

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Third Year)

Subject: History

Paper Code: HSD 101

**Paper Title: History of Goa (From the Phase of Resistance to
Statehood and Beyond)**

Unit: I Resistance to Colonial Hegemony in Goa

Module Name: Rane Revolts

Module No: 04

Name of the Presenter: Shruti S. Bhosale, Assistant Professor

P.E.S's Ravi S. Naik College of Arts and Science

Farmagudi, Ponda-Goa

Notes

The Ranes were the Goan warrior clans of the New Conquest residing in Sattari. There was always a conflict between Ranes and their overlords, Bhonsles of Sawantwadi over the feudal taxes. Ranes helped the Portuguese against the Bhonsles of Sawantawadi. Ranes became the vassals of the Portuguese. In 1740, Portuguese occupied Sanquelim and Sattari Mahal and promised to protect their age-old rights and privileges. But soon the Ranes were disillusioned. The Portuguese encroached the feudal rights that were granted to the Ranes. Ranes enjoyed lesser freedom under Portuguese than under Sawants of wadi. They revolted against the Portuguese several times between 1752 to 1912. The Ranes revolted during the following years:

Dipaji Rane (1852- 1855)

Kushtoba Rane (1869- 71)

Dada Rane (1895- 97)

Rane Revolts (1901- 1912)

The Ranes revolted under Dipaji Rane in 1852. The Portuguese increased the agricultural tax in order to increase their revenue. The people of Sattari lost traditional feudal rights and privileges under the Portuguese. To add fuel to the fire, there was a decree that was passed by the Portuguese government whereby men were forced to wear trousers instead of dhoti and women were forced to wear western dresses instead of *dentli* saree. The government appointed Portuguese soldiers to check on the implementation of the decree. On the pretext of inspection, the Portuguese soldiers raped several women.

The Ranes protested against these atrocities under the leader Dipaji Rane. They captured the fort of Nanus and it became their centre of activities. The fort was filled with arms and ammunitions. Very soon the Portuguese were successful in driving the Portuguese out from Sattari, Quepem, Canacona, Hemad Barshe and Bhatgram.

To maintain his forces the Ranes looted the government treasury and rich Goans. He had a limited army and resources. He adopted Guerilla war tactics and the hilly area of Sattari was an advantage to him. There were several attempts made by the Portuguese government to arrest Dipaji Rane which failed. He had become a legendary hero. The Portuguese spent a huge amount in maintenance of an extra military force. Finally, the government deputed an army officer- Jose Paulo de Olivero who became a mediator between Dipaji Rane and the

Portuguese. Finally, in 1755 a treaty was signed between Dipaji Rane and the Portuguese. Following are the terms of the treaty:

- To defend the rights of village councils
- To remove all forces and enforcement on religious institutions
- To grant seeds and agricultural implements to the farmers and to establish a regiment of the Marathas of Sattari with the view of retaining their martial spirit.
- To grant amnesty to all those who participated in the revolt.

Dipaji Rane was awarded with a ceremonial dress, Sword and title of Captain.

The next revolt was Kushtoba Rane revolt that took place in 1867. There are personal, economic, social and political reasons for this revolt. There was enmity between *Kshatriyas* and *Brahmins* of Sattari. Kushtoba Rane waged a relentless war against the priestly society. The Brahmins were posted on the higher posts of clerks in administrative offices. They took advantage of poor *ryots* and *gaonkars*. The Portuguese ignored all these atrocities by the *Brahmins*. Another reason for this revolt was that a widow of Kushtoba's family was dishonored by a *Brahmin*. Kushtoba's father and brother were alleged of a murder. He looted villages and committed murder but never touched the poor. He never molested women unlike the Portuguese. On June 13, 1871 Kushtoba was killed by the Revenue administrator of the 4th division Constancio de Rosario e Miranda.

The next revolt that happened was of Dada Rane in 1895. There was Decree that was passed forcing Goan soldiers to sail to the Portuguese African colonies to suppress the revolt of the Capri Tribe. Crossing the sea was a taboo for the Hindus. The soldiers appealed to the government, but their appeals were

left unheard. The next reason was the disappointment of the cultivators. The soldiers joined cultivators of Sattari under their leader Dada Rane. 90 Soldiers were captured. They invaded Bardez on October 14, 1895. They looted the Church at Thivim, raided Mapusa. Mapusa was surrendered. The Mayor of Mapusa was attacked, Municipal treasury looted. Comunidade treasury was robbed. The Government distributed arms among the villagers for self-protection. The villagers of Aldona lost 31 men and retreated. Prince of Portugal Afonso Henriques sent reinforcement. Governor Joaquim Machado decided to sign a treaty with Dada Rane. The religious head of Ranes was invited. They accepted all the terms of Dada Rane but later betrayed him and shot him dead.

The next revolt was Moriyarao and Jil Sawant Rane (1912). The Constitutional Monarchy was overthrown in Portugal. Republican rule was establishment in Portugal. This raised the hopes of *gaonkars* and *ryots* of Sattari. But they were soon disillusioned. The Portuguese government increased tax on locals. Felling of trees was banned. They increased rent on paddy fields. To inspect the situation, the villagers invited the Governor General Francisco Manuel Couceiro da Costa for inspection of Sattari. During the same time, a government farm in Valpoi was burnt and the Ranes were blamed for the same. The demands of the villagers were refused.

The Revolt under Moriyarao Rane began. The plan of action was that there was assassination of government officers, soldiers, plunder and burning of police outposts. Two groups were made. Moriyarao Rane had Bicholim, Assnora and Banastari under him and Jil Sawant had Sanguema and Canacona. The revolt was supported by Goan Catholics as well. Jil Sawant was killed at Kuskem, Canacona. The Hindu spiritual leader- the Swami of Kolhapur, Shrimad Sadchinand idhya

Shankar Bharati was invited. He criticized *ryots* and *gaonkars* for rebelling against the Portuguese. Forces from Macau and Africa were called. Sattari was captured again by Portuguese on November 28, 1912. The rebels were deported to the island of Principe.