



# SANYUKTA MAHARASHTRA MOVEMENT

DR. DHAWALE J. S.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

ARTS & SCIENCE COLLEGE, SHIVAJINAGAR, GADHI

## SANYUKTA MAHARASHTRA SAMITI

- Roughly translated as united Maharashtra Committee, was an organization that spearheaded the demand in the 1950s for the creation of a separate Marathi – speaking state out of the (then bilingual) State of Bombay in western India, with the city of Bombay (now Known as Mumbai) as its Capital.

- The organization was founded on February 6, 1956, under the leadership of Keshavrao Jedhe in Pune.
- Some prominent activists of Sanyukta Maharashtra samiti were
  - Acharya Atre
  - Prabodhankar Thackeray
  - Senapati bapat
  - Shahir Amar Shaikh

- Acharya Atre criticized Jawaharlal Nehru, Morarji Desai (Then chief minister of Mumbai) and S.K Patil ( a prominent Mp form Mumbai City) Through his firebrand editorials in Maratha.

- The Indian National Congress had pledged to introduce linguistic states prior to independence. However, after Independence, Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were adamantly opposed to linguistic states.
- They perceived linguistic states as a threat to the integrity of India.
- For the first time and perhaps the only time, RSS and its chief Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar supported Nehru and Patel against redrawing of the map along linguistic lines.

- In 1956, the SRC (States Re-organization Committee) recommended creation of linguistic states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, but recommended a bilingual state for Maharashtra –Gujarat, with Mumbai as its capital.
- Further, they recommended the creation of Vidarbha state to unite the Marathi –speaking people of former Hyderabad State with Marathi speaking areas of Central provinces and Berar state.

- This led to the creation of the predecessor movement sanyuka Maharashtra Parishad, inaugurated on November 1, 1956, causing a great political stir and, under the leadership of Keshavrao Jedhe a whole party meeting was held in Pune and sanyukta Maharashtra samiti was founded on February 6, 1956.

- S.M. Joshi, Shripat Amrit Dange, N.G Gore and Prahlad Keshav Atre fought relentlessly for Sanyukta Maharashtra, even at the cost of sacrificing the lives of several people and finally succeeded in convincing congress leaders that Maharashtra Should form a separate state.
- The resignation of C.D. Deshmukh, the then Finance Minister of Nehru Cabinet, had its salutary effect.



- In January 1956, demonstrators were fired upon by the police at flora fountain in Mumbai. Flora Fountain was subsequently renamed Hutatma chowk (“Martyr’s Crossroads”) in their memory.
- It is estimated that in all, 105 people were shot by security forces during the period of agitation and at different places.
- Morarji Desai, who was the then chief minister of Bombay state was later removed and replaced by Y.B. Chavan as a result of criticism related to this incident.

- The Sanyukta Maharashtra Samiti achieved its goal on May 1, 1960 when the State of Bombay was partitioned into the Marathi speaking state of Maharashtra and the Gujarati – speaking State of Gujarat.
- However, Goa (then a Portuguese colony), Belgoan, Karwar and adjoining areas, which were also part of the Maharashtra envisaged by the samiti, were not included in Maharashtra State.

- 1906 : Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak conceptualizes the state of Maharashtra.
- 1919 : Congress Democratic Party included demand of state of Maharashtra in its manifesto. The manifesto is drafted under leadership of Tilak.
- Oct 1, 1938 : The legislative assembly of Central Province passes the resolution to break away from bi-lingual Bombay presidency and form a separate state of Vidarbha.
- Oct 15, 1938 : A Marathi literary meet, presided over by V.D. Savarkar, passes a resolution for a separate state for Marathi speaking areas including Vidarbha.
- Jan 28, 1940 : The Samyukta Mahasabha organization is formed in Bombay ( now Mumbai) to pursue the resolution passed at the literary meet.
- **Chronology of statehood of Maharashtra (Timeline)**

- **April 13, 1947** : The Akola pact is finalized between Shankar Rao Deo and Madhav Ane. It is decided that the Maharashtra Ekikaran Parishad will work on formation of Sanyukta Maharashtra including maha Vidarbha, Marathwada, Bombay and Maharashtra.
- **Jun 17, 1948** : The Union government appoints a commission to be headed by the president of the constitutional council, SK Dhar, to study the formation of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala.
- **Dec 10, 1948**: The Congress accepts the principal of the formation of the states on linguistic lines at its Jaipur conclave. A committee comprising Pittabhi sitaramiya, Jawaharlal Nehru and vallabhbhai Patel is formed to reconsider this issue.

- **1940-45** : The demand of Maharashtra takes back seat due to world war and quit India Movement.
- **May 12, 1946** : A resolution of sanyukta Maharashtra ( Unified Maharashtra) is passed at the literary meet in Belgaum, which is presided over by GT Madkholkar. A Committee comprising Madkholkar, DV Potdar, Shankarrao Deo, Keshavrao Jhede and SS Navare is constituted to implement the resolution.
- **Jul 28, 1946** : The committee holds a conference, Maharashtra Ekikaran Parishad, in Bombay, organized by SK Patil and presided by Shankarrao Deo. Around 200 delegates from Maharashtra, south Maharashtra, Vidhyarbha and Marathwada are present for the conference and resolution of Samyukta Maharashtra is passed after Acarya Dada Dharmadhikari's proposal.
- **Dec 1946** : People supporting the formation of state on linguistic lines hold a meeting in New Delhi under leadership of Pattabhi Sitaramaiya.

- **Nov 4, 1953** : Shankar Rao Deo writes Nehru and demands formation of samukta Maharashtra.
- **Dec 29, 1953** : Union government constitutes the State Reformation Board under Fazal Ali.
- **Aug 1954** : Fazal Ali files report after touring Nagpur, Chanda, Akola, Amravati, Pune, and then Bombay
- **Oct 10, 1955** : Fazal Ali's report is made public. The report suggests formation of two states, Bombay and Vidarbha. Ali proposes Bombay with two divisions Gujarat, including Kutch and Saurashtra, and Maharashtra, including Marathwada. However, the Samyukta Maharashtra Parishad opposes this proposal.
- **Oct 19, 1955** : Nehru suggests formation of three states : Sanyukta Maharashtra, including Vidarbha and Marathwada, Maha Gujarat, including Kutch and Saurashtra and Bombay. However, Shankarrao Deo and Dhananjay Gadgil suggest two states: Samyukta Maharashtra, including Vidarbha, Marathwada and Bombay, and Maha Gujarat, including Kutch and Saurashtra.

- Nov 8, 1955 : Congress working committee accepts Nehru's tri-state formula.
- Nov 18, 1955: The left parties observe the strike in Bombay.
- Nov 20, 1955: Morarji Desai and S.K. Patil hold rally at Girgaon chowpatty challenging the supporters of Sanyukta Maharashtra.
- Nov 21, 1955: The left parties take a morcha ( procession) to the state legislature, which the police try to stop. Fifteen people die and 200 are injured as the police open fire on the Morcha at flora fountain (now known as Hutatama chowk) after some people throw stones. Chamanlal sheth, a reporter from the Gujarati daily Janmabhoomi, is killed while covering the Morcha.
- Nov 1955: Non-Congress political parties form the Sanyukta Maharashtra samiti in Pune.
- Dec 1, 1955: Yashwantrao Chavan states that if he has to make a choice between sanyukta Maharashtra and Nehru, he will choose Nehru.
- Jan 16, 1956: Violent agitations follow Nehru's announcement of making Bombay a union territory.

- Jan 22, 1956: Union minister C.D. Deshmukh resigns from the Nehru's Cabinet and alleges that Nehru nurtures ill – will towards Maharashtra.
- Jun 3, 1956, Nehru declares Bombay a Union territory for five years but refuses to make the city capital of Maharashtra. He announces a high court and a public service commission for Bombay Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Aug 10, 1956 : Lok Sabha passes a resolution for bigger bilingual state of Bombay. The state includes: Sanyukta Maharashtra, including Bombay, and Maha Gujarat including Kutch and Saurashtra.
- Nov 1956 : Sanyukta Maharashtra Samiti starts satyagraha
- Mar 28, 1960 : Proposal of division of bigger bilingual state of Bombay is put up in lok sabha.
- April 21, 1960 : Lok Sabha gives its approval for a divided bigger bilingual state of Bombay.



- **May 1, 1960:**
- **Maharashtra is formed with Bombay as its Capital.**

# References:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SamyuktaMaharashtramovement>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronologyofstatehoodofmaharashtra>

**THANK YOU**

The background is a solid dark blue color. In the center, the words "THANK YOU" are written in a large, white, bold, serif font. The background is decorated with several faint, light blue technical diagrams. On the right side, there is a large circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 210 and a needle pointing towards 180. Below it is another circular diagram with concentric circles and arrows. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular diagram with a dashed arrow pointing counter-clockwise. A vertical blue bar is located on the far left edge of the image.