

Hony. Lieut.-General His Highness Maharejadhiraj Raj Rajeshwar Narendra Shiromani Maharaja Sri Sadul Singhji Bahadur, G.C.I.E., C.V.O., is the 22nd Ruler of Bikaner since its foundation by Rao Bikaji in 1465. Bikaner is the sixth largest State in India and has a progressive administration under its enlightened Ruler.

His Highness was born on the 7th September 1902 and ascended the throne on the 2nd February 1943. His Highness has visited Europe several times. He accompanied his father to Europe when he attended the Peace Conference and the meetings of the League of Nations in 1924. He worked as Chief Minister of the State from 1920 to 1925.

The Rulers of Bikaner have always been great warriors and have a proved record to their credit. During the second World War His Highness, following in the footsteps of his illustrious father, proceeded on Active Service to the Middle East Theatre of War in November 1943 with his second son, Maharaj Kumar Sri Amar Singhji Bahadur. His eldest son, the Heir Apparent had already been on Active Service, having accompanied his grandfather to the Middle East in 1941. In November 1944, His Highness proceeded to the Assam Burma Front to inspect the Bikaner Bijey Battery, a unit of his army, which had taken a conspicuous part in the fight against the Japs in the Arakan and Manipur and Assam.

Activities connected with the transfer of



power to India by Britain during the years 1946-47 brought His Highness' talents as a statesman to a free play. When among his brother Princes many were undecided and hesitating as to what policy to adopt, H.H. gave a bold lead and along with a few of the States who were of similar view, entered the Constituent Assembly of India which was meeting to frame an All-India Constitution. This paved the way and soon the entire Princely Order gave their wholehearted co-operation in the work of the Assembly. His Highness was mainly responsible in thus saving the country from disintegration.

His Highness also took a leading part in the negotiations regarding the accession of States to the Indian Union and was among the first Indian Princes to have signified his consent to accede to the Dominion of India.

His Highness takes from the State revenue only a small fixed percentage for his personal expenditure which is completely separate from the State on well-defined principles. He has a progressive outlook and was the first Ruler of a major Indian State to announce responsible government for his people under the aegis of the Ruler which will very soon be put into effect. He is a great believer in a liberal taxation policy and has abolished various cesses, levies and taxes which, though they had been in vogue for centuries, were



not in keeping with the modern times. "I dedicate myself in the service of my people" is his motto; and everyone of them, with no distinction whatever, has direct approach to him. By his generous sympathy for the suffering and by his large-heartedness, he has, within the few years he has been on the throne, enshrined himself in the hearts of his beloved people.

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Tecnológico  
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