

**MARATHAS UNDER
SHIVAJI**

(GROUP 8)



GROUP MEMBERS

NAMES

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INTRODUCTION:THE MARATHA EMPIRE

- The Maratha Empire or the Maratha Confederacy was an early modern Indian power that existed from **1694 to 1818**.
- The Maratha rule formally began in **1674** with the coronation of Shivaji of the Bhonsle Dynasty as Chattrapati.
- The Marathas were a Hindu warrior group from the Western Deccan Plateau that rose to prominence by establishing Hindavi Swarajya.
- Under Shivaji they revolted against Adil Shah and the Mughals and carved out a kingdom with its capital at Raigad.
- Despite facing internal and external threats the Maratha reign was remarkable for their quest of sovereignty and they remained significant in Indian polity until the rise of East India Company in 19th century.

EARLY CAREER OF SHIVAJI

- Shivaji was born on **February 19, 1630**, at Shivneri Fort in the district of Pune, Maharashtra, India. He was the son of Shahaji Bhonsle, a Maratha General who held the Jagirs of Pune under Bijapur Sultanate.
- After completion of Shivaji's education, he was assigned to Kanhoji Jedhe and Baji Pasalkar for military and martial arts training.
- In the years **1645-47**, when he was only 18 years old, he overran a number of hill forts near Pune, including Rajgarh, Kondana and Torna.
- Shivaji became his own master in 1647, following the death of his guardian, Dadai Konddeo, and took complete control of his father's Jagir.
- His royal career began in **1656**.

KEY ASPECTS OF SHIVAJI'S ADMINISTRATION

- Shivaji introduced various administrative reforms that focused on decentralized governance and local empowerment.
- Shivaji strategically fortified key locations throughout his kingdom, such as forts, which served as military bases and administrative centres.
- He also encouraged trade and commerce by improving infrastructure such as roads and ports and promoted local industries like agriculture, textile and metal work of the country.
- Shivaji was a patron of art and literature. He encouraged the patronization of literature in Marathi language and encouraged learned scholars and poets in his court.
- Shivaji implemented welfare measures for the well being of his subjects. He focused on providing relief during natural disasters, ensuring availability of food grains and supporting marginalized sections of society.
- Shivaji emphasized women's empowerment and actively worked towards improving their social status.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

- The king was the head of the government, who was assisted by a council of ministers called **Ashtapradhan**. Each of them were directly responsible to Shivaji and headed a department.
- The Ashtapradhan (eight ministers) were:-
 - (I) **Peshwa**-He was in charge of both civil and military affairs
 - (II) **Majumdar**-He was in charge of the state's income and expenditure
 - (III) **Waqia Navis**-He oversaw intelligence and household affairs
 - (IV) **Surunavis**-He was in charge of royal correspondence
 - (V) **Senapati**-He was the army commander
 - (VI) **Dabir**-He was in charge of organising official ceremonies and assisting king with foreign affairs
 - (VII) **Nyaya Dhish**-He delivered the verdict
 - (VIII) **Pandit Rao**-He oversaw charitable donations
- The ministers were not appointed on hereditary basis and their positions were not permanent.

PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

- The provincial administration was also patterned largely on the Deccani and Mughal system.
- The provinces were known as Prants, which were under the charge of Subedar. The Sarsubedar used to control and supervise the work of the Subedar.
- After Prants came the Tarfs, which were headed by a havaladar. Mauzas or villages were the lowest unit of administration.
- The police officer in rural area was called Faujdar and in urban area was called Kotwal.
- Under the Marathas, performance-based Brahmin elites Kamvishdar manned the central bureaucracy and the local administration and used to enjoy wide powers of tax assessment and collection.

REVENUE SYSTEM:CHAUTH AND SARDESHMUKHI

- Land revenue was the state's main source of income. Shivaji's land revenue system was based on Malik Amber's Kathi system of land measurement, for which he used rods (kathi).
- On the basis of assessment the cultivators were asked to pay 40 percent of their produce as land revenue.
- The Ryotwari system was introduced in which the revenue was directly collected from the farmers. The farmers could pay the revenue in cash or kind.
- Shivaji introduced the collection of two taxes called the CHAUTH and SARDESHMUKHI:
 - **CHAUTH**-This was a tax levied at the rate of one-fourth of the land revenue. It was primarily collected from territories that were not directly under the Maratha control. It was kind of military bribe in exchange for protecting Mughals from external attacks.
 - **SARDESHMUKHI**-This was a tax levied at the rate of ten percent of the land revenue and collected from territories directly under Maratha administration. It was used to fund the Maratha military and administrative expenses.

RELIGIOUS POLICY

- **Religious Freedom**-Shivaji allowed people of all religions to practice their freely without fear of persecution.
- **Protection of Temples and Mosques**-He issued orders for the protection of temples and mosques,ensuring they were not harmed or desecrated.
- **Appointment of Administrators**-Shivaji appointed administrators from various religious backgrounds to govern different regions,fostering inclusivity.
- **Fair Treatment**-He ensured that people of all religions were treated fairly and equally under the law.
- **Economic Policies**-Shivaji implemented economic policies that were beneficial to all communities regardless of their religious affiliation.

MILITARY AND JUDICIAL REFORMS

Military-

- Shivaji also paid close attention to military organisations, recruiting approximately 30,000-40,000 cavalry.
- Infantry, Cavalry and Navy made up the army. There were two kinds of cavalymen- BARGIRS and SILEDARS.
- He was the first Indian monarch to recognise the need for a naval force during the medieval period.
- Shivaji had 250 forts in his territory. The fort had three officers: Hawaldar, Sabnis, Sarnobat.
- He appointed people from all castes to ensure fairness and stability.
- He extensively trained his soldiers in mountain combat techniques and guerrilla warfare, a distinct fighting method

Judicial-

- Shivaji established an impartial and efficient judicial system, known as 'Hindavi Swarajya'.
- The rule emphasized the rule of law and fairness, providing equal access to justice for all.
- Local courts known as 'Nyayalayas' were established to resolve disputes at the grassroots level.
- The Panchayats handled disputes between various parties in the communities, and the village 'Patil' decided on criminal cases.
- The highest court was the king's "Hazar Majils"

FALL OF THE MARATHAS

- **Lack of Unity:**The Maratha empire was not a unitary state and at that time the Peshwas did not hold the absolute power.
- **Economic Situation:**The Maratha chiefs frequently conducted expeditions in pursuit of money or loot but the government barely gained any favour with such a system. Therefore the decline was inescapable.
- **Lack of Strategy and Resources-**The British were best at diplomacy and the downfall of Maratha empire was also attributed to its disregard for military structure.
- **Weak Central Authority-**All capable Maratha chiefs died by the end of the 18th century. Daulat Rao Sindhia, Jaswant Rao Holkar and Nana Phadnavis were the successors. Thus, the Marathas lacked capable leadership.
- **British Diplomacy-**The British had complete knowledge of the Marathas, its army, officials and also about their inter personal relationships. The Marathas on the other hand knew nothing about the British.
- **Third Battle of Panipat-**The Third Battle of Panipat was a major battle of Indian history, fought on 14th January 1761 between the Afghan forces against the Maratha Empire. Here the Marathas were defeated which also contributed to their downfall.

CONCLUSION

Shivaji was a capable general and a skilled politician who laid the groundbreak for a powerful Maratha empire. He expanded the Maratha empire's influence from the Deccan to Karnataka and elevated it to the level of all India. He established an efficient administrative system, established an authentic system for income, and broadened the empires's economic base through Chauth and Sardeshmukhi, a cash-based army, and so on. He was a true nation builder and unified Marathas while remaining major foe of the Mughal empire. His primary goal was to protect his subjects from oppression and tyranny while bringing them prosperity and happiness.

THANK YOU