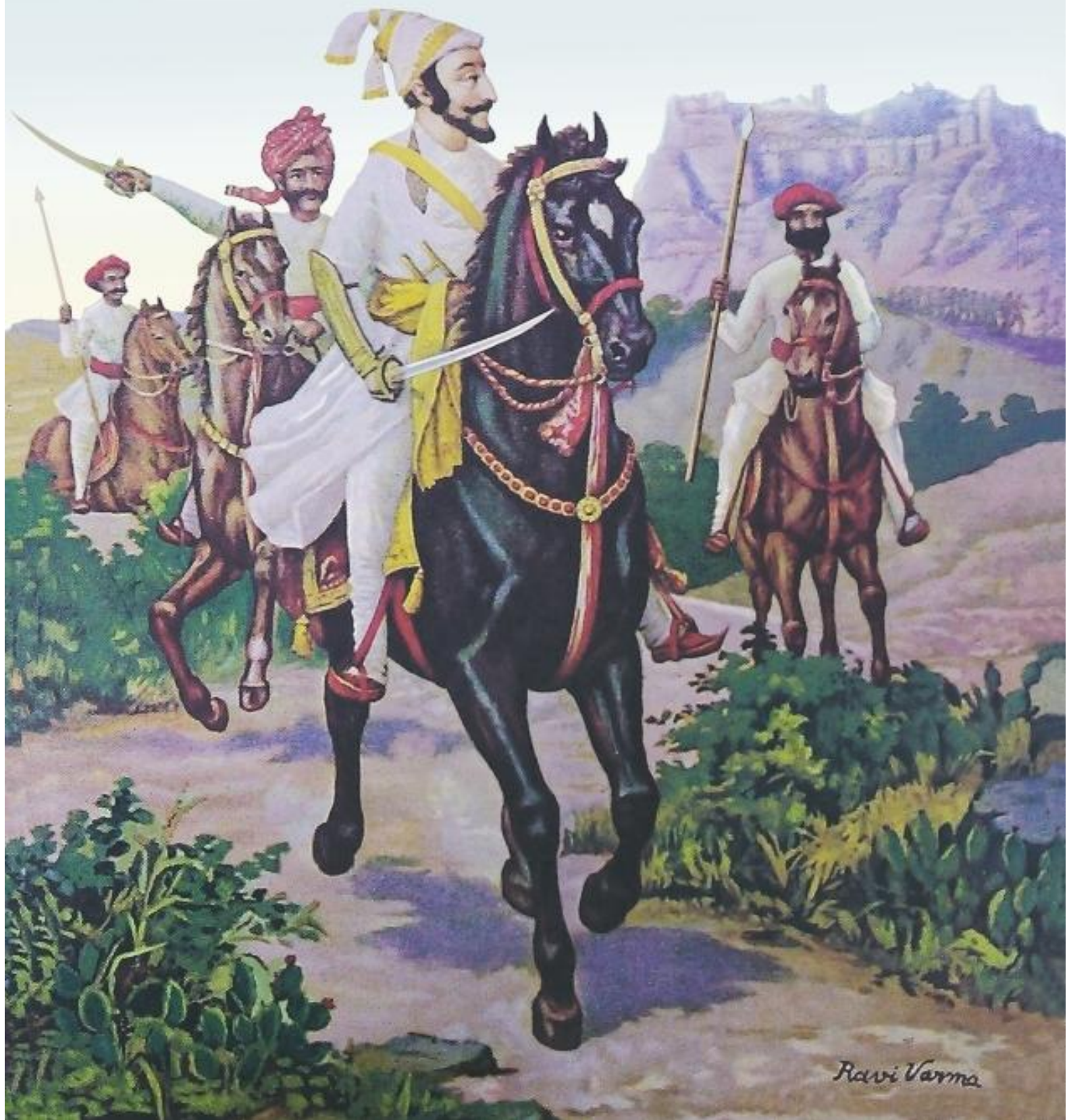


SHIVACHHATRAPATI

STANDARD FOUR

(ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - PART TWO)



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SHIVACHHATRAPATI

(ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – PART TWO)

STANDARD FOUR



**Maharashtra State Bureau of Textbook Production
and Curriculum Research, Pune.**

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Preface

The 'Primary Education Curriculum - 2012' was prepared in the State of Maharashtra following the 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' and the 'National Curriculum Framework 2005'. The syllabus is being implemented serially from the academic year 2013-2014. The syllabus includes the subjects General Science, Civics and Geography under 'Environmental Studies-Part 1' from Standard III to Standard V. It specifies that the subject History will be independent under 'Environmental Studies-Part 2'.

The Textbook Bureau has prepared this textbook for Std IV according to the syllabus approved by the State Government.

Our approach while designing this textbook was that the entire teaching-learning process should be child-centred, the method of self-study should receive more emphasis, at the end of Primary Education the students should have attained the desired competencies and the process of education in general should become enjoyable and interesting.

This textbook attempts to present the inspiring history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in an easy and effective manner. The life and work of Shivaji Maharaj is a source of inspiration for the entire State of Maharashtra and the country. Many inspiring episodes related to his personality have been included here. This book was rewritten after properly screening the complaints and suggestions received from various social organizations, institutes and individuals. Also, some suitable changes were made where necessary.

The book scrutinized by many educationists and subject experts from all parts of the State to make it as flawless and standard as possible. The comments and suggestions received have been duly considered while finalizing the book. The History Subject Committee, the artist, and the photographer have taken great pains to prepare this book. The Bureau is thankful to all of them.

We hope that this textbook will receive a warm welcome from students, parents and teachers.



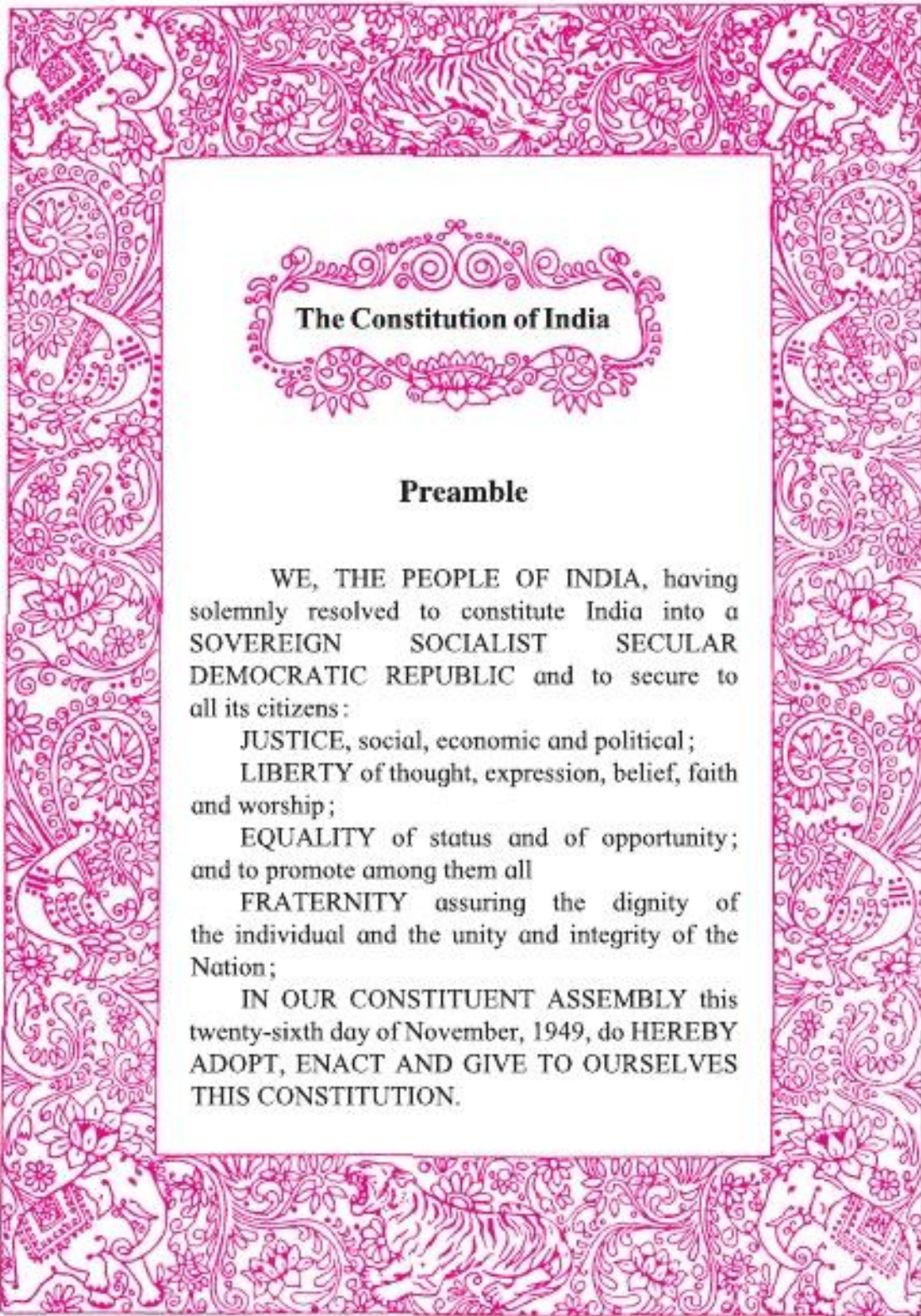
(C.R. Borkar)

Director

Pune

Date : February 19, 2014

Maharashtra State Bureau of
Textbook Production and
Curriculum Research, Pune.



The Constitution of India

Preamble

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens :

JUSTICE, social, economic and political ;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship ;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity ; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation ;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jana-gana-mana-adhināyaka jaya hē
Bhārata-bhāgya-vidhātā,

Panjāba-Sindhu-Gujarāta-Marāthā
Drāvida-Utkala-Banga

Vindhya-Himāchala-Yamunā-Gangā
uchchala-jaladhi-taranga

Tava subha nāmē jāgē, tava subha āsisa māgē,
gāhē tava jaya-gāthā,

Jana-gana-mangala-dāyaka jaya hē
Bhārata-bhāgya-vidhātā,

Jaya hē, Jaya hē, Jaya hē,
Jaya jaya jaya, jaya hē.

PLEDGE

India is my country. All Indians are my brothers and sisters.

I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage. I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders respect, and treat everyone with courtesy.

To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion. In their well-being and prosperity alone lies my happiness.

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“Shivaji did not belong to Maharashtra alone; he belonged to the whole Indian nation.

Shivaji was not an ambitious ruler anxious to establish a kingdom for himself but a patriot inspired by a vision and political ideas derived from the teachings of the ancient philosophers. He studied the merits and faults of the systems of administration in kingdoms existing at the time and determined his own policies and administration in the light of that knowledge.

A devout Hindu, he was tolerant of other religions and established a number of endowments for maintaining sacred places belonging to them. As a general he was undoubtedly one of the greatest in Indian history ; he saw the need for and raised a navy to guard his coastline and to fight against the British and the Dutch. Pratapgad Fort built in 1656 stands today as a monument to his military genius.

Shri Shivaji is a symbol of many virtues, more especially of love of country.”

– JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



A Painting of Shivaji Maharaj by Mir Mohammad, a Painter of Shivaji's Time
(From the original in Paris Museum)

1. Maharashtra before Shivaji

Shivaji Maharaj was a great man. We celebrate his birth anniversary with great pomp and reverence. It is a happy day for you children. You sing songs and 'powadas' in his honour. You garland his picture and say 'Shivaji Maharaj Ki Jai'. Who was this Shivaji Maharaj? What was the great work he did that we celebrate his birthday every year?

The time in which Shivaji Maharaj lived was that of the medieval period. In those days, monarchy or the rule of kings prevailed everywhere. Many of the kings pursued their own pleasures and enjoyments instead of the welfare of their subjects. But even in those days, there were some kings who looked after the welfare of their subjects. The Moghul Emperor Akbar in the North and Emperor Krishnadevraya of Vijaynagar in the South are famous in history for their benevolent rule. Likewise, Shivaji Maharaj also commands great respect even today.

Shivaji Maharaj established Swaraj in Maharashtra. Swaraj means self-government, our own rule. For about four hundred years before Shivaji Maharaj, Maharashtra was not free. A large portion of it was under the rule of the Nizamshah of Ahmadnagar and the Adilshah of Bijapur. These two Sultans had divided Maharashtra among themselves. They were not liberal in their outlook. They oppressed the people over whom they ruled. They were also sworn enemies of each other. They constantly fought against each other with the result that

the people suffered and were harassed. The people could not get enough to eat, nor could they celebrate their festivals or worship their gods openly and freely. They were not sure of safety even in their own homes. There was injustice everywhere. In Maharashtra, there were many Watandars like Deshmukhs and Deshpandes who owned Jagirs. They loved only their Jagirs and not their country. The constant fighting among them brought great misery to the people. There was misrule everywhere. People were tired of this oppression and were very unhappy.

Shivaji Maharaj saw all this. He undertook the noble task of establishing Swaraj in Maharashtra which would bring happiness to the people. He first brought to book the Watandars who fought among themselves. He then used them in his plan to establish Swaraj. He fought against the Powers that oppressed the people, and defeated them. He established 'Hindavi Swaraj' based on justice, fair play and equal treatment to people of all castes and religions. Shivaji Maharaj made no distinction between Hindus and Muslims. He honoured the saints of all religions. We draw inspiration from these noble deeds of Maharaj.

During a period of about three to four hundred years before Shivaji Maharaj, many saints were born in Maharashtra. Their work helped Shivaji Maharaj in his successful effort of establishing Swaraj. We shall see in the next chapter, what these saints did.

1. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option.

- (a) The time in which Shivaji Maharaj lived was that of the period.
(ancient, medieval, modern)
- (b) Shivaji Maharaj established Swaraj in
(Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh)

2. Match the pairs.

- | ‘A’ | ‘B’ |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Emperor of Vijaynagar | (1) Nizamshah |
| (b) Sultan of Ahmadnagar | (2) Adilshah |
| (c) Sultan of Bijapur | (3) Krishnadevraya |
| | (4) Emperor Akbar |

3. Write the answer in one sentence.

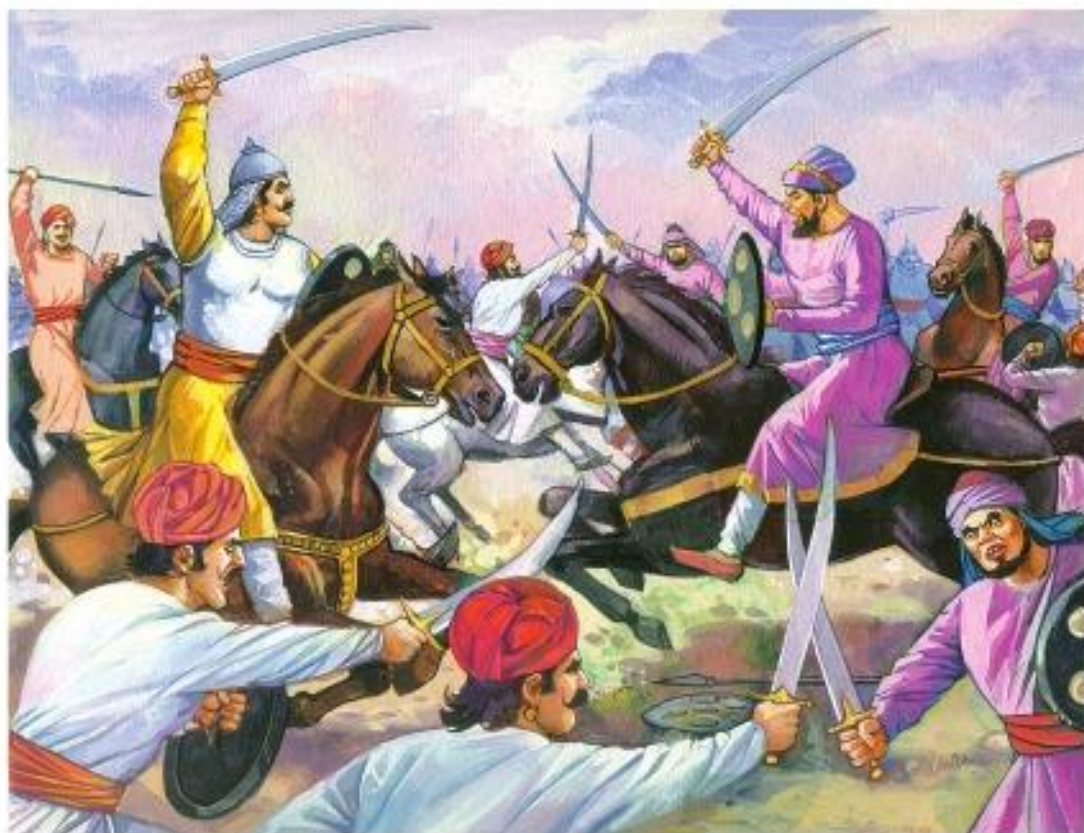
- (a) Name the kings who looked after the welfare of their subjects.
- (b) What noble task did Shivaji Maharaj undertake ?
- (c) Who did Shivaji Maharaj fight against ?

4. Find the odd-man-out.

- (a) Swaraj, slavery, freedom
- (b) People, subjects, king

Activity

- (a) Celebrate Shivajayanti in your class.
- (b) Present historical songs and ‘Powadas’ in the cultural programmes held in your school.



2. Work of the Saints

The tradition of Saints that began in Maharashtra with Shri Chakradhar, Sant Namdeo, Sant Dnyaneshwar, Sant Chokha Mela was continued by Saints coming from various strata of society. In this group of Saints are included Sant Goroba, Sant Sawata, Sant Narhari, Sant Eknath, Sant Shaikh Mahammed, Sant Tukaram, Sant Niloba etc. Similarly, Sant Janabai, Sant Soyarabai, Sant Nirmalabai, Sant Muktabai, Sant Kanhopatra and Sant Bahinabai Shiurkar are also included.

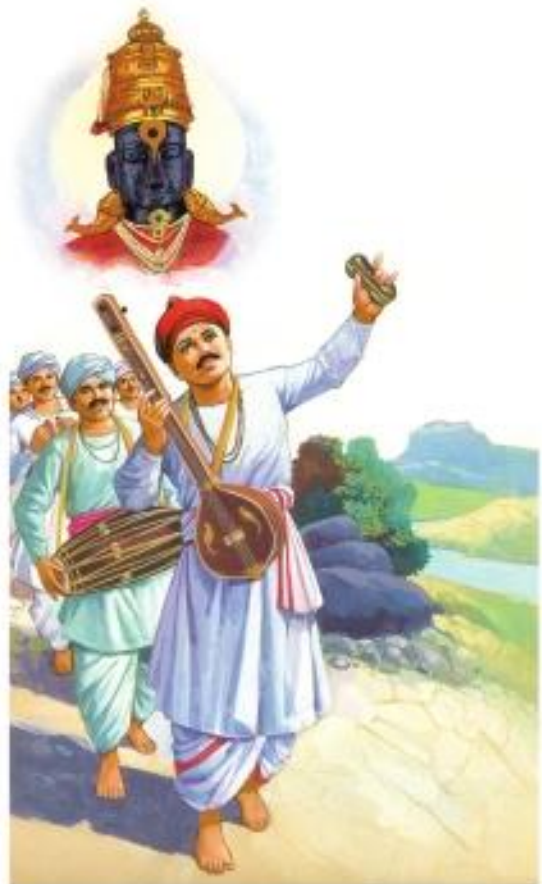
They taught people various virtues like compassion, non-violence, charity, service, equality and brotherhood. No one is inferior, no one is superior. All are equal. Such was the sentiment that was created by Saints in the minds of people. Similarly, Samarth Ramdas also rendered his work in Maharashtra.

Shri Chakradhar Swami : Shri Chakradhar Swami was originally a prince from Gujarat. He became an ascetic, and came over to Maharashtra. He moved all over Maharashtra preaching equality. He did not believe in any discrimination based on gender or caste. So, several men and women became his followers. The sect he established is known as 'Mahanubhav' sect. Memorable incidents from his life have been compiled in a book titled 'Leelacharitra'.

Sant Namdeo : Sant Namdeo was a great devotee of Vitthal. He lived in the village Narasi. He composed numerous songs in praise of god, performed



Shri Chakradhar Swami



Sant Namdeo

'Keertans' (songs and stories based on a religious theme) everywhere and brought about general awakening among the people. He moved all over Maharashtra to spread Bhagwat dharma and taught the people deep devotion to God. He instilled in them the desire to protect their religion. Sant Namdeo later travelled all over India spreading the message of humanity. He travelled to the Punjab and spread the message of equality among the people there. He composed songs in Hindi. Even today, some of his verses are included in 'Guru Granth Sahib', the holy book of the Sikhs. His songs are still sung all over Maharashtra with great love and devotion.

Sant Dnyaneshwar : Sant Dnyaneshwar's family belonged to Apegaon. Nivruttinath and Sopandeo were his brothers. Muktabai was his sister. Bigoted men of the time used to look down upon these children because they were the offspring of a 'Sanyasi'. It happened like this. Their father took 'Sanyas' and retired from worldly life. As a Sanyasi, he left home. But later on, obeying the order of his guru, he returned home and started living with his wife. Their four children were born afterwards. The narrow-minded religious leaders did not think it right that a 'Sanyasi' should have children. People persecuted these children and banished them from their community.

Once Dnyaneshwar went round the town begging for alms. But no one would give him any alms. He had to listen to abusive language instead. Young

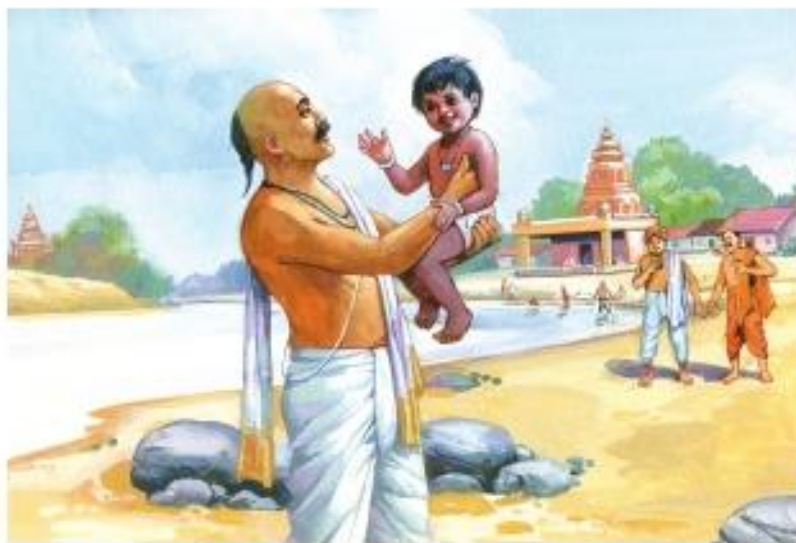
Dnyaneshwar was deeply pained by this incident. He entered his hut and locked the door from inside to grieve over his lot. Muktabai came and knocked at the door. She said, "Open the door, Dnyaneshwar. How can we remain drowned in our own sorrow ? Who will then look to the welfare of the world ?" These words of his sister gave new hope to Dnyaneshwar. He forgot his personal sorrow and started his work. Everywhere, the poor and backward people were being oppressed in the name of the religion. Dnyaneshwar went among the people and taught them to have faith in God. 'Give equal treatment to all. Help those in trouble and allay their misery.' This was the gist of his advice to the people. Dnyaneshwar's words are heard in every nook and corner of Maharashtra for the last seven hundred years.

In those days, all religious teaching was confined to Sanskrit books. The language of ordinary people in everyday use was Marathi. Dnyaneshwar wrote his outstanding book 'Dnyaneshwari' in Marathi. He thus opened wide for his



Sant Dnyaneshwar

people the doors of knowledge, where he preached the ideal of brotherhood among all men. At a very early age, at Alandi near Pune, Dnyaneshwar took 'Samadhi', that is, put himself in a trance from which he never came out. Even today, on the eleventh day of Ashadh and Kartik, lakhs of pilgrims go to Alandi-Pandhari with devotion.



Sant Eknath

Sant Eknath : Sant Eknath carried on the work started by Sant Namdeo and Sant Dnyaneshwar. He lived in Paithan. He preached that the way to reach God was through devotion – 'Bhaktimarg'. He wrote numerous religious songs – 'Abhangs', 'Owees' and 'Bharuds'. His advice to the people was not to accept any distinction of high and low. He made friends with the poor and the downtrodden and taught them devotion to God. His love extended

even to the dumb animals. He exhorted the people to love all living beings and practised what he preached.

One day he was going to the river Godavari for a bath. It was noon and very hot. The sand bed along the riverside was very hot too. He heard the crying of a poor child sitting on the hot sand. Eknath looked around and saw the child. He rushed to him and looked around for the child's parents. He picked up the child in his arms, wiped his tears and reached him home.

In this way, by his personal example, Eknath impressed the message of love and equality on the minds of the people.

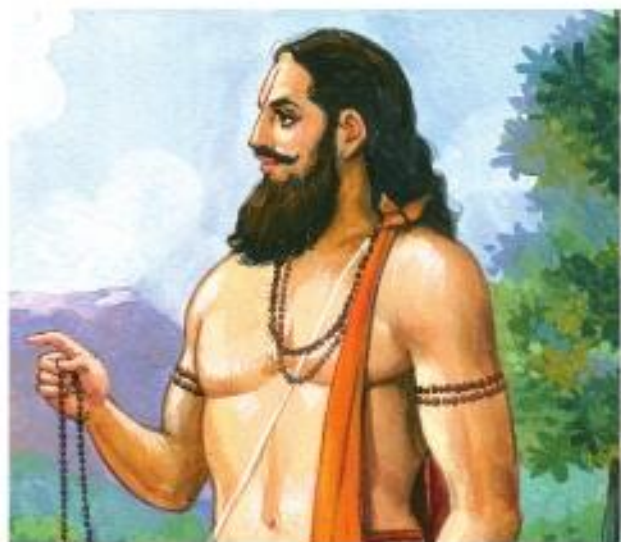
Sant Tukaram : Two great saints, Tukaram and Ramdas lived in Shivaji's time. Tukaram came from Dehu, near Pune. He owned a farm and also a grocery shop. His forefathers used to lend money to the needy people. But



Sant Tukaram

Tukaram drowned in the river Indrayani, all the record of loan papers he had, thus giving relief to many. He would go to the neighbouring hill and sing songs in praise of God Vitthal. On the eleventh day, 'ekadashi' of the month of Ashadh and Kartik, he would go to Pandharpur. He wrote devotional songs – 'Abhangs' and performed 'Keertans'. Thousands flocked to listen to him. Shivaji Maharaj also attended his Keertans. Sant Tukaram preached to the people about the virtues of pity, forgiveness and peace of mind. He also gave them the message of equality. 'He alone is a saint, and God dwells with him who calls the weak and the downtrodden as his own'. He impressed this truth on the minds of the people. He made them think. People accepted him as a great religious leader and showered their praise on him. Even today, all over Maharashtra, we hear people proclaiming 'Gyanba - Tukaram' the names of the two great saints. Sant Dnyaneshwar is called 'Gyanba' also. Even today, 'Tukaram Gatha' is read in every household.

Samarth Ramdas : At the same time, the hills and valleys of Maharashtra were filled with the echoes of 'Jai, Jai Raghuveer Samarth' (Glory be to the great Rama) an invocation constantly on the lips of the great saint Ramdas. Ramdas was born at Jamb on the banks of the Godavari in Marathwada. His birthday falls on Ram-Navami, the day on which the great hero, Rama, was born. Narayan was his real name but he preferred to call himself Ramdas, the servant of Rama. Through his great book 'Dasbodh' he taught men the ways of good life. Through his 'Manache Shlok' (stanzas addressed to



Samarth Ramdas

the mind) he gave people lessons in good thoughts and good conduct. To popularise the worship of strength, he raised the temples of Hanuman, the god of strength. He exhorted people to be strong and told them of the power that resides in a united people. He taught them to organize themselves and fight against injustice. This gave courage to the people.

The work of the saints brought about a great awakening among the people. Religion once again became a thing to be respected and a spirit of self-reliance was born. People regained their lost confidence. This great awakening among the people brought about by the saints helped Shivaji in his fight for Swaraj.

+++

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Sant Namdeo was a great devotee of
- (b) At a very early age, at near Pune, Dnyaneshwar took 'Samadhi'.
- (c) Sant Tukaram drowned in the river, all the record of loan papers he had.
- (d) To popularise the worship of strength, Samarth Ramdas raised the temples of

- (b) What desire did Sant Namdeo instil among the people ?
- (c) What advice was rendered by Sant Eknath ?
- (d) What message was propagated by Samarth Ramdas ?

3. Give answers in three or four sentences.

- (a) Why did Sant Dnyaneshwar lock himself in his hut ?
- (b) What message did Sant Tukaram give ?

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What discrimination did Shri Chakradhar Swami not believe ?

Activity

Collect the pictures of Sants other than those included in this lesson and below the pictures, write their thoughts.



3. Maratha Sardars - The Famous House of the Bhonsales

Period of Unrest : As the saints preached devotion to God, the brave Maratha Sardars started a tradition of bravery.

This was a period of great unrest. The two Sultans, the Adilshah of Bijapur and the Nizamshah of Ahmadnagar were constantly at war with each other. They made use of the armies of Maratha Sardars in these wars.

The Brave Maratha Sardars : The Marathas were both brave and tough. They were also fearless and loyal to their masters. They were very proud of their achievements on the battlefield. The brave Maratha soldier with a spear in hand and a sword at the side would ride in his Sardar's cavalry. All the Maratha Sardars had their own private armies. If such a Sardar went to the Sultan with his army, the Sultan gave him employment, made him a Sardar of his kingdom and sometimes conferred a Jagir upon him. The Sardar who received such a Jagir considered himself a Raja.

There were many famous Maratha Sardars at the Courts of Ahmadnagar and Bijapur. The more famous among them were the Jadhavs of Sindkhed, Nimbalkars of Phaltan, Ghorpades of Mudhol, Moreys of Javali, Bhonsales of Verul. The Sindkhed Jadhavs were descendants of the Yadavs of Devgiri. Jijabai, the mother of Shivaji Maharaj was the daughter of Lakhujirao Jadhav of Sindkhed.

Tradition of Valour : All these Sardars were brave but many of them were sworn enemies of one another. They never thought that they should unite and do something for their own people. So all their valour and bravery served the interests of others. Even so, they kept alive the warlike spirit, especially among the young. Many famous soldiers were born in their families who kept alive the tradition of valour. Among the famous families, the Bhonsales of Verul showed great bravery and enterprise.

The Temple of Ghrushneshwar : It was about four hundred years ago. The temple of Ghrushneshwar near the Verul caves was falling to pieces. The walls had developed cracks. The priest also had deserted the temple. Thus the temple which was built in honour of a great god was totally neglected. All the devotees who came there mourned over the sorry state of the temple, but no one thought of repairing it.

A great devotee of Shiva visited the temple regularly. He would put flowers and 'bel' on the 'lingam' and express his innermost thoughts to the God. He carried out extensive repairs to the temple and restored it to its original condition. He also made arrangements for the proper maintenance of the temple. Now there were lights both inside and outside the temple and the lost grandeur of Ghrushneshwar was restored. Who was this devotee who did all this? He was Maloji Raje Bhonsale.



Shahaji Raje

The Bhonsales of Verul : Maloji Raje Bhonsale, the Patil of Verul, was a great devotee of Shiva. Babaji Raje had two sons. Maloji Raje was the elder, and Vithoji Raje the younger. Babaji Raje Bhonsale had the rights of a Patil in the Verul village.

Maloji Raje and Vithoji Raje were both brave and enterprising. They had in their service many armed Maratha troops. It was a period of great unrest. The Moghul Emperor from Delhi had attacked the Kingdom of Nizamshah. Daulatabad was then the capital of Nizamshah. Malik Amber was his Vazir or Chief Minister. Malik Amber was able and wise. The two capable and brave brothers from Verul soon caught his attention. On his recommendation, the Shah conferred on Maloji Raje the Jagir of Pune and Supe Parganas.

So the Bhonsales became rich and powerful. Maloji Raje's wife was Umabai. She came from the House of the Nimbalkars of Phaltan. They had two sons, Shahaji and Sharifji. Maloji Raje was killed in a battle at Indapur. At that time Shahaji was only five years old. Then Vithoji Raje looked after the children and the Jagir. Later, he asked in marriage for Shahaji, the daughter of Lakhujirao Jadhav. Jijabai, the daughter of Lakhujirao, was well favoured by the gods. Lakhujirao accepted Vithoji Raje's proposal. Lakhujirao was a brave and valiant Sardar in the court of Nizamshah. He kept a large army of his own. He commanded great respect and honour at the court of Nizamshah. He celebrated the wedding of Shahaji Raje and Jijabai with

great pomp. Jijabai became the Fortune of the Bhonsale family.

Shahaji Raje : Nizamshah transferred to Shahaji Raje the Jagir he had conferred on Maloji Raje. Shahaji Raje was a brave and capable man held in great respect at the court of Nizamshah. The Moghul Emperor decided to conquer the Kingdom of Nizamshah. For this, he made an alliance with the Adilshah of Bijapur. Malik Amber and Shahaji Raje fought bravely to save Nizamshahi. They defeated both the armies. This battle took place at Bhatawadi near Ahmadnagar. Sharifji was killed in the battle. Shahaji Raje displayed great valour. He was praised everywhere as a brave General. His reputation in the court was so enhanced that even Malik Amber began to feel jealous of him. This gradually led to antagonism between them. As a result, Shahaji Raje left Nizamshahi and joined the court of Adilshah at Bijapur. Adilshah honoured him with the title of 'Sar Lashkar' (Chief of Army). Later, there were many developments in Nizamshahi. The Vazir Malik Amber died. His scheming son Fattekhan became the Vazir of Nizamshahi. During his period, the Nizamshahi began to decline. At about the same time, there was a threat of Moghul aggression. So, Nizamshah's mother appealed to Shahaji Raje to return to Nizamshahi and save it. Therefore, Shahaji Raje left Adilshahi and returned to Nizamshahi.

1. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option.

- (a) Among the famous families, the of Verul showed great bravery and enterprise.
(Moreys, Ghorpades, Bhonsales)
- (b) Babaji Raje Bhonsale had two sons, Maloji and
(Vithoji, Shahaji, Sharifji)
- (c) was a capable Vazir of Nizamshah.
(Malik Amber, Fattekhan, Sharifji)

2. Write the relation between :

- (a) Maloji Raje - Vithoji Raje
- (b) Shahaji Raje - Lakhujirao Jadhav
- (c) Shahaji Raje - Sharifji
- (d) Babaji Raje - Vithoji Raje

3. Match the pairs.

- | ‘A’ | ‘B’ |
|--------------|---------------|
| (a) Sindkhed | (1) Nimbalkar |
| (b) Phaltan | (2) Ghorpade |
| (c) Javali | (3) Bhonsale |
| (d) Mudhol | (4) Morey |
| | (5) Jadhav |

4. Give the answer in one sentence.

- (a) Who restored the temple of Ghrushneshwar to its original condition ?
- (b) Which Jagir was bestowed upon Maloji Raje by Nizamshah ?
- (c) Who fought bravely to save Nizamshahi ?
- (d) With what title did the Adilshah honour Shahaji Raje ?
- (e) Why did Shahaji Raje leave Adilshahi and return to Nizamshahi ?

Activity

Locate places like Ahmadnagar, Phaltan, Verul, Supe, Pune in the map of Maharashtra.

Note : The word ‘Maratha’ here does not mean the ‘specific caste of an individual’. It means ‘Marathi Speaking People’ or ‘Maharashtrians’.



4. Shivaji's Childhood



The Birthplace of Shivaji Maharaj at Fort Shivneri

Birth of Shivaji : Those were very unsettled days. Shahjahan from the North had despatched a big army to conquer the Deccan. Pune, the principal town of Shahaji Raje's Jagir was burned to the ground by Adilshah of Bijapur. Shahaji Raje was in real trouble. He found himself between the devil and the deep sea, and was constantly on the run.

Jijabai was pregnant and the great question which worried Shahaji Raje was

some place where she could remain in safety and peace. Then he remembered the Shivneri fort and decided to send Jijabai there. Shivneri was a strong fort near Junnar in Pune district. It had steep cliffs on four sides, strong fortifications and massive doors. This strong fort was then in charge of Vijayraj, a relative of the Bhonsales. He agreed to give protection to Jijabai. So Shahaji Raje left her there and marched against the Moghuls.

And then the golden day dawned. On the auspicious day of *Phalgun Vadya Tritiya*, in the year 1551 of the Shaka era, that is, on 19 February 1630, to the sound of pipes and drums playing in the 'Nagar Khana', Jijabai gave birth to a son. All the residents of the fort were overjoyed. On the twelfth day, with appropriate ceremony, the child was named 'Shivaji' as the child was born on Fort Shivneri.

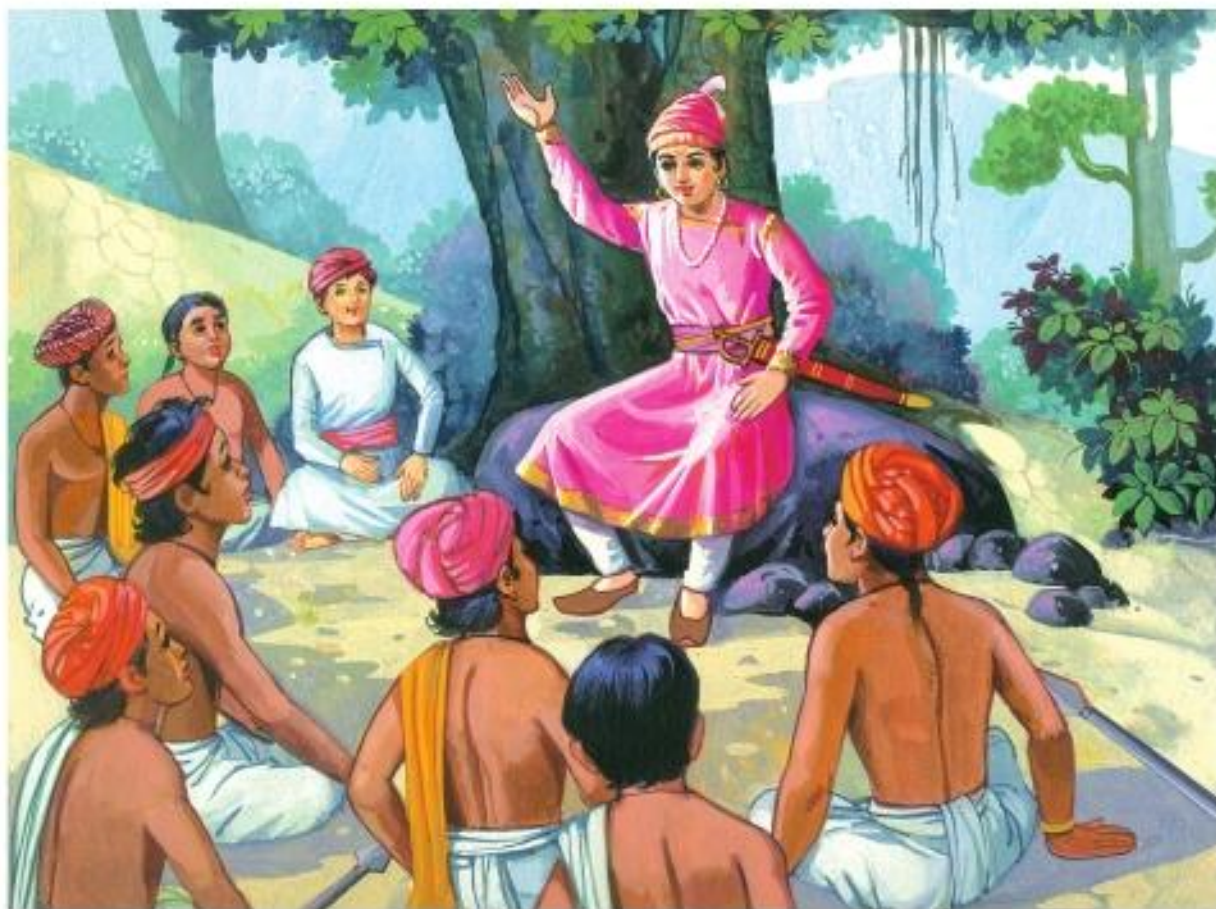
Shivaji's Childhood : Shivaji passed the first six years of his life in highly unsettled conditions. Even so, Jijabai did not neglect his education. Every evening she would light the household lamps and then call Shivaji to her. She would shower all her affection on him and tell him stories of Rama and Krishna, of Bhim and Abhimanyu. On other occasions she would recite to him the devotional songs of Namdeo, Dnyaneshwar or

Ekknath. Shivaji liked to listen to the exploits of brave men. Shivaji felt that on growing up, he should also display valour like them. Jijabai used to tell him stories of many pious persons and saints. That instilled in him, a respect and honour for all saints and great men.

Children from poor families came to play with Shivaji. Sometimes he visited them in their huts and shared their simple meal of onion and bhakri with great relish. They invented interesting games to pass the time. The children of the Mavlas were like birds in the forest. They would imitate the sound of the cuckoo or parrot or tiger to perfection. Their pastime was building small forts of earth and making earthen elephants and horses. They played hide and seek, or played with a ball or top. Shivaji joined them in all these games and became popular with them.



Veermata Jijabai tells Shivaji stories of brave men.



Shivaji with his Friends

Shahaji Raje towards the Moghuls :

Shahaji Raje returned to Nizamshahi all right, but he did not get any peace of mind there. Nizamshah himself was a fickle-minded person who readily believed all gossip. Hence, many conspiracies and petty rivalries infested the court. This led to the killing of Lakhujirao Jadhav openly in the court at the instigation of Nizamshah himself. Shahaji Raje could not withstand this. Infuriated, he left Nizamshahi and joined the Moghuls. Shahjahan, the Moghul Emperor, made him a Sardar at his court.

In the meantime, secretly joining hands with the Moghuls, Fattekhan killed Nizamshah. There was complete anarchy in the state. It became evident that Fattekhan was treacherously planning

to enable the Moghuls to swallow Nizamshahi. In return, the Moghuls rewarded him with the territory under the control of Shahaji Raje. Shahaji Raje was enraged and so he left the services of the Moghuls. He decided to teach them a lesson using all his might.

Founding of a New Nizamshahi :

In order to forestall the Moghul Emperor and Vazir Fattekhan, Shahaji Raje found out a child heir from the Nizam's family and on the fort of Pengiri near Junnar, declared him as the new Nizamshah. Thus, he established an altogether new kingdom which included the territory between the rivers Godavari and Nira. Shahaji Raje fought vigorously to protect this new state. Initially, Adilshah was with him in these efforts. But later,

the Moghul Emperor Shahjahan himself marched South upon Shahaji Raje and threatened Adilshah. Adilshah then signed a treaty of friendship with him against Shahaji Raje.

Shahaji Raje now began to fight the joint forces of the Moghuls and Adilshah using guerrilla tactics. But he could not sustain the war all by himself. In 1636, unwillingly, he signed a treaty of peace with Moghuls. He could not create his own kingdom as the times were not favourable for him. But his daring spirit kindled a confidence among the Marathi people. This proved useful for Shivaji in establishing Swaraj a few years later.

Jijabai and Shivaji in Karnatak : After the downfall of the Nizamshahi established by Shahaji Raje, its territory was divided by the Moghuls and Adilshah amongst themselves. Shahaji Raje's Jagir of Pune and Supe lay within

Adilshah's share. He gave it to Shahaji Raje on his behalf. Now Shahaji Raje joined the Adilshahi services. Adilshah assigned to him, the task of conquering the territories in distant Karnatak, far away from Pune. Some time after the departure of Shahaji Raje to Karnatak, Jijabai and Shivaji also joined him there.

Shivaji's childhood in Maharashtra had been very hectic. He and Jijabai had to rush continuously from one fort to another. At that time, young Shivaji used to hear the stories of the brave deeds of his father. Jijabai and Shivaji got some peace when they arrived in Karnatak. Shahaji Raje defeated many kings in Karnatak. Adilshah awarded him with the Jagir of Bangalore. Shahaji Raje then made the city of Bangalore his headquarters. He lived there with all the trappings of a king and began to summon the court.

EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option.

- (a) Shivaji was born on the fort.
(Purandar, Shivneri, Panhala)
- (b) Adilshah assigned the task of conquering the territories in to Shahaji Raje.
(Karnatak, Khandesh, Konkan)

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What did Shivaji feel due to Jijabai's teaching ?

- (b) What games did Shivaji and the children of the Mavlas play ?

- (c) Why did Shahaji Raje leave Nizamshahi ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) Whose stories did Jijabai tell Shivaji ?
- (b) Why did Shahaji Raje declare the child heir from the Nizamshah's family as the new Nizamshah ?

Activity

- (a) Make a trip to Fort Shivneri and collect information about the birthplace of Shivaji Maharaj.
- (b) Make a list of traditional sports and write a note on any one of them in 10 lines.



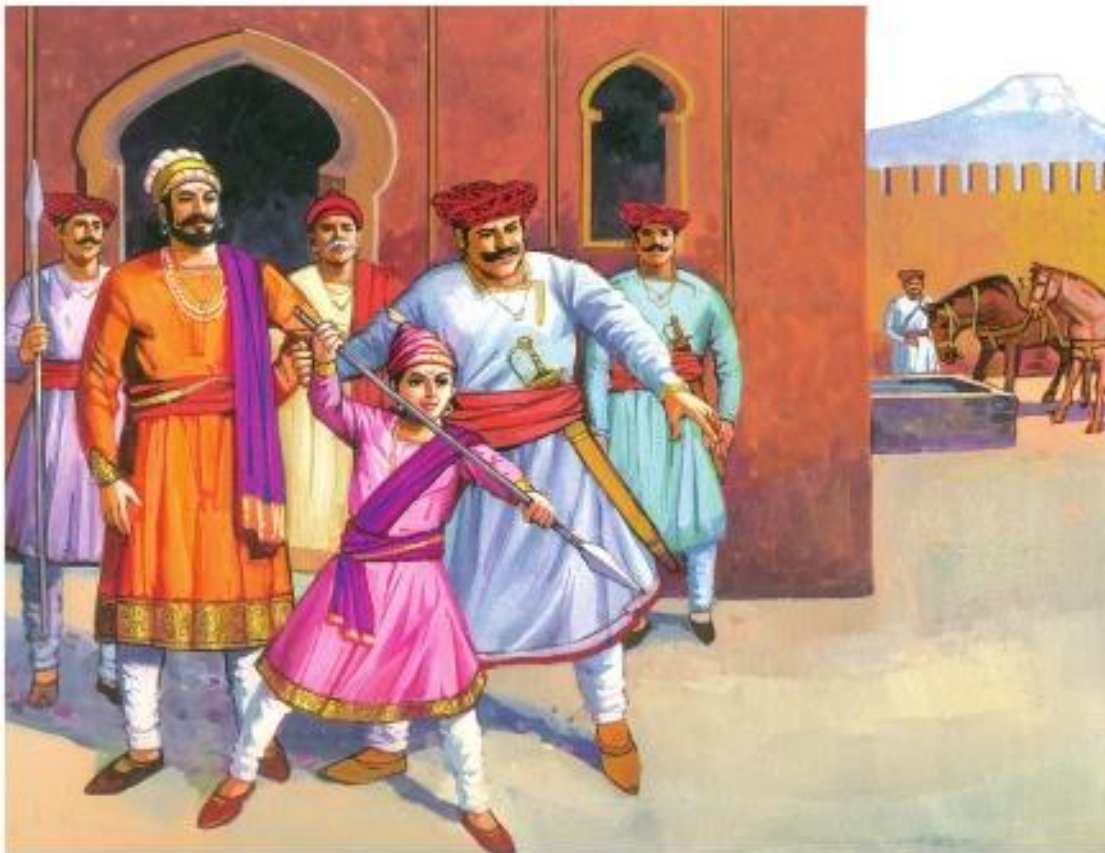
Fort Shivneri - Maha Darwaja

5. Shivaji's Education

Beginning of Shivaji's Education : Shahaji Raje himself was a scholar of Sanskrit. In the Bangalore court, he had under his patronage, artists and scholars of various languages. He appointed intelligent teachers for Shivaji. Shivaji's education began when he became seven years old. Soon, Shivaji became skilled in the art of reading and writing. He began to read the stories from 'Ramayan', 'Mahabharat' and 'Bhagwat', on his own. To teach him warfare, Shahaji Raje had appointed some teachers. They began to teach Shivaji to ride a horse, to wrestle, to use swords and Dandpatta. Thus, at the age of twelve, Shivaji became acquainted with different branches of learning and arts.

Soon, Adilshah sent Shahaji Raje on an expedition to conquer the States of the Nayakas (local chiefs) in Karnatak. Before setting out upon the expedition, Shahaji Raje sent Shivaji and Jijabai to Pune. With them, he sent elephants, horses, an infantry, a treasury, a flag, as also trusted ministers, brave generals and renowned teachers.

Rejuvenation of Pune : Jijabai and Shivaji returned to Pune. Shivaji remembered his childhood days which he had spent on Shivneri. He could see the lofty peaks of the Sahyadri again and he became very happy. Pune at that time was not such a big city. It was totally devastated by Shahaji Raje's enemies.



Shivaji's Education under the Supervision of Shahaji Raje

Properties were damaged. Houses were demolished. Temples had collapsed. The frightened people had fled from their villages. Fields had become barren. Thick forests had grown. Wolves roamed in the countryside. Pune, thus, was totally in shambles and ruins.

When the people living around came to know that Jijabai has returned to Pune with Shivaji, they took heart. Jijabai called all of them and reassured them that they would be safe in Pune. People started settling in Pune, cultivating their lands. Jijabai had the dilapidated temples repaired. In the temples, worship began morning and evening. The town was again throbbing with people. Thus, Pune was totally transformed.

The Achievements of Dadaji Konddev : When Jijabai and Shivaji were in Karnatak, Dadaji Konddev looked after the Pune Jagir. He was the 'Subhedar' of Kondana also. He was very faithful. He was strict, efficient and honest in his work. He was also just, and a strict disciplinarian. He served with devotion. At about this time, a big wada or residence was built in Pune by the orders of Shahaji Raje. It came to be known as 'Lal Mahal'. To encourage the peasants to till their lands, Dadaji gave them concessions in the land tax for a few years. He offered prizes for destroying the wolves which infested the countryside and harassed the peasants. Many wolves were killed. He raised peasant patrols to protect life and property from gangs of thieves who roamed the countryside. He fixed land revenue according to the quality of the soil. He thus made the people happy.

Shivaji's Education : When Shivaji returned to Pune, his education continued under the supervision of Jijabai. While returning from Bangalore, Jijabai and Shivaji were accompanied by eminent teachers sent by Shahaji Raje. They taught him many sciences, branches of learning and languages.

Shivaji acquired the knowledge of excellent administration, war tactics, fort architecture, selection of horses and elephants, ways of escaping from difficult enemy territories and many other things. Shivaji's progress in education pleased Jijabai very much.

What Veermata Jijabai Taught Shivaji : Jijabai was no ordinary woman. She was the daughter of the mighty Sardar Lakhujirao Jadhav and the wife of the brave and valiant Shahaji Raje. She had inherited the knowledge of politics and warfare from her infancy. In her was witnessed the confluence of the martial traditions of the famous Houses of the Jadhavs and Bhonsales. She was a freedom loving person with a great sense of pride. She had learnt through bitter experience that however much a Maratha Sardar displayed valour, it was not appreciated in the courts of the Sultans. She had valiantly faced the shock of her father's murder in the open court at the instigation of Nizamshah. She had resolved that her son Shivaji would never be engaged in the services of others. He would establish the rule of his own people - Swaraj. She was bringing up Shivaji with that ideal.

The people living in the Maval region were called Mavlas. They were loyal, hardworking and quick-footed. No one could surpass them in hardiness. But they were harassed by the Sultans' rule. The armies of the Sultans used to plunder their villages, forcing the people to abandon their places. Nobody cared for them. Shivaji yearned to do something for these poor, miserable people.

On returning home, Shivaji would talk about this to his mother. Jijabai would say, "Shivba, Shri Ramchandra is the ancestor of the Bhonsales. Rama killed Ravan and made his people happy. The ancestor of the Jadhavs is Shri Krishna. He killed Kans and brought relief to his people. You are a descendant of both Shri Rama and Shri Krishna. You can also destroy the wicked and make your subjects happy."

These words of Jijabai were a source of inspiration to young Shivaji. He would remember the brave deeds of heroes of the past like Rama, Krishna, Bhim, Arjun. He thought of them all the time, whether asleep or awake. He felt that he, too, must fight against injustice as they did, and like them, destroy the wicked and bring happiness to his subjects. He thought that he should become courageous and brave like these heroes of old.

The New Regime of Shivaji : In Pune Jagir, the new regime of Shivaji began under the guidance of Jijabai. Shahaji Raje had already made the preparations for this. When Shahaji Raje sent Shivaji from Bangalore to Pune, he sent some very



Veermata Jijabai

powerful and prestigious people with him. They were Samraj Neelkanth Peshwe, Balkrishna Hanamante Muzumdar, Mankoji Dahatonde Sarnobat, Raghunath Ballal Sabnis, Sonopant Dabir. These were all able men fit to administer an independent kingdom. Shahaji Raje had specially deputed them to Pune to help Shivaji govern his Jagir efficiently. With their help, Shivaji began to administer his Jagir, to attend the people's grievances. Those who inflicted injustice upon the ryot were punished. In a way, Shahaji Raje's Jagir was undergoing a transformation.

The Mavlas got a glimpse of the future 'Swaraj'. It was, as it were, the dawn of Swaraj.

Shivaji's Marriage : In those days, people married at a very early age. So, Jijamata said, "We should now get Shivba

married." Then a search for a suitable bride for Shivba began. Soon she found the girl she wanted. Her name was Saibai. Saibai came from the Nimbalkar family of Phaltan. The marriage was celebrated with great splendour.

 EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option.

- (a) Shahaji Raje was a scholar of ,
(Sanskrit, Kannad, Tamil)
- (b) People living in the Maval region were
called
(peasants, soldiers, Mavlas)

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) Who appointed teachers for Shivaji and
where ?
- (b) What did the teachers begin to teach
Shivaji ?

- (c) Why did Dadaji Konddev give
concession in land tax to peasants ?

3. Give the answer in two or three sentences.

- (a) How was Pune rejuvenated ?
- (b) What knowledge did Shivaji acquire ?
- (c) What had Jijabai resolved ?

Activity

- (a) Write and enact a dialogue between
Shivaji and Jijabai.
- (b) Read the biography of Veermata Jijabai.



6. The Oath of Swaraj

The Temple at Rareshwar : To the south-west of Pune, there is a beauty spot called Rareshwar famous for its temple. In the year 1645, an extraordinary event took place there. Shivaji and a few Mavlas from the neighbouring valley had gathered there. Why had they come to this lovely spot hidden in deep forest ? What did they discuss and what favour did they ask of Lord Shiva ?

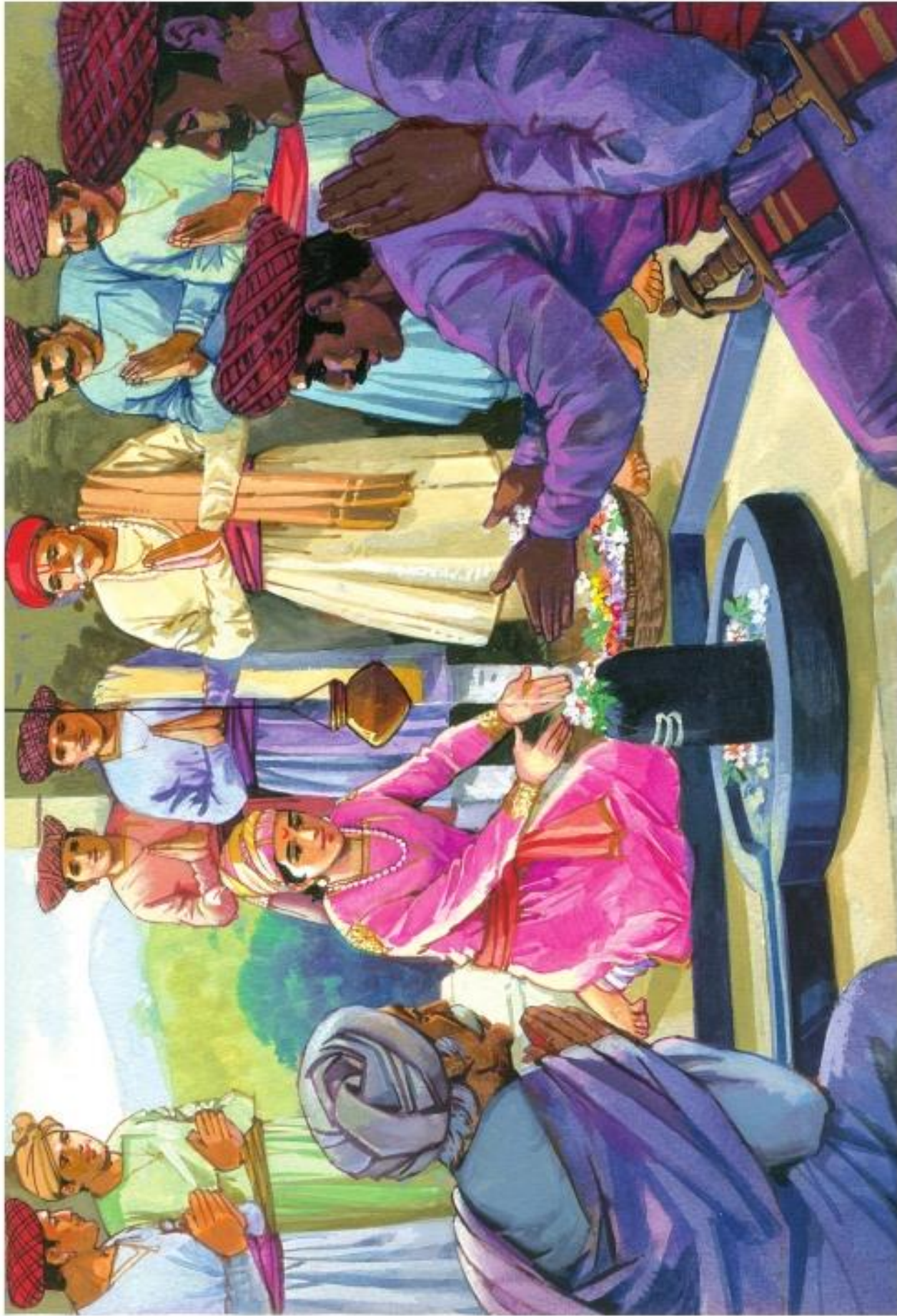
The Fiery Eloquence of Young Shivaji : Shivaji was still quite young but his mind was already busy planning big things. He opened his mind to his playmates and said, "My dear friends, today I am going to talk to you about something which is in my mind for a long time. My father Shahaji Raje is a Sardar at the court of Bijapur. It is he who has given me the charge of this Jagir. Everything is going on well and peacefully. But, friends, I am not happy. Must we always remain satisfied as bondmen of the Sultan ? Must we always eat out of other people's hand ? We are surrounded on all sides by foreign kingdoms which are constantly at war. Our people get killed for nothing during these wars and family after family gets uprooted. Our country suffers destruction. And what do we get out of all this ? Nothing but slavery. How long shall we continue to tolerate this ? How long shall we lay down our lives for others ? Shall we allow this to continue just for the sake of a small Watan ? What have you to say about all this ?"

Shivaji was speaking with great emotion and his face was red with anger. In the middle of his speech he stopped and looked at his companions. The young Mavlas gathered there in the inner sanctum of Rareshwar were greatly thrilled by Shivaji's speech. They had seen a new vision. One of them said, "Our young prince, tell us clearly whatever is in your mind. We are prepared, we are anxious to do your bidding." "Yes Raje," they all said with one voice, "We are with you, we shall do whatever you say at the cost of our lives if need be!"

The Oath of Swaraj : Shivaji got fresh inspiration from their words. Looking at each one of them he said, "Friends, our path is clear. We shall all strive to attain our ideal, work for it till it is achieved. All should be ready even to sacrifice their lives for this ideal which is 'Hindavi Swaraj'. We will have our own Raj, yours and mine and everybody's. We refuse to live as slaves any more. Let us take this oath with Lord Rareshwar as witness; we give ourselves completely to the great task of establishing our own Raj, Swaraj."

The temple echoed the words of Shivaji. "God thinks that this Kingdom should take shape as Hindavi Swaraj. We shall see that God's wish is fulfilled."

So the Mavlas left the temple, committed to the oath of freedom, of Swaraj. The mind of Shivaji was filled



The Oath of Swaraj

with great joy. As soon as he reached Pune he went straight to Lal Mahal to see his mother. He described to her all that took place at Raireshwar. Overjoyed, Jijabai thought with satisfaction that Shivaji would accomplish what was always in her mind.

Preparations in the Maval Valley : Shivaji soon got busy with his new activities. Along with his comrades he started intensive training in swordsmanship, riding, exploring the secret paths in the hills and getting familiar with the general topography of the land, its valleys and ghats and possible communication routes. He won over the Mavlas who became his most devoted followers, willing to lay down their lives for him at any time. Shivaji's enthusiasm increased a thousandfold. Shivaji made a detailed survey of all the forts and military establishments in the area. In this, his followers were of great help to him. In the course of time, he came to know the smallest detail of every establishment; secret pathways, underground routes, ammunition dumps and cellars.

Friends in Maval : All over the twelve Mavals there were Deshmukhs, guarding their individual 'Watans' (gifted land in lieu of service) to which they were more attached than anything else. There were constant quarrels between them leading to useless waste of money and manpower. Shivaji saw this waste and decided to put an end to it. He would visit the Deshmukhs in the area, talk to them, persuade them to desist from their folly and raise before them a very attractive picture

of the Swaraj of his dreams. He thus won many of them over to his side. He used force against those who were adamant. In this way he stopped the mutual warfare. Everybody was pleased with this happy result and all started singing the praises of Shivaji. Zunjarrao Maral, Haibatrao Shilamkar, Baji Pasalkar, Vithoji Shitole, Jedhe, Paygude, Bandal were some of the Deshmukhs in the Maval valley who began to look upon Shivaji as their leader. The dream of Swaraj was fast approaching the day of fulfilment.

Shivaji's Royal Seal : The Jagir was already being administered in the name of Shivaji. Shahaji Raje had cast a special royal seal for Shivaji. It read :

प्रतिपच्चंद्रलेखेव वर्धिष्णुर्विश्ववंदिता ॥
शाहसूनोः शिवस्यैषा मुद्रा भद्राय राजते ॥



The Royal Seal

'This seal will grow in splendour like the new moon. This seal of Shivaji, the son of Shahaji, receiving homage from the whole world denotes the welfare of the people.' This Royal seal in a way, foretold the foundation of Swaraj.

In those days most of the royal seals were carved in Persian. Shivaji's was in

Sanskrit. This was a significant change. There could be no Swaraj without your own language and your own religion. But at the same time, there should not be a hatred for other religions. The seal was a

guarantee to all the Mavlas that Shivaji's Government was for the welfare of the people. They were quick to grasp this point.

EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) To the south-west of Pune, the temple was a beautiful spot.
- (b) All over Maval there were guarding their individual Watans.
- (c) Shahaji Raje had cast a special for Shivaji.

- (c) What did Shivaji come to know in his detailed survey ?
- (d) What did Shivaji decide to put an end to ?

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What words of Shivaji echoed in the temple ?
- (b) What did Jijabai think with joy and satisfaction ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) What was the ideal of Shivaji ?
- (b) What did Shivaji start doing with his comrades ?

Activity

Design and display a picture of the Oath of Swaraj.



7. Swaraj : First Conquest

It is no doubt true that Shivaji and his comrades took the oath of Swaraj in the temple of Raireshwar. But it was a very difficult task. In those days, Maharashtra was governed by four different powers, the Moghul Emperor of Delhi, Sultan Adilshah of Bijapur, the Portuguese of Goa and the Siddi of Janjira. They were powerful opponents, firm in their authority. No one would dare utter a word against them. Under these difficult conditions Shivaji had taken the oath of Swaraj. There was no comparison between the vast forces of the enemy and a handful of Shivaji's Mavlas. But Shivaji's mind was made up and his firm resolve was his greatest source of strength.

Torana Fort : Shivaji controlled the Jagir of Pune, Supe, Chakan and Indapur.

All the forts in the Jagir were, however, in the charge of officers from the court of Bijapur. He who controlled the forts also controlled the surrounding territory and, therefore, all talk of Swaraj without the control of the forts was meaningless. A hill fort gave strategic support to the ruler and Shivaji decided to capture one at a suitable time. For this purpose he had selected the fort of Torana. It stands to the south-west of Pune in the Kanad Valley. It was a renowned fort, well-suited for defence. There were two strong 'Machis' on the way to the fort. A 'Machi' is a fortification of a natural plateau formed on the slope of a hill. One of these 'Machis' was the 'Zunjar Machi' and the other, the 'Budhla Machi'. 'Zunjar Machi', like its name, could offer powerful defence



Fort Torana (Zunjar Machi)

against the enemy. The only access to the fort was across the 'Zunjar Machi'. It is a very difficult passage with high hills on one side and deep valleys on the other. A careless person may easily lose his balance and end his life in the deep valley. Torana was considered one of the strong forts of Maharashtra. In the fort there is a temple of the goddess Toranjai. That is why the fort is called Torana. Strangely enough, this powerful fort was neglected by Adilshah. There were neither enough troops for its defence nor enough ammunition. Shivaji knew this and this was exactly what he wanted. He decided to capture the fort and thus lay the foundation of Hindavi Swaraj.

The drums of Swaraj begin to sound : With a few select bands of Mavlas, Shivaji descended into the Kanad Valley. Swift-footed like the deer and lion-hearted in courage, they raced to the top and captured the strategic positions in the fort. Tanaji Malusare hoisted the Maratha flag at the main entrance. Yesaji Kank, a trustworthy and loyal companion of Shivaji, posted his guards at important points; the fort was captured almost without any resistance and the sky was filled with shouts of "Shivaji Maharaj ki Jai". The first battle drums and pipes of Hindavi Swaraj had sounded and their echo reverberated throughout the valley. Shivaji named this fort 'Prachandgad.'

Blessings of Goddess Bhavani : Fort Torana then came under Shivaji's administration. He made a very careful survey of it and appointed officers such

as a Maratha Killedar, a Brahmin Sabnis and a Prabhu Karkhanis. The garrison included Mavlas, Kolis, Ramoshis, Mahars and such brave men from many other castes and communities. In Swaraj all castes and communities were to be treated alike and no distinctions made on the basis of caste. As repairs to the fort started, a surprise awaited the people. They discovered four metal pots filled to the brim with mohurs. The workers were overjoyed. They said that this was a gift to Shivaji from the Goddess Bhavani who had blessed his efforts. All the money discovered was brought to Shivaji. No one thought of taking anything from it for himself. After all it was the wealth of Swaraj. Shivaji felt greatly elated at this unexpected gift which would enable him to pursue his ideal of Swaraj with added vigour. He felt that he was working under the benevolent eye of the goddess Bhavani.

Shivaji utilised part of the treasure found in the fort to purchase arms and ammunition. The rest he decided to use for another project which was already in his mind. About fifteen kilometres to the east of Torana is the hill of Murumbdeo. Shivaji had his eye on it for a long time. This hill was steep and difficult of access and, therefore, of great strategic importance. Adilshah had actually started constructing a fort on this hill but had left it unfinished. This hill also was not well-guarded and Shivaji decided to capture it.

The First Capital of Swaraj : One day Shivaji climbed up the hill with a select



Fort Rajgad – Pali Darwaja

band of his followers and took possession of the partially completed fort. The money found on Torana was used to complete the fortifications of Murumbdeo. Shivaji named this fort Rajgad. Stone masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, water carriers, other workers - all the people got busy. They built the Rajmahal, Bara Mahal and eighteen workshops. Rajgad became the first capital of Swaraj.

Shivaji's Rapid Progress : From then onwards, Shivaji moved swiftly and captured one fort after another in Maval. The whole country known as Bara Maval – the twelve Mavals – was overflowing with joy and excitement. The Patils and Deshmukhs from many villages came and swore allegiance to Shivaji. But Maval had its own share of black-legs who were ever ready to put a spoke in the fast moving wheel of Swaraj. Jealous of Shivaji's success, they complained to the Adilshahi Collector at Shirval.

The Collector despatched messengers to Bijapur and informed Adilshah of Shivaji's rapid progress.

Shivaji the Shrewd Politician : Adilshah was most surprised to get the news. He asked Shahaji Raje for an explanation. Shahaji Raje got himself out of this difficult situation by telling the Sultan that Shivaji Raje had probably taken over the fort for better administration of the Jagir. Shivaji also sent this message to the Sultan. "I have taken possession of the fort for better administration of the countryside. We did this only in the interest of the Sultan. There was no evil design at the back of this action."

The two forts of Kondana and Purandar too had strategic locations. Shivaji used his political skill and took control of both the forts. The next fort to come under his sway was Rohida. This was fast work indeed and there was nothing to stop Shivaji now.

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Shivaji controlled the Jagir of Pune, Supe, Chakan and
(Indapur, Saswad, Welhe)
- (b) Shivaji decided to capture the fort of and lay the foundation of Hindavi Swaraj.
(Sinhagad, Shivneri, Torana)
- (c) became the first capital of Swaraj.
(Rajgad, Raigad, Pratapgad)

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) Which four different powers governed Maharashtra in those days ?

- (b) What officers were appointed by Shivaji on the fort of Torana ?
- (c) What message did Shivaji send to Adilshah ?

3. Give reasons.

- (a) Shivaji selected the fort of Torana to lay the foundation of Swaraj.
- (b) The workers brought the pots of mohurs discovered on the fort of Torana to Shivaji.

Activity

Arrange a trip to the nearest fort with the help of your teachers.



8. Defeat of Internal Enemies

By Use of Force : The Mavlas of the twelve Mavals gathered round Shivaji, ready to do his bidding. They lived for Swaraj and were willing to die for it. They were simple Maratha folk. They loved Shivaji more than their life. But some people were jealous of Shivaji's achievements. He had to bring such people to book.

Khandoji and Baji Ghorpade were two Sardars in the service of Adilshah. The Shah incited them against Shivaji. They created a lot of trouble in the Kondana district but Shivaji was more than a match for them. He defeated and drove them out.

Bajaji Naik Nimbalkar of Phaltan was Shivaji's own brother-in-law. But Shivaji Maharaj had to fight many battles against him. However, later on, members of this family stood by Shivaji Maharaj.

Sambhaji Mohite of Supe, a near relative of Shivaji, also started plotting against Shivaji. Shivaji arrested him at Supe and banished him to Karnatak. With Shivaji, duty came first and relatives afterwards.

Chandrarao Morey of Javali : The greatness of Shivaji's achievements was recognised and applauded everywhere. He captivated the heart of his people. Some people did not like this. They looked upon Shivaji as a mole in the eye. The Morey

of Javali was one such person. Morey was the Jagirdar of Javali. This Jagir which extended from Raigad to Koyna Valley, along with the title 'Chandrarao', was conferred upon him by Adilshah. Javali was covered with such a thick forest that even during broad daylight, the sun's rays hardly penetrated it. It was full of wild life. Tigers, wolves and bears roamed freely in the Javali forest. Morey's Javali was thus like a tiger's hideout. No one, therefore, crossed Morey's path. Only Shivaji had the courage to do so.

Daulatrao Morey died in 1645. There was fight for the succession among his descendants. Shivaji backed Yeshwantrao Morey who, with Shivaji's help, ascended the 'gadi' as 'Chandrarao'. In return for Shivaji's help, Yeshwantrao promised to help Shivaji in his struggle and also pay him an annual tribute. But he forgot all this once he succeeded to the 'gadi'. He became impertinent and troublesome. He started attacking Shivaji's territory and harassing the people. Shivaji realised that unless Morey was punished, he would remain a constant danger to Swaraj.

'Rebel and you will die' : Shivaji first sent a stiff note to Yeshwantrao Morey, "You call yourself the Raja. But I am the Raja of this territory. This Kingdom is Lord Shiva's gift to me. So do not call yourself the Raja."

In a very rude reply Yeshwantrao said, "You are a Raja of only yesterday. Who gave you this Kingdom ? If you come to Javali, you will be trapped. By the grace of God, I have received from Adilshah the title of 'Raja'. He has also in his graciousness given me a throne and the panoply of a Raja. If you start any trouble here, you will be badly hurt."

Shivaji replied, "Give up Javali and your pretensions to Kingship. Come before your master with folded hands and accept his service. You will refuse to do so at the risk of your life."

The conquest of Javali was a difficult operation. It was covered with thick forest and protected by the impregnable Rairi fort. Morey also

had numerous followers. Shivaji after making thorough preparations, attacked Javali. Yeshwantrao held out for about a month but suffered very heavy losses. He then escaped to Rairi along with his family. Shivaji conquered Javali and then marched on Rairi. He laid siege to Fort Rairi. Yeshwantrao fought desperately for three months but he had to give up.

Fort Raigad : The conquest of Javali was a very important landmark. This doubled the boundaries of Swaraj under Shivaji. Yeshwantrao's army, too, joined the forces of Shivaji. The strong Rairi fort became a part of Swaraj. Shivaji was highly pleased to have this fort under his control. He changed its name to 'Raigad'. Later on, he built a new fort on the Bhorpya hill nearby. It was named 'Pratapgad'.



Fort Raigad

1. Find out the wrong pair.

- (a) Phaltan – Nimbalkar
- (b) Javali – Morey
- (c) Supe – Jadhav

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What title was conferred by Adilshah upon the Moreys of Javali ?
- (b) Why was the conquest of Javali a very important landmark ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) Why did no one cross Morey's path ?
- (b) What note did Shivaji send to Yeshwantrao Morey ?

Activity

- 1. Collect pictures of Raigad.
- 2. Prepare a model of Raigad with the help of your friends, in your Diwali vacation.



9. Pratapgad makes History.

Adilshah Perturbed : The Court of Adilshah at Bijapur was passing anxious days, due to the growing exploits of Shivaji. The Sultan summoned all his Sardars to court to take stock of the situation. All the Sardars including those known for their exploits and those comparatively unknown attended. Badi Saheba, the Dowager Queen, who personally looked after the Adilshahi administration from Bijapur was also present. The one question before the assembly was "How to bring Shivaji to book and break his revolt."

Badi Saheba asked a straight question to her Sardars, "Tell me, who is willing to march against Shivaji and put an end to his rebellion?"

The court became silent. Everybody sat quietly in his place and started looking at the next person, for who would dare accept the challenge of fighting Shivaji? Just then a giant of a man came forward and bowed respectfully before the throne. His name was Afzalkhan.

The Khan accepts the Challenge : The Khan accepted the challenge and picked up the betel leaf from the salver as a mark of acceptance. "Shivaji. Who is Shivaji?" he said, "I shall arrest him and bring him here or if that is not possible, I shall bring his dead body."

Afzalkhan was one of the mighty Sardars at the court of Bijapur. His physical prowess and strength were

unbelievable. He could bend a crowbar with his bare hands. He was a past master in achieving his end by any available means. This Afzalkhan had accepted the challenge of bringing Shivaji to court, dead or alive. The court was highly pleased. Everybody thought that it was the end of Shivaji and that he would be brought to Bijapur either alive or dead.

Afzalkhan left Bijapur in great pomp. He was accompanied by a huge army fully equipped for battle. He was previously the Subhedar of Wai for twelve years and knew the country well. He marched on Maharashtra full of pride and confident of success.

Swaraj in Danger : At this time Shivaji was at Rajgad. He got the news of Afzalkhan's movements. He immediately saw that his Swaraj was in great danger. But he did not lose courage. He knew that the Khan was full of stratagem and had a huge army with him. Shivaji's kingdom was very small in comparison and so was his army. He could see that he could never hold his own in open battle against the Khan. His only hope was in some strategic move that would take the Khan by surprise. In consultation with Jijabai and with her blessings, Shivaji Maharaj shifted his headquarters from Rajgad to Pratapgad.

Afzalkhan's Counter-move : When the Khan learnt that Shivaji had moved to

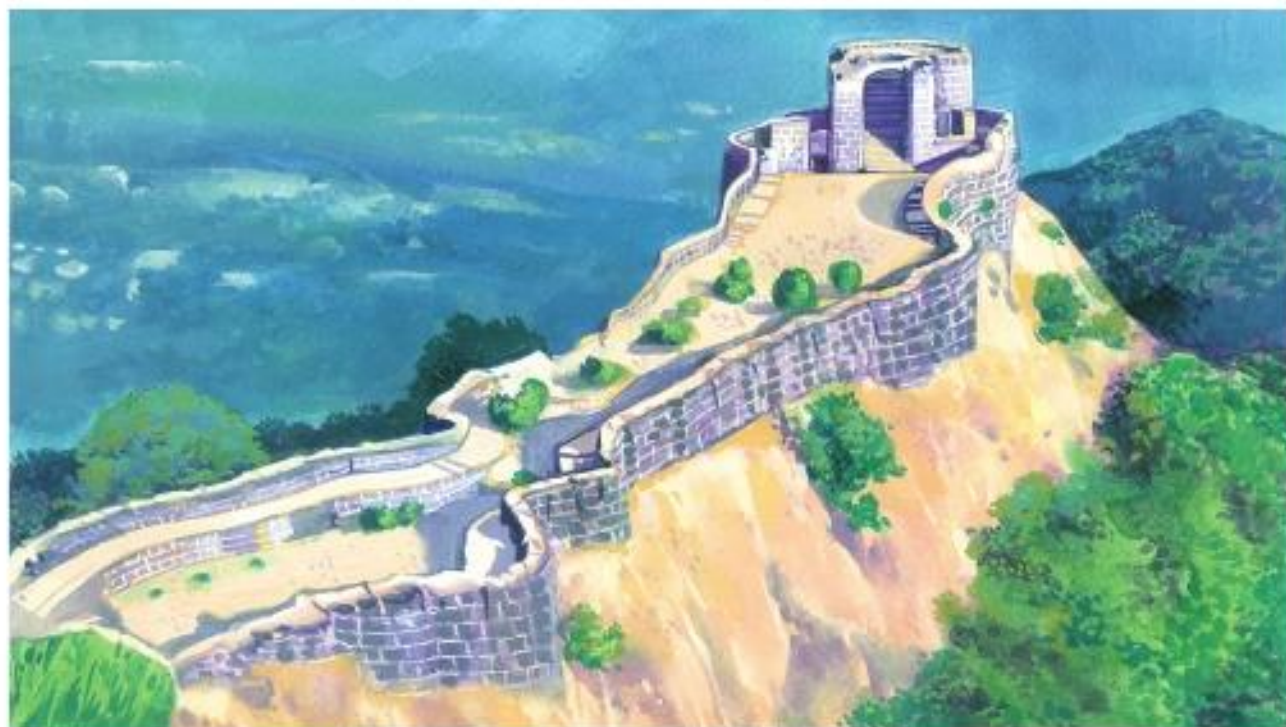
Pratapgad, he became very angry. He was aware of the difficulties in conquering Pratapgad. It was surrounded by thick forest and high hills. There was no proper approach road to the fort and it was very difficult to move his artillery. Besides, the jungle was full of wild life.

The Khan initiated many moves in the hope of bringing Shivaji down to the plains. He attacked the holy cities of Pandharpur and Tuljapur. He harassed the people. He was hopeful that these tactics would bring Shivaji down to the plains. But Shivaji proved too clever for him. He refused to leave Pratapgad. Then the Khan changed his tactics. In a spirit of apparent friendliness he sent a message to Shivaji. "You are like a son to me. Come and see me. Return our forts and I shall see that Adilshah makes you a Sardar at his court."

Tit for Tat : Shivaji quickly saw through the Khan's offer. He was taking no chances. He decided somehow to persuade the Khan to come up to the fort. In reply to the Khan's message he said, "Khansaheb, I am guilty of having captured your forts. I must have your promise of pardon for this. Please come and meet me at the foothills of Pratapgad. I am really afraid of coming down to the plains to meet you."

This reply of Shivaji pleased Afzalkhan. Passing his fingers through his beard he smiled and said, "This is good news. What can Shivaji do against the mighty Afzalkhan? He has no guts to fight me. I shall myself go to Pratapgad and put an end to his life when we meet." So he agreed to Shivaji's proposal.

The Meeting Place : The 'Machi' on Pratapgad was chosen as the meeting



Fort Pratapgad



place. A date and time was fixed. It was agreed that each one would be accompanied by a servant and followed by ten bodyguards at a distance. A special road was constructed for the convenience of the Khan and a big shamiana put up for the meeting.

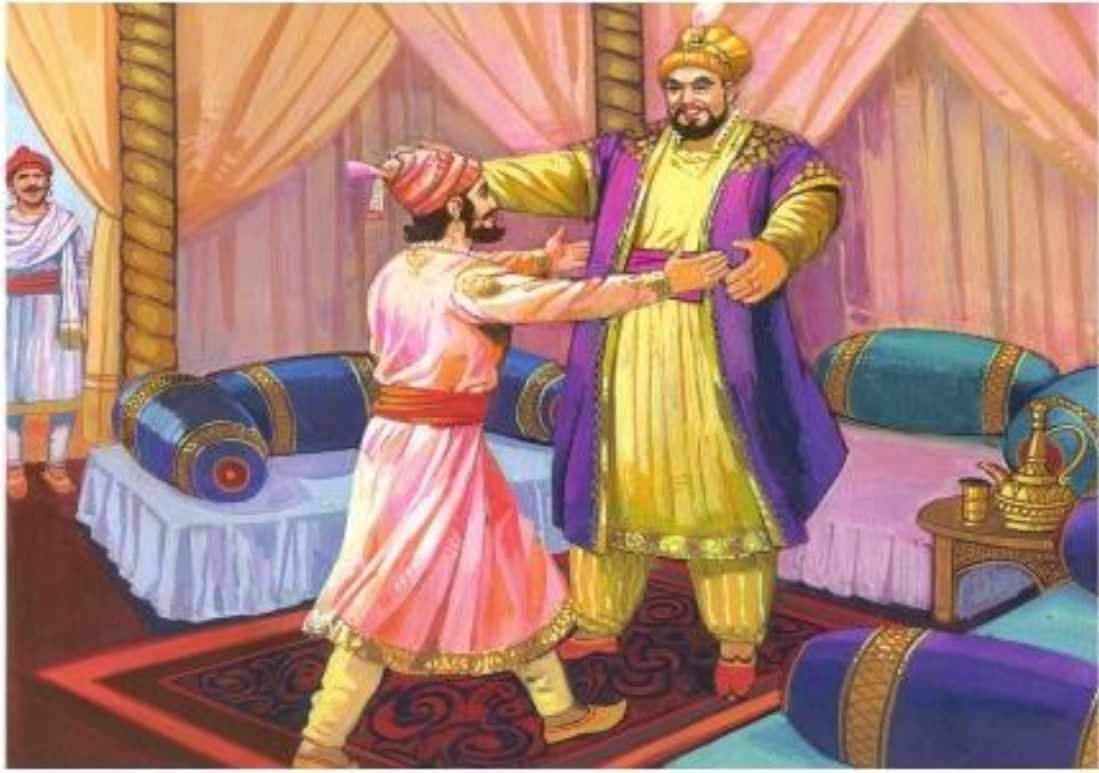
Every move of Shivaji was marked by great caution. He divided his army into small units. Each unit was told where to hide and when and how to act. He took every measure for safety and left nothing to chance. Many of his advisers tried to dissuade him from meeting the Khan. The Khan's word could not be trusted. But Shivaji brushed aside this advice and decided to meet the Khan as arranged.

Before the Meeting : On the day of the meeting, Shivaji visited Bhavani's temple in the morning and took 'darshan'. Soon after, he started putting on his ceremonial clothes. He wore his Surwar and coat of mail. Over the coat of mail, he wore a kurta and a flowing robe. On his head he placed the Jiretope (helmet) and tied a Mandil around it. He fitted Wagnakh onto the fingers of his left hand. Hidden inside the left sleeve was a Bichwa and he

carried the Dandpatta in his hand. He was now ready to face the Khan.

All the Sardars were waiting outside. Shivaji turned to them and said, "Friends, each one of you must carry out the duties assigned to you. I am sure the goddess Bhavani will see that we succeed. But if things go wrong and I am killed, do not lose heart. Install Sambhaji on the 'gadi', follow the commands of Maasaheb. Fight for Swaraj and extend its boundaries. Make the subjects happy. I shall go now to meet the Khan." He was accompanied by his Vakil Pantaji Gopinath and ten bodyguards including Jivaji Mahala, Sambhaji Kavji, Yesaji Kank, Krishnaji Gaikwad, Siddi Ibrahim and others.

When Shivaji reached the shamiana he saw that the Khan had already arrived. He was busy planning his future moves. Standing by his side was an armed soldier, Bada Sayyad by name. He was highly skilled in the use of Dandpatta. Shivaji came to the entrance of the shamiana, but on seeing Bada Sayyad, he stopped and would not proceed further. The Khan asked Shivaji's Vakil why Shivaji stood at the entrance instead of coming in.



Shivaji meets Afzalkhan.

The Vakil said, "He is afraid of Bada Sayyad. Please ask him to go away." Bada Sayyad moved away and Shivaji stepped in. The Khan got up and said, "Come, Shivaji Raje, let us embrace each other as a mark of our friendship."

The Struggle with the Khan: Shivaji Maharaj cautiously took a step forward and the Khan took him in his embrace. Compared to the giant Khan, Shivaji was short. He reached only as far as the Khan's chest. At the same moment, the Khan held Shivaji's neck in his iron grip and stabbed him on the side with his dagger. It tore apart Shivaji's robe but the coat of mail underneath saved him. Shivaji, knowing that the Khan was trying to kill him, quickly thrust the Wagnakh in the Khan's stomach. Drawing out the Bichwa with his right hand, he drove it

into the Khan's stomach and tore apart his guts. The wounded Khan fell down. Khan's Vakil, Krishnaji Bhaskar, came forward and attacked Shivaji with his sword. But Shivaji killed him with one stroke of the Patta. When Bada Sayyad heard the shouts and noise he rushed into the shamiana. As he was about to strike Shivaji, Jivaji Mahala came between them and killed Bada Sayyad with one stroke. 'Because of Jiva, Shiva was saved' became a common saying afterwards. Sambhaji Kavji displayed great bravery in this conflict.

The Rout of the Afzalkhan's Army : Thus with triumph Shivaji went up to the fort. The gun boomed and gave the signal. On the instant, Shivaji's troops came out of their hiding and attacked the Khan's army. The Khan's army was

completely unprepared for the attack and was caught in a difficult terrain. They could not even run away to save their lives. The Maratha troops chased them in hot pursuit and destroyed the whole of the Khan's powerful army. Fazalkhan, Afzalkhan's son who escaped with great difficulty, reached Bijapur. His account

of the disastrous campaign spread gloom over the whole of Bijapur.

Shivaji thus humbled the most powerful Sardar of the Bijapur Court. His fame spread everywhere. The songs of his exploits were heard in the hills and valleys of Sahyadri.

EXERCISES

1. Form a correct word from the given letters.

- (a) r t P a p a g d a
- (b) j a i i S v h
- (c) n h l z A a f k a

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What challenge did Afzalkhan accept ?
- (b) What message did Afzalkhan send Shivaji in a spirit of apparent friendliness ?

3. Give the answer in two or three sentences.

- (a) Why did Shivaji have to use some strategic move to fight Afzalkhan ?

- (b) What did Shivaji say to his Sardars before going to Afzalkhan ?

4. Give reasons.

- (a) Afzalkhan became very angry when he learnt that Shivaji had moved to Pratapgad.
- (b) Gloom spread over the whole of Bijapur.

Activity

Collect a few Marathi proverbs or sayings that are related to historical events.



10. Baji Prabhu and the Memorable Battle of Ghodkhind

Shivaji Conquers Panhala – Adilshah Gets Angry : While Bijapur was still mourning the death of Afzalkhan and the complete rout of his army, Shivaji captured the Panhala fort from the Bijapur garrison. This threw Adilshah into a fit of wild rage. He could neither eat nor sleep. He despatched another Sardar, Siddi Jauhar, against Shivaji. Siddi Jauhar had a huge army with him. Fazalkhan who wanted to avenge his father's death, also accompanied him.

The Siege of Panhalgad : Siddi Jauhar was brave but ruthless. He was a strict disciplinarian. He laid siege to Panhalgad and confined Shivaji within the fort. The rainy season was approaching and Shivaji thought that once the rains came, Siddi Jauhar would lift the siege. But Siddi Jauhar did nothing of the kind. On the contrary, with the arrival of the monsoon, he further tightened the siege. Supplies in the fort were running out. Shivaji was in a fix. Since he could not force Siddi Jauhar to lift the siege by an open battle, he decided to deceive Siddi Jauhar by a clever ruse. He sent a message to Siddi Jauhar to the effect that he would shortly surrender the fort. Siddi was happy.

Siddi's troops were already tired of the long siege. They were very pleased to hear that Shivaji agreed to surrender.

They relaxed the watch and indulged in food, drink and music.

Shivaji Escapes from the Siege : A plan was hit upon to escape from the siege. Two palanquins were kept ready. One was meant for Shivaji in which he would proceed using a difficult route. The other would be occupied by another person disguised as Shivaji. This palanquin was to leave by the 'Raj-dindi'. This other palanquin would be easily spotted by the enemy forces, and it would be captured by them. While the enemy celebrated the capture of Shivaji, the real Shivaji would escape by the difficult route. This was the plan; but who would thus impersonate Shivaji ? Such an impersonation meant certain death. But a brave youth undertook this task. He resembled Shivaji in looks and even bore the same name. He was a hairdresser in Shivaji's service. He was courageous and shrewd.

As planned, the palanquin carrying this other Shivaji came out of Raj-dindi. It was a dark night and it was raining heavily. Still, some enemy soldiers were keeping watch. They captured the palanquin. They thought that they had caught Shivaji himself and took the palanquin to Siddi's camp. Jubilations began in the camp. In the meanwhile, Shivaji escaped from the fort by the difficult route. He was accompanied by

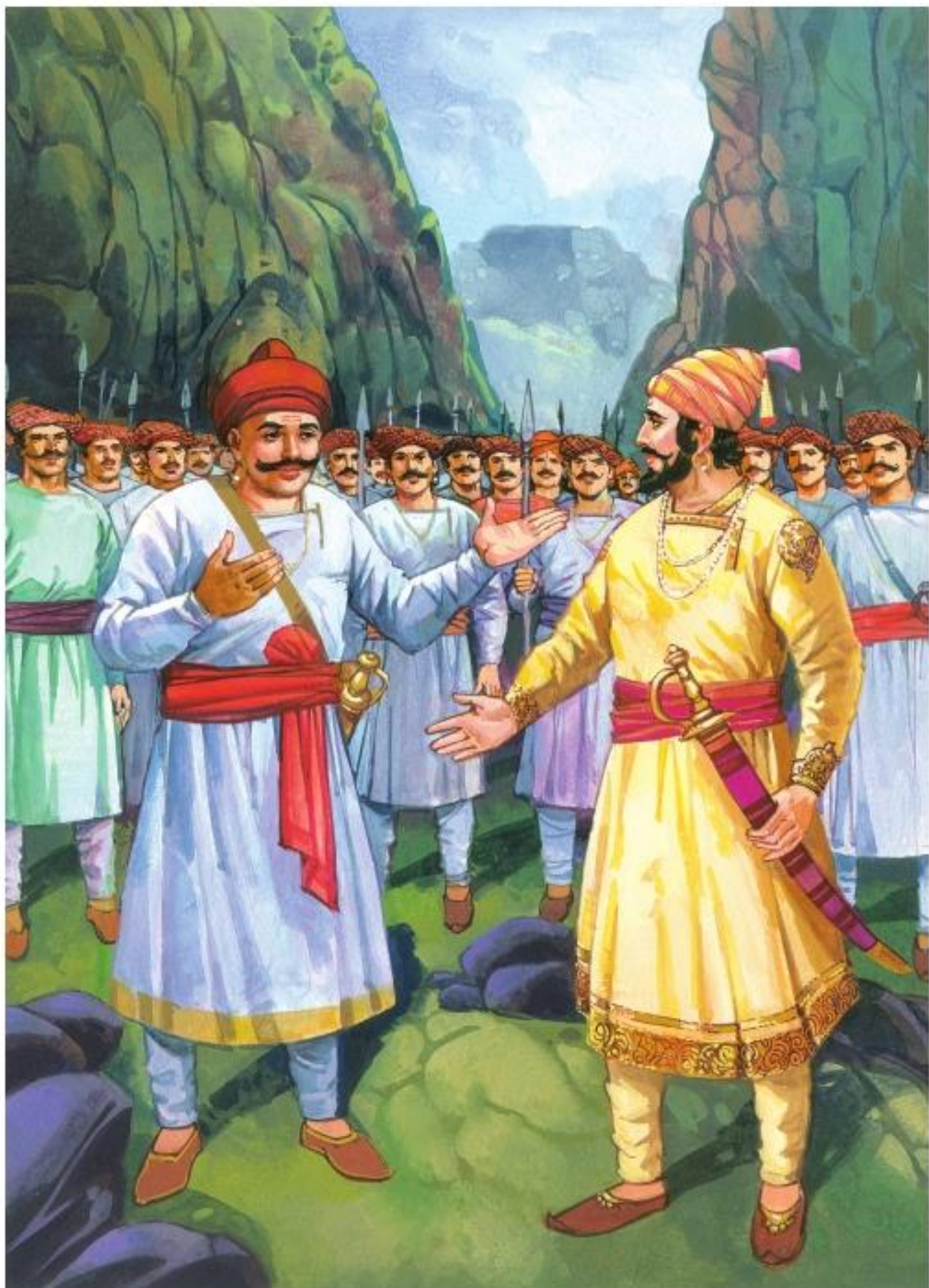
Baji Prabhu Deshpande and some select soldiers. The Bandal Deshmukh army accompanied them. After some time, the impersonation of the other Shivaji was exposed. The furious Siddi killed him then and there. This Shivaji sacrificed his own life in the cause of Shivaji and Swaraj. Thus, he became immortal.

When the Siddi learnt that Shivaji had given him the slip, he was livid with rage. Immediately, he despatched his Sardar Siddi Masaud, accompanied by a big army, in hot pursuit of Shivaji. At daybreak, the pursuing horsemen caught up with Shivaji at the Pandharpani stream. Shivaji was now in real trouble. With the greatest difficulty he and his men crossed the Ghodkhind.

Baji Prabhu, the Brave : The angry troops of Siddi were fast galloping towards the Ghodkhind pass. Shivaji saw that it was impossible to reach Vishalgad before the enemy overtook them. He said to Baji Prabhu, "Baji, this is a very critical situation. The road ahead is steep and the enemy is right on our heels. It is now impossible to reach Vishalgad. So let us turn back and face the enemy." Baji Prabhu understood the great agitation going on in Shivaji's mind. The enemy was fast approaching the pass. The life of Shivaji and, therefore, Swaraj, was in danger. He said, "Maharaj, you must proceed to Vishalgad. Take a handful of soldiers with you. I shall defend this pass and will not let the enemy cross it. I shall lay down my life in defence of this pass

if need be. If I die, there will be many other Bajis to take my place. But no one can replace you. Our Swaraj needs you. The enemy will attack in large numbers. We cannot hold out against them with our limited force. Please do not wait. Go ahead. We shall stop the enemy at the entrance to the pass. We shall not let him advance till we know that you have reached Vishalgad safely." Baji Prabhu's brave words and his sense of loyalty brought tears to Shivaji's eyes. He was most unwilling to sacrifice this gem of a man for his personal safety. But he had no time to think of these things. He wanted to achieve his ideal of Swaraj. He fondly embraced Baji and said, "We shall move ahead towards Vishalgad. As soon as we gain the fort, guns will be fired. That will be the signal of our safe arrival. As soon as you hear the gun-fire, abandon the pass and follow us to the fort."

Baji's Defence of the Ghodkhind Pass : So Shivaji left for Vishalgad leaving Baji Prabhu to defend the pass. Baji made a low bow to the receding figure of Shivaji and then prepared himself for battle. He took a sword in his hand and stood at the entrance of the pass. He divided his company of soldiers into small groups and posted them at suitable points. The Mavlas took their positions and collected huge boulders and stones to be used as weapons. The Mavlas across the pass were now a strong barrier in the path of the enemy. By this time the enemy had reached the mouth of the pass and one could hear their war cries. Baji



Shivaji and Baji Prabhu in Ghodkhind

addressed his troops and said, "My brave soldiers and comrades, be prepared. You may die fighting but do not desert your post. Do not allow the enemy to conquer the pass, no matter what price has to be paid." So Baji Prabhu and his Mavlas stood at the mouth of the pass, firm and fearless, awaiting the enemy. The pass was difficult to cross, there being only a narrow and a zigzag passage across it.

At the other end, Shivaji was speeding towards Vishalgad. The fort was still some distance away and it would take Shivaji at least two hours to reach it. If Baji Prabhu could hold out for those two hours, Shivaji would be safe.

The Battle of Ghodkhind : By now the enemy was at the mouth of the pass where a fierce battle was in progress. The Mavlas who were adept at the use of the sling harassed the enemy with showers of stones and boulders from the hill-top and killed many of them. The first batch of the attacking troops withdrew in confusion. Another batch took their place. Baji Prabhu urged his troops into the attack. The Maratha war cry "Har Har Mahadeo" echoed through the hills and the brave Mavlas cut down the enemy troops in the fierce and desperate attack. Through the din of battle they heard their captain shouting encouragement to them : "Bravo, my lads, go ahead, attack and destroy the enemy". The second batch of the enemy troops was also defeated.

Shivaji was by now, almost at the foot of Vishalgad. Vishalgad was also besieged by the enemy. Shivaji fought

through the ranks of the besieging troops and was on the last lap of his ride to safety.

Baji the Brave : In the meantime, the battle at the pass continued unabated. Enraged at the defeat of his first two attacks, Siddi Masaud organized and despatched a third batch of troops against Baji Prabhu and his brave men. They surrounded Baji Prabhu who fought with great courage. Though wounded and attacked from all sides, with his body covered with blood, Baji would not withdraw from the pass but continued the fight. At the same time, he urged his Mavlas to attack the enemy. Disheartened by the fearful attack, the enemy again withdrew. But Baji was fatally wounded. He was hanging on to life just to hear the sound of gun-fire from Vishalgad.

Ghodkhind becomes Pavan Khind : And then the sound of gun-fire was heard from Vishalgad. "Maharaj has reached Vishalgad. I have done my duty. Now I can die in peace." So saying, Baji breathed his last on this historic battlefield. When Shivaji heard this news on Vishalgad, he was greatly grieved. He exclaimed, "Baji Prabhu Deshpande laid down his life on the battlefield in the cause of Swaraj. The Bandals gave a great battle."

It was because of brave patriots like Baji Prabhu that Swaraj was won. Their blood made the Ghodkhind a place holy in Swaraj. Ghodkhind became immortal in history as 'Pavan Khind'. We pay our repeated homage to the brave Baji Prabhu and his brave men.

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Siddi Jauhar laid a siege to
- (b) Baji Prabhu's sense of brought tears to Shivaji's eyes.
- (c) Ghodkhind became immortal in history as

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What message was sent to Siddhi Jauhar by Shivaji, in order to escape from the siege ?
- (b) Why did Siddhi Jauhar become livid with rage ?
- (c) What did Shivaji say to Baji Prabhu, while leaving for Vishalgad fort ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) Which plan was hit upon for Shivaji's escape from the siege ?

- (b) What preparation did Baji Prabhu make to halt the enemy in the Ghodkhind pass ?

4. Give reasons.

- (a) Adilshah was thrown into a fit of wild rage.
- (b) The Shivaji in service of Shivaji Maharaj became immortal.
- (c) Pavan Khind became immortal in History.

5. Write the name of the person :

- (a) Brave and yet was cruel
- (b) Gave most gallant fight at the 'Ghodkhind' pass
- (c) Escaped from the siege

Activity

Obtain more information about the dedicated people in the service of Shivaji Maharaj with the guidance of your teacher.



11. The Discomfiture of Shaistakhan

Shaistakhan's Campaign : In spite of repeated efforts in which he left no stone unturned, Adilshah of Bijapur could not force Shivaji to surrender. Every Sardar of Bijapur who was sent against Shivaji was defeated. Adilshah at last gave up the fight, made peace with Shivaji and gave recognition to his independent Kingdom. Shivaji thus had peace for some time on his southern border.

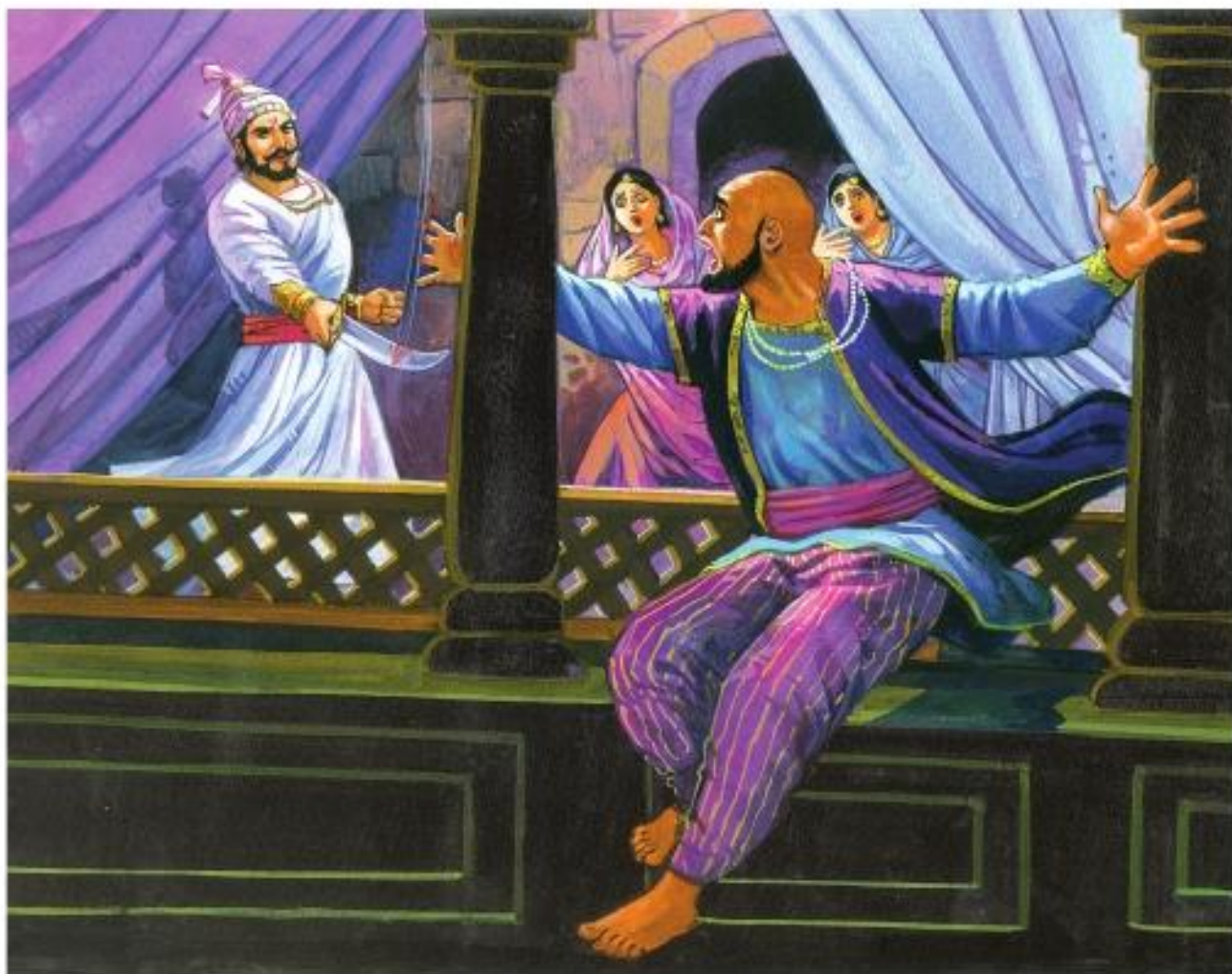
In the meanwhile, constant Moghul attacks from the north had practically ruined Maharashtra. Shivaji, therefore, turned his attention northwards and carried out raids in the territory of the Moghul Emperor, Aurangzeb. This enraged Aurangzeb and he sent Shaistakhan, his uncle, to deal with Shivaji and teach him a lesson. Shaistakhan with a huge army of 75,000 men and hundreds of elephants, camels and pieces of cannon marched on Pune. On the way he captured the towns of Shirval, Shivapur, Saswad and finally laid siege to the fort of Purandar. Nothing could stop his advance. But once the Maratha army surrounded him in a mountain pass. The Maratha troops moved very fast on their swift Bhimthadi ponies. They also travelled very light. They could traverse the hills and valleys in the shortest possible time on army rations consisting of onions and bajra bread. This type of warfare, perfected by the Marathas, was unknown to Shaistakhan. Tired of the continuous

harassment by the Maratha troops, he at last raised the siege of Purandar.

Firangoji Narsala : Shaistakhan then continued his march on Pune. First he captured the fort of Chakan. Firangoji Narsala fought to defend the fort with great bravery and skill against the army of Shaistakhan. For two months he kept Shaistakhan at bay, but he was helpless against the guns of Shaistakhan. Shaistakhan was much impressed with the way Firangoji defended the fort and offered him service with the Moghul Emperor. Firangoji however refused this tempting offer.

Shaistakhan in Lal Mahal : Shaistakhan came to Pune and made Lal Mahal, Shivaji's residence, his headquarters. One year passed, then another year. Shaistakhan would not leave Pune. On the contrary, his troops would raid Shivaji's territory, destroy crops and take away the cattle. In this way he started devastating the surrounding countryside.

A Bold Plan : At last Shivaji decided to teach Shaistakhan a lesson. In a way it was good that Shaistakhan was staying in Lal Mahal. Shivaji knew the place inside out, with all its entrances and exits, its secret passages, doors and windows. Besides, Shivaji's spies were keeping him well informed about the disposition of the Khan's troops. Shivaji, therefore, decided to enter Lal Mahal one night and kill Shaistakhan. This was indeed a very



Shivaji attacks Shaistakhan.

bold plan. Lal Mahal was so well guarded that even an ant would find it difficult to get through. 75,000 troops were camping outside the palace. No armed Maratha was allowed to enter the town. But Shivaji had made up his mind and there was none who could turn him away from his resolve.

Shivaji fixed the date to carry out the plan. On the night of 5th April, 1663, a marriage procession was passing along the streets of Pune. There was music, and fireworks accompanied the procession. Hundreds of people dressed in fine

clothes were in the procession. Some were in Palanquins, others in 'Menas', while many more were on foot. Shivaji with his band of trusted followers joined the procession to give the impression that they were a part of it. After some time the procession proceeded on its way, but Shivaji and his men moved away quietly in the direction of Lal Mahal. Shaistakhan was fast asleep at this hour.

Shaistakhan Learns a Lesson : Shivaji made a hole in the wall and entered Lal Mahal. He had no trouble in finding his way about, because it was after all,

his own house. The Khan's bodyguards were half asleep. Shivaji's followers tied them up. Shivaji went deeper inside. Suddenly, someone rushed at him with a sword. Shivaji killed him. He thought it was Shaistakhan, but it was his son. There was a commotion. People woke up.

Shivaji went straight to the Khan's chambers and took out his sword. Terrified, the Khan started shouting 'the Devil, the Devil' and tried to escape through the window. Shivaji struck him with the sword which cut off three fingers of the Khan. The Khan could have lost his life, but he escaped with the loss of three fingers only. The Khan jumped out of the window and made for safety. To deceive the Khan's troops, Shivaji and his men raised the cry, "Shivaji has attacked. Run, catch him," and started

to run themselves. The Khan's troops also started running in all directions. In the confusion that followed, Shivaji and his men made their escape and reached Sinhagad. The Khan's troops spent the whole night looking in vain for Shivaji and his troops.

This incident took the fight out of Shaistakhan. He was afraid that if he lost only his fingers in the first attack, Shivaji might cut his head off in the second. Aurangzeb was furious when he heard of this episode. Shaistakhan lost the Emperor's favour and was transferred to Bengal.

This was the first serious blow to the Moghul Power. Shivaji had successfully bearded the lion in his own den. Gunfire announced the victory and a wave of joy went all over Maharashtra.

EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks :

- Shaistakhan laid siege to the fort of
(Purandar, Panhala, Shivneri)
- In Pune, Shaistakhan made his headquarters.
(Shaniwar Wada, Lal Mahal, Parvati)
- Aurangzeb transferred Shaistakhan to
(Assam, Karnatak, Bengal)

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- Which towns did Shaistakhan capture on the way to Pune ?
- Why did Shaistakhan at last raise the siege of Purandar ?
- What was Shaistakhan afraid that might happen ?

3. Give reasons.

- Emperor Aurangzeb was enraged and sent Shaistakhan to deal with Shivaji.
- Shaistakhan tried to escape through the window.

4. Write the incidents or events chronologically :

- Shivaji and his men departed towards Sinhagad fort.
- Shaistakhan made Lal Mahal his headquarters.
- Shaistakhan captured the fort of Chakan.
- Shivaji taught Shaistakhan a lesson.

Activity

Arrange a trip to visit Lal Mahal.



12. The Siege of Purandar and the Treaty with the Moghul Emperor

Raid on Surat : After this triumph, Shivaji did not sit idle. Aurangzeb's troops were laying waste the whole of Maharashtra. To bring the Emperor to his senses, Shivaji carried out his daring raid on Surat. Surat was so far away from Pune that no one but Shivaji could have thought of this daring raid. Surat was then a great centre of trade in the Moghul empire and a very rich city. Shivaji carried out the raid successfully and brought home a booty worth lakhs of rupees. Shivaji did not forsake ethics in the raid on Surat. He spared the churches and mosques. He did not show disrespect to women.

The raid on Surat drove Aurangzeb into a furious rage. He now decided to put an end to the Maratha Kingdom. He ordered his great general, Mirza Raje Jaising, to humble Shivaji. To assist Mirza Raje in the campaign, he sent with him his trusted Sardar, Dilerkhan. The two landed in the Deccan with a huge army and unlimited funds. Swaraj was in real danger.

Immediately after his return from the expedition of Surat, in 1664 AD, Shivaji Maharaj heard a sad news. Shahaji Raje had suffered an accidental death while on



Fort Purandar

a hunt. Shivaji and Jijabai were greatly grieved. Holding his mother close to his bosom, Shivaji Maharaj consoled her.

Siege of Purandar by the Moghul Army : Purandar was one of Shivaji's big and strong forts. Dilerkhan knew that Shivaji could not be defeated as long as he was the master of Purandar. He, therefore, laid siege to this powerful fort. He had a huge army under his command. Murarbaji was in charge of the fort. He was a determined fighter who would not easily yield to threats. He was also supported by brave troops. With their help Murarbaji decided to defend the fort.

Dilerkhan's guns went into action. Fiery cannon balls began to drop on the fort. Murarbaji and his brave men held on. The first bastion on the 'Machi' collapsed under gun-fire. Dilerkhan's troops captured the lower fort. The Marathas withdrew to the upper fort and continued to fight. Dilerkhan was watching the battle from his camp.

Furious with rage, Murarbaji decided to attack the Moghul troops with a select contingent of five hundred men. He opened the gates of the upper fort. Shouting their war cry, "Har Har Mahadeo," the Mavlas fell on the Moghul troops. After a fierce battle which lasted for a short time, the Marathas routed the huge Moghul army which fled towards Dilerkhan's camp.

Murarbaji followed them in hot pursuit. With his troops he entered the camp of Dilerkhan and wrought havoc there. The enemy troops were in flight

and the Marathas in pursuit. Cries and shouts filled the whole camp. In great hurry Dilerkhan mounted his elephant and looked ahead. There was Murarbaji hacking the soldiers to pieces. His sword moved like lightning, cut throats, broke heads and pierced the hearts of the enemy. No one could stop him or hold him in check. Dilerkhan watched in admiration his great deeds of bravery.

Murarbaji's Incomparable Valour : Seeing Dilerkhan, Murarbaji asked his troops to attack in full force and himself advanced towards Dilerkhan. Whoever tried to obstruct him was cut to pieces. The Moghul troops at last surrounded Murarbaji on all sides. Just then Dilerkhan shouted, "Wait ; Hold back your swords !" The Moghul troops halted and moved back a little. Then Dilerkhan addressed Murarbaji, "Until now I have not seen a swordsman like you. You come over to our side. I promise you complete safety. The Emperor will make you a Sardar, and reward you with a Jagir". His eyes red with anger, Murarbaji said in return, "We are the loyal servants of Shivaji Maharaj. Who wants to buy safety from you? Why should we come over to your side? And who wants your Emperor's Jagir?" He then moved forward in the direction of Dilerkhan and again started attacking his soldiers. Dilerkhan who was seated in the houdah on the elephants back, released an arrow which pierced Murarbaji's neck. Murarbaji fell to the ground. His followers lifted his dead body and took it back to



The Battle between Muralbaji and Dilerkhan

the upper fort. 'What if one Muralbaji is fallen ! We, too, are brave like him. We will fight with courage.' Saying so, they began to fight again without losing heart.

Shivaji heard the news with great sorrow. He knew that he could hold each one of his forts against the Moghul army for at least more than a year. But he was unwilling to do so at the cost of his men who would die in the attempt.

Treaty of Purandar : What could be done? He was not strong enough to fight the powerful Moghuls. All his political skill was also of no avail. There was only one thing he could do. He decided on a

temporary withdrawal from the fight. He would enter into a treaty with the Moghul Emperor. He went and saw Jaising. This was a very sensible and statesmanlike thing to do. He said to Jaising, "Mirza Raje, you are a Rajput. You can understand our suffering. The Emperor's campaigns have laid the country waste and people are in great misery. I have undertaken this task of establishing Swaraj so that people may be happy. You should join me in this uphill task. If you agree to lead us, myself and my Mavlas will be your trusted followers." Jaising was a shrewd diplomat. He persuaded Shivaji to sign



Shivaji Maharaj meets Mirza Raje Jaising.

a treaty of peace with the Emperor. Shivaji signed the treaty and according to its terms, twenty-three forts and a territory with a revenue of four lakh Hons (a gold coin) were to be handed over to the Emperor. The treaty of Purandar was signed in 1665.

After the treaty was signed, Jaising suggested to Shivaji that he should go to Agra and see the Emperor. He also

guaranteed Shivaji's safe return. Shivaji thought over the suggestion. He knew that the Emperor could not be trusted. He had proved treacherous to his own brothers. But, in the end, Shivaji decided to take the risk and face the situation as cautiously as he could. He informed Jaising that he was willing to go to Agra to meet the Emperor.

+++

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) was a great centre of trade in the Moghul empire.
(Pune, Surat, Delhi)
- (b) was in charge of the fort of Purandar.
(Baji Prabhu, Tanaji, Murarbaji)

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) Why did Shivaji carry out a raid on Surat ?
- (b) Why did Dilerkhan lay siege to the Purandar fort ?
- (c) Why did Shivaji enter into a treaty with the Moghul Emperor ?
- (d) According to the treaty of Purandar, what territory was to be handed over to the Moghuls ?

3. Write the answer in two or three sentences.

- (a) What did Dilerkhan say to Murarbaji on seeing his valour ?
- (b) What did Murarbaji say in return ?

4. Complete these names from the lesson with the help of the given first letters.

- (a) Au
- (b) Pu
- (c) Mu
- (d) Ja
- (e) Di

Activity

Arrange a trip to visit a fort nearby. Obtain some information about it from your teachers.

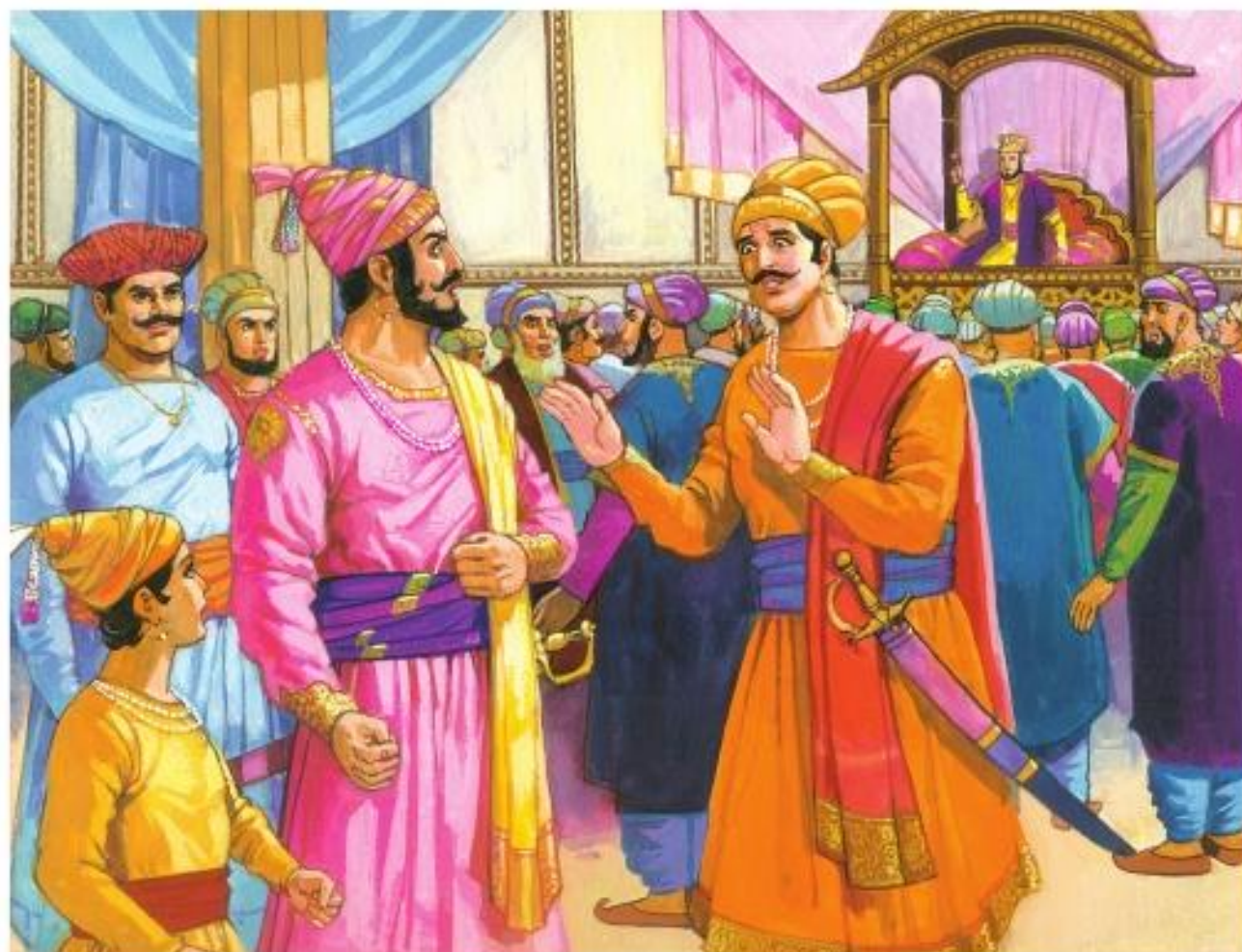


13. Shivaji gives the slip to the Emperor.

Putting his trust in Jaising, Shivaji left for Agra to visit the Emperor. Before leaving for Agra, Shivaji handed over the administration of his Swaraj to his mother Jijabai and took her blessings. With him were his son Sambhaji Raje, some chosen Sardars, and a few trusted people. He also carried with him a large treasure. In due course he reached Agra.

Shivaji Shows his Spirit at the Emperor's Court : On a prearranged day Shivaji Maharaj attended the Emperor's Darbar. Young Sambhaji Raje

accompanied him. It was Aurangzeb's fiftieth birthday. After finishing court in Diwan-i-Khas, the Emperor entered the hall where matters of state were discussed. In front of him stood his chief Sardars in serial ranks according to their status. Jaswantsing Rathod whom the Marathas had put to flight on many occasions was in the rank ahead of Shivaji. The Emperor put Shivaji in one of the back rows. Shivaji became angry. After all, he was the King of the sovereign State of Maharashtra and his status demanded that he should



Shivaji Maharaj in the Emperor's Court

be in the front rank. This was a deliberate insult which he would not suffer lying down. Angry and insulted, he turned his back on the royal presence and made for his residence. He decided never to see the Emperor's face again.

The visit was thus a failure. The news of the incident spread everywhere.

The Emperor's Treachery : Aurangzeb ordered guards to be posted around Shivaji's residence. Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Raje thus became, for all practical purposes, the Emperor's prisoners. Shivaji understood the Emperor's treachery. He realised that the Emperor would never let him return to Maharashtra.

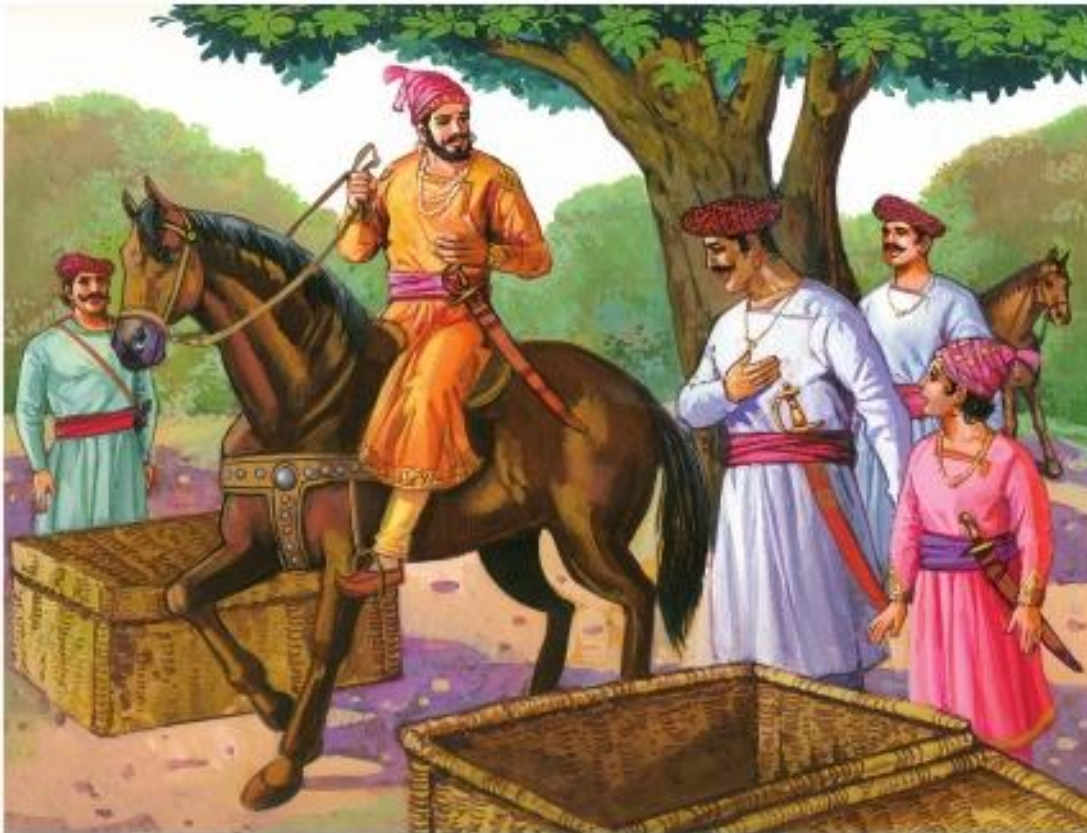
Days and weeks passed. Then, one day, Shivaji Maharaj petitioned to the Emperor for permission to return to Maharashtra. He tried again and again, but every time his request was turned down. Then Shivaji Maharaj made up his mind to escape from the Emperor's clutches, come what may. To begin with, he obtained the Emperor's permission to send back to the South the persons who had accompanied him to Agra. The Emperor was happy. He thought that Shivaji Maharaj would now be completely isolated. The only persons left with him now were Sambhaji Raje and the two servants Hiroji Farjand and Madari Mehetar.

Soon after, Shivaji Maharaj pretended to be ill. He complained of severe pain in the stomach. Doctors were called. They started treating the patient.

Shivaji started sending out huge baskets of sweets to Sadhus and Maulavis for his quick recovery.

Escape from Agra : In the beginning the guards outside would examine the baskets. In the course of time they got tired of this daily routine and stopped it. One evening Shivaji made Hiroji sleep in his bed and asked Madari to massage his feet. Then Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Raje hid themselves in two of the many baskets that were going out. The baskets were supposed to contain sweets and allowed to pass unchecked. At a place previously fixed, Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Raje got out of the baskets. Their faithful servants were waiting for them with horses kept ready for flight. In the meantime, Hiroji and Madari left the house in Agra under the pretext that they were going to the doctor to get some medicine. The two of them risked their own life and made a valuable contribution to the task of freeing Maharaj from imprisonment.

The Emperor came to know of Shivaji's escape the next day. He was wild with rage. His Sardars were frightened. The Emperor sent spies all over the country to trace Shivaji. All the search, however, was in vain. Once escaped, the Maratha lion was never again caught in the Emperor's net. In disguise, Shivaji Maharaj started towards Maharashtra. He left young Sambhaji Raje behind in a safe place at Mathura and in due course, reached Rajgad. Jijamata was overjoyed to see Shivaji safe and back home. Two



Shivaji Maharaj escapes from Agra.

months later, Sambhaji Raje also arrived safely at Rajgad. In this way, with great skill and daring, Shivaji gave the slip to

the Emperor and returned to the safety of his Kingdom. This was in 1666.

EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Shivaji Maharaj attended the Emperor's Darbar. It was Emperor Aurangzeb's birthday.
(fiftieth, fortieth, sixtieth)
- (b) Shivaji Maharaj left young Sambhaji Raje behind in a safe place at
(Jhansi, Mathura, Delhi)

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) To whom did Shivaji hand over the administration of Swaraj before leaving for Agra ?

- (b) Who were the only persons left with Shivaji in Agra ?

- (c) What did Shivaji do for his quick recovery ?

3. Give the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) Why did Shivaji leave the court of Aurangzeb angrily ?
- (b) What strategy did Shivaji use to escape from Agra ?

Activity

Paint / Prepare a scene depicting the incident of Shivaji's escape from Agra.



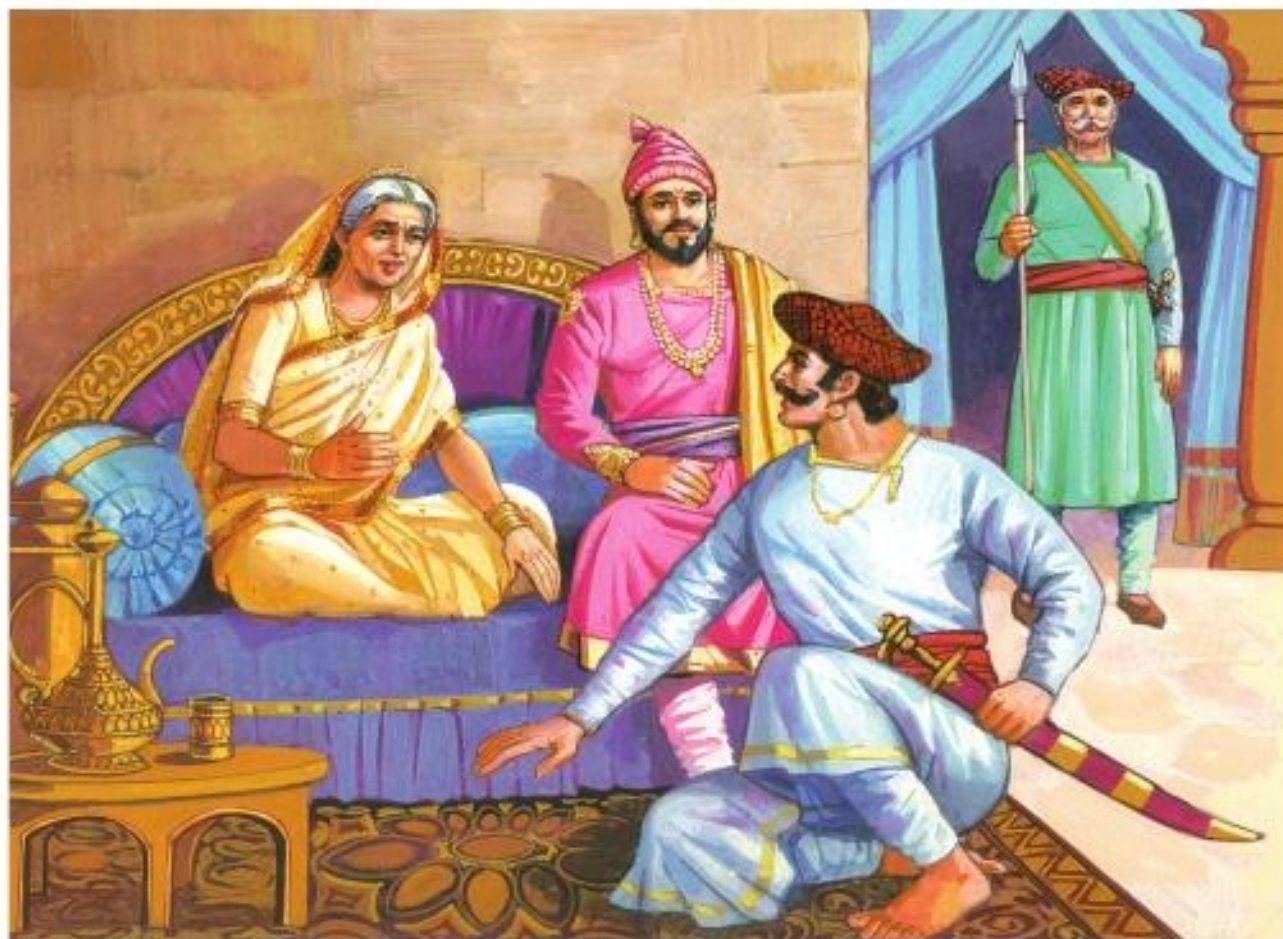
14. The Fort is captured but the Lion is dead.

Jijamata's Wish : The twenty-three forts which Shivaji handed over to Jaising were still in the hands of the Moghuls. Kondana was one of these twenty-three forts. One day Jijamata said to Shivaji, "Shivba, it is not safe to leave the strong Kondana fort in enemy hands. You must recapture it." Shivaji was thinking on the same lines. He was very unhappy that Kondana was in Moghul hands. Both Shivaji and Jijabaisaheb were very unhappy about it. It was like a thorn in their side. Shivaji started making his plans for the recapture of Kondana. Who

could be entrusted with this task? It was very difficult to capture Kondana.

Tanaji Malusare : Tanaji was Shivaji's comrade right from the beginning. He came from the village Umrathe near Mahad in the Konkan. He was ever ready to put his heart and soul into any work assigned to him by Shivaji. Tanaji was strong and well-built, and as clever as he was brave. He was passionately devoted to Shivaji.

Kondana's Marriage First : Tanaji was busy making preparations for his



Tanaji's Resolve

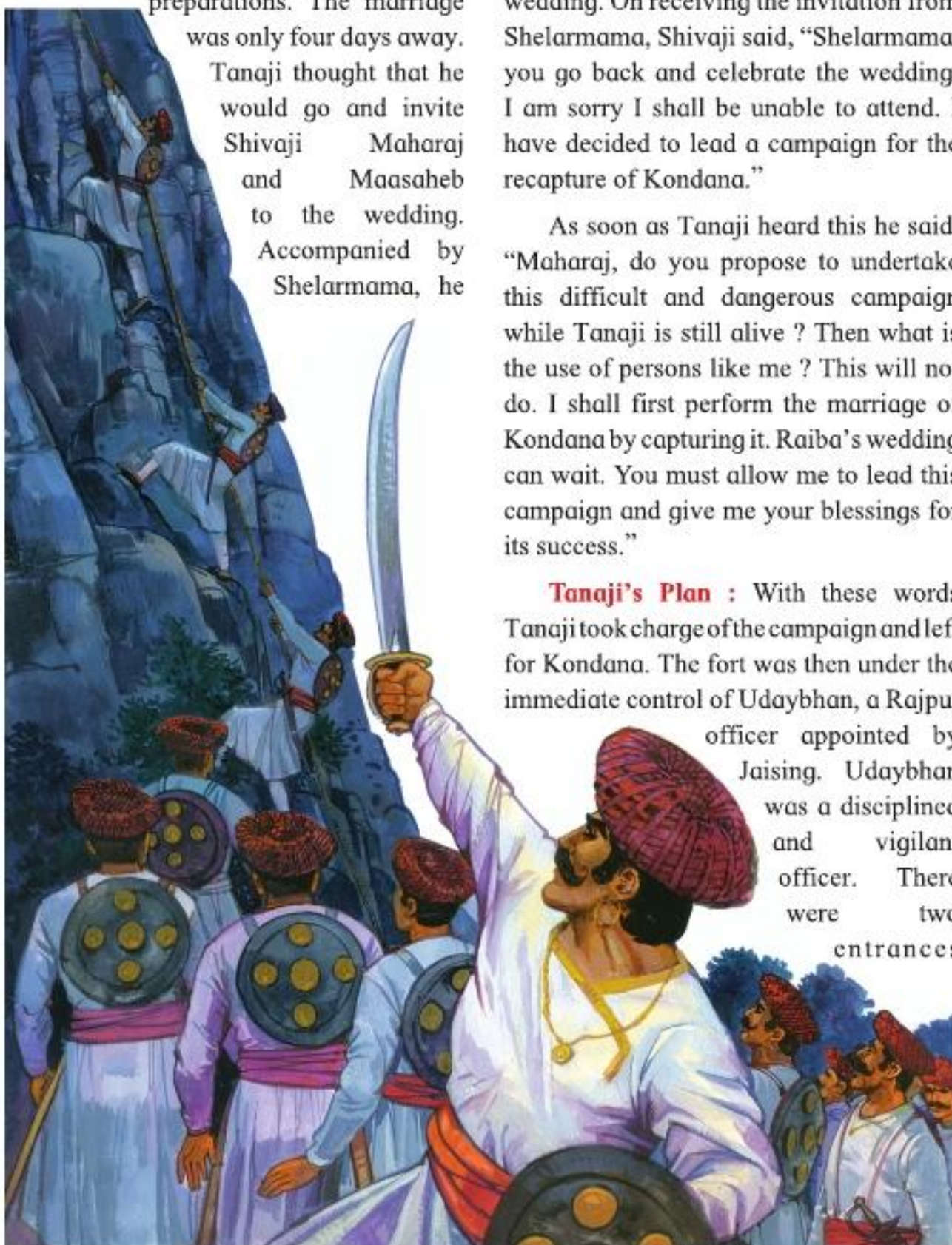
son Raiba's wedding. Everyone in the house was busy with the marriage preparations. The marriage was only four days away.

Tanaji thought that he would go and invite Shivaji Maharaj and Maasaheb to the wedding. Accompanied by Shelarmama, he

went to Shivaji Maharaj to give him and Maasaheb his personal invitation to the wedding. On receiving the invitation from Shelarmama, Shivaji said, "Shelarmama, you go back and celebrate the wedding. I am sorry I shall be unable to attend. I have decided to lead a campaign for the recapture of Kondana."

As soon as Tanaji heard this he said, "Maharaj, do you propose to undertake this difficult and dangerous campaign while Tanaji is still alive ? Then what is the use of persons like me ? This will not do. I shall first perform the marriage of Kondana by capturing it. Raiba's wedding can wait. You must allow me to lead this campaign and give me your blessings for its success."

Tanaji's Plan : With these words Tanaji took charge of the campaign and left for Kondana. The fort was then under the immediate control of Udaybhan, a Rajput officer appointed by Jaising. Udaybhan was a disciplined and vigilant officer. There were two entrances



Tanaji's Assault on Kondana

to the fort. Both were heavily guarded by Udaybhan's men. How then to mount an assault ? Tanaji quietly made a detailed inspection of the fort. On the western side there was a steep precipice where there were no guards. Tanaji decided to attack from that side. He explained his plan to his younger brother. He said, "You take a detachment of five hundred troops and try and reach the 'Kalyan' gate. With another three hundred I shall scale this precipice and get inside the fort. As soon as we are there, we shall throw open the doors of the 'Kalyan' gate. Then you step in and join us. Together we shall destroy the Moghul troops defending the fort." With the plan thus finalised, Suryaji and Tanaji went their different ways.

Over the Precipice and into the Fort : It was a dark night. Tanaji and his men were gathered at the foot of the precipice. The sound of crickets could be heard all round. Five or six members of Tanaji's party started to scale the precipice. It was indeed very high and steep. But somehow they managed to get a foothold in the rock, pulled themselves up by pushing their fingers into rock crevices and began the difficult and dangerous climb. Slowly but surely they reached the top. As soon as they were on safe ground, they tied a thick rope to a strong tree and let it down the precipice. The others took hold of the rope and climbed up to the top like monkeys.

Tanaji's Valour : By now Suryaji had reached the Kalyan gate. He waited there for the doors to open. The battle on

the fort started. Udaybhan heard of the attack. The battle drum was sounded. Udaybhan's garrison attacked Tanaji's men. A grim battle started between the two forces in the light of dancing torches. The Mavlas opened the doors of the Kalyan gate. Tanaji was fighting like a brave lion. Udaybhan attacked him. Both were very brave and the battle between them was fierce. Tanaji's shield was broken. So he tied his upper garment round his defending hand to parry Udaybhan's blows and continued the fight. In the end both were mortally wounded and fell fighting.

The Fort is captured but the Lion is dead : With the death of Tanaji the Mavlas found themselves without a leader and began to retreat. By then Suryaji and his men had arrived on the scene of battle. Suryaji was deeply grieved to know that his brother was dead. But he had no time for grief. He had to continue the fight. He cut off the rope by which the Mavlas had climbed the fort. Then he stood in the path of the retreating Mavlas and said, "Don't you see that your father is lying dead here on the battlefield ? Are you not ashamed to run away like a bunch of cowards ? Turn back and fight, for I have blocked your retreat by cutting off the rope by which you climbed up. The only choice before you is either to jump to your death over the precipice or to turn back and fight to destroy the enemy."

So the Mavlas returned to the fight and attacked the enemy. A fierce battle raged. The Mavlas ultimately conquered

the fort but in the process had lost their brave and lion-hearted leader, Tanaji. Jijamata and Shivaji Maharaj heard the news. They were struck with grief. Shivaji Maharaj expressed his sorrow in a single sentence : “The fort is won but the lion is dead.”

So Kondana became Sinhagad, in memory of the great warrior who gave his life to recapture it. This event took place in 1670. Later on, Shivaji Raje personally went to Umrathe and performed the wedding of Raiba.

EXERCISES

1. Colour the circle of the correct option.

- (a) Tanaji was the resident of this place.
 (i) Mahad ☐ (ii) Chiplun ☐
 (iii) Umrathe ☐ (iv) Ratnagiri ☐
- (b) Udaybhan, appointed by Jaising, was the chief of the fort.
 (i) Purandar ☐ (ii) Kondana ☐
 (iii) Raigad ☐ (iv) Pratapgad ☐
- (c) The name of Tanaji's brother was :
 (i) Raiba ☐ (ii) Suryaji ☐
 (iii) Murarbaji ☐ (iv) Firangoji ☐

- (b) What did Jijamata say to Shivaji about Kondana ?
 (c) Who took charge of the campaign of Kondana ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) What did Shivaji say on receiving the invitation from Shelarmama ?
 (b) What did Suryaji say to the retreating Mavlas ?

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) In whose hands was the Kondana fort ?

Activity

Make a list of historical monuments in your area.



15. A Memorable Ceremony

Why did Shivaji have himself crowned ? : Shivaji took the oath of Swaraj in the temple of Raireswar. He had to face numerous difficulties and calamities in his efforts to win Swaraj for his people. But with great courage and skill Shivaji overcame them all. Swaraj had stepped out of its childhood and was growing fast. Men like Baji Prabhu, Murarbaji, Tanaji nursed it with their blood. The new Kingdom was both respected and feared.

With a view to having this kingdom recognized by all other princes in the land, big and small, Shivaji decided to have himself crowned. After hundreds of years, a king was born in Maharashtra who would treat all religions equally and give justice and happiness to his subjects. Shivaji decided to have himself crowned so that everyone would come to know that Swaraj had been firmly established. He did not do it for self-glorification or personal happiness. He did it to give the newly founded Swaraj a firm footing.

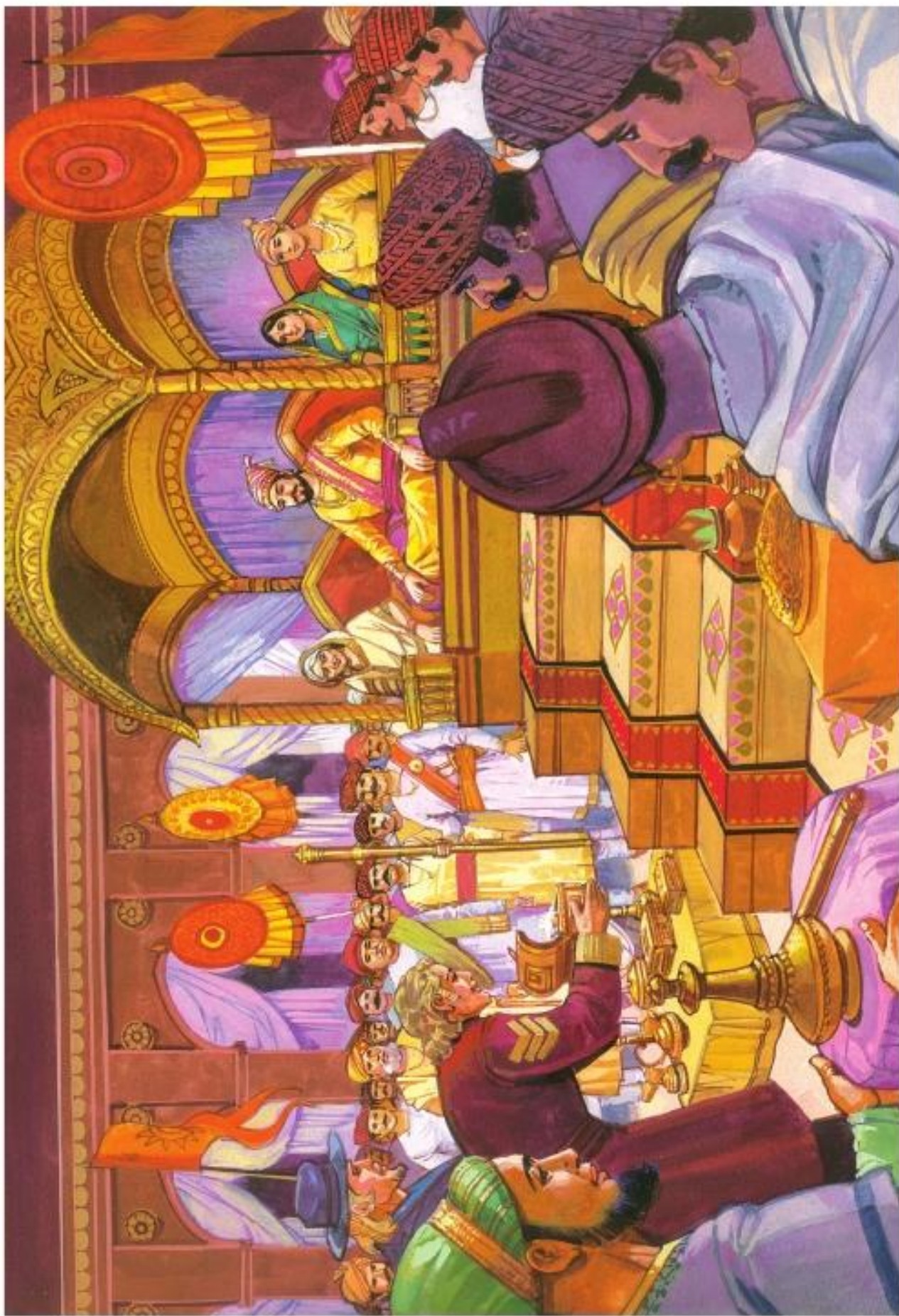
The Capital of Swaraj : Shivaji selected Raigad as the capital of his kingdom. Raigad was a strong hill fort from where it was easy to administer the kingdom and keep a watch on the enemy.

Shivaji Raje inspected his troops at Chiplun. He visited Pratapgad and took the goddess Bhavani's 'Darshan'. In grateful memory he presented to the temple a golden canopy for the goddess.

Preparations for the Coronation : Then Shivaji Raje ordered a golden throne to be made and had it studded with precious stones. He put a white royal umbrella over the throne. Invitations to the coronation were sent out to princes and kings, learned Brahmins, all the Sardars under his command and other officers. Gagabhatt came from Varanasi to act as the chief priest at the ceremony. Gagabhatt originally belonged to Paithan but had settled down in Varanasi. He was a great and renowned scholar respected in Varanasi.

Shivaji Maharaj made detailed preparations for the coronation. Men were sent out to bring waters of the seven rivers and the sea. Nearly fifty thousand people gathered at Raigad. Small tents, big tents, spacious shamianas to accommodate the guests could be seen everywhere.

The Coronation Ceremony : The Coronation Day dawned. It was indeed the most auspicious day. Musicians began to play on their instruments. Singers began to sing, music and singing filled the air. There was an atmosphere of joy everywhere. Shivaji Raje sat on a golden seat in full regalia. A canopy (chhatra) and the fans (chamare) were held over his head. There were priests, each one carrying vessels of ghee, dahi and honey. Gagabhatt himself carried a gold vessel filled with the waters of the seven rivers, Ganga, Sindhu, Yamuna, Godavari, Krishna, Narmada



The Coronation Ceremony

and Kaveri and of the sea. Gagabhatt held the vessel over Shivaji's head and started reciting the coronation mantras. From a hundred tiny holes in the vessel, water started dripping down on Shivaji's head. After ablution by the sacred waters Shivaji Maharaj got up and bowed before Jijamata and touched her feet. Jijamata held him in close embrace. Her eyes were filled with tears of joy. Her thirty years' efforts had at last borne fruit. The dream she had nursed even before Shivaji's birth had at last come true. The tears in her eyes were tears of joy and fulfilment. Shivaji Maharaj was also deeply moved. Glory be to both of them !

After meeting Maasaheb, Shivaji Maharaj sat on the throne. Maharani Soyarabai and the Crown Prince Sambhaji Raje sat next to him. His eight ministers stood on either side. Gagabhatt held the

canopy lined with gold and pearl tassels over his head and said, "Victory be to Shiva Chhatrapati, now crowned King, the ornament of the race of warriors." Everyone present followed suit and in one voice wished victory to Shivaji Maharaj. Guns were fired from fort after fort. The whole of Maharashtra echoed with one voice, "Shivaji Maharaj Ki Jai." Shivaji's coronation took place in 1674. From that year Shivaji Maharaj started a new calendar, the Coronation Calendar. He became a great king like those in whose name people start a new era. He struck his own coins. Some foreign envoys were present at the Coronation. The English had sent their envoy Oxinden with valuable presents. Subjects from far-off areas and places had also come to see this ceremony. The whole world came to know of the big event. Shivaji's fame spread everywhere.

EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Shivaji selected as the capital of his kingdom.
(Sinhagad, Raigad, Panhagad)
- (b) Shivaji's coronation took place in
(1674, 1675, 1647)

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) The water of which seven rivers was filled in the golden vessel ?
- (b) What Calendar did Shivaji Maharaj start from the year of his Coronation ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) Why did Shivaji Maharaj have himself crowned ?
- (b) Why did Shivaji select Raigad as the capital of his Kingdom ?
- (c) Why were Jijamata's eyes filled with tears of joy ?

Activity

- (a) From your teacher, obtain information about the coins that Shivaji Maharaj struck at the time of his Coronation.
- (b) Make a collection of various postal stamps. Make an exhibition of them in your class with the help of your class-mates.

16. Shivaji Maharaj sets up an efficient Administration.

The Administrative set-up : Shivaji had walked through the wilderness before establishing Swaraj. He became the crowned King of Hindavi Swaraj. People in Swaraj were happy, temples were safe. The places of worship of other religions were also safe and secure. But the Kingdom was surrounded by enemies on all sides and in constant danger of attack from these enemies. Shivaji Maharaj was anxious to see that his Swaraj survives against all these dangers. For a kingdom to be stable and long-lasting, it must have very good administration. Shivaji Maharaj provided an excellent administrative machinery to his Swaraj.

For smooth working, the administration was divided into eight departments. He appointed a minister in charge of each. This was his famous council of eight ministers. Except the ministers in charge of justice and religious

matters, all others had to participate in battles. They had to lead the army and fight.

Shivaji was a very shrewd judge of men. Just as a jeweller selects very carefully each pearl in the necklace, in the same way Shivaji selected each of his ministers with great care. He gave them neither jagirs nor fiefs. They were paid handsome salaries instead.

Defence : Shivaji's army was divided into two main divisions : infantry and cavalry. He also established a naval wing which was something quite new. His army consisted mostly of 'hetkaris' from the Konkan and 'mavlas' from the Deccan Plateau. The cavalry had two main classes of troopers, the Bargirs and the Shiledars. The Bargirs received their arms and mounts from the government. They were paid on a monthly basis and were in the direct employ of the government.

Shivaji's 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.

The Shiledars had their own weapons and horses. They were bound to use these in warfare and in return received suitable rewards.

The infantry was also a big division like the cavalry. The commander-in-chief of the infantry was known as 'Sarnobat'. There were many officers of different ranks in the infantry like 'Havaladar', 'Jumledar', 'Hajari' and 'Panch Hajari'.

Shivaji Maharaj had excellent command over his army. Therefore, his army was well disciplined. The soldiers in his army treated women with respect. Shivaji Maharaj was renowned everywhere as the protector of women. Soldiers were under strict orders not to drink liquor, harass the subjects, or loot the subjects. They were paid regularly.

The Maratha Navy : The Sultan of Bijapur and the Moghuls were Shivaji's enemies on land. Shivaji brought them to their knees. The Siddis, the Portuguese and the English were his enemies on the

sea. With characteristic foresight, Shivaji built up a Navy to meet their threat. This Navy was the first of its kind in medieval India. In this sense, he is rightly regarded as the father of the Indian Navy. He also built big warships. He built strong forts like Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg along the sea coast. His navy fought the enemies from the sea on many occasions and taught them to fear and respect the Maratha Power.

Forts : Forts in those days offered a powerful support for defence. There were about three hundred forts under Shivaji's direct control. The forts were well manned and guarded. In every fort there were officers : a Killedar, a Sabnis, a Karkhanis, and others.

Intelligence Department : There was a well organized and very efficient system of army intelligence and espionage. Bahirji Naik was the chief of this branch of the Defence Department. The accurate information that he obtained helped



Sindhudurg

greatly in making the campaigns like the Surat campaign successful. Shivaji's spies knew almost everything that went on in the enemy camp. Shivaji started no offensive unless he had complete information about the enemy's strength and troop dispositions.

Civil Administration : Shivaji set up an excellent Civil Administration. He divided the whole Kingdom into twelve 'Subhas' and appointed a 'Subhedar' as the head of each 'Subha'. The 'Subhas' were further divided into 'Parganas' and each 'Pargana' had a 'Havaladar' at its head. A 'Pargana' consisted of many villages and each village had a Patil and a Kulkarni.

The overall control of the administration rested with Shivaji

Maharaj. He appointed all the officers and distributed work among the ministers. His treasury was always full.

Shivaji made no distinction between Hindus and Muslims in administrative matters. He collected able men around him and engaged them in the service of Swaraj. He used their talent in the cause of Swaraj. But he showed no mercy to those who were disloyal to the regime or secretly worked against it. Such persons were severely punished irrespective of their caste or religion.

In this way Shivaji Maharaj established good government and gave a clean administration to his subjects.

EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Shivaji Maharaj built strong forts like Sindhudurg and along the sea coast.
(Jinji, Vijaydurg, Vasai)
- (b) The chief of army intelligence and espionage was
(Bahirji Naik, Baji Prabhu, Tanaji Malusare)

2. Match the pairs.

- | 'A' | 'B' |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Moro Trimbak Pingle | (1) Defence |
| (b) Hambirrao Mohite | (2) Administration |
| (c) Niraji Rawaji | (3) Government Orders |
| | (4) Justice |

3. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What were the main divisions of Shivaji's Army ?
- (b) What was the Commander in Chief of the infantry known as ?
- (c) On the sea, who were the enemies of Shivaji Maharaj ?
- (d) How many Subhas were there in Swaraj ?

4. Give the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) What strict orders were given by Shivaji to his soldiers ?
- (b) Why did Shivaji raise a Navy ?

Activity

Form a Council of Eight Ministers in your class to manage the working of your class.



17. Campaign in the South

Plan of Campaign : The coronation ceremony was over but its joy was short-lived. A short while after the coronation, on 17 June 1674, Maasaheb passed away. While all his subjects looked upon Shivaji Maharaj as their protector, Shivaji Maharaj himself depended upon the advice and help of Maasaheb. She was the true guide and Guru in his life. He was deeply grieved at the loss of his mother. But he had very little time for sorrow because he had to administer the kingdom which he had established.

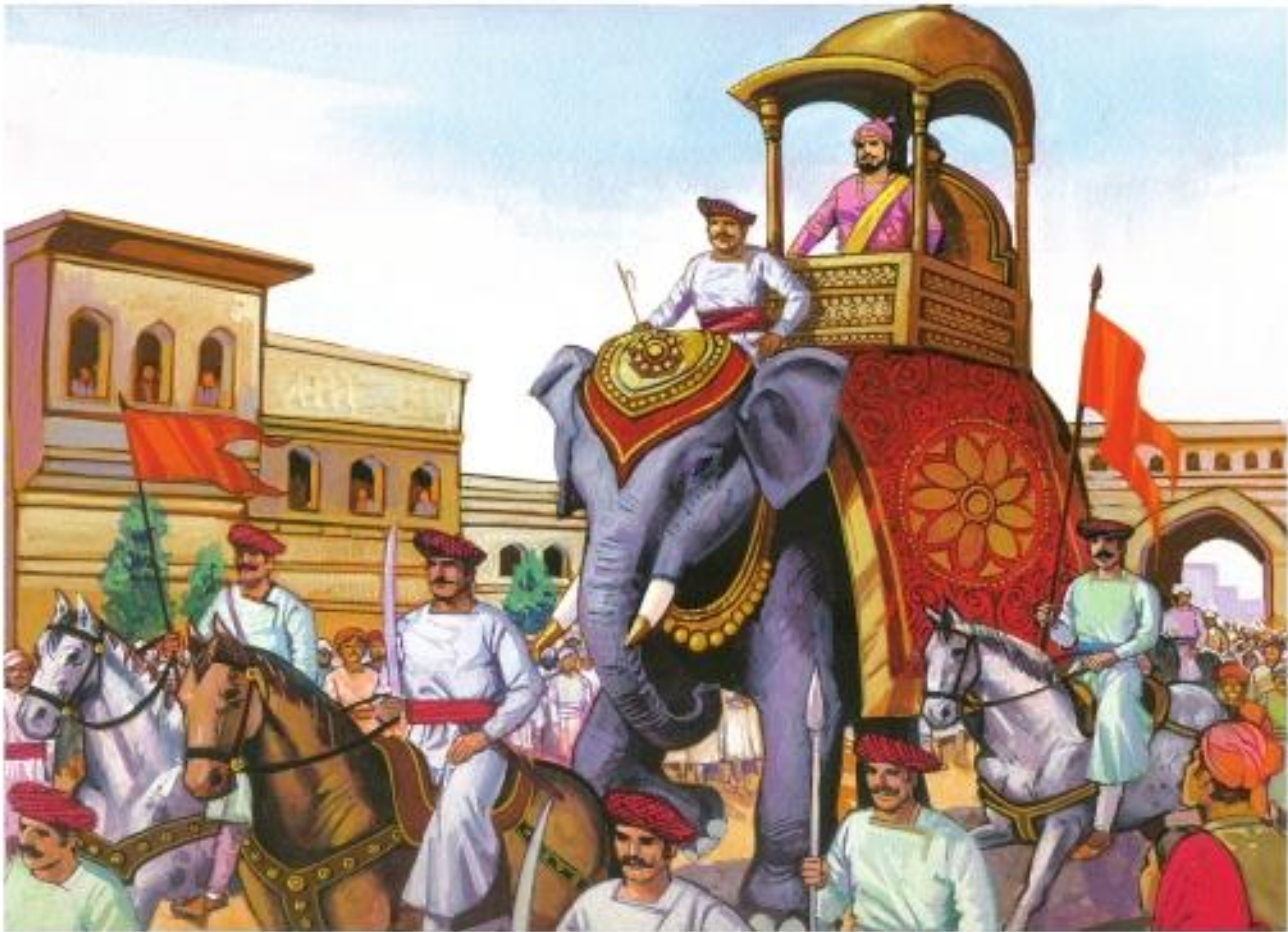
He decided to attack Karnatak. He was no longer afraid of Adilshah because the Kingdom of Bijapur was practically on its last legs. The real threat to Swaraj was from the North, for the Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb was bidding his time to destroy the Maratha Kingdom. There was no knowing when he would attack and swallow the new kingdom. Shivaji thought that this campaign would create a powerful base in the South from where he could resist the blows of the Moghuls. With this in view, he planned his Southern campaign. He approached Kutubshah of Golconda for help and the Shah readily agreed to give whatever help was needed.

There was yet another reason for the Campaign. Shivaji's step-brother Vyankoji was looking after Shahaji Raje's Tanjavur Jagir in the South. He would not give Shivaji his share of the ancestral Jagir. Neither did he display

any love for Swaraj. He treated Shivaji with indifference. Shivaji thought that a personal meeting would resolve the dispute and Vyankoji could be persuaded to help in the work of Swaraj.

Visit to Golconda : Shivaji Maharaj started on his Southern campaign. Abulhasan Kutubshah of Golconda had invited him to visit Golconda. He, therefore, decided to visit Golconda first and then proceed with his conquest of the South.

Golconda was the capital of Kutubshah's Kingdom. He made great preparations to receive Shivaji. A special shamiana was put up where the two would meet. As Shivaji entered the capital, people lined the streets to have his 'Darshan'. Stories of his exploits were the talk of the whole country. People had heard of the death of Afzalkhan at his hands, of the discomfiture of Shaistakhan and of Shivaji's miraculous escape from Agra. Because of this, Shivaji Maharaj received a royal welcome. People showered flower petals on him from the house-tops. Acknowledging this wonderful reception, Shivaji entered Kutubshah's darbar. Kutubshah came down half-way to receive him. He seated Shivaji Maharaj alongside himself as an equal on a specially prepared throne. He left nothing undone as far as reception was concerned.



The Historic Visit of Shivaji Maharaj to Golconda

Conquest of Jinji : Taking leave of Kutubshah, Shivaji proceeded south and reached the east coast. To the south of Chennai is the fort of Jinji. It is a big fort, as big and strong as Raigad. Shivaji besieged and captured it. A strong Southern base was thus created for Swaraj. Then he besieged the Vellore fort. The siege lasted for several months but the fort could not be conquered. Shivaji had to train his guns on the fort from a neighbouring hill before he could conquer it. His southern campaign brought under his rule several forts and a territory with an annual revenue of twenty lakhs.

Meeting with Vyankoji Raje : Shivaji Maharaj invited Vyankoji Raje, his step-brother, to meet him. Vyankoji Raje reluctantly agreed. Shivaji received him with great honour and tried to win him over. He appealed to Vyankoji Raje to help him in the work of Swaraj. For a few days, Vyankoji Raje stayed with Shivaji Maharaj but one night he returned to Tanjavur without even taking leave of Shivaji Maharaj. From Tanjavur he actually attacked Shivaji's forces. Shivaji's forces took heavy toll of the attacking troops and Vyankoji Raje was defeated. Shivaji Maharaj was deeply



Shivaji Maharaj meets Vyankoji Raje.

pained at Vyankoji Raje's behaviour. He wrote to him and tried to persuade him to change his ways. He conferred on him the territory south of Jinji and set aside a small part of Karnatak as a gift for Deepabai, Vyankoji's wife. He said in his letter to Vyankoji Raje, 'Do not put your trust in your enemies. Follow the path of valour.'

After the conclusion of this successful campaign of Karnatak Shivaji returned to Raigad. While he was yet to overcome the strain of this campaign, he had to undertake a naval campaign against the

Siddi of Janjira. At this time, Maharaj was fifty years old. He had toiled continuously for nearly thirty-five years, without any time to rest.

The People's Protector Is No More :

On 3rd April, 1680, Shivaji Maharaj died, plunging his people into a sea of sorrow. The protector of people passed away.

In his lifetime, Maharaj achieved so many great things. He vanquished very powerful enemies and founded Hindavi Swaraj. There was none in the whole of India who could match his achievements. He was a great national figure.

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Vyankoji Raje was looking after Shahaji Raje's Jagir in the South.
(Vellore, Tanjavur, Bangalore)
- (b) The capital of Kutubshah's kingdom was
(Delhi, Jinji, Golconda)

- (c) What did Shivaji Maharaj say in his letter to Vyankoji Raje ?

3. Give reasons.

- (a) Shivaji Maharaj planned a campaign of the South.
- (b) Shivaji Maharaj wrote to Vyankoji Raje and tried to persuade him to change his ways.

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) Why did Shivaji Maharaj want to meet Vyankoji Raje ?
- (b) What appeal was made by Shivaji Maharaj to Vyankoji Raje ?

Activity

Dramatize the conversation between Shivaji Maharaj and Vyankoji Raje at their meeting.



The Samadhi of Shivaji Maharaj – Raigad

18. Shivaji's War Strategy

Shivaji's Valour and Courage :

When he was only fifteen years old, Shivaji took the oath of Swaraj in the temple of Raireswar. He died at Raigad at the age of fifty. Within the short span of thirty-five years, Shivaji, with incomparable valour and statesmanship, established Hindavi Swaraj. Throughout his life he fought for Swaraj. He personally conducted and won many campaigns. His life was full of battles fought against the enemy. Swaraj was threatened on many occasions. Each time Shivaji met the threat with wise and suitable action. He was not only a brave warrior but also a great statesman. When he thought that force would prove useless, he used diplomacy. Afzalkhan was a formidable opponent. But Shivaji met him face to face and killed him. In pouring rain on a dark night he escaped from the siege of Siddi Jauhar. He put Shaistakhan to flight by a bold attack on a dark night. With great skill and daring he escaped from Aurangzeb's prison at Agra. As a general and a statesman, Shivaji is without a second.

Loyalty of his Sardars : Shivaji Maharaj himself was a brave, fearless warrior. He moulded his Sardars also to be fearless. Their devotion to Maharaj knew no bounds. Veer Baji Pasalkar sacrificed his life in the Khalad-Belsar battle near the fort of Purandar. Shahaji Raje had asked Kanhoji Jedhe to gather the Maval Deshmukhs to support

Shivaji. He supported Shivaji Maharaj all his life in the work of establishing Swaraj. Firangoji Narsala gave a long battle for the Chakan fort without any heed for his own life. When Siddi Jauhar besieged the fort of Panhala, Siddi Hilal and his son fought alongside Shivaji Maharaj. To safeguard Maharaj's life, Baji Prabhu happily embraced death in Pavankhind. Tanaji left his own son's wedding behind and laid down his life to win Kondana. Senapati Prataprao Gujar became a martyr in fighting the Adilshahi Sardar Bahlolkhan. After him, Maharaj appointed Hambirrao Mohite as the commander of his army, who showed his valour in many battles. Sena-nayak Sidhoji Nimbalkar gave his life to fight the enemy during the Jalna campaign. There are many such examples of the dedication that the loyal servants of Maharaj offered to him.

Shivaji's Guerilla Tactics : Shivaji's enemies were very powerful. They had unlimited troops, artillery and ammunition at their command. Compared to the enemy forces, Shivaji's army was very small. How could this small army give open battle to the enemy's vast forces ? Shivaji made very clever use of the local terrain for warfare. Maharashtra is a hilly country full of forests, deep valleys, ghats and hills. The enemy troops carried heavy equipment which hampered quick movement. As against this, the Maratha

soldier carried very light arms : a shield, a sword, and a spear. Therefore, his movements were very rapid and he could get about the hilly country with great speed. The Maratha soldier was also tough and swift-footed. The great skill with which Shivaji used these physical qualities stamps him as a military genius of the first order. As far as possible he avoided giving open battle to the enemy. With the help of his first-class intelligence system he kept himself well informed of all the movements of the enemy troops. He would organize surprise attacks on the enemy, isolate and destroy them unit by unit before they could be warned. By the time the enemy reformed and got ready for battle, Shivaji's troops were nowhere in sight. In this way he perfected the technique of guerilla warfare and destroyed the vast army of the Emperor.

Hill Forts : Shivaji's war strategy greatly depended on his hill forts. A fort gave control over the surrounding territory and when well stocked with food and ammunition, its small garrison could hold a large army at bay for two years or more. If confronted by a strong enemy, one could always retreat to the safety of a fort. This is the secret of Shivaji establishing his capital first at Rajgad, and then at Raigad, and not in any city of the plains.

Defence of the Forts : Shivaji appointed men of different castes and communities to guard the forts. The work on these forts was carried out smoothly.

The enemy could not bring about any acts of sabotage or treachery on the fort. All this shows Shivaji's foresight.

Chouthai : Efficient administration is possible only if the state treasury is full. Shivaji raised money by carrying out raids on enemy territory. He generally collected one-fourth of the total revenue from enemy territory. This was known as 'Chouthai'. Shivaji never troubled those who paid him regularly this Chouthai. This is a good example of his statesmanship.

Shivaji's Navy : Conscious of the danger to Swaraj from the Siddi, the Portuguese and the English, Shivaji with great foresight, built up a navy. He built strong sea-forts like Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg. Even today one is struck with admiration just to see them.

Shivaji weathered many storms and steered the ship of Swaraj to safety. His valour and statesmanship were the main reasons of his success.

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1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Shivaji with incomparable valour and statesmanship, established Swaraj.
- (b) Using the technique of warfare, Shivaji Maharaj destroyed the vast army of the Emperor.

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

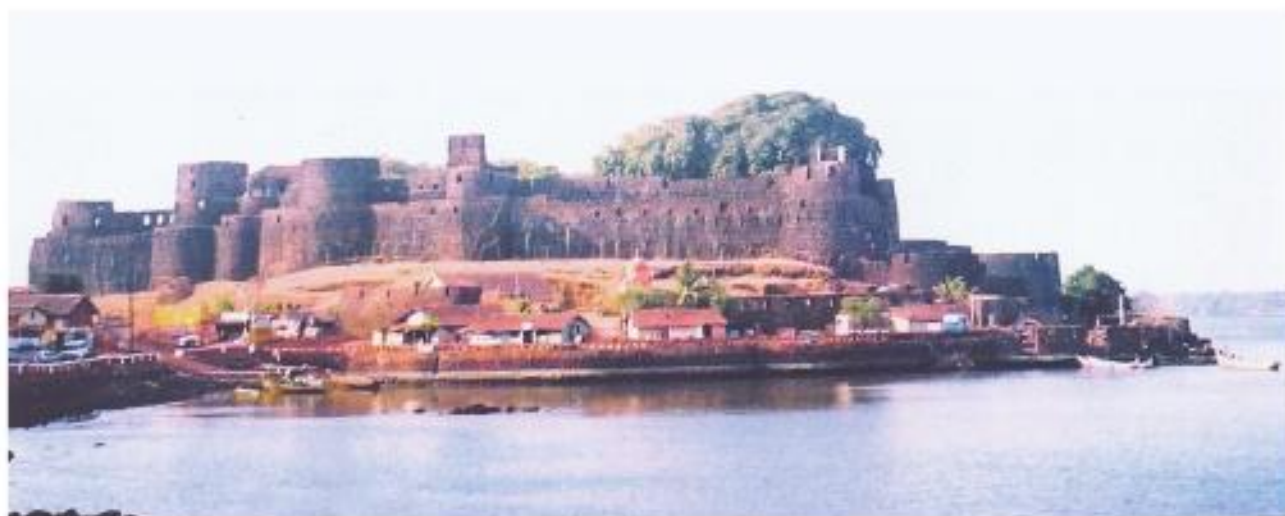
- (a) What is meant by guerilla tactics ?
- (b) Why did Shivaji Maharaj appoint men of different castes and communities on the forts ?
- (c) What is meant by 'Chouthai' ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) Why did Shivaji Maharaj think that hill forts were important in war strategy ?
- (b) Give two examples of the loyalty of Shivaji Maharaj's men.

Activity

Obtain more information about two or three hill forts that you are familiar with.



Vijaydurg

19. A People's King

For the Happiness of the Subjects :

Shivaji had inherited only a small Jagir from his father. Starting from there he built up an independent Kingdom. In childhood and youth he saw the misery and harassment of the people. He awakened them from their sleep and gave them back their self-respect and pride. He taught them to organize themselves. At great personal risk, he defeated powerful enemies and established Swaraj based on justice. He set up an efficient administration to run the government and made the people happy.

An Affectionate Master : Shivaji treated his followers with great affection. After Baji Prabhu laid down his life for the country, Shivaji looked after his children. Tanaji died at Sinhagad. Shivaji then personally went to Umrathe and performed the marriage ceremony of his son Raiba and showered his affection on him. Madari Mehetar put his life in danger at Agra. Shivaji looked after him to the end of his life. In the cause of Swaraj, Prataprao Gujar sacrificed his life. Shivaji Maharaj married his second son Rajaram to Prataprao's daughter. Such stories can be told endlessly. Shivaji was indeed an ideal king, he looked after his followers like a father.

Protection to the Subjects : Shaistakhan marched against Swaraj. The Khan's army, in its ruthless advance,

destroyed everything that came in the way. They cut down standing crops and harassed the people. Shivaji was worried and unhappy. He wrote to his officers, "Send all the people below the Ghats, withdraw them to places of safety. Do not be lax in this. Visit every village, work day and night. Find safe shelter for the people. If the Moghuls arrest my subjects, the sin will be on your head." Shivaji loved his subjects as a mother loves her children.

He did what was good : Shivaji cast away whatever was bad in the old system and set up new traditions. This was a special feature of his administrative machinery. In the old system, Deshmukhs, Deshpandes and Inamdars had the right to collect land revenue. They tried to collect the maximum revenue possible. This caused great hardship to the small peasant. Shivaji stopped this practice and collected a fixed revenue from each farmer. He meted out severe punishment to those officers who extorted additional revenue from the peasant. He also tried to put an end to the system of Watans. He thought it dangerous to Swaraj. He started the system of paying all officers, from a Subhedar to a Kamavisdar (junior officer), a fixed salary in cash.

Strict Discipline : Shivaji kept himself very well-informed of all that went on in his Kingdom. He had a perfect espionage system. Treachery is always

dangerous to any State. He laid down severe punishment to those guilty of treachery. He was a strict disciplinarian. His troops had orders not to trouble the subjects or extort money from them. Anyone who disobeyed suffered heavy punishment.

Large-hearted Shivaji : Shivaji was as large-hearted and generous as he was brave. In the process of winning Swaraj,

Marathas and Muslims. Noor Beg was one of the Commanders in his infantry. One of his naval Commanders Daulatkhan, Siddi Misri and one of his Vakils, Kazi Haidar, were Muslims. They were all loyal servants of Swaraj. The cordial meeting of Shivaji Maharaj and Kutubshah as equals at Golconda shows a new direction of unity for the Indian society.



Shivaji Maharaj meets Kutubshah.

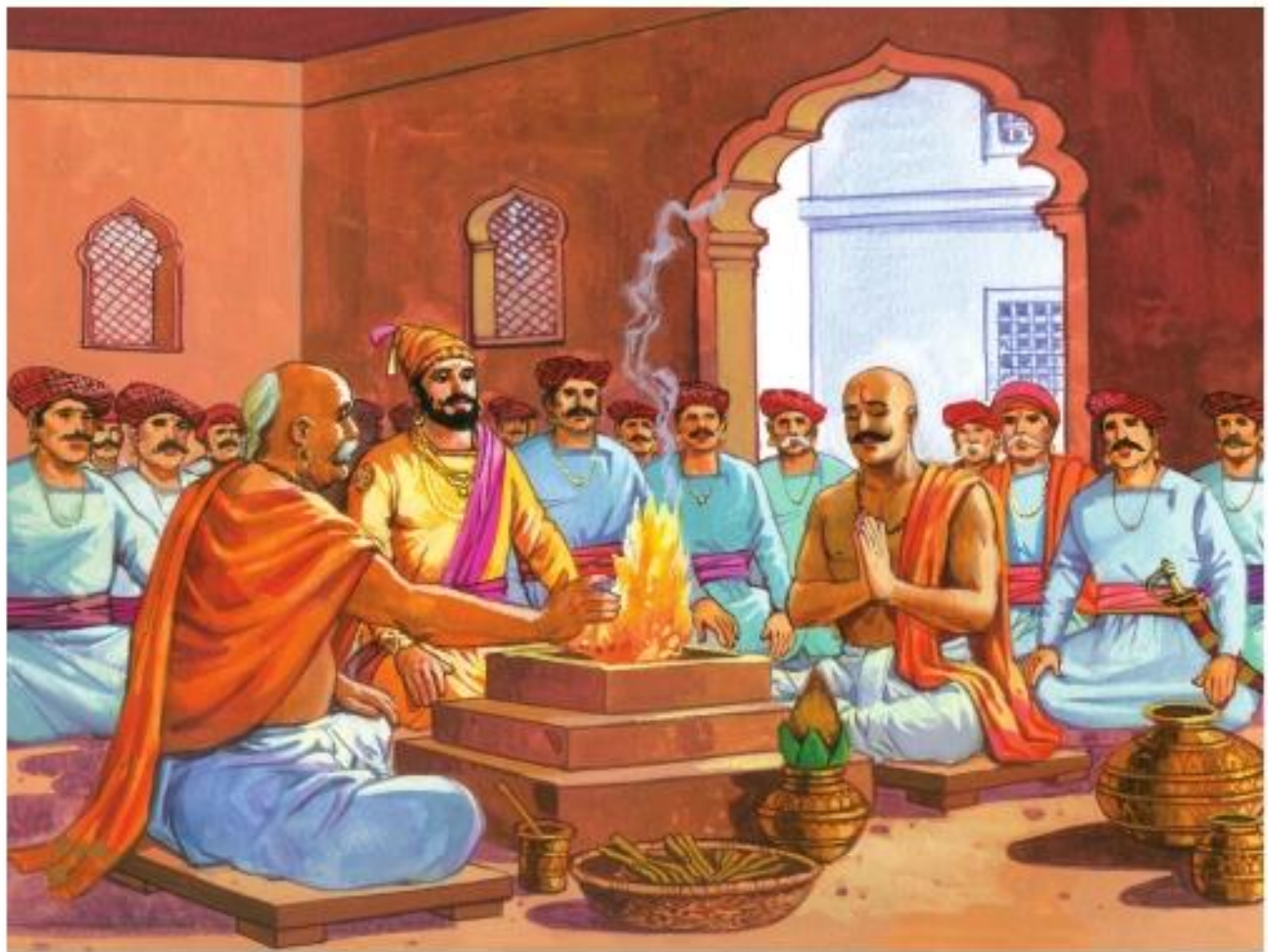
he collected around him persons belonging to all communities and appointed them to administrative posts. In doing this, he took into account a man's ability and not his religion or caste. There were many Kolis, Bhandaris and also Muslims in his Navy. Mahars and Ramoshis were also included in the work of Swaraj. Many Brahmins and Prabhus were administrators under him. His army consisted of Hetkaris,

Shivaji never desecrated mosques during his campaigns. If he came across a copy of the Quran Sharif, he would respectfully pass it on to the Muslims. He never touched the honour of women who fell into his hands in the course of battles.

Religious Tolerance : Shivaji showed respect for all religions. 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. It happened like this.

Netoji Palkar : Netoji was one of the bravest of Shivaji's captains. He was Shivaji's right-hand man. People used to describe him as a second Shivaji. One day, being upset with Shivaji, Netoji joined the Moghuls. At about the time Shivaji returned from Agra, Netoji was arrested in the South by the Moghuls and sent to the Emperor. Aurangzeb sent him to Agra where he was forced to become a Muslim and thus Netoji Palkar became Mohamad Kulikhan. He took employment with the Emperor and showed remarkable valour during the Kabul campaign with the Emperor's troops. Ten years later he accompanied Dilerkhan to the South



Netoji Palkar back into his Religion

against Shivaji. Netoji, though now a Muslim, had not forgotten Shivaji or Maharashtra. He remembered the past. He was deeply moved. His love for his own country and religion returned. One day he deserted the Moghul Camp and walked straight to Shivaji Maharaj and said, "It is true that I am a Muslim convert but I want to return to my old religion. Could I become a Hindu again?" Shivaji said, "Why not? If you so desire, you can once again return to the Hindu fold." So Netoji

begged of Shivaji to take him back into the Hindu religion.

Shivaji Maharaj called a meeting of the religious Pandits and said to them, "Netoji Palkar wants to return to the Hindu religion. I think true religion consists in taking him back instead of closing our doors against him." Thus Shivaji Maharaj took Netoji Palkar back into his own religion. Netoji served Swaraj for many years afterwards.

 EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) Shivaji Maharaj also tried to put an end to the system of
- (b) Netoji Palkar was the of Shivaji Maharaj.

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) Why did Shivaji Maharaj punish the traitors?
- (b) What strict orders did the troops of Shivaji Maharaj have?

3. Give information about the following aspects of Shivaji Maharaj in three or four lines.

- (a) His love and affection for the men in his service.
- (b) His religious tolerance.
- (c) His concern for the protection of his subjects.

Activity

Enact a dialogue or conversation between Shivaji Maharaj and his soldiers.



20. A Living Source of Inspiration

An Inspiring Life : Out of a small Jagir, Shivaji established Swaraj. He made the impossible possible. No wonder one is tempted to read about him and talk about him again and again. His life is an unending source of inspiration.

Devotion to Father and Mother : Shivaji always obeyed his mother. He fulfilled her every wish. He had immense respect for his father. Once Shahaji Raje came to see him. Shivaji was overjoyed. He made him ride in a palanquin and walked by its side carrying the father's shoes. This shows his great devotion to his father. He fulfilled the ardent dream of 'Hindavi Swaraj' cherished by his father Shahaji Raje and mother Jijabai.

Respect for the Saints and Holy Men : Bhavani was Shivaji's family goddess. He was deeply devoted to her. He had great respect for Saints and Holy Men. He honoured temples but 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 showed the same respect to Sant Tukaram, Samarth Ramdas, Baba Yakut and Mauni Baba. His creed was to destroy the wicked and uphold the good. Throughout his life he stood by this creed.

Patriotism : Shivaji was the son of a Jagirdar. He was therefore, a rich man. But from early childhood, he hated slavery. He, therefore, fought against powerful enemies and made his country free. He established Swaraj. He did this so that everyone would live in peace and follow his religion without any outside interference, so that the Marathi language, and the Hindu religion would acquire their due place of honour. He toiled all his life for the prosperity of his country, his religion and his language and succeeded in his task. He was proud of his mother tongue. He had the book 'Rajya Vyavahar Kosh' prepared so that government work could be carried on in Marathi.

Hindavi Swaraj : 'Hindavi Swaraj' was his dream. Anyone who lived in Hindustan, no matter to what community or religion they belonged, was a 'Hindavi'. Their Raj was 'Hindavi Swaraj'.

Shivaji's enemies were powerful but he did not lose courage. Times were difficult but he never gave up his self-respect. There were lakhs of people behind the Emperor but Shivaji never gave up the cause of justice, nor bowed down before a mighty foreign power.

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



Bhavanidevi – Pratapgad

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.”

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Bring to memory, the wonderful image of Shivaji Maharaj

1. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) The life of Shivaji Maharaj is an unending source of
- (b) Shivaji Maharaj had the book 'Rajya Vyavahar Kosh' prepared so that government work could be carried on in

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) Name some learned men who received the patronage of Shivaji Maharaj.
- (b) Name some Sants and holy men that Shivaji Maharaj respected.
- (c) What was the creed of Shivaji Maharaj ?

- (d) For what purpose did Shivaji Maharaj toil all his life ?

3. Give information in three or four lines.

- (a) Shivaji's devotion to his mother and father.
- (b) The various aspects of the personality of Shivaji Maharaj.

Activity

- (a) Read a biography of Shivaji Maharaj.
- (b) Arrange an exhibition in the classroom to display the pictures of Shivaji Maharaj you have collected.



'Royal Edict' for the Protection of Environment

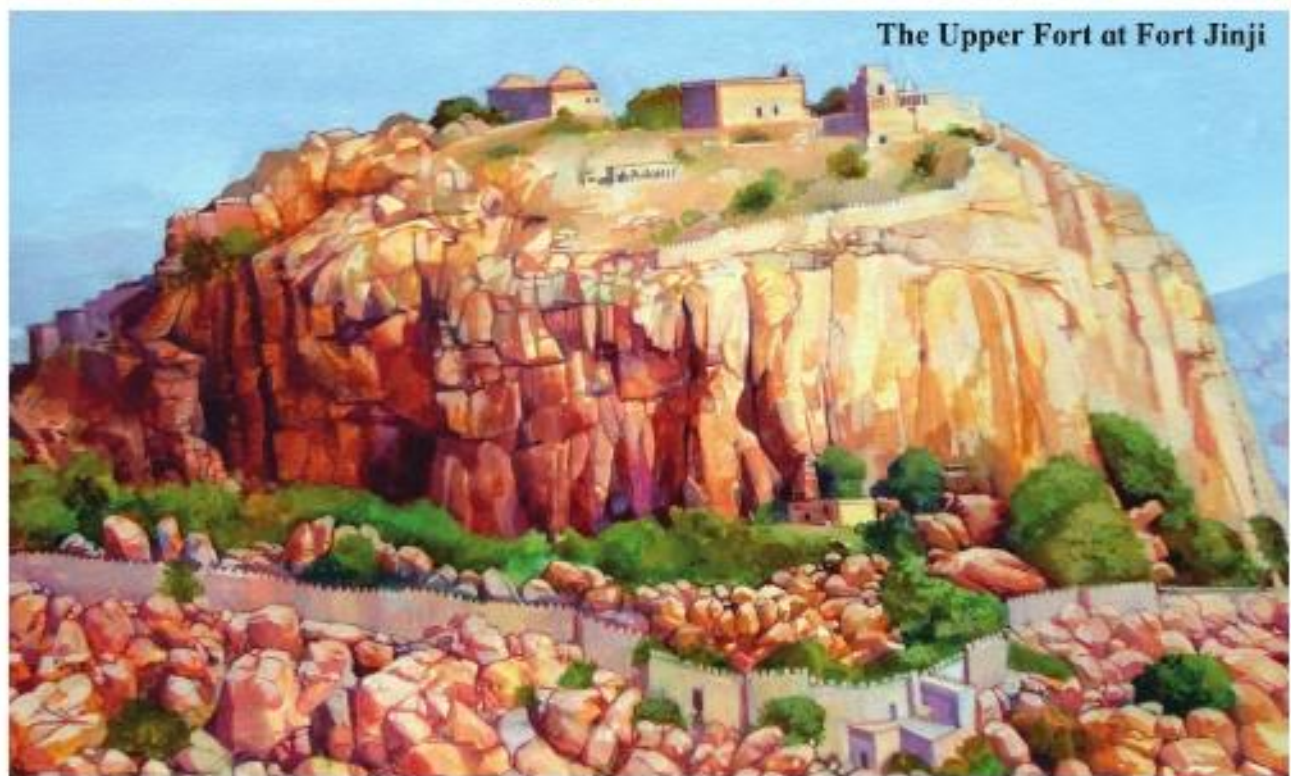
Ramchandrapant Amatya wrote 'Adnya-patra' (Royal Edict) which reflects the policies of Shivaji Maharaj. The following passage elucidates his attitude towards environment.

“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.Pantambekar is taken from 'संग्रह' 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 besieged 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.



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.

