

16. Swarajya to Empire (Maratha period)

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Alauddin Khalji defeated the Yadavas of Devgiri and the rule of Delhi Sultans began in south India. After Khalji, the Tughluq and Bahamani kingdoms ruled over Maharashtra. Later Bahamani kingdom was disintegrated into five parts. Among them, Nizamshahi and Adilshahi ruled parts of Maharashtra. The Mughals turn their attention to south India. As a result, Nizamshahi came to an end. This was the general political scenario during 17th century, when Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj established Swarajya marking the rise of Maratha power.

16.1 Contribution of Sants

Superstition and rituals ruled at large in the medieval Indian society. People had become fatalistic and inert. They had become inert. The condition of the common people was miserable. These were the times when the sants in Maharashtra made efforts to bring the masses back to life.

In Maharashtra, the tradition of sants, which began with Chakradhar Swami, Sant Namdev, Sant Dnyaneshwar, Sant Eknath, Sant Tukaram and Samarth Ramdas. It was continued by sants coming from various strata of the society. For example Sant Chokhamela, Sant Goroba, Sant Sawata, Sant Narhari, Sant Sena, Sant Shaikh Muhammad etc. Similarly women sants such

as Sant Nirmalaba (निर्मळाबाई), Sant Muktabai, Sant Janabai, Sant Kanhopatra and Sant Bahinabai Siurkar also belong to this period.

The sants, created a sense of belonging among people toward their native region, language, literature, and culture. They gave message of equality to people. Their teachings were based on the principles of humanity. They preached harmonious community life, unity and love. Their efforts created social awakening. Their teaching helped people to survive situations like foreign invasions, draughts or other natural calamities. Their devotional songs became a source of a great moral support for people. Their work created a sense of self-esteem among the people of Maharashtra.

16.2 Foundation and Expansion of Swarajya

In the first half of the 17th century, Nizamshahi and Adilshahi had established their rule in Maharashtra. Many eminent Maratha sardars flourished under their rule. They held Jahagirs in the remote regions of the Sahyadris. The difficult terrain of Sahyadri allowed them to operate independently. Shahajiraje Bhosale was a prominent sardar in the Nizamshahi kingdom. After the end of Nizamshahi rule, he accepted the rank of a Mansabdar* in the Adilshahi court. Shahajiraje was valiant, courageous, wise and well-versed in the science of statehood. He had successfully handled many Adilshahi



Shahajiraje

expeditions in Maharashtra, Karnataka and

Tamil Nadu. The provinces of Pune, Supe, Shirwal, Indapur and Chakan were given to Shahajiraje as Jahagir. He personally aspired to establish Swarajya. He is regarded as the visionary of Swarajya.

**A military officer who maintains his own division of soldiers.*

He sent his son Shivajiraje and his wife, Veermata Jijabai from Bengaluru to Pune along with his loyal and capable associates. Veermata Jijabai encouraged Shivaji Maharaj to fulfil the dream of Shahajiraje of establishing Swarajya. She was a visionary and an efficient administrator. She constantly guided her son in the mission of establishing Swarajya and provided him with excellent education necessary for the king of Swarajya.



Veermata Jijabai

The concept of Swarajya was visualised by Shahajiraje and it was turned into reality by Shivaji Maharaj. Shivaji Maharaj laid the foundation of Swarajya from the Mawal region. Several factors like topography of

For Additional Information : The Mawal region is a mountaineous terrain and is not easily accessible. The vallyes at the foot of Sahyadri ranges in Maharashtra are known as 'Mawal' and the local people of Mawal are known as 'Mawalas'. The Mawalas in the army of Shivajiraje played a great role in establishing Swarajya. Shivaji Maharaj had created a feeling of trust and affection in their minds. Shivaji Maharaj set himself on the task of establishing Swarajya with the support of these Mawalas. Many of his close associates like Kanhoji Jedhe, Tanaji Malusare, Netoji Palkar, Baji Pasalkar, Baji Prabhu Deshpande, Murarbaji Deshpande etc. were from the Mawal region.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Maharashtra, valour of the local Mawalas, the administrative and military experience gained by the Maratha sardars while working with Nizamshahi and Adilshahi and above all these the able leadership of Shivaji Maharaj could make it possible.

After joining the Adilshahi court, Shahaji Maharaj entrusted the administration of his Jahagirs at Pune, Shirwal and Supe region (pargana) to Shivaji Maharaj. Yet the forts located in those Jahagirs and nearby areas were in the custody of Adilshahi court. The one 'who owns the forts owns the land' was the ruling of the day. Hence Shivaji Maharaj began with capturing the forts in the vicinity of his jahagirs. He took over the fort of Torana and laid the foundation of Swarajya. Shivaji Maharaj established the first capital of Swarajya at the fort of Rajgad. Chandrarao More proved to be a hindrance in Shivaji Maharaj's efforts to create Swarajya. Shivaji Maharaj successfully took over Javali. After this victory the activities of Shivaji Maharaj in Konkan were escalated. Realising the danger of the increasing activities of Shivaji Maharaj, the Bijapur court sent their powerful General Afzalkhan to curb the increasing power of Shivaji Maharaj.

Shivaji Maharaj had anticipated the

For Additional Information : In the year 1657 C.E., after conquering Kalyan and Bhiwandi, the boundaries of Swarajya extended upto the coastline. The British and the French were involved in Salt trade. Shivaji Maharaj wanted to establish control over the sea waters. However, he did not have any knowhow of building war ships. The Portuguese were afraid of the Siddis. Shivaji Maharaj assured the Portuguese to fight the Siddis. In turn, Shivaji Maharaj sent some selected fishermen with the Portuguese ship builders named Rui Leita Viegas and his son Fernao Viegas and got twenty war ships built with their help. These fishermen were the people, who once trained,

could later build war ships on their own. Till 1675 C.E., Shivaji Maharaj had four hundred small and big ships in his fleet. During the second sack of Surat, Shivaji Maharaj brought those ships to the coast of Surat and loaded the huge booty on them acquired from Surat. It is apparent that Shivaji Maharaj wanted to establish complete control over the land as well as on the sea. Shivaji Maharaj was the first to have the foresight to create his own navy. Hence, he is known as the 'Father of the Indian Navy' Maynak Bhandari, Daulatkhan, Kanhoji Angre were experts of Marine war strategies.

intentions of Afzalkhan, who had taken up the challenge of killing Shivaji Maharaj. He met Afzalkhan at Pratapgad. As expected Afzalkhan attempted treachery but Shivaji Maharaj was well prepared and killed Afzalkhan in self defence. Afzalkhan's huge army was set on the run and huge booty and weapons were collected left behind by them. This made Swarajya's treasury richer.

After Afzalkhan's defeat, the Bijapur court sent Siddi Jauhar to attack Swarajya. He seized the fort of Panhala and closed all possibilities of escape for Shivaji Maharaj. In this difficult situation Shiva Kashid, a loyal servant of Swarajya, disguised himself as Shivaji Maharaj and made it easy for Shivaji Maharaj to escape. When Siddi came to know the truth he killed Shiva Kashid. Thus Shiva Kashid sacrificed his life for the cause of Swarajya. Bajiprabhu took up the task of blocking Siddhi Masud's path in Ghodkhind and stop him in his chase of Shivaji Maharaj. Bajiprabhu was successful in doing this. He fell dead only after receiving the news of Shivaji Maharaj reaching Vishalgad safely.

At the time of ascending the throne, Aurangzeb was aware of the ambitious plans of Shivaji Maharaj. He sent his maternal uncle Shaistakhan on an expedition against Shivaji Maharaj. Shaistakhan camped in Lal Mahal in Pune. Shivaji Maharaj who knew Shaistakhan's intentions manage to enter the Lal Mahal and cut off Shaistakhan's fingers.

Shaistakhan had no alternative but to hastily leave Lal Mahal. Shivaji Maharaj gained more confidence and he attacked Surat, the prosperous economic capital of Aurangzeb and collected a large booty. Enraged by this, Aurangzeb sent his powerful sardars Mirza Raje Jaising and Diler Khan to attack Swarajya. They captured many forts in the Swarajya. Shivaji Maharaj had the wisdom to comprehend the situation and decided to retreat tactically by signing the 'Treaty of Purandar'. According to the treaty, Shivaji Maharaj had to present himself before Aurangzeb at Agra, along with his son Sambhaji Maharaj. Aurangzeb acted treacherously and put Shivaji under house arrest. Shivaji Maharaj very cleverly misled the guards and escaped from Agra.

Soon after returning to Swarajya Shivaji Maharaj conquered the forts which were held by Aurangzeb.

To announce the sovereign and independent status of Swarajya it was necessary to make it official. Realising this Shivaji Maharaj decided to get himself coronated. With his coronation as a sovereign king the provinces under his rule assumed the status of an independent kingdom. After coronation he began the Karnataka expedition. However, he did not live long after the victory in the south. He passed away on 3rd April 1680. His untimely death caused an irreparable loss to Swarajya.

16.3 Maratha war of independence

After the death of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj was coronated as the king of Swarajya. During his reign, a constant conflict continued with the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb's rebellious son Akbar had established friendly relations with Sambhaji Maharaj. Enraged by



Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj

this Aurangzeb came down to Deccan along with a huge army and able sardars, who were veterans of warfare. For the next 25 years he camped in Maharashtra and fought against the Marathas.

But he could not succeed in destroying the Swarajya. Aurangzeb killed Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in a very cruel manner (11th March 1689). Aurangzeb hoped that the Maratha power will be weakened with Sambhaji Maharaj's death but it did not happen. Instead the Marathas unitedly fought against the Mughals and expanded their rule.

After Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj took over the reins at Raigad. Aurangzeb sent Zulfikar Khan to seize the fort of Raigad. Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj, Maharani Tarabai, Maharani Yesubai (Queen of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj) and her son Prince Shahu were staying on Rajgad. All the Maratha royalties, thus staying at one place was dangerous. It would have been strategic to fight the Mughals from two places at a time. Hence, Maharani Yesubai asked Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj to leave for Jinji. Maharani Yesubai herself stayed back at Raigad and continue to fight. In 1689 C.E., the Mughals succeeded in taking charge of Raigad. Maharani Yesubai and Prince Shahu were arrested and sent to Delhi. Maharani Yesubai remained in captivity of the Mughals for next

thirty years.

While leaving for Jinji, Rajaram Maharaj entrusted Ramchandrapant Amatya, Shankaraji Narayan Sachiv, Santaji Ghorpade and Dhanaji

Jadhav with the responsibility of defending Raigad. The guerrilla tactics of Santaji and Dhanaji proved the large scale artillery and huge cannons of the Mughals to be of little use. Despite of holding very few assets

the Marathas continued to create havoc for the Mughals. Rajaram Maharaj safeguarded Swarajya in these trying times. This was a great task in itself and a great success of Rajaram Maharaj.

After the death of Rajaram Maharaj (March, 1700 C.E.), his wife Maharani Tarabai continued to fight against Aurangzeb. Maharani Tarabai led the Swarajya movement under extremely unfavourable conditions. She single-handedly took charge of the administration and fought for Swarajya for twenty five years with the help of her sardars. At times, the Marathas had to fight the Mughals on lands beyond the boundaries of Swarajya, but she did not stop them.

This was an indication that the scenario of the war was changing. The Maratha War of Independence was a tussle between the Mughal ambition of expanding their Empire and the desire of independence cherished by the Marathas. Finally the death of Aurangzeb put an end to this fighting. In the beginning, the Mughal rulers adopted an



Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj



Maharani Tarabai

aggressive policy while the Maratha policy remained that of defence. But by the second half of the 18th century, this condition changed. With the weakening of Mughal power, the Marathas could extend their rule almost all over India.

16.4 Administrative system established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

The regions in Maharashtra including Nashik, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Sindhudurga, Ratnagiri, Raigad; Belgaum, Karwar, Dharwad in Karnataka; some regions of Andhra, Jinji and Vellore in Tamil Nadu comprised Swarajya. Shivaji Maharaj set up an ideal administrative system for the smooth running of Swarajya's affairs.

The formation of the Ashtapradhan Mandal (council of eight ministers) and its growth took place alongwith the expansion of the kingdom. After coronation, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj created special posts of Ashtapradhans. It included 'Peshwa', 'Amatya', 'Sachiv', 'Mantri', 'Senapati', 'Sumant', 'Nyayadhish' and 'Panditrao'.

Shivaji Maharaj had a strong intelligence network of his own. Bahirji Naik was the Chief of this network. Before starting on any expedition, Shivaji Maharaj obtained detailed information from his spies and then planned his expedition.

When the ministers went on expedition, their representatives (Mutalik) looked after

the administration. There was a special officer called 'Darakdar' appointed to look after every department of the ministry. Other officers were 'Diwan' (secretary), 'Majumdar' (auditor and accountant), 'Phadnis' (Deputy Auditor), 'Sabnis' (office in-charge), 'Karkhanis' (Commissary), 'Chitnis' (Correspondence clerk), 'Jamdar' (Treasurer), 'Potdar' (assay master) etc.

The Kingdom was divided into two parts for the sake of administration. One of it was the province which was geographically bound together and the other comprised scattered regions in the south. The first province was divided into three sections. The northern section was assigned to the Peshwa which included the regions from Salher to Pune and North Konkan. The central part consisted of south Konkan, Sawantwadi and Karwar. This was assigned to the Sachiv. In the third part the regions of high plateau i.e. Satara-Wai to Belgaum and Koppal was assigned to the 'Mantri'. A separate 'Subha' of Karnataka was created and Hambirrao Mohite and Raghunath Narayan Amatya were appointed on it. 'Sarsubhedars' were appointed on all these regions in association with the 'Pradhans' (Ministers). This was known as 'Rajmandal'. The appointment of 'Killedar' (keeper of the fort) and 'Karkun' (clerks) was made by the King himself. The Pradhans had to submit annual accounts to Shivaji Maharaj.

Sarsubhedars taking care of provincial administration were known as 'Deshadshikari'.

For additional information :

Determining the grade (*prat*) of the land formed the basics of the Revenue System. The land revenue system introduced by Malik Amber of Nizamshahi was in practice. But Shivaji Maharaj introduced a new system. He fixed the measuring unit of 'Kathi' (measuring stick) for the measurement of the land. The length of this kathi was 5 cubits (length of a forearm) and 5 closed fists. Based on this following units were decided: the area of 20 kathis was 1 'Bigha' and 120 Bighas made one 'Chavar'. Annaji Datto (Sachiv) travelled from village to

village and determined various criteria of calculating revenue such as 'Dhara', 'Chavarana', 'Pratbandi' etc., based on the annual yield. Chavarana means deciding the boundaries of land by measuring it. Assessment of land in the hilly regions was not done areawise but yieldwise. While collecting the revenue, the quality of the yield was also taken into consideration along with the grade of the land. Revenue was fixed only after the calculation of the average yield of previous 3 years. Land such as Barren land, jungle, grazing land etc. were not counted for land revenue.

There was a difference between the administration under the Islamic rulers and the administrative system set by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Sarsubhas in the Swarajya were meant to be the zonal divisions for overall administration, while under Islamic rulers a division merely served the purpose of revenue collection.

The Subhedars were assisted by 'Deshmukhs' and 'Deshpandes'. The main task of a Deshmukh was to collect the land revenue, to develop waste land into cultivable land and settle new villages. All government officials received salary in the form of cash instead of land grant (*watan*).

'Village' was the basic unit of the administrative system. New villages were settled. The people were provided with cattle, seed money, money for daily utilities. The farmer was given a period of two years, to repay the advance after a good harvest. This system was known as '*Batai* system'.

16.5 Release of Shahu Maharaj

The Mughals continued their efforts to defeat the Marathas, even after the death of Aurangzeb. For that purpose they adopted the strategy of dividing the Marathas.

They released Shahu Maharaj from captivity in 1707 C.E. After his release there was a conflict between Maharani Tarabai and Shahu Maharaj. Shahu Maharaj won the ensuing battle. Balaji Vishwanath played an important role on behalf of Shahu Maharaj and later he was appointed as Peshwa.



Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj

16.6 Peshwa period

After Balaji Vishwanath, his son, Bajirao I was appointed as the Peshwa. He expanded the Maratha empire upto Malwa, Rajasthan and Bundelkhand. He defeated the Nizam.

After Bajirao I, Balaji Bajirao alias



Bajirao Peshwa I

defeat but it also lowered the morale of the Marathas greatly.

Madhavrao Peshwa tried to elevate the spirits of Marathas as well as re-establish the Maratha power in the north. The Marathas were successful in overcoming the great defeat at Panipat and create a politically strong position for themselves in the politics of the north. This factor was very important.

Malharrao Holkar, Ahilyabai Holkar, Raghuji Bhosale, Mahadji Shinde, Nana Phadanvis played a great role in the re-establishment of Maratha influence.



Madhavrao Peshwa



Malharrao Holkar

Malharrao was the founder of the Holkar State at Indore. He served the Maratha power for a long time. He had a great share in establishing the Maratha prestige in the north. After the death of Khanderao, son of Malharrao.

Ahilyabai Holkar assumed the reins of Indore administration. Maheshwar was the seat of administration



For additional information : The Pathans from Afghanistan had settled at the foothills of the Himalayas near Ayodhya province. These Pathans were known as 'Rohillas'. This province later came to be known as 'Rohilkhand'. Najib Khan was the leader of the Rohillas. He was not happy with the supremacy of the Marathas in North

India. He invited Ahmedshah Abdali, the ruler of Afghanistan, to India. At the behest of Najib Khan, Abdali invaded India. He returned to Afghanistan with a huge booty. However, the Marathas pursued Abdali's soldiers upto Attock and raised there the Maratha standard successfully. Attock is presently in Pakistan.

under her. She built temples, ghats, dharamshalas, and drinking water facilities at various pilgrim centres. She was a capable, astute, and excellent administrator.

Raghuji Bhosale was the most capable ruler among the Bhosales of Nagpur. He brought



Ahilyabai Holkar

the regions in Eastern India upto Bengal under the Maratha dominance. After the miserable defeat of the Marathas at Panipat, Mahadji Shinde was instrumental in re-establishing the Maratha supremacy and prestige in North India. He trained his



Raghuji Bhosale



Mahadji Shinde

Army and modernised his artillery under the guidance of French military expert, Benoit de Boigne. Mahadji managed the difficult affairs with strong determination and remained incharge of Delhi affairs during 1771 C.E.

to 1794 C.E. Nana Phadanvis and Mahadji Shinde set the affairs of the state right after the death of Peshwa Madhavrao.

The two Peshwas who succeeded Peshwa Madhavrao, namely Narayanrao and Sawai Madhavrao, did not live long. Their untimely death set the decline of Maratha power. At this time, the Mughal power had also become weak. Taking advantage of this situation, the British started interfering in the internal strife among the Maratha sardars. Peshwa Bajirao II was defeated by the British and the British established their supremacy over India. The British brought entire India under their dominance.

16.7 Art, architecture, literature

Art : The development of Maratha miniature Paintings is seen through illustrations on the manuscripts such as pothis, pattachitra and patrikas. The same style is maintained in the glass paintings as well. Illustrated manuscripts of Sanskrit texts such as 'Bhagvat Gita', 'Devi Saptashati', 'Bhagvat Purana' as well as Marathi texts such as 'Dnyaneshwari' (*Bhavarthadipika*), 'Shivaleelamrut', 'Pandavaprataap' etc. are available. The paintings of Dashavatara are included in them. The wooden stands of the pothis have paintings of various deities such as Ganapati, Riddhi-siddhi, Ramapanchayatana, Gopalkrishna, Vishnulakshmi in dark red, green and yellow colours. The miniature paintings, include human portraits and themes like ragamalas, talamala, processions etc. Remarkable portraits of Bajirao I, Nanasheh

Peshwa, Pilaji Jadhavrao are available. Murals are found on the facade of the Wadas, as well as on the walls of reception areas (Diwankhana) and bedrooms. In the temples, the mandapa wall, owri (varanda), shikhara, gabhara (*sanctum sanctorum*) and chhat (ceiling) were also decorated with paintings. The 18th century murals have survived till today at places like the Naik-Nimbalkar wada at Vathar, Nana Phadanavis wada at Menavali, Rangamaharaj at Chandwad, Mayureshwar mandir at Morgaon, Shiva temple of Pandeshwar, and Matha at Benawadi. Mythological stories form the main theme of these murals. They include scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata and Puranas. The paintings of Dashavatara and Krishnaleela are found almost everywhere. The subjects of contemporary social life were also popular in the paintings. Royal court, royal meetings, processions were also included in them.

During the Maratha period, *keertan* and



Miniature painting - Maratha period

singing of *Bhajans* were popular. Powadas (Ballads) were composed during this period to encourage the spirit of heroism among the people. The ballads known as 'powadas' and 'katavas', composed by the Shahirs were the types of historical poetry. The powadas

composed by Adnyandas on the slaying of Afzalkhan and Tulsidas on the battle of Sinhagad are well-known.

The literary tradition of 'Lavani' developed in the later Peshwa period. Shahirs like Anantafandi, Prabhakar, Ramjoshi, Saganbhau and Honaji Bala are known for their beautiful compositions.

Various dance forms from the Maratha period have existed till today such as including lavani, koli dance, Gaja Nrutya etc. The tradition of vocal music also received patronage in Maratha States.

Architecture : Shivaji Maharaj gave priority to build forts. The tradition of building forts was prevalent in the Deccan since three centuries. This tradition proved to be of advantage to Shivaji Maharaj. The required expertise of maintaining forts was easily available to him. The Kasaba temple in Pune and Vitthal temple in Vitthalwadi were reconstructed by Veermata Jijabai. During the Peshwa period, the Maratha kingdom regained its prosperity and all forms of art and architecture once again received patronage. Pune, Satara and Nashik developed into big cities. These cities had well paved roads, wadas on both sides of the road and arched gates at intervals.

The construction of temples began on a large scale during the later Peshwa period. These temples were of three types. Examples of the temple architecture of this period are found at Saswad ('Vateshwar', 'Sangameshwar'), Mahuli ('Vishweshwar'),

For additional information :

Dressed stones, raw and baked bricks were used in the construction of wadas. The ground floor walls of the wada were built in stone while the upper storeys were of bricks. There were generally three to five storeys supported on wooden pillars and beams. The rooms were built around the rectangular courtyard (chowk). Usually there use to be two courtyards in the wada. However, sometimes there could be three to seven courtyards as well. Wadas such as Vishrambaug wada in Pune and Nana Phadanavis wada in Menavali and Raghobadada's wada are among the fine examples of wada architecture. The wooden pillars and beams in the wada were square in shape. Motifs such as parrot, peacock, and monkeys were popular.

Jejuri etc. These are huge in size. The plan of these temples is in star shaped design, the foundation of the temple was multi layered, and were named accordingly. The construction of shikhara is made in bricks and stucco method. The 'Kalaram', 'Goraram' and 'Sundarnarayan' temples at Nashik and 'Mahadev' temple at Trimbakeshwar, 'Mohiniraj' temple at Nevasa were similar to the temples in Malwa and Rajasthan. The temples were constructed in stone. These temples were embellished extensively with sculptures as compared to other contemporary temples. In the third type of temples, the



Sindhudurga



Jejuri

temples at Pune, Satara, Wai, etc. were built in independent style. It included arches, wooden hall (sabhamandapa) and *sanctum sanctorum* (gabhara). The Shikhara slopes inwards at the top. In the small niches of the Shikhara, beautiful sculptures are made of stucco. It includes images of dashavatars and other deities as well as male and female figures. The stone *deepmala* is a remarkable feature of these temples. The stone deepmalas at Jejuri were built by Shahajiraje. Since most of the villages and temples were located on river banks, stone steps (ghats) were also built on the river. Such extensive ghats are seen at Nashik, Puntambe, Wai, Menavali, Mahuli etc. The Chhatris (Samadhis) built at various places are noteworthy.

Literature : Marathi literature developed greatly during this period. Sant Tukaram of this period was a poet of the warkari sect. Samarth Ramdas wrote 'Dasbodh' and 'Manache Shlok' in Marathi. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj got the 'Rajyavyavaharakosha' prepared which was a compilation of Sanskrit lexicon for Persian terms. Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj was a great writer and Sanskrit scholar. The Sanskrit text 'Budhabhushan' was written by him. This text is an overview of ancient texts on polity. Apart from Sanskrit, he also knew many other languages. He wrote texts in Brij language namely 'Nayikabhed', 'Nakhshikh' and 'Satasattak'. Muhammad Qasim Ferishta

wrote the history of India in 12 volumes named 'Gulshane-i-Ibrahimi'.

In the 18th century well-known literary works were composed such as, 'Yatharthdeepika' by Vaman Pandit, 'Naladamayanti Swayamvara' by Raghunath Pandit, Pandavapratapa, Harivijay, Ramavijay by Shridhar Pandit and the translation of Mahabharata by Moropant. Bakhar literature is important among the historical literature in Marathi. It contains eulogies of the heroes and stories of historic events, battles, lives of great men. Sabhasad Bakhar, Bhausahabanchi Bakhar, Panipatchi Bakhar are some of its examples. Krushna Dayarnav and Shridhar were the main poets during the Peshwa period. Poet Mahipati composed 'Bhaktivijay' in this period.

16.7 Trade, industries and social life

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was aware of the importance of a flourishing trade for the economic well being of the state. He encouraged the traders and merchants by creating Peths (market places). 'Shete' and 'Mahajan' were the officers who supervised the transaction of these Peths. Chaul, Rajapur, Dabhol, Kelshi, Ratnagiri were some of the important ports and trade centres of this period. Commodities like black pepper and lac* etc. were exported from Dabhol. Silk,

For additional information :

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was keen on protecting the local industries. Here we can cite the example of salt industry. He protected the salt industry in Konkan. At that time, traders imported salt from the Portuguese territory and sold in Swarajya. That affected the local trade in Konkan areas. So Maharaj charged heavy duty on the salt imported into Swarajya from the Portuguese territory. The intention was that the salt imported from the Portuguese territory would then cost more and as a result its import would be discouraged and the sale of the local salt would increase.

opium, and indigo were exported from Chaul. Black pepper, cardamom, cotton cloth were the items of trade in Rajapur. Foreign traders procured required goods from Rajapur and transported them on ships to the Red Sea and Iran.

A self-sufficient village was the basic unit of the Swarajya. The economic system of the village was never affected greatly by external political changes. Every village had 12 'balutedars' (service providers in the village). Their occupations were hereditary in nature. Every occupation in this system had a specific status in the social hierarchy. The balutedars, for example goldsmiths (*sonar*), blacksmiths (*lohar*), braziers (*tambat*) etc. practiced their hereditary occupations. Weekly markets were set up in big villages. Such villages were known as 'Kasba'. People visited weekly markets to buy daily provisions and other goods. Some industries of this period include textile industry, metallurgy, sugar industry etc.

**Lac is a resinous substance used for sealing, varnish, making ornaments, etc.*

The rural Maharashtra of Maratha period was organised into different social classes such as nobility (sardars), landlords (watandars), Balutedars and Ryot (rest of the subjects).

There were traditional schools (*pathshalas*) established in cities like Wai,

Nashik, Paithan, etc. Traditional festivals (*utsavas*), pious observances (*Vrata vaikalye*) were celebrated with great enthusiasm in the society. Celebrating the festivals was encouraged by the State, as such celebrations help to create joyous and harmonious society.

For Additional Information : Urbanisation during Maratha period-

Many market cities of the Maratha period emerged because of political expansion and development of various industries, trade, professions etc. The process of urbanisation gained momentum during the Peshwa period. There was extensive development of Pune, the capital of Peshwas. There was increase in the number of market cities (Bazar peths). Pune, Indapur, Saswad, Junnar, Kalyan, Bhiwandi, Vengurla, Paithan, Kolhapur, Satara, Ahmednagar, and small and big ports on the Konkan coast flourished with the development of trade and industries.

The journey from the founding of Swarajya to the expansion of the Maratha empire, is an important part of Indian history of mediaeval times. The Maratha power came to an end and the British brought most of India under their dominance. The transition took place in various sectors. It marks the onset of modern era.

Exercise

Q.1 (A) Choose the correct alternative and complete the sentence.

- (1) is known as the Father of Indian Navy.
 - (a) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
 - (b) Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj
 - (c) Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj
 - (d) Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj

- (2) The Pathans from Afghanistan had settled in, the province at the foothills of the Himalayas.
 - (a) Varanasi
 - (b) Mathura
 - (c) Ayodhya
 - (d) Delhi
- (3) Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj wrote the Sanskrit text
 - (a) Nayikabhed
 - (b) Budhabhushan
 - (c) Nakhshikh
 - (d) Satasattka

(B) Find the incorrect pair and write the correct ones.

- (1) Naik-Nimbalkar wada – Vathar
- (2) Nana Phadanvis wada – Menavali
- (3) Kalaram temple – Jejuri
- (4) Mohiniraj temple – Nevase

(C) Write the name.

- (1) He was the Chief of the intelligence network of Shivaji Maharaj -
- (2) He assisted in the provincial affairs -
- (3) Leader of the Rohillas -

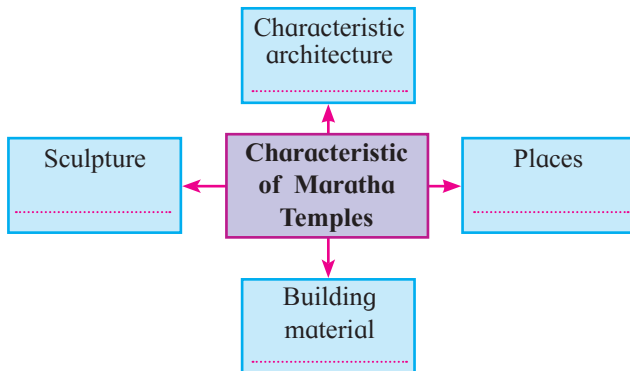
Q.3 Explain the statement with reasons.

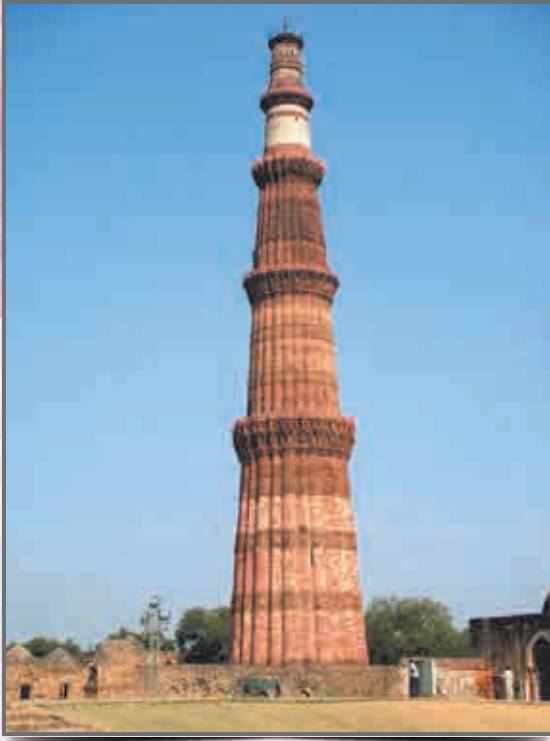
- (1) Shahajiraje is known as the visionary of Swarajya.
- (2) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj built the naval force.
- (3) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj charged heavy duty on the salt imported from the Portuguese territory.

Q.4 Write short notes.

- (1) Maratha Art
- (2) Maratha Architecture

Q.2 Complete the following concept map.





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