

16. 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.

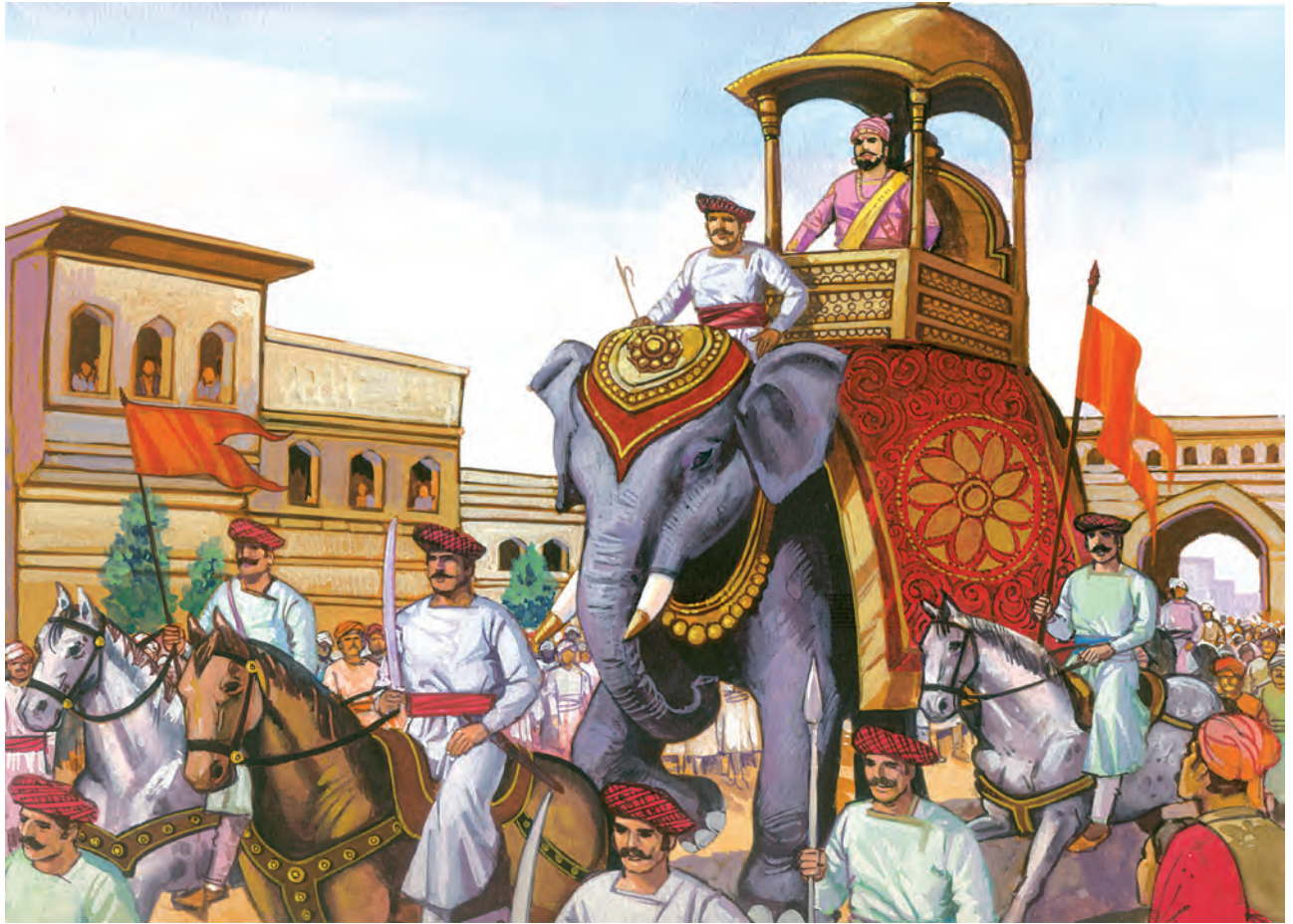
He decided to attack Karnatak. He was no longer afraid of Adilshah because the Kingdom of Bijapur was practically on its last legs. The real threat to Swaraj was from the North, for the Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb was bidding his time to destroy the Maratha Kingdom. There was no knowing when he would attack 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.





The following foot notes are applicable : (1) © Government of India, Copyright : 2014. (2) The responsibility for the correctness of internal details rests with the publisher. (3) The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line. (4) The administrative headquarters of Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab are at Chandigarh. (5) The interstate boundaries amongst Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya shown on this map are as interpreted from the "North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act. 1971," but have yet to be verified. (6) The external boundaries and coastlines of India agree with the Record/Master Copy certified by Survey of India. (7) The state boundaries between Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh have not been verified by the Governments concerned. (8) The spellings of names in this map, have been taken from various sources.

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