

18. Management of the Welfare State of Swaraj



Can you tell?

- Name the various powers that Shivaji Maharaj fought.

Shivaji Maharaj struggled long against many unjust powers. They were the Adilshahi and Moghul powers, the Portuguese, and the Siddis of Janjira. That is how an independent Hindavi Swaraj was created.

For smooth working, Shivaji Maharaj divided the administration into eight departments. He appointed a Minister in charge of each. This was his famous council of eight ministers. The Swaraj of Shivaji Maharaj was a State run for the welfare of the people in the true sense of the term. It was run with the assistance of the eight ministers. Shivaji Maharaj himself made the appointments of these

eight ministers and other important officers on the basis of their eligibility and merit. He supervised all their work.



Do you know?

Food, clothing and shelter are the basic necessities of life. In a welfare State, these needs of people are satisfied. Women are honoured. Common people, peasants are not deceived. Injustice is not done to anyone. Justice is dispensed quickly. Agriculture and industries develop well. Folk arts flourish. People can live a happy, contented life.

People lived happily in the Swaraj created by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Therefore, the qualities of confidence, self-respect and patriotism strongly emerged among the people of Maharashtra.

The Council of Eight Ministers

	Name of the Minister	Designation	Department
1.	Moro Trimbak Pingle	Pradhan	Administration (Political)
2.	Ramchandra Nilkanth Muzumdar	Amatya	Revenue and Accounts of the State
3.	Hambirrao Mohite	Senapati	Defence
4.	Moreshwar Panditrao	Panditrao	Religious Matters
5.	Niraji Rawaji	Nyayadhish	Justice
6.	Annaji Datto	Sachiv	Government Orders
7.	Dattaji Trimbak Wankar	Mantri	Correspondence
8.	Ramchandra Trimbak Dabir	Sumant	Foreign Relations



Shivaji distributing pairs of oxen and other basic necessities



Something for you to do.

- Copy the ‘Royal Edict for the Protection of Environment’ given in this textbook in big and beautiful letters and make a chart. Read it aloud in the classroom.

Protection of Environment

‘Natural environment’ includes the land in nature, as also factors like air, rain, rivers and streams, seas, forests, the birds and animals, light received from the sun, etc. It is beneficial for man to make use of this environment only to meet his necessities.

Shivaji Maharaj took precautions to avoid the destruction of these environmental factors.

Shivaji Maharaj saw to it that the forests in his kingdom would not be destroyed by the people. From the 'Royal Edict', we can see that he had issued many orders like the following : For the navy, it is necessary to build boats and ships of various sizes and their beams, masts, oars, etc., for which wood is required. To obtain this wood, only teak trees should be cut. If more teakwood is required, it should be purchased from foreign territories. But on no account should mango, jackfruit or other trees be cut. They don't grow in a year or two. People look after them like their own children in order to grow them. Cutting them is to inflict sorrow on the people. It should not be done. Even when a tree is greatly worn out, it should be cut only after paying the owner and getting his consent.



Protection of Environment



Always remember !

‘World Environment Day’ is celebrated every year on 5th June, to emphasize the importance of conserving and protecting the environment.

Water Management

Shivaji Maharaj had various bunds built near the villages in Swaraj, to make drinking water available to the people. Canals were dug out to make water available for agriculture. Due to this, there was an increase in the produce. People in Swaraj never felt the severity of droughts. During the regime of Shivaji

Maharaj, the number of people living on forts was quite large. Shivaji Maharaj took care to make proper arrangements for water on the forts. Before building a fort, the place was inspected to see whether enough water was available there. In case it didn't have water, tanks and reservoirs were built there, before the onset of the rainy season, and rainwater was stored in them.

The stored water was used economically. Due to such water management, people on the forts and other subjects in Swaraj did not suffer from shortage of water even during drought periods.



Shivaji Maharaj made arrangements for drinking water and irrigation by constructing bunds and canals



Can you tell?

- Why should we use water economically?
- Name a dam or lake situated near your village or locality.
- What is water management?
- What are the government schemes for water management?



Do you know?

- The Government has started the project 'Jalyukt Shivar' to make Maharashtra a drought free State.

Drought Relief

Shivaji Maharaj gave various facilities to drought-affected peasants. He used to waive taxes. So the severity of

drought was reduced for people in Swaraj. In a drought year, Shivaji Maharaj distributed the grain stored in the State granaries free of cost to the people. He also undertook repairs of various forts and construction of dams, bunds and canals during drought years. This way, peasants and artisans or *balutedars* could earn their daily living and did not feel the severity of drought.

As the peasant became wealthy, he could afford to buy things like footwear, clothes, etc. This provided work to the artisans. Those who were homeless till then, developed the capacity to build their own houses. This in turn provided work to the masons, the carpenters, the blacksmiths, the brick-makers. This is how, along with the peasants in Swaraj, artisans also become happy and wealthy.



Can you tell?

- Name the market in your village / locality.
- How did the market acquire that name?

Sea Trade and other Markets

Shivaji Maharaj raised his own independent Navy in order to protect his Swaraj well and to establish his rule over the sea adjoining Swaraj. But that was not all. He also had special cargo ships built to promote trade in Swaraj. He developed trade ports like Rajapur. He built a special market on Raigad. He started a separate market place at Khed Shivapur near Pune. He developed marketplaces in big towns and roadside villages. A new 'peth' or settlement was established at Pashan near Pune by the orders of Veermata Jijabai. It was referred to as 'Jijapur'.

Shivaji Maharaj levied more taxes on goods imported from the outside regions to promote trade within Swaraj. He levied more tax on the salt produced in the Portuguese territory, which made it costlier. On the other hand, he reduced the tax on the salt produced in Swaraj so that people could buy it at a cheaper rate. Naturally, it led to an increase in the trade of salt produced in Swaraj. Thus, local trade was encouraged.

Shivaji Maharaj made efforts for the growth of trade and industries in Swaraj. He personally made sure that his subjects would not be cheated by the merchants in any way. When he came to know that

people are being cheated in the coconut and betelnut trade in Konkan, he warned the Subhedar of that region.

High Regard for Women

Shivaji Maharaj had ordered that the women and children in the enemy camp were not to be harmed in any way during the period of war. In fact, they were to be treated with great respect. The behaviour of Shivaji Maharaj on several occasions, set the ideal of how women were to be treated.

The Maratha army had marched upon Belawadi in Karnataka to vanquish the fortress there. Mallamma Desai, a brave woman, fought a great battle in defence of the fortress. When Shivaji Maharaj came to know about her courage, he called her his younger sister, returned her fortress and villages to her with honour and gave her the title 'Savitri'.

Vigilance Regarding Cleanliness

During the regime of Shivaji Maharaj, measures were taken to maintain better cleanliness in homes and in public places. He issued orders telling people to make a fence of the *nirgudi* bush around the house to prevent the entry of animals like mice, scorpions, insects and ants. Fumigation was also suggested to destroy the germs that are harmful to health.

People were warned not to leave garbage lying on the roads and markets on the fort. If garbage piled up in various places in spite of all this, it was not to be thrown down the fort. It was to be burnt on the spot and the ashes were to be used as manure for vegetables grown in backyards.



Shivaji Maharaj honours Mallamma Desai of Belawadi

Shivaji Maharaj's management of forts, guns and firearms, his navy, protection of the environment, water management, sea trade, markets, cleanliness and hygiene is a guiding force for us even today.

Hindavi Swaraj

Hindavi Swaraj was a dream of Shivaji Maharaj. Anyone who lived in Hindustan, no matter to what religion or community they belonged, was a 'Hindavi'. Their raj was 'Hindavi Swaraj'.

Religious Tolerance

The religious policy of Shivaji Maharaj was liberal. In his campaigns, he never caused any harm to mosques. If he came across a copy of the Quran

Sharif, he would respectfully pass it on to the Muslims. He never hated Muslims simply because they were Muslims. If a person who had changed his religion wished to return to his original religion, Shivaji always helped him. His brother-in-law, Bajaji Naik Nimbalkar, was in the service of Adilshah of Bijapur. Adilshah made him accept the Muslim faith. Bajaji made Bijapur his home. He lacked for nothing but he was unhappy that he had changed his religion. One day, he made up his mind to come back to his own religion. Shivaji Maharaj welcomed him back in his religion. The story of Netoji Palkar is similar. His religion had been changed but he wished to return to his original faith. Shivaji Maharaj accepted him back into his religion.

Remember Him : Shivaji was a torch-bearer in the dark night of slavery; a fighter who got the better of all difficult situations; who slowly but surely increased his strength while giving fight to powerful enemies; who encouraged his comrades and fooled his opponents and, in the end, achieved his goal. He was a model son, a cautious leader, a skilled organizer, a benevolent administrator, a clever military strategist, a great warrior, a terror to the wicked, a defender of the good, and an epoch maker. When one sees all these brilliant facets of his personality one cannot but say to oneself :

“Bring to memory his wonderful image and remember his great achievements.”



Do you know?

- Shivaji Maharaj had great respect for saints and holy men. He honoured temples. He also gave protection to masjids. He respected both the Bhagavad Geeta and the Quran Sharif. He gave protection to Christian churches also. He honoured learned men. Paramanand, Gagabhatt, Dhundiraj, Bhushan and other learned men received his patronage. He bestowed great honour on Sant Tukaram, Samarth Ramdas, Baba Yakut and Mauni Baba.



Bring to memory, the wonderful image of Shivaji Maharaj ...



Exercise



1. Give reasons.

- (a) An independent Hindavi Swaraj was created.
- (b) The people in Swaraj did not feel the severity of drought.
- (c) Shivaji Maharaj honoured Mallamma Desai.

2. Fill in the blanks to complete the table.

3. Discuss :

How did Shivaji Maharaj ensure that the various factors in the environment would not get destroyed? What are the things that you can do to protect the environment?

4. Read and tell.

Read the information on 'water management' and tell it in your own words.

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4.	Moreshwar Panditrao		Religious Matters
5.		Nyayadhish	
6.	Annaji Datto		
7.			Correspondence
8.	Ramchandra Trimbak Dabir	Sumant	

Activity :

- (a) Hold a market in the premises of your school. List the various goods and their prices. Visit the local market to do that.
- (b) What trees have been planted in the neighbourhood of your school? What do you do to conserve them?



‘Royal Edict’ for the Protection of Environment

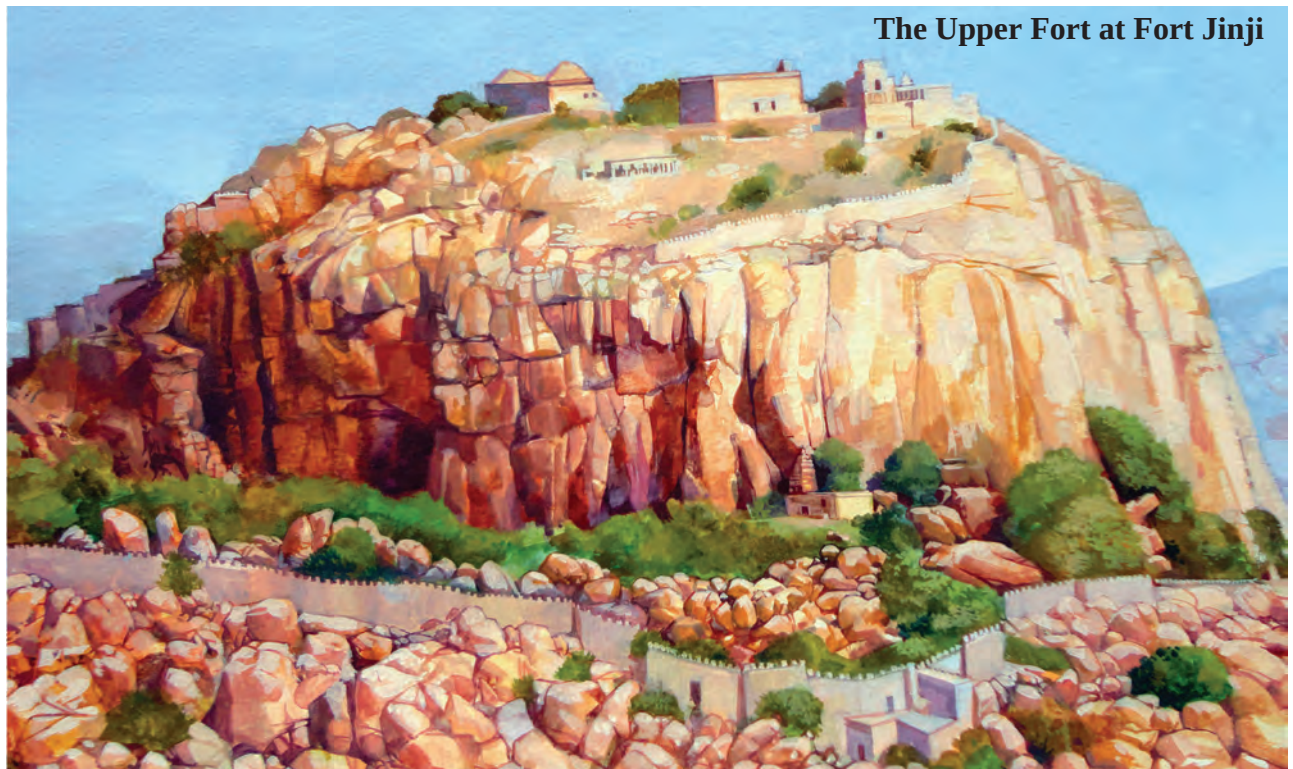
Ramchandrapant Amatya wrote ‘Adnya-patra’ (Royal Edict) which reflects the policies of Shivaji Maharaj. The following passage elucidates his attitude towards environment.

“For ships of the navy are necessary planks, beams, masts and such other limbs of wood. With royal permission useful parts of teak and other trees which are in the forests of the kingdom should be cut and collected. Besides this, whatever is necessary should be purchased and brought from foreign territories. Wood of mango tree, jack tree, and other trees growing in one’s own kingdom are useful for building naval ships but they should not be touched. For these trees are not grown in a year or two. People have grown these trees by looking after them as after their children and by protecting them. If those trees are cut there will be no limit to their grief. One says that would one achieve one’s object causing grief to another, then the temporary advantage resulting to the doer of the work is ultimately lost completely. Nay, the king incurs the sin causing trouble to the people. In the absence of these trees there is even loss. For these reasons these things should not be allowed to happen. Even when a tree is greatly worn out and is of no use, then by getting the consent of its owner and by paying him for it, it should be cut without displeasing him. Force should not at all be used.”

(The above translation by Prof. S.V.Puntambekar is taken from ‘आज्ञापत्र’ Ed. Dr A. R. Kulkarni, Diamond Publications, 2007.)

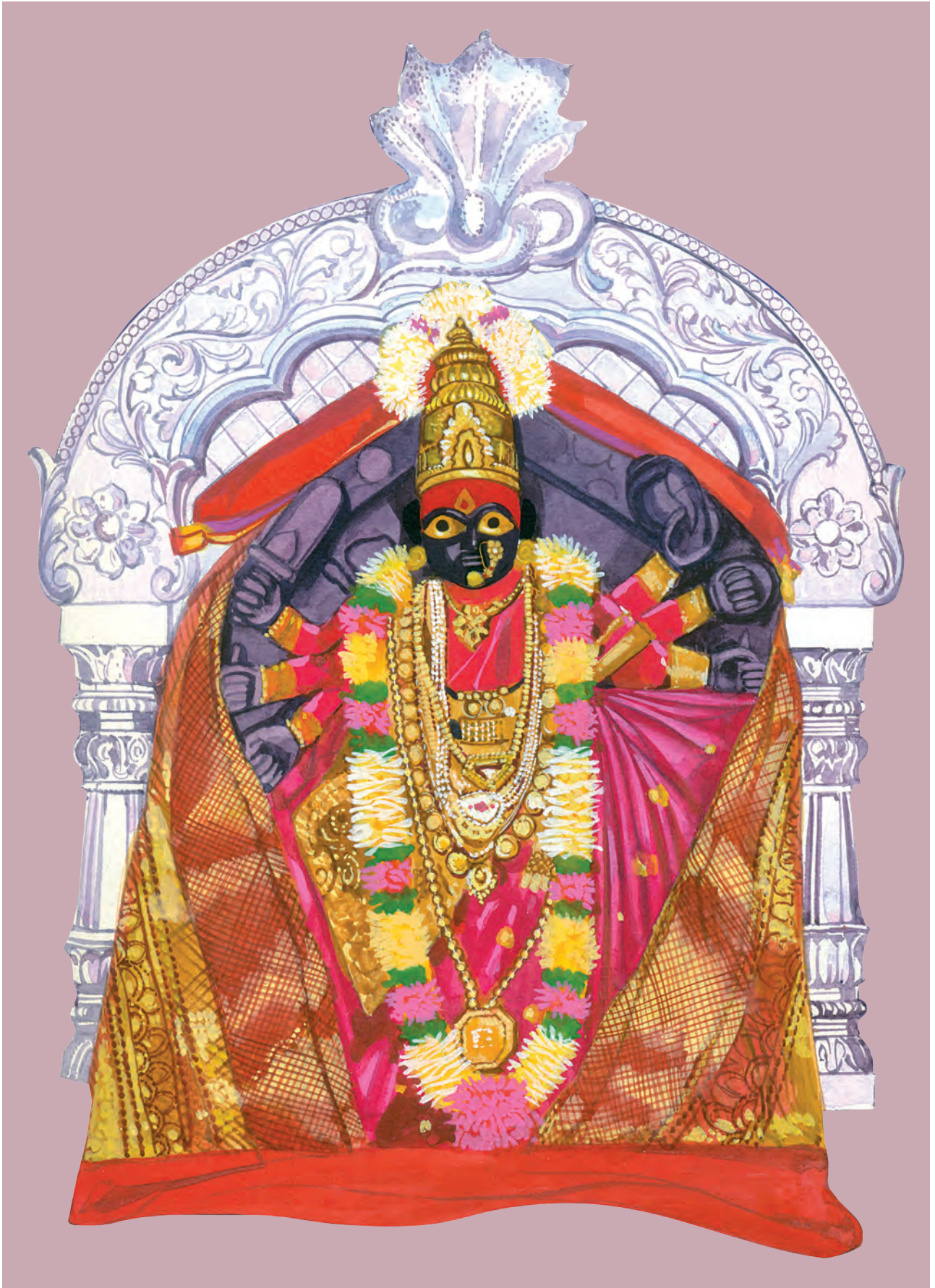


Fort Rajgad



The Upper Fort at Fort Jinji

The fort of Jinji is currently in the State of Tamil Nadu. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj conquered this fort in his campaign of the South. This fort had always been strong and difficult to win. Even so Maharaj demolished the earlier fortifications and made the fort stronger by building new fortifications and watch towers. Shahaji Raje had trained him at a young age in making forts unassailable or difficult to win. It is seen that Shivaji Maharaj made use of that knowledge on this occasion. Later on, Rajaram Maharaj established his capital on this fort. The Moghuls beseiged the fort when he was there. But Rajaram Maharaj fought for nearly seven years defending the fort in a state of seige. He could stay safe in the fort for such a long period because Shivaji Maharaj had the foresight to make the fort even stronger.



Bhavanidevi – Pratapgad

किशोर

निवडक
किशोर

निवडक
किशोर



कथा, कविता, कादंबरीका, एकांकिका,
दीर्घकथा, गंमतगाणी, ललित, छंद, चरित्र,
विज्ञान, देश-देशांतर, लोककथा

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कोल्हापूर (०२३०- २४६८५७६), अमरावती (०७२१-२५३०९६५), पनवेल (०२२- २७४६२६४५)



The above letter was sent by Shivaji Maharaj to Rudrappa Naik, the Desai of Pargana Murgud (Dist. Kolhapur) on 11 December 1676 asking him to destroy the military checkpoints of the enemy and to set up their own checkpoints. The letter is written in the Modi script.

