against the Mughal empire and soon was able to recover all of Mewar except Chittor, Ajmer and Mandalgarh.

Akbar continued to send his campaign against Pratap, but as before, all were unsuccessful.

- 1584: Jagannath Kachwaah and others.
- After disappointment from Shabaz Khan for third time, and other chieftains like Man Singh, Bhagwandas. Finally, Akbar himself arrived in Mewar to suppress Maharana Pratap. But after trying relentlessly for 6 months, returned to Agra.

## 1606: Second Battle of Dewair

In 1606, Rana Amar Singh defeated and killed Sultan Khan, the Mughal prince Muhammad Parviz fled from the battlefield with his commander Asaf Khan.

### Background of Second Battle of Dewair:

Rana Amar Singh became the ruler of Mewar after death of his father Maharana Pratap in Chavand on 19 January 1597. He swore to maintain their fight against the Mughals and to re-conquer Chittor. Rana Amar Singh successfully inflicted defeats to multiple expeditions sent by Jehangir.

Alarmed at these successive defeats, Jehangir prepared a new army to wage a fresh war against Mewar.

### Second Battle of Dewair

Jehangir sent Prince [Parviz](#) and Asaf Khan, with an army of 80,000 horses. The Mughal forces were commanded by Sultan Khan. The Mughal army was received by Mewar's army at passage around Dewair. Amar Singh fought bravely and killed the imperial commander Sultan Khan. The imperial army was disgracefully beaten and fled towards Ajmer.

### Consequences of Second Battle of Dewair

Jehangir did not stop after the successive defeat in Battle of Dewair and in 1608, sent another army under [Mahabat Khan](#) in which though Mughals won but they could not make any decisive change to ground situation. Seventeen pitched battles were fought by Amar Singh after death of Maharana Pratap, when Jehangir assembled a yet more mighty army under prince Khoorum (Shah Jehan). Rana Amar Singh with his son Karan Singh again resolved to fight, but the forces were unmatched and caused much damage to life and property of Mewar.

Ultimately in 1615, Amar Singh entered into a treaty with [Shah Jahan](#) (who negotiated on behalf of [Jehangir](#)).

## 1658: Battle of Dharmatpur

The Battle of Dharmatpur was fought on 15 April 1658 on the banks of river Narmada , around 20 kilometers from Ujjain. Mughal emperor [Aurangzeb](#) defeated Maharaja Jaswant Singh.

### Background of the Battle of Dharmatpur

On 6 May 1638, Jaswant Singh succeeded his father on his death by special decree of the Emperor [Shah Jahan](#). In 1658, when Shah Jehan fell ill, Prince Dara was the elder son and preferred choice. However, there was a rebellion and rajputs were tasked with crushing it. Raja Jai Singh of Amber was commanded to oppose Prince Shuja & Jaswant Singh was entrusted to quash the designs of Aurangzeb.

Jaswant Singh marched from Agra, united with other contingents of Rajputs and the imperial guard force of the emperor. Jaswant Singh marched towards Narmada & camped at Dharmatpur, around 20 Kms from Ujjain.

### Battle of Dharmatpur

[French traveller Bernier](#), gives the vivid account of battle of Dharmatpur as Jaswant Singh had a chance to attack & defeat Aurangzeb but he purposely gave time to Aurangzeb & allowed Prince Murad with his army to join Aurangzeb. His desire was to defeat both the Mughal princes at once. Additionally, this delay allowed Aurangzeb to win over the Mughal General, Kasim Khan, who was sent by Shah Jahan to help Jaswant Singh and Kasim Khan defected as soon as the war started.

Jaswant Singh along with support of Mukund Singh Hara of Kotah and Bundi, Dayal Das Jhala, Arjun Gaur of Rajgarh in Ajmer and Rana Ratan Singh Rathore of [Ratlam](#) decided to fight the unequal battle. Jaswant attacked both Aurangzeb and Murad and they barely escaped.

The Rajput army of 8000 was reduced to 600 and finally the unequal contest ended and Jaswant Singh was forced to retreat. Aurangzeb named the place of victory Fatehabad.

### Consequences of battle of Dharmatpur

On retreat of Jaswant Singh, Aurangzeb marched into the capital of Malwa. A small battle took place at Jajow village, in which rajputs were overpowered, Dara was driven from regency & aged emperor deposed.

### Trivia: Battle of Dharmatpur

It is said that when Jaswant Singh returned to the fort, the queen refused to open doors. Queen offered him food in wooden utensils. He could not understand the reason behind this behaviour as he always ate with silver utensils. "I have offered you food in wooden utensils as noise of silver utensils could scare you off," came the sarcastic explanation from the queen.

This gave Jaswant Singh the determination & he started preparing for a fresh clash with his opponent.

## 1679-1707: Second Mughal Invasion of Marwar

Rana Jaswant Singh died in December 1678 while camping in [Afghanistan](#). He left no heir and Aurangzeb took this opportunity to impose Mughal rule over Marwar. However, soon after Jaswant Singh's death two of the queens each gave birth to male children. One of these sons died soon after his birth, leaving the other – [Ajit Singh](#) – as sole heir. Aurangzeb initially refused to recognise Ajit Singh as the legitimate heir but later agreed to bestow a title and a grant if the child be raised in the imperial [harem](#). This was not acceptable to Rathores and they resolved to rescue Ajit Singh and their queens from Delhi.

The infant Ajit Singh was taken to safety in [Balunda](#), where the wife of one of the delegation kept the child for almost a year. Later, he was moved to the safety of the [Aravalli Hills](#) near [Abu Sirohi](#), a remote town on the southern fringes of Marwar. There Ajit Singh grew up in anonymity. The [Rathore](#) army under [Durgadas Rathore](#) carried out a relentless struggle against the occupying forces. In 1707 after the death of [Aurangzeb](#), Durgadas defeated the local Mughal force and reoccupied [Jodhpur](#) and their lost territories.

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## 1680 - Battle of Udaipur and Aravalli Hills

In 1680, Mughal ruler Aurangzeb attacked Mewar, result of which, multiple battles took place in Aravalli region, major being battle of Udaipur. While Aurangzeb plundered the city of Udaipur destroying temples & forts, eventually, Rana Raj Singh of Mewar and Durga Das Rathore were able to defeat the enemy.

### **Background of the Battles of Aravalli Hills**

Rana Raj Singh I mounted the throne of Mewar in 1654 A.D. (Wikipedia 1652). He was the maternal uncle of Ajit Singh of Marwar and promised to be the guardian of Ajit Singh's rights. Aurangzeb was engaged in a relentless battle against Durgadas Rathore of Marwar and followed a policy of fanatical and impolitic conduct. Subsequently, he promulgated the famous edict, [Jizya](#), against the whole Hindu race. This cemented into one compact union all who cherished either patriotism or religion. Rana Raj Singh I also came against the emperor and Rathores & Sisodias united against the tyrant.

### **Battle of Udaipur & Aravalli Hills**

The Rathores of Jodhpur forged an alliance with the neighboring Rajput state of Mewar (Sisodia clan). Maharana Raj Singh of Mewar withdrew his army to the western portion of his kingdom, marked by the rugged Aravalli hills and secured by numerous hill-forts.

Aurangzeb attacked the capital of Mewar, Udaipur. However, Rana Raj Singh safely escorted the citizens to the aravalli hills but 63 temples in and around Udaipur were plundered and Aurangzeb's general Taj Khan burned down many villages. The Mughal army was eventually starved out of Mewar because of the scorched earth techniques and guerrilla warfare used by the Rana.

In the second half of 1680, after several months of such setbacks, Aurangzeb decided on an all-out offensive. Niccolao Manucci, an Italian gunner in the Mughal army, says: "for this campaign, Aurangzeb put in pledge the whole of his kingdom." Aurangzeb called prince Akber from Bengal province, Azim from Kabul & Mauzum from Deccan. With this formidable army Aurangzeb entered Mewar and obtained Chittorgarh, Mandelgarh, Maundsaur without much difficulty.

Rana Raj Singh, assisted by his son Jai Singh, prepared for defence in passes of Girwa. Aurangzeb marched till Debari but instead of entering the valley through narrow George, halted and sent 50,000 men under prince Akber directly to capital Udaipur. However, soon prince Akber was cutoff from Aurangzeb's main army and he was forced to retreat. The Mughals lost their artillery effectiveness

while being dragged around the rugged hills and the Rajputs under Durgadas Rathore and Rana Raj Singh defeated both Azim & Muazzam.

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## 1708 – Annexation of Amer & Jodhpur

After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, all three sons intended to win the crown. Azam prepared to march to Agra and declare himself successor, but was defeated by prince Mu'azzam at the Battle of Jajau in June 1707. Mu'azzam ascended the Mughal throne at age 63 on 19 June 1707, with the title of Bahadur Shah I.

After accessing the throne, Bahadur Shah wanted to add Rajputana to his empire. On 10 November 1708, Bahadur Shah began his march to Amber. In the meantime, he also ordered Mihrab Khan to take possession of Jodhpur.

Bahdur Shah I reached Amber on 20 January 1708. While Jai Singh was the ruler of Amer, his brother Bijai Singh resented his rule. Bahadur Shah dethorned Jai Singh on pretext of supporting Azam Shah during war of succession & made Bijai Singh, the governor of Amber on 30 April 1708. Shah gave him the title of Mirza Rajah, and gifts valued at 100,000 rupees. Amber thus got passed into Mughal hands without a war.

After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, Ajit Singh marched to Jodhpur and took it out from Mughal rule. Bahadur Shah ordered his aid Mihrab Khan to take possession of Jodhpur. Mihrab Khan marched to Jodhpur & defeated Ajit Singh at Merta, and he reached the town on 21 February 1708.

### Consequence:

Bahadur Shah did not stop at conquest of Amber & Jodhpur, and planned to annex next the city of Udaipur. Bahadur Shah waged war against the king until his brother Muhammad Kam Bakhsh's insurgency diverted him southward.



## 1708 - Rajput Rebellion

The three Rajput Raja's of Amber, Udaipur and Jodhpur made a joint resistance to the Mughals. The alliance defeated and expelled the Mughals from Rajputana. Bahadur Shah I was forced to sign truce with Rajputana restoring Ajit Singh and Jai Singh to the Mughal Service.

### **Background of the Rebellion:**

Bahadur Shah I had dethorned Ajit Singh of Jodhpur & Jai Singh II of Amer. Meanwhile, Amar Singh II of Mewar raged a war against the Mughal emperor until his brother Muhammad Kam Bakhsh's insurgency diverted him southward. While the emperor was on his way to Deccan to take care of rebellion by Muhammad Kam Bakhsh the three Rajput Raja's of Amer, Jodhpur and Udaipur made a joint resistance to the Mughals.

### **The Rajput Rebellion:**

The Rajputs first expelled the commandants of Jodhpur and Hindaun-Bayana and recovered Amber by a night attack. They next killed Sayyid Hussain Khan Barha, the commandant of Mewar and many other officers (September, 1708). The alliance defeated and expelled the Mughals from Rajputana.

### **Aftermath of Rajput Rebellion:**

The emperor, then in the Deccan had to patch up a truce by restoring Ajit Singh and Jai Singh to the Mughal Service. Aurangzeb's rule of excluding Rajputs from the administration was now abandoned and Jai Singh was appointed to govern the important provinces of Agra and Malwa. Ajit Singh of Marwar was also pardoned and in 1712 was appointed as Mughal governor of Gujarat.

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## 1741 - Battle of Gangwana

The Battle of Gangwana was fought between the Kingdom of Marwar and combined armies of Jaipur and the Mughals in 1741. The battle resulted in a peace treaty favorable to Marwar and ended a period of Jaipur domination in Rajputana.

### **Background of Battle of Gangwana**

In 1739, Madir Shah invaded & sacked Delhi, which considerably reduced the prestige of the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah. Additionally, ongoing conflicts with the Maratha Empire further decreased the Mughal ability to govern the empire. This military and political weakness resulted in more authority being given to the Rulers, who were previously considered as Mughal vassals.

One of the now empowered rulers was Jai Singh II of Amer who embarked on a campaign of political and military conquest in northern India. In 1727 he founded the Kingdom of Jaipur and soon after adopted a policy of intervention towards the domestic affairs of other smaller rulers.

Maharaja Ajit Singh ruled Marwar from 1707 to 1724. After his death, his sons Abhai and Bakhat became the rulers of Marwar and Nagaur respectively. In 1739, Bakht Singh, decided in 1739 to force concessions from Bikaner, and called for Abhai Sing to assist him. The Marwar army besieged the capital of Bikaner and the Raja of Bikaner appealed to Jai Singh for assistance. Jai Singh II bribed Bakht Singh to sign a separate peace with Jaipur, turning him against his brother. Abhai Singh was forced to give up and had to sign the treaty that effectively made Marwar a vassal of Jaipur. The peace treaty angered many of the Rathors.

### **Battle of Gangwana**

In 1741 Abhai Singh began to gather his forces at Jodhpur in preparation for a war of revenge against Jaipur. Bhakt Singh also accepted his past wrondoings and joined the camp at Merta. Jai Singh arrived with his Jaipur army of about 40000-100000 men. A fierce battle followed at Gangwana where Bakht Singh and his men charged the Jaipur defenses and quickly punched through Jai Singh's gun line. The Jaipur army held the field after the battle at Gangwana, but had been severely demoralized by the attack.

### **Aftermath of Battle of Gangwana**

The battle resulted in a peace treaty brokered by Raja of Udaipur, favorable to Marwar that ended a period of Jaipur domination in Rajputana.

### 1761 - Battle of Maonda and Mandholi

The Battle of Maonda and Mandholi was fought between the Maharaja Jawahar Singh, Jat ruler of Bharatpur and Madho Singh I of Jaipur in 1767. The Jat forces were defeated and Madho Singh I followed up his victory by invading Bharatpur.

### 1768 - Battle of Bharatpur

Madho Singh I invaded Bharatpur at the head of 16,000 men where he defeated Jawahar Singh again on 29 February 1768.

### 1787 - Battle of Tunga or Battle of Lalsot

The combined forces of Jaipur and Jodhpur fought with the Maratha forces of Mahadaji Shinde. The battle was indecisive.

### 1790 - Battle of Merta

Mahadaji Scindia defeated Maharaja Vijay Singh.

### 1800 - Battle of Malpura

Daulat Rao Sindhia defeated Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh

### 1806 - Siege of Mehrangarh

Man Singh of Marwar defeated the invading armies of Jaipur, Mewar and Bikaner so comprehensively that Jagat Singh of Jaipur had to pay a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to secure his safe passage. In honour of Man Singh's victory over Jaipur the Jai Pol, or victory gate was built in the fort in 1808.

### 1807 – Battle of Gigoli (Parbatsar)

The battle of Gigoli was fought between Juggat Singh II of Jaipur & Maan Singh of Jodhpur. The reason behind the battle was marriage to Mewar princess Krishnakumari. Jagat Singh II won the battle.

Few Other Battles

S.No	Year	Name of Battle	Fought Between	Comment
1	1234	Battle of Bhutala/Nagda	Maharana Jaitra Singh of Mewar & Sultan Iltutmish	Sultan Iltutmish won
2	1492	Battle of Kosana	Rao Sheetal Dev of Marwar & Maalu Khan Subedar of Ajmer	Rao Sheetal Dev won
3	1541	Battle of Pahoba	Rao Jaitsi of Bikaner & Maldeo of Marwar	Rao Maldeo won
4	1644	Mateere ki Radd - Nagaur	Amar Singh Rathore of Nagaur & Maharana Karan Singh of Bikaner	Amar Singh won
5	1659	Battle of Durai	Between Aurangzeb & Dara Shikoh	Aurangzeb won
6	1715	Battle of Pilsud	Sawai Jai Singh of Amer & Maratha	Jai Singh won
7	1733	Battle of Mandsaur	Sawai Jai Singh of Amer & Maratha	Maratha won
8	1747	Battle of Rajmahal (Tonk)	Ishwari Singh & Madho Singh of Amer	Madho Singh won
9	1761	Battle of Bhatwada	Shatrusaal of Kota & Madho Singh of Jaipur	Shatrusaal won