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Thread on Maldev Rathore. (one of the most powerful Rajput king)



He succeeded his father to rule Marwar, but at the time of his accession only jodhpur and Sojat were under his control

(19) Rao Maldeo

Rāo Māldēv, his eldest son, succeeded him. At the time of his accession to the throne, only the districts of Jōdhpur and Sōjat were under his sway, but soon afterwards he subdued the Sīndhals of Bhādrājun and Rāipur.

He sent his Rathore army to help rana of mewar against sultan of Gujarat in 1532

When Sultān Bahādur Shāh of Gujrāt invaded Mēwār in 1532 A. D., he sent his Rāṭhor contingent to render help to Mahārānā Vikramāditya.

in 1534 A.D

Maldev Seized nagaur and drove khan away

In 1534 A.D. when Daulatkhān of Nāgaur attacked Bīramdēv, the grandson of Rāo Jōdhā, in order to annex Mērtā, then Rāo Māldēv seized Nāgaur and drove the Khān away towards Ajmer.

He also asked biramdev to hand over Ajmer to him but after getting refusal , He took over Merta and biram had to retire to Ajmer.

In the following year Bīramdēv defeated Shamsher-ul-mulk, the representative of the Sultān of Gujrat and captured Ajmer. When this news reached Rāo Māldēv, he asked Bīramdēv to hand it (Ajmer) over to him, as he (Biramdev) would not be strong enough to hold it against the army of Gujrāt. But Biramdev refused to agree to it, consequently Rāo Māldēv took over Mērtā and Bīram had to retire to Ajmer.

later on finally he captured Ajmer

As Rao Māldēv favoured Sahasā, the grandson of Barsingh, by the bestowal of the Jāgīr of Rīān on him, Bīram got jealous of him and once attacking Rīān killed him on the field. This

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enraged Rāo Māldēv to such an extent that he at once despatched his generals Jaitā and Kūnpā against him, who soon captured Ajmer. Bīramdēv had to remain a fugitive for some days and was everywhere pursued by the warriors of Rāo Māldēv and driven away, till at last he took refuge at the court of Shērshāh at Delhi.

He also conquered Siwana and imprisoned sikandar khan jalore.

Rāo Māldēv conquered Siwānā and imprisoned Sikandar-khān of Jālore.

When Humayun and sher shah were fighting each other. Maldev Rathore annexed more than 10 districts and extended his rule upto some portions of Gujarat and plundered nabara.

In 1539 A. D. when Emperor Humāyūn and Shershah were contesting the throne of Delhi, Rāo Māldēv taking advantage of their pre-occupation extended his possession up to Bayānā. He routed the Sōlankīs, who ruled somewhere near Tōnk and Tōdā, posted his garrisons at Jaunpur (Mēwār) and annexed Sāmbhar, Kāslī, Fatehpur, Rēwāsā, Chhota Udaipur (in Jaipur State), Chātasū, Lawān, Malāranā, etc. He also subdued the Chauhāns of Sānchore, took possession of the portion of Gujrat up to the borders of Rādhanpur and Khābar and plundered Nābarā.

In 1540 A.D He aided uday singh in rescuing throne of mewar and took possession of khairwa and large part of godwad.

In 1540 A. D. he aided Mahārānā Udayasingh in rescuing the throne of Mēwār from the clutches of Banabīr, the illegitimate son of Prithvīrāj. He also took possession of Khairwā and a large part of Gōdwād.

in 1542 A.D He invaded Bikaner , killed the ruler and annexed it along with district of jhunjhanu

In 1542 A. D. Rāo Māldēv invaded Bīkānēr, put its ruler Rāo Jaitsī to the sword and annexed it along with the district of Jhūnjhanū to his possessions.

enemies of maldev placed sher shah against him. When He heard that sher shah is coming , he also marched with a strong army. Even Sher shah was shocked and was thinking to retreat.

Emperor Humāyūn, after his defeat by Shērshah in 1542 sought the help of Rāo Māldēv, but due to some misunderstanding he left the place and went towards Umarkōṭ by way of Phalōdī. This afforded an opportunity to Bīramdēv and Bhīm, the second son of the late Rāo Jaitsī of Bīkānēr, to poison the ears of Shērshāh against Rāo Māldēv, and in 1543 A.D. Shērshāh marched with a huge army against the Rāo. On receipt of this news, Rāo Māldēv too proceeded towards Ajmer with an army of 80,000 strong to give battle to the invader. When Shērshāh was apprised of the strength of Rāo Māldēv's force, his enthusiasm cooled down, and he wished to turn back. But

But Biramdev played a trick and caused nobles of maldev to betray him hence only 12000 horses arrived to attack sher shah.

Bīramdev persuaded him to wait and himself despatched some

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forged letters to the address of some of the leading nobles of Māldēv. He also managed to let these letters fall into the hands of the Rāo instead of those of the addressees. This strategem succeeded and Rāo Māldēv being ignorant of the trick got suspicious that his nobles were in league with the enemy and retreated towards Jōdhpur under cover of night. But his noble generals Jaitā and Kūnpā as well as some others refused to retire beyond Girarī (in Jaitaran District) and with a force of only 12,000 horse turned back to attack Shērshāh in the night. Unfortunately they lost their way in the darkness, and only half of their number was able to reach Sumēl to face the enemy at day break.

but Rathores didn't care. They attacked sher shah and Fought with such bravery that sher shah wanted to quit the battle with his army .But another fresh army was called finally Rathores fell.

Under these circumstances, it was not prudent enough for them to attack an army of 80,000 men, but the brave Rāṭhōṛs did not care for the odds against them and atonce charged on the Pathān army. They fought with such valour and recklessness that Shērshāh was about to quit the field with his army. But as the fortune did not favour the Rāṭhōṛs from the very beginning, Jalālkhān, a noble of Shērshāh, reached there with a fresh army at that critical moment and his joining the army at that time changed the fate of the day. The brave Rāthōrs, already reduced to a small number, fell fighting to a man after laying low a yet greater number of the opponents.

Sher shah was shocked when he won. As he almost lost entire Hindustan for a small empire he thought to himself.

Shērshāh did not believe this news of victory at first when it was conveyed to him, but when he came to know of the facts as they stood, he uttered "Thank God that the victory is mine, otherwise I would have lost the Empire of Hindustan for a handful of Bājrā" (a kind of corn).

Maldev Rathore lost some territories in this battle.

When Rāo Māldēv became aware of the true facts, he repented very much for his unjust suspicion, but as the time for action had passed away, he was obliged to go away towards Siwānā for the time being.

After this battle Shērshāh, the victorious Paṭhān king atonce marched towards Jōdhpur and captured it in 1544 A. D. He returned Mertā to Rāo Bīramdēv and Bīkānēr to Rāo Kalyānmal, the elder son of the late Rāo Jaitsī.

But he raised another army and recaptured his lost territories .

After his (Shērshāh's) retreat Rāo Māldēv collected sufficient men and material from the districts of Mārwār and in 1546 A. D. first captured Bhāngēsar (in Pali district) and then Jodhpur. In course of time he took possession of Phalōdī Ajmer, Pokaran, Bāhadmēr, Kōtarā, Mērtā, Jālore and Badnore also.

He chastised the Bhāṭis of Jaisalmēr and twice put the armies of Mahārānā Udayasingh to rout.

Maldev Rathore even had clashes with Akbar later on who failed to bring this brave rajput king under him.

Source : Glories of marwar and glorious Rathores.

Fun fact : He is of my favourite rajput king ■