

Chetak- The Epitome of Loyalty



*Prachi Bagla**



Picture : Dr. Peeyush Jain

Chetak was the favourite personal stallion of Maharana Pratap, 13th king of Mewar [1] and successor of Uday Singh II. It was a well built, sure footed, sturdy male horse of Marwari breed (in some texts described as of Kathiawadi or Arabi breed) with a graceful appearance. Though not very tall, it had bright eyes, high forehead, curved ears touching each other at the top end, and long face. Its weight was more than that of normal horses. Documented to have a blue shiny coat, it was known as 'neela ghoda' (blue horse) and Maharana Pratap as 'rider

of the blue horse'. Chetak is also described as a 'Horse with Peacock Neck' (mayura greeva) as its neck resembled that of a peacock.

Chetak was very active and aggressive horse, submissive only to Maharana. Its name means 'the one who remains conscious'. True to its name, it had exceptional level of alertness.

It was very obedient, faithful and loved Pratap.

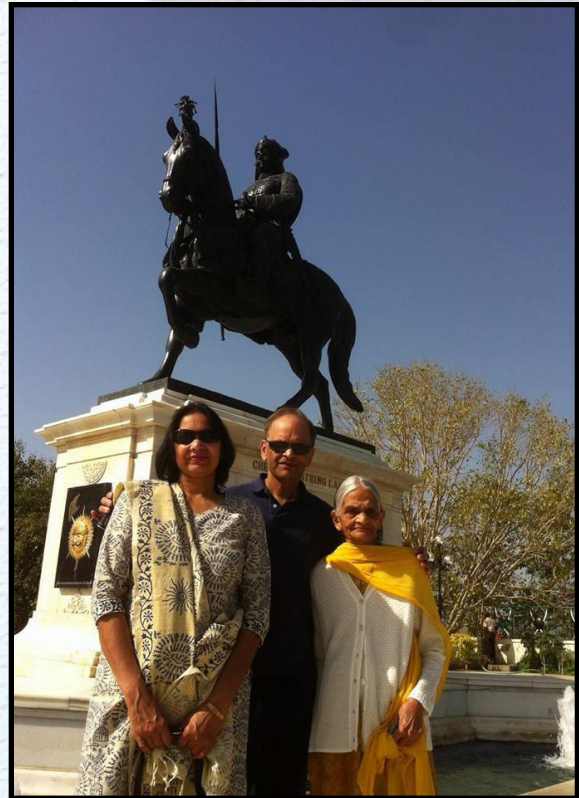
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How Maharana acquired Chetak

Maharana Pratap had acquired three horses trained for fighting in battles and well versed with rugged terrains of the region, named Chetak, Atak and Natak from travelling sellers belonging to 'Danti Charans' tribe in a small village Khod near Chotila in Saurashtra region of Gujarat state. These sellers had the business of selling high breed horses to kings in Gujarat and Rajasthan (according to some sources two colts, not three, were gifted to Maharana by the said traders). Out of these Atak got injured in the trail and was sent for treatment, Natak was gifted by Maharana to his younger brother and he retained Chetak for himself. Since then, Chetak became Pratap's permanent companion accompanying him bravely in several battles including the Battle of Haldighati.



Picture : Dr. Peeyush Jain



Pictures: Dr. Prasoon Jain at Maharana Pratap Memorial, Udaipur

Who was Maharana Pratap

Maharana Pratap was the ruler of Mewar, a region in North-Western India in Rajasthan. Born under dynasty of Sisodias of Mewar on 9th May 1540 [2], he was son of Udai Singh II and his queen Jaiwanta Bai. Despite being the eldest, his route to the throne was not smooth. He had to suffer evil designs of his step mother Rani Dheer Bai who wanted her son Jagmal to be the king. However, Pratap was made the king when Jagmal was found unfit to rule by the court. His coronation took place on 28th February 1572 and his rule lasted till 19th January 1597 when he died at the age of 56 years. [3]

Pratap is considered one of the greatest warrior and a man of determination and conviction as per the history of Rajputs. He did not follow footsteps of his Rajput predecessors who had given in to the expansionist moves of the Mughals. He is particularly remembered for his (Rajput) resistance against mighty Akbar in the Battle of Haldighati that gave him the status of 'folk hero'.

Battle of Haldighati and the role of Chetak

Akbar sent diplomatic missions to offer Pratap to create peaceful alliance. Pratap sent his son Amar Singh to Mughal court to refuse the proposal to which Akbar took offence and hence, there was fierce battle between two mighty rulers in 1576 at Haldighati, some 40 km from Udaipur.. This battle, called Battle of Haldighati, took place on 18th June 1576 and lasted for merely four hours [4], perhaps one of the shortest yet prominent in Indian History.

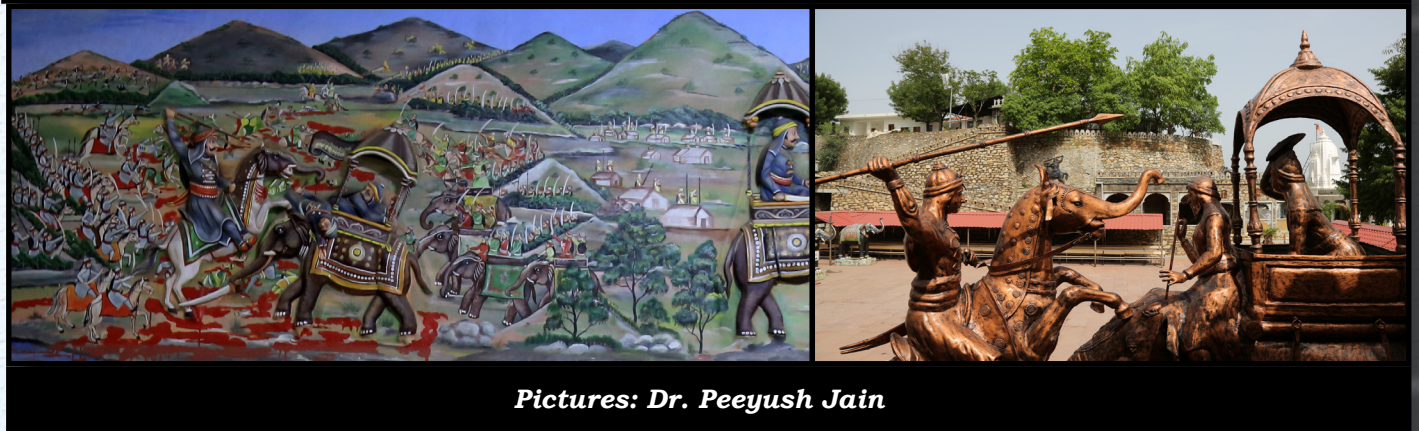
Maharana was on the back of Chetak and he moved on to Haldighati with his army. The gimmick used in was to cover Chetak's face with an elephant's mask to confuse the elephants in the army. Akbar's army was led by Raja Man Singh II of Amer. Chetak brought Pratap within striking distance of Man Singh to allow a frontal attack. Man Singh rode an exceptionally big elephant. Chetak charged Man Singh's elephant and placed hooves of its forelegs onto the trunk of the elephant to enable Maharana to target Man Singh accurately. Unfortunately Chetak got one of its legs pierced by tusk of the elephant while coming down. In the meantime, Maharana threw his lance at Man Singh but missed the target killing the navigator (mahout) instead.



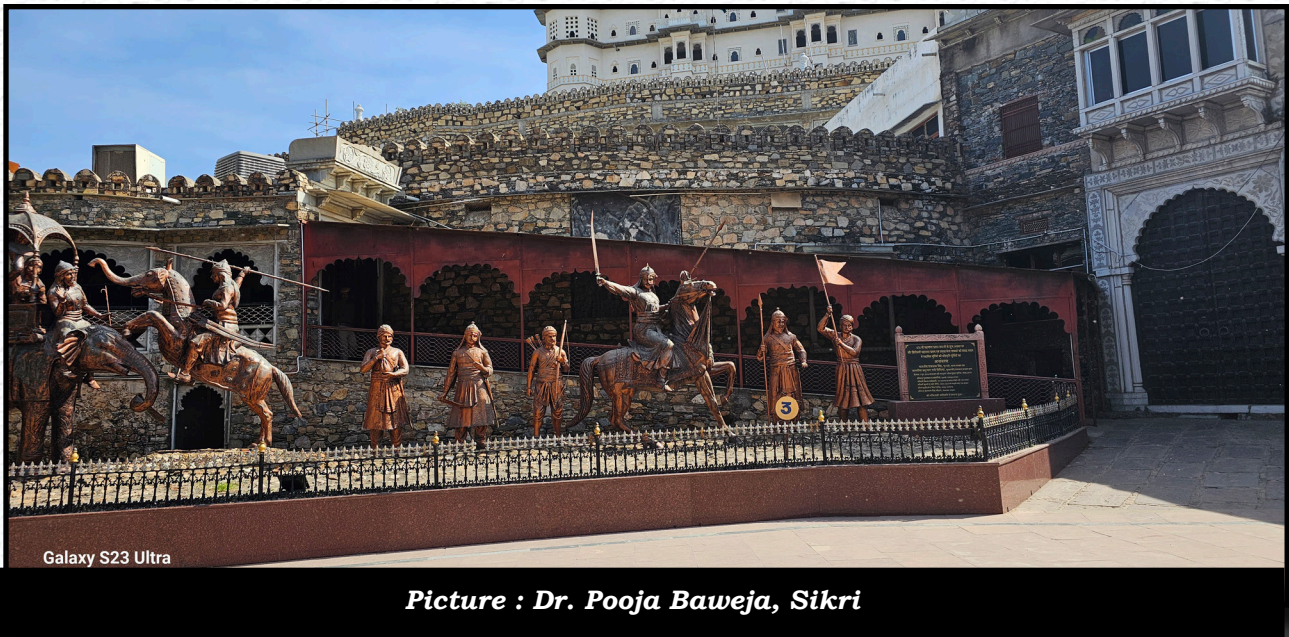
Picture : Dr. Peeyush Jain



Pictures : Dr. Pooja Baweja, Sikri



Pictures: Dr. Peeyush Jain



Picture : Dr. Pooja Baweja, Sikri

The war was unfair to start with in that Akbar's army number-wise was superior (22000 soldiers against 200000 soldiers of Akbar [5]) due to which Pratap lost the battle despite high morale of his army. Wounded and bleeding profusely and under severe pain, Chetak sensed gravity of the situation and rode swiftly on his three legs with great fortitude giving his chasers a slip. In its gravely injured condition, it jumped 25 feet gap between two mountains. It took its last breath (18th June 1576) only after taking its master to safe place. [6]. It was only due to its intelligent act and unprecedented loyalty that Mughals could not capture Pratap.



Pictures: Dr. Peeyush Jain

Maharana Pratap Museum and Chetak Samadhi

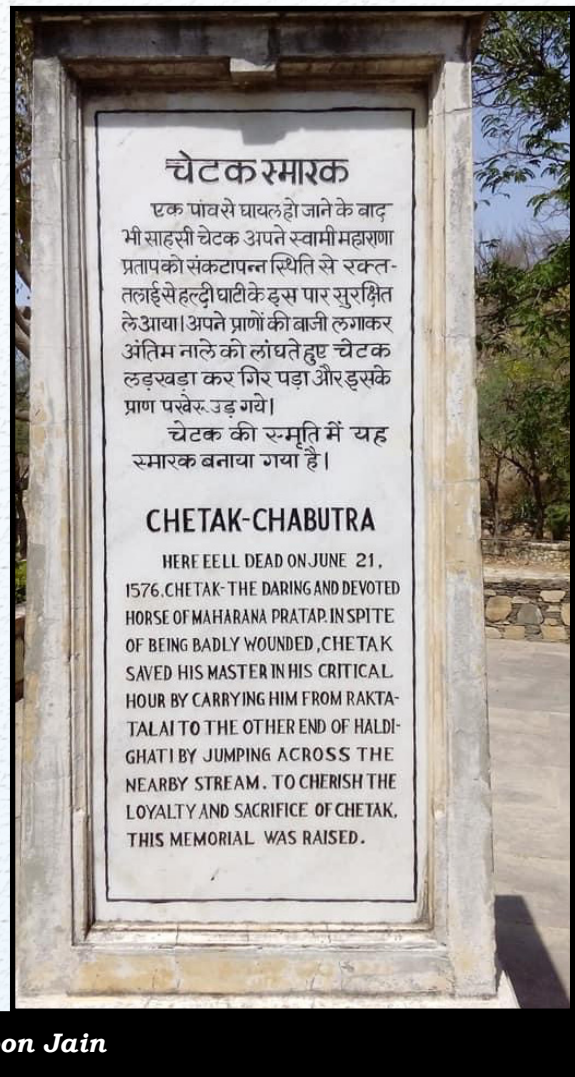
The inspirational contribution of Chetak is marked in golden letters in the history of Rajputs and that of Maharana Pratap. To acknowledge the role of Chetak and Pratap's

supreme love for his horse, Chetak Samadhi is built at the edge of the mountain pass in the Aravalli Range of Rajasthan, leading to Haldighati. It is reported to be the spot where Chetak had collapsed and passed away. Also called Chetak Chaburta, the campus is peaceful with probably not too many visitors. Though it is in the ambit of ASI, and declared 'Monument of National Importance' it requires better maintenance. Condition of Chhatris, structures and a temple in the campus speaks volumes.

Across the road is Maharana Pratap Museum also called Haldighati Museum that provides full information about Maharana Pratap. Founder and owner of this Museum is Dr. Mohan Lal Srimali who developed it with initial help from the Government and later with his own resources to pay a rich tribute to Pratap and to boost tourism in the area. Highlights of the museum are the weapons, paintings and models showing scenes from Pratap's life and a light & sound show detailing the role of Chetak in Pratap's life (apart from glimpses of civilization and culture of Mewar and life of Maharana Pratap).



Pictures: Dr. Prasoon Jain



Pictures: Dr. Praseon Jain

Concluding Remarks

Chetak is remembered with deep reverence, till date as the most obedient, faithful, intelligent, responsible and elegant companion of Maharana Pratap. There is no other animal in India's rich history and folklores that has received such adulation and admiration. There are ballads, novels, researches, songs, folklores sung in Mewar region, poems, TV serials and movies on Maharana and his Chetak.

गाना / Title: ओ पवन वेग से उड़ने वाले घोड़े तुझ पे सवार है जो - o pavan veg se u.Dane vaale gho.De tujh pe savaar hai jo

चित्रपट / Film: Jai Chittaud

संगीतकार / Music Director: S N Tripathi

गीतकार / Lyricist: भरत व्यास-(Bharat Vyas)

गायक / Singer(s): लता मंगेशकर-(Lata Mangeshkar)

राग / Raag: Malkauns

lyricsindia.net

ओ पवन वेग से उड़ने वाले घोड़े
तुझ पे सवार है जो, मेरा सुहाग है वो
रखियो रे आज उनकी लाज हो, ओ पवन ...

१) तेरे कंधों पर आज भार है मेवाड़ का
करना पड़ेगा तुझको सामना पहाड़ का
हल्दी घाटी नहीं है काम कोई खिलवाड़ का
देना जवाब वहाँ शेरों की दहाड़ का
घड़ियां तूफान की हैं
तेरे इम्तहान की हैं
रखियो रे आज उनकी लाज हो, ओ पवन ...

२) छक्के छुड़ाना देना तू दुश्मनों की चाल के
उनकी छाती पे चढ़ना पाँव तू उछाल के
लाना सुहाग मेरा वापस तू सम्भाल के
तेरे इतिहास में अक्षर होंगे गुलाल के
चेतक महान है तू
बिजली की बान है तू
रखियो रे आज उनकी लाज हो, ओ पवन ...

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'Chetak ki Veerta' by Shyam Pandey

“रण बीच चौकड़ी भर-भर कर
चेतक बन गया निराला था
राणाप्रताप के घोड़े से
पड़ गया हवा का पाला था
जो तनिक हवा से बाग हिली
लेकर सवार उड़ जाता था
राणा की पुतली फिरी नहीं
तब तक चेतक मुड़ जाता था
गिरता न कभी चेतक तन पर
राणाप्रताप का कोड़ा था
वह दौड़ रहा अरिमस्तक पर
वह आसमान का घोड़ा था
था यहीं रहा अब यहाँ नहीं
वह वहीं रहा था यहाँ नहीं
थी जगह न कोई जहाँ नहीं
किस अरिमस्तक पर कहाँ नहीं
निर्भक गया वह ढालों में
सरपट दौड़ा करबालों में
फँस गया शत्रु की चालों में
बढ़ते नद-सा वह लहर गया
फिर गया गया फिर ठहर गया
विकराल वज्रमय बादल-सा
अरि की सेना पर घहर गया
भाला गिर गया गिरा निसंग
हथ टापों से खन गया अंग
बैरी समाज रह गया दंग
घोड़े का ऐसा देख रंग”

isharethese.com

CHETAK: THE WONDER HORSE

TV Movie · 2012 · 1h 35m




Animation History

CHETAK (Horse), the wonder horse is story of loyalty to his master. It is a story of friendship between CHETAK and MAHARANA PRATAP (King). He is fun loving. He is dare - devil. He is romanti... [Read all](#)

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∨ Top credits

STREAMING



<http://www.hotstar.com>

Jai Chitod (1961)

Jaswant Jhaveri



m.imdb.com




google.com

Bharat Ka Veer Putra Maharana Pratap

2013 · Drama · 1 season

Overview Cast Watch show Reviews

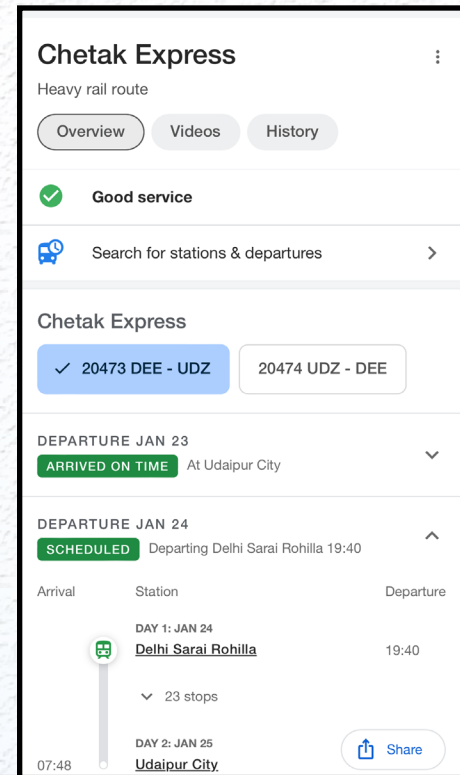


Rating: 8.3/10 · [IMDb >](#)

Network > Sony Entertainment

Starring Faisal Khan; Shakti Anand; Sharad

google.com



Considering Chetak as a synonym of speed, its name has been used by Indian Railways (Chetak Express), Bajaj Automobiles Ltd (Bajaj Chetak), and Aerospatiale Aloutte III (HAL Chetak Helicopter).

If invincible Maharana is a symbol of valour, conviction and determination, Chetak is an icon and emblematic of loyalty, obedience and intelligence. Pratap lost Battle of Haldighati. How he reassembled his forces and reclaimed his land is a different line of history (not covered here) but Chetak's role in that part is duly acknowledged.

An immortal tale in the great Indian Medieval History and folklore!!

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