

11th History Lesson 10 Notes in English

10. The Marathas

Introduction

- **The Marathas** played a major role in the decline of **Mughal power**.
- Under the dynamic leadership of **Shivaji**, they posed a strong challenge to Mughal power during the **1670s**.
- By the middle of the 18th century, they had **succeeded** in displacing **Mughal power** in **central India**.
- **Nayak rule** ended in **1674** in Thanjavur, when the **Maratha General Venkoji** (half brother of Shivaji) leading the **Bijapur** forces invaded **Thanjavur** and **succeeded** in establishing Maratha rule in the **Tamil region**.
- **Maratha** rule in **Thanjavur** which started from **1674** continued until the death of **Serfoji II** in **1832**.

Causes of the Rise of the Marathas

Physical features and Nature of the People

- **The region** of the **Marathas** consisted of a narrow strip of land called **Konkan**.
- Its precipitous mountains, inaccessible valleys and impregnable hill-forts were most favourable for **military defence**.
- **The Marathas** claimed a long tradition of **military prowess** and prided themselves on their loyalty, courage, discipline, cunningness, and endurance.
- They had earlier served under **the Bahmani Sultans** and later, after its disintegration, under the Sultans of **Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golconda, Bidar and Berar**.
- Marathas avoided direct battles with the **Mughal armies** that were equipped with **strong cavalry** and **deadly cannons**.
- "**Guerrilla warfare**" was their strength.
- They possessed the ability to **plan** and execute the **surprise lightning attacks** at night.
- Further, they exhibited skills to change their tactics according to the battle situation without waiting for orders from a superior officer.

Bhakti Movement and its Impact

- The spread of **the Bhakti movement** inculcated the spirit of oneness among the Marathas.
- **Tukaram, Ramdas, and Eknath** were the leading lights of the movement.
- **The hymns** of the **Bhakti saints** were sung in Marathi and they created a bond among people across the society.



Ramdas

External causes

- The degeneration of **Bijapur** and **Golkonda** prompted the Marathas to unite and fight together.
- **The Deccan** wars against the Sultans of Bijapur, Golkonda and Ahmednagar had **exhausted** the **Mughal** treasury.
- **Shivaji** rallied the Marathas who lay scattered in many parts of Deccan under his **leadership** and built a mighty kingdom, with **Raigad** as the **capital**.

Shivaji (1627–1680)

- Shivaji was born in **Shivner** near **Junnar**.
- He was the son of **Shahji Bhonsle** by his first wife **Jijabai**.
- Shahji was a descendant of the **Yadava rulers of Devagiri** from his mother's side and the **Sisodias of Mewar** on his father's side.
- Shahji Bhonsle served under **Malik Ambar (1548–1626)**, former slave, and the **Abyssinian minister of Ahmed Shah** of Ahmednagar.
- After the death of Malik Ambar, **Shahji** played a vital role in its **politics**.
- After the annexation of Ahmednagar by the Mughals, he entered the service of the **Sultan of Bijapur**.
- Shivaji and his mother were left under the care of **Dadaji Kondadev** who administered **Shahji Bhonsle's jagirs** (land grants given in recognition of military or administrative services rendered) at **Poona**.



Shivaji

- **Shivaji** earned the goodwill of the **Mavali peasants and chiefs**, who were a martial people with knowledge about the hilly areas around Poona.
- Shivaji made himself **familiar with the hilly areas** around Poona.
- **Religious heads**, Ramdas and Tukaram, also **influenced** Shivaji.
- **Ramdas** was regarded by **Shivaji** as his **guru**.

Military Conquests

- Shivaji began his **military career** at the **age of nineteen**. In 1646, he **captured the fortress of Torna** from the **Sultan of Bijapur**.
- **The fort of Raigad**, located five miles east of Torna, was **captured and wholly rebuilt**.
- After the death of **Dadaji Kondadev** in 1647, Shivaji **took over** all the **jagirs** of his father.
- Subsequently, the **forts of Baramati, Indapura, Purandhar and Kondana** came under his **direct control**.
- **The Marathas** had already **captured Kalyan**, an important town in that region. **Shivaji's father** had been **humiliated and imprisoned** by the **Sultan of Bijapur**.
- He negotiated with Prince Murad, the Mughal Viceroy of the Deccan and expressed his **wish to join Mughal service**.
- **The Sultan of Bijapur released Shahji** in 1649 on some **conditions**.
- So, **Shivaji refrained** from his **military activities** from 1649 to 1655.
- During this period, he consolidated his power and toned up his administration. In 1656, **Shivaji re-started his military activities**.
- He **captured Javli** in the Satara district and the immense booty that he won made him **popular** among the **Marathas**.
- Many **young men** joined his **army**. A **new fort, Pratapgarh**, was built two miles west of Javli.

Confrontation against Bijapur

- After **Mohammad Adilshah** of **Bijapur** died in November 1656, **Adilshah II**, a young man of eighteen, **succeeded him**.
- **Aurangzeb** captured **Bidar, Kalyani** and **Parinder** in 1657.
- So, both **Shivaji** and the **Bijapur Sultan** **were forced** to make peace with **Aurangzeb**.
- At this time **Shah Jahan** **fell ill**, and a war of succession was imminent in Delhi.
- **Aurangzeb** **left for Delhi** to take part in it.
- Using this opportunity, **Shivaji** **invaded north Konkan** and **captured** the cities of **Kalyan, Bhivandi** and **fort of Mahuli**.

Shivaji and Afzal Khan, 1659

- As there was no danger from the Mughals, **Bijapur Sultan** **decided to attack Shivaji**. **Afzal Khan** was **sent with a huge army**.
- He boasted that he would bring the **"mountain-rat"** in chains.
- But, he found **fighting** in the **mountainous** country **extremely difficult**.
- So, he planned to **trick Shivaji** but he was **outwitted**.
- **The Maratha** forces **ravaged South Konkan** and **Kolhapur** district and **captured** the **fort of Panhala**.
- **The Sultan of Bijapur** himself **led the army** and the war dragged on for more than a year. **Nothing** substantial was **gained**.
- Finally, after negotiations, **Shivaji** was **recognised** as **the ruler** of the territories in his possession.

Shivaji and the Mughals

- In July 1658, **Aurangzeb** **ascended the throne** as the Emperor.
- **Shaista Khan** was appointed the **Governor of the Deccan** in 1660 with the main **purpose** of **crushing Shivaji**.
- **Shivaji** hit upon a **bold plan**.
- He **entered Poona** at **night** with **400 soldiers** in the form of a marriage party and **attacked the home** of **Shaista Khan**.
- **Aurangzeb** was forced to **recall Shaista Khan** from the Deccan in **December 1663**.

Shivaji and Jaisingh

- In 1664, **Shivaji** **attacked Surat**, the major **Mughal port** in Arabian Sea and his soldiers **plundered** the city.
- **Aurangzeb** **despatched an army** under the command of the **Rajput general Raja Jai Singh** to **defeat Shivaji** and **annex Bijapur**.
- At that time, Prince Muazzam, later **Bahadur Shah I**, was **the Governor of the Deccan**.
- **Jai Singh** made elaborate **plans** to **encircle Shivaji** on all sides.
- Even **Raigarh** was under **threat**.

- **Purandar** was besieged in **June 1665**.



Shivaji and Jai Singh

- The heroic resistance of **Shivaji** became **futile**.
- Therefore he decided to come to **negotiate** with **Jai Singh**.
- According to **the treaty of Purandar** signed on **11 June 1665** **Shivaji** yielded the fortresses that he had **captured** and agreed to **serve** as a **mansabdar** and **assist** the **Mughals** in conquering **Bijapur**.

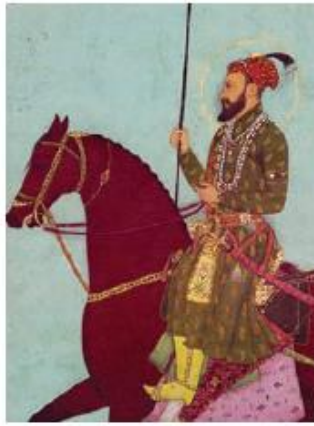
Visit to Agra

- **Jai Singh** persuaded **Shivaji** to visit **the Mughal court**.
- He **fed Shivaji** with high hopes and took **personal responsibility** for his safety at the **capital**.
- **Shivaji** and his son **Sambhaji** reached **Agra** in **May 1666**.
- But, they were **not shown due respect**.
- Humiliated, he burst out and **abused the Emperor**.
- When **Shivaji** was **imprisoned**, he managed to **escape**.
- In **1666**, **Shivaji** resumed his belligerent policy and **led Maratha soldiers** in **new conquests**.
- As the **Mughals** were **busy** with the **Afghan risings** in the **North-West**, they could **not deal** with **Shivaji**.
- **Shivaji** also occupied himself with the **re-organisation** of his internal administration.
- Prince **Muazzam**, Viceroy of the Deccan, was weak and **indolent**.
- **Raja Jaswant Singh** was **friendly** towards **Shivaji**. **Sambhaji** was also **made a mansabdar** of **5000**.

Conflict with the Mughals (1670)

- **Aurangzeb** took back a part of the **jagir** in **Berar** which was once given to **Shivaji**.
- **Shivaji** got annoyed and **recalled** his troops from **Mughal service**.
- He **recovered** almost all the forts he had **ceded** to the **Mughals** by **the treaty of Purandar**.
- In **1670**, he again **sacked** **Surat**, the most important port on **the western coast**.

- In 1672, the **Marathas imposed chauth** or one fourth of the revenue as annual tribute on **Surat**.



Aurangzeb

Coronation

- On 6 June 1674, **Shivaji** was **crowned** at **Raigad**. He assumed the title of "**Chhatrapathi**"(metaphor for "supreme king").



Raigad Fort

Deccan Campaigns

- In 1676, **Shivaji** began his career of conquests in the **south**. A secret treaty was signed with the **Sultan of Golkonda**.
- Shivaji promised him some territories in return for his support.
- He **captured Senji** and **Vellore** and annexed the adjoining territories which belonged to his father, Shahji.
- He allowed his **halfbrother Venkoji or Ekoji** to **carry** on administering **Thanjavur**.
- The **Nayaks of Madurai** promised a huge amount as tribute.
- The **Carnatic campaigns** added glory and prestige to Shivaji.



- **Senji**, the newly conquered place, acted as **the second line of defence** for his successors.

Last days of Shivaji

- **Shivaji's last days** were **not happy**.
- His eldest son **Sambhaji deserted him** and **joined the Mughal camp**.
- Although he returned, he was **imprisoned** and sent to **Panhala fort**.
- The **relentless campaigns** affected Shivaji's health.
- He **died in 1680** at the **age of 53**.
- At the time of his death, Shivaji's kingdom comprised **the Western Ghats** and the **Konkan** between **Kalyan** and **Goa**.
- **The provinces in the south** included **western Karnataka** extending from **Belgaum** to the **bank of Tungabhadra**.
- **Vellore, Senji** and a few other districts were **not settled** at the time of his death.



Marathas after Shivaji

- A year after the death of Shivaji, his eldest son and **successor Sambhaji led a Maratha army** into **Mughal** territory, **captured Bahadurpur** in Berar, and plundered its wealth.
- Provoked by this humiliation, **Aurangzeb struck a compromise** with the **Mewar Rajputs** and **led an army into the Deccan**.
- **Bijapur and Golkonda** were **annexed** in 1686 and 1687 respectively.
- The next task of **Aurangzeb** was to **punish Sambhaji** for giving **protection** to his **rebellious son Prince Akbar**.
- In 1689 the **Mughal** forces **captured Sambhaji** and **killed him**.
- Sambhaji's death **did not deter the Marathas**.
- His younger brother **Rajaram** **renewed the fight** from the **fortress of Senji** in the **Tamil country**.
- The **fight continued** for many years.
- After the **death of Rajaram** in 1700, resistance continued under the **leadership** of his **widow, Tara Bai**.
- Acting on behalf of his infant son, **she despatched an army** of 50,000 horsemen and infantry to **Hyderabad**.
- The **capital** was **plundered** and, as a result, trade in **Masulipatnam**, the **major port** of the region, remained **disrupted** for years.
- At the time of **Aurangzeb's death** in 1707 **Marathas** still had many fortified places **under their control**.
- After Aurangzeb's death, **Sambhaji's son Shahu** was **released from prison** and claimed the **Maratha throne**.
- **Tara Bai** objected and it led to a **civil war**, in which Shahu emerged victorious and **ascended the throne** in 1708.
- **Balaji Viswanath** was very **supportive** of Shahu and helped him **ascend to the throne** in 1708.
- As a gesture of his gratitude **Shahu appointed Balaji Viswanath** as the **Peshwa** in 1713.
- In course of time, the **Peshwa** became the **real ruler**.
- **Shahu retired to Satara** and the **Peshwa** started to **rule from Poona**.
- **Tara Bai** carried on a parallel rival government with **Kolhapur** as **capital**.
- But **Raja Bai**, the **second wife of Rajaram** and her son **Sambhaji II** **imprisoned Tara Bai** and her son in 1714.
- **Sambhaji II ascended the throne of Kolhapur**.
- However he had to accept the **overlordship** of **Shahu**.
- After **Shahu died** in 1749, **Rama Raja** who **ascended the throne**, made a pact with the **Peshwa**, according to which he became a **titular head**.



Tara Bai

- Tara Bai was disappointed. **Tara Bai and Rama Raja died in 1761 and 1777 respectively.**
- **Shahu II, the adopted son of Rama Raja, ruled till his death in 1808 as a nonentity.**
- His son **Pratap Singh** who came to the throne next was **deposed by the British government in 1839** on the charge that he plotted against the British Government.
- **Pratap Singh died as a prisoner in 1847.**
- His younger brother **Shaji Appa Saheb, Shaji II, was made king by the British in 1839. Shahji II died in 1848** without a successor.

Maratha Administration

Central Government

- Shivaji was not only a **great warrior** but a **good administrator** too.
- He had an **advisory council** to assist him in his day-to-day administration.
- This council of **eight ministers** was known as **Ashta Pradhan**. Its functions were advisory. The eight ministers were:
 - (i) **The Mukhya Pradhan or Peshwa or prime minister** whose duty was to look after the general welfare and interests of the State. He officiated for the king in his absence.
 - (ii) **The Amatya or finance minister** checked and countersigned all public accounts of the kingdom.
 - (iii) **The Walkia-Nawis or Mantri** maintained the records of the king's activities and the proceedings in the court.
 - (iv) **Summant or Dabir or foreign secretary** was to advise king on all matters of war and peace and to receive ambassadors and envoys from other countries.
 - (v) **Sachiv or Shuru Nawis or home secretary** was to look after the correspondence of the king with the power to revise the drafts. He also checked the accounts of the Parganas.

- (vi) **Pandit Rao or Danadhyaksha or Sadar and Muhtasib** or ecclesiastical head was in charge of religion, ceremonies and charities. He was the judge of canon law and censor of public morals.
- (vii) **Nyayadhish or chief justice** was responsible for civil and military justice.
- (viii) **Sari Naubat or commander-in-chief** was in charge of recruitment, organization and discipline of the Army.
- With the exception of the **Nyayadhish and Pandit Rao**, all the other ministers were to **command armies and lead expeditions**.
- All royal letters, charters and treaties had to get the seal of the King and the Peshwa and the endorsement of the **four ministers** other than the **Danadyksha, Nyayadhisha and Senapati**.
- There were **eighteen departments** under the charge of the **various ministers**.

Provincial Government

- For the sake of administrative convenience, **Shivaji** divided the kingdom into **four provinces**, each under a **viceroy**.
- **The provinces** were divided into a **number of Pranth**s.
- The practice of granting **jagirs** was **abandoned** and all **officers** were **paid in cash**.
- Even when the revenues of a particular place were assigned to any official, his only link was with **the income generated from the property**.
- He had no control over the people associated with it.
- **No office** was to be **hereditary**.
- The fort was the nerve-centre of the activities of the Pranth.
- The **lowest unit** of the government was **the village** in which the traditional system of administration prevailed.

Revenue System

- The revenue administration of **Shivaji** was **humane** and **beneficent** to the **cultivators**. The **lands** were carefully **surveyed** and **assessed**.
- The state demand was fixed at **30% of the gross produce** to be **payable in cash or kind**. Later, the **tax was raised to 40%**.
- The amount of money to be **paid was fixed**.
- In times of **famine**, the government **advanced money and grain** to the cultivators which were to be **paid back in instalments** later.
- **Liberal loans** were also **advanced** to the peasants for **purchasing cattle, seed, etc.**

Chauth and Sardeshmukhi

- As the **revenue collected** from the state was **insufficient** to meet its requirements, Shivaji collected **two taxes**, Chauth and Sardeshmukhi, from the **adjoining territories** of his empire, the **Mughal provinces** and the territories of the **Sultan of Bijapur**.

- **Chauth** was **one-fourth** of the **revenue** of the district conquered by the **Marthas**.
- **Sardeshmukhi** was an **additional 10%** of the **revenue** which Shivaji collected by virtue of his position as Sardeshmukh.
- **Sardeshmukh** was the **superior head** of many Desais or Deshmukhs.
- **Shivaji claimed** that he was the **hereditary Sardeshmukh** of his country.

Military Organization

- **Shivaji** organized a **standing army**. As we have seen, he discouraged the practice of granting jagirs and making hereditary appointments.
- **Quarters** were provided to **the soldiers**. The soldiers were given **regular salaries**.
- The army consisted of **four divisions: infantry, cavalry, an elephant corps and artillery**.
- Though the soldiers were **good at guerrilla** methods of warfare, at a later stage they were also **trained in conventional warfare**.
- **The infantry** was divided into **regiments, brigades and divisions**. The smallest unit with **nine soldiers** was **headed by a Naik** (corporal).
- Each unit with **25 horsemen** was placed under **one havildar** (equivalent to the rank of a sergeant).
- Over **five havildars** were placed under **one jamaladar** and over **ten jamaladars** under **one hazari**.
- **Sari Naubat** was the **supreme commander of cavalry**.
- **The cavalry** was divided into two classes: **the bargirs** (soldiers whose horses were given by the state) and **the shiledars** (mercenary horsemen who had to find their own horses).
- There were **water-carriers** and **farriers** too.

Justice

- The administration of justice was of a rudimentary nature. There were **no regular courts** and **regular procedures**.
- The **panchayats** functioned in **the villages**. The system of ordeals was common. Criminal cases were tried by **the Patels**.
- Appeals in both civil and criminal cases were heard by the **Nyayadhish** (chief justice) with the guidance of **the smritis**. **Hazir Majlim** was the final court of appeal.

Rule of the Peshwas (1713-1818)

- **The Peshwa or the prime minister** was the **foremost minister** in the **Ashta Pradhan**, the council of ministers of Shivaji.
- **The Peshwas** gained more powers and became **dominant** in the eighteenth Century. **Balaji Viswanath** was the **first powerful Peshwa**.

Balaji Viswanath (1713–1720)

- **Balaji Viswanath** assisted the Maratha emperor **Shahu** to consolidate his control over the kingdom that had been **plagued** by a **civil war**.
- **Kanhoji Angre** was the **most powerful naval chief** on the **western coast**.
- During the civil war **Kanhoji** had **supported Tarabai**.



Balaji
Viswanath

- The Peshwa convinced him of the common danger from the Europeans and secured his loyalty to Shahu.
- The practice of granting **jagirs** was **revived**.
- And the office of **Peshwa** was made **hereditary**.

Baji Rao I (1720–1740)

- After **Balaji Viswanath**, his son **Baji Rao I** was appointed **Peshwa** in 1720 by **Shahu**.
- **Baji Rao** enhanced the power and **prestige** of the Maratha Empire by **defeating the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Rajput Governor of Malwa and the Governor of Gujarat**.
- He freed **Bundelkhand** from the control of Mughals and for this the Marathas got one third of the territories from its ruler.
- The **commander-in-chief, Trimbak Rao**, who troubled the Peshwa, was **defeated and killed** in the **battle of Dabhai** near **Baroda** in 1731.
- And the Peshwa assumed the office of the commander-in-chief also.
- By the **treaty of Warna** signed in 1731, **Sambhaji** of **Kolhapur** was forced to accept the sovereignty of Shahu.
- **Thana, Salsette and Bassein** were **captured** from the **Portuguese** in 1738 and they were driven out of the **Konkan coast**.
- At the same time, the **English** made **friendly overtures** to the Marathas and got the right to **free trade in the Deccan region**.



Baji Rao I

Balaji Baji Rao (1740–1761)

- **Balaji Baji Rao succeeded as the Peshwa** after the death of his father Baji Rao.
- Known as **Nana Sahib**, he proved to be a **good administrator** and an **expert** in handling financial matters



Balaji Baji Rao

Carnatic Expedition

- **Chanda Sahib**, son-in-law of the **Nawab of Arcot**, after capturing **Tiruchirappalli** threatened to lay siege to Thanjavur.
- Its **Maratha** ruler **appealed** to **Shahu** for help in 1739.
- Responding to this appeal, the Peshwa sent **Raghoji Bhonsle** (Sahu's brother-in-law) to **Thanjavur**.
- **Raghoji Bhonsle** defeated and **killed** the **Nawab of Arcot**, **Dost Ali**, in 1740.
- **Tiruchirappalli** was **captured** and **Chanda Sahib** imprisoned.

- As the **Peshwa** was subsequently **engaged** in **military expeditions** in Bundelkhand and Bengal, **Mohammed Ali**, who **succeeded Dost Ali**, could easily retake Arcot and **recapture Tiruchirappalli in 1743**.
- The Peshwa then sent his cousin **Sadasiva Rao to the Carnatic**.
- Although the authority of the Marathas was reestablished, **Tiruchirappalli could not be regained**.

Battle of Udgir, 1760

- A war of succession broke out after the **death of Nizam Asaf Jah in 1748**. Peshwa supported the eldest son of the **Nizam**.
- **The army sent by Peshwa under Sadasiva Rao won the battle of Udgir in 1760**.
- This success marked the **climax of Maratha military might**.
- The Peshwa took over **Bijapur, Aurangabad, Dulatabad, Ahmadnagar and Burhanpur**.
- The Marathas had brought **Rajaputana** under their **domination** after six expeditions between **1741 and 1748**.
- In **1751 the Nawab of Bengal** had to **cede Orissa** and **pay** an annual tribute to the Marathas.
- As the **Marathas** were always after the Mughal throne they **entered Delhi in 1752 to drive out the Afghans and Rohillas from Delhi**.
- **Imadul-Mulk** who was made **the Wazir** with the help of Marathas became a puppet in their hands.
- After bringing the **Punjab** under their **control**, they expelled the representative of **Ahmad Shah Abdali**, the founder of the **Durani Empire in Afghanistan**.
- A major conflict with Ahmad Shah Abdali became therefore inevitable.
- The Marathas tried to find allies among **the powers in the north-west**. But their earlier deeds had antagonized all of them.
- **The Sikhs, Jat chiefs and Muslims did not trust them**.
- **The Marathas did not help Siraj-ud-Daulah in the battle of Plassey in 1757**.
- So **no help** was forthcoming from **Bengal** either.
- A move on the part of the **Peshwa against the British**, both in **Karnataka and Bengal**, would have probably checked their advance.
- But the Peshwa's undue interests in Delhi earned the enmity of various regional powers. **Ahmad Shah Abdali** brought about the disaster at **Panipat in 1761**.

The Third Battle of Panipat, 1761

- **The third battle of Panipat, 1761** is one of the decisive battles in the history of India.
- The defeat in the battle dealt a severe blow to the Marathas and the Mughal Empire and thereby paved the way for **the rise of the British power in India**.
- Circumstances The tottering Mughal Empire neglected the defence of **the North-West frontier areas**.

- This prompted **Nadir Shah**, the then ruler of Afghanistan, to **invade India**.
- In spite of his repeated demands, the **Mughal ruler, Muhammad Shah**, provided **asylum** to the **Afghan rebels**. So, his **invasions started in 1739**.
- **Delhi was plundered**. The **Kohinoor diamond** and the **valuable peacock throne** were **taken away by Nadir Shah**.
- When **Nadir Shah** was **assassinated in 1747**, one of his military generals, **Ahmad Shah Abdali** became an **independent ruler** of Afghanistan.
- After consolidating his position, he started his military expeditions.
- The **Mughal emperor** made **peace** with him by **ceding Multan and the Punjab**.
- **Mir Mannu**, appointed by the **Mughal Emperor** as the **governor of Punjab**, was to act only as an agent of **Ahmad Shah Abdali**.
- On **Mir Mannu's death**, the **widow of Mir Mannu**, with the help of the **Wazir of Delhi, Imad-ul-Mulk**, appointed **Mir Munim** as the **Governor of the Punjab**, without the consent of **Abdali**.
- **Infuriated** by this move **Abdali invaded India and captured the Punjab**.
- **Mir Munim** fled to Delhi. Pursuing him **Abdali captured Delhi** and **pillaged it in January 1757**.
- **Mathura and Brindavan** were **desecrated**. Before leaving Delhi, **Abdali appointed Mir Bakshi** as his agent in Delhi.
- **Timur Shah**, his son, was made the **Viceroy of Lahore**.
- An expedition under **Malhar Rao Holkar and Raghunatha Rao** reached Delhi after **Abdali** had left.
- They **removed** the **agent** of **Abdali** at Delhi and **appointed a man** of their choice as the **Wazir**.
- Thereafter they **captured Sirhind and Lahore in 1758**.
- The **Afghan forces** were defeated, and **Timur Shah** **deposed**.

The Peshwa recruits a huge army

- So, **Abdali returned to India in October 1759** and **recovered the Punjab**. The **Marathas** were **forced to withdraw** from **Lahore, Multan and Sirhind**.
- The **wildest anarchy** prevailed in the region. So, the **Peshwa sent Dattaji Scindia**, the brother of **Mahadhaji Scindia**, to the **Punjab** to set matters right.
- But **Abdali** defeated and **killed him in the battle (1760)**.
- **Malhar Rao Holkar** was also **defeated at Sikandara**.
- Thereupon the **Peshwa** recruited a **huge army** under the **command of Sadasiva Rao**.
- **Abdali** responded by forming an **alliance** with **Najib-ud-Daulah of Rohilkhand** and **Shuja-ud-Daulah of Oudh**.
- The **Marathas** could not find allies among the **northern powers**, as they had already **alienated** from the **Nawab of Oudh**, the **Sikh and Jat chiefs** and gained the distrust of the **Rajputs**.

- The **Maratha army** was under the nominal **command** of **Vishwas Rao**, the young son of the Peshwa.
- **The real command**, however, was in the hands of **Sadasiva Rao**.
- On their way, they were **joined** by the **Holkar, Scindia and Gaikwar**.
- Around this time, **Alamgir II, the Mughal Emperor** had been **assassinated** and his eldest son **crowned** himself as **Shah Alam II**.
- But the **Wazir** who manoeuvred the **assassination** **enthroned Shah Jahan III**.
- **Sadasiva Rao** intruded and **deposed Shah Jahan III** and **proclaimed Shah Alam II** as **Emperor**.
- After the preliminaries were settled, Sadasiva Rao, instead of attacking the forces of Abdali, remained quiet for a long time, until the scarcity of food became acute.
- Abdali stationed his troops in the fertile doab from where he could get food without interruption.

Effects of the Battle of Panipat

- **The third battle of Panipat** was fought on **14 January 1761**.
- The Maratha army was completely routed.
- The Peshwa's son **Viswas Rao, Sadasiva Rao** and numerous **Maratha commanders** were **killed**.
- **Holkar fled** and the contingents of **Scindia** followed him.
- **The Peshwa** was **stunned** by the tragic news.
- **The Peshwa died** broken hearted in **June 1761**.
- After the battle of Panipat, **Abdali recognized Shah Alam II** as the **Emperor of Delhi**. He got an annual tribute.
- **The Marathas**, though they received a severe blow initially, managed to **restore their power** within ten years in the north by becoming the **guardian** of the **Mughal Emperor Shah Alam**.

Peshwa Madhav Rao I (1761–1772) and His Successors

- In **1761, Madhav Rao**, the son of Balaji Baji Rao, **became the Peshwa** under the regency of **Raghoba**, the younger brother of Peshwa.
- Madhav Rao tried to **regain the Maratha power** which was lost in the battle of Panipat.
- In **1763 a fierce battle** was fought with the **Nizam of Hyderabad**.
- His expeditions (**1765–1767**) **against Haider Ali** of Mysore were **successful**.
- However **Haider Ali** soon **recovered** almost all his lost territories.
- But **Madhav Rao regained** them in **1772** and Haider Ali was **forced** to sign a **humiliating treaty**.
- The Peshwa **reasserted control** over northern India by **defeating the Rohillas** (Pathans) and **subjugating the Rajput states and Jat Chiefs**.
- **Shah Alam II**, the fugitive Emperor, was in Allahabad **under the protection** of the **British**.

- In 1771, the **Marathas** brought him back to Delhi. The Emperor **ceded Kora** and **Allahabad** to them.
- But the **sudden death of Peshwa in 1772** brought an **end** to his **glorious career**.
- As Madhav Rao I had no sons, his younger brother **Narayan Rao became Peshwa** in 1772. But he was **murdered** the next year.
- His **posthumous son Sawai Madhav Rao (Madhav Rao II)** was proclaimed Peshwa on the 40th day of his birth.
- After the death of Madhav Rao II, Baji Rao II, the son of **Raghunath Rao** became the Peshwa and was the **last Peshwa**.

The Anglo-Maratha Wars

The First Anglo Maratha War (1775-1782)

- **Madhav Rao Narayan** was an **infant Peshwa** under the regency of **Nana Fadnavis**.
- The usurping of power by **Ragunath Rao**, uncle of the former **Peshwa Madhava Rao I**, **provided the scope for the Company administration** to fish in the troubled waters.
- The Company administration in Bombay supported Ragunath Rao in return for getting **Salsette and Bassein**.
- As **Mahadaji Scindia** and the **Bhonsle** of **Nagpur** turned pro-British, the Marathas had to **concede Thane and Salsette to the latter**.
- By the **treaty of Salbai**, in 1782, **Ragunath Rao** was pensioned off. Following this, peace prevailed between the Company and the Marathas for about two decades.



Anglo-Maratha War

The Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-1806)

- The death of **Nana Fadnavis** resulted in a scramble for his huge possessions.

- **Peshwa Baji Rao II was dethroned.** In the then trying circumstances, he had to accept the help of the British.
- **Wellesley**, the then **Governor General**, forced the Subsidiary Alliance on the Peshwa. **The treaty of Bassein** was signed in **1802**.
- According to the treaty the territory to be **ceded** should fetch an **income of Rs. 26 Lakhs**.
- The leading Maratha States regarded the treaty as humiliating and hence decided to defy it.
- So **the second Anglo-Maratha war broke out**. In spite of the brave resistance put up by the Marathas, the Maratha leaders were completely routed.
- The **Subsidiary Alliance** was accepted. **The British got Doab, Ahmadnagar, Broach** and all of the **hilly regions**.

The Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1819)

- **Peshwa Baji Rao II** became **anti-British**, as the **prime minister of the Gaikwar** (ruler) of Baroda Gangadhar Sastri was **killed by Trimbakji**, a favourite of Peshwa.
- At the instance of the Resident at Poona, **Mountstuart Elphinstone**, **Trimabakji** was **imprisoned**.
- The murderer however managed to **escape** from the prison with the assistance of the Peshwa.
- **Peshwa** was also **charged** with creating the Maratha **confederacy** and **plotting** with Scindia, Bhonsle and Holkar **against the British**.
- So, the British forced the Peshwa to sign a **new treaty at Poona in 1817**.
- Accordingly,
 - (i) The **Peshwa resigned** the headship of the Maratha confederacy.
 - (ii) Ceded Konkan to the British and recognised the independence of the Gaikwar. Baji Rao was not reconciled to this humiliation.
- So when the British were busily engaged in the suppression of the Pindaris, **Baji Rao II burnt down the Poona Residency**.
- **General Smith** rushed to **Poona** and **captured** it, with the **Peshwa** fleeing to Satara, which was also **captured** by General Smith.
- **Baji Rao fled** from place to place.
- General Smith defeated his forces at Ashta, Kirkee and Korgaon. Finally, Baji Rao **surrendered to Elphinstone in 1818**.

Outcome of the Third AngloMaratha War

- (i) **The British abolished the Peshwai** (office of the Peshwa) and annexed all the Peshwa's dominions. But the **jagirs** of the fief holders were **restored**.
- (ii) Until his **death in 1851** **Baji Rao II** remained a **prisoner** with an **annual pension**.
- (iii) **Pratap Singh**, a descendent of **Shivaji**, was made **the king of a small kingdom** carved around Satara.

- (iv) The Maratha Confederacy organised by Baji Rao I comprising Bhonsle, Holkar and Scindia was dissolved.
- (v) **Mountstuart Elphinstone**, who had been Resident at Poona, became **Governor of Bombay**.

Maratha Administration under Peshwas (1714-1818)

- The Peshwa was one of the **Ashta Pradhan of Shivaji**.
- This office was not a hereditary one. As the power and prestige of the king declined, the Peshwas rose to prominence.
- The genius of **Balaji Vishwanath** (1713-1720) made the office of the Peshwa **supreme and hereditary**.
- The Peshwas **virtually controlled the whole administration**, usurping the powers of the king. They were also recognized as the **religious head of the state**.

Central Secretariat

- The centre of the Maratha administration was the **Peshwa Secretariat at Poona**.
- It dealt with the **revenues and expenditure** of all the districts, the accounts submitted by **the village and district officials**.
- The **pay and rights of all grades of public servants** and the budgets under civil, military and religious heads were also **handled**.
- The daily register recorded all revenues, all grants and the **payments** received from **foreign territories**.

Provinces

- Provinces under the Peshwas were of **various sizes**.
- Larger provinces were under the provincial governors called **Sarsubahdars**. The divisions in the provinces were termed **Subahs and Pranthas**.
- The **Mamlatdar and Kamavistar** were Peshwa's representatives in the districts.
- They were responsible for every branch of district administration.
- **Deshmukhs and Deshpandes** were district officers who were in charge of accounts and were to observe the activities of Mamlatdars and Kamavistars.
- It was a system of checks and balances. In order to prevent misappropriation of public money, the **Maratha government collected a heavy sum** (Rasad) from the **Mamlatdars** and other officials.
- It was collected on their first appointment to a district.
- In **Baji Rao II's time**, these offices were auctioned off. **The clerks and menials** were paid for **10 or 11 months in a year**.

Village Administration

- The village was **the basic unit** of administration and was self-supportive.

- **The Patel** was the **chief** village officer and was responsible for remitting revenue collections to the centre.
- He was **not paid** by the government.
- His post was **hereditary**.
- The Patel was helped by **the Kulkarni** or **accountant** and **recordkeeper**.
- There were hereditary **village servants** who had to perform **the communal functions**.
- **The carpenters, blacksmiths and other village artisans** gave **begar** or **compulsory labour**.

Urban Administration

- In towns and cities the chief officer was **the Kotwal**.
- The maintenance of peace and order, regulation of prices, settling civil disputes and sending of monthly accounts to the governments were his main duties.
- He was the head of the city police and also functioned as **the magistrate**.

Sources of Revenue

- **Land revenue** was the main source of income.
- The Peshwas gave up the **system of sharing** the produce of the agricultural land followed under **Shivaji's rule**.
- The Peshwas followed the system of **tax farming**.
- Land was settled against a stipulated amount to be paid annually to the government.
- **The fertility the land** was assessed for **fixation of taxes**. Income was derived from the forests.
- **Permits** were given on the **payment** of a **fee** for cutting trees and using pastures.
- Revenue was derived even from the sale of grass, bamboo, fuel wood, honey and the like.
- The land revenue assessment was based on a careful survey.
- Land was divided into three classes: according to **the kinds of the crops, facilities for irrigation, and productivity of the land**.
- **The villagers** were the **original settlers** who acquired the forest. They could not be deprived of their lands.
- But only **the Patel** could **represent** their rights to the **higher authorities**. Other sources of revenue were Chauth and Sardeshmukhi.
- The **Chauth** was divided into
 - i. **25 percent for the ruler**
 - ii. **66 percent for Maratha officials and military heads for the maintenance of troops.**
 - iii. **6 percent for the Pant Sachiv (Chief, a Brahman by birth)**
 - iv. **3 percent for the tax collectors.**
- **Customs, excise duties and sale of forest produce** also yielded much **income**.
- **Goldsmiths** were allowed to **mint coins** on payment of royalty to the government and **getting license** for the purpose. They had to maintain a certain standard.

- When it was found that the standard was not being met all **private mints** were **closed** in 1760 and a **central mint** was **established**.
- **Miscellaneous taxes** were also **collected**.
- It included :
 1. **Tax on land, held by Deshmukhs and Deshpandes.**
 2. **Tax on land kept for the village Mahars.**
 3. **Tax on the lands irrigated by wells.**
 4. **House tax from all except Brahmins and village officials.**
 5. **Annual fee for the testing of weights and measures.**
 6. **Tax on the remarriage of widows.**
 7. **Tax on sheep and buffaloes.**
 8. **Pasture fee.**
 9. **Tax on melon cultivation in river beds.**
 10. **Succession duty.**
 11. **Duty on the sale of horses, etc.**
- When the **Maratha** government was in **financial difficulty**, it **levied** on all landholders, **Kurja-Patti or Tasti-Patti**, a tax equal to one year's income of the taxpayer.
- The **administration** of justice also **earned** some **income**.
- A **fee of 25%** was **charged** on **money bonds**. **Fines** were **collected** from persons suspected or found guilty of adultery.
- **Brahmins** were **exempted** from duty on things imported for their own use.

Police System

- **Watchmen**, generally **the Mahars**, were employed in every **village**.
- But whenever crime was on the rise, government sent forces from the irregular infantry to control crimes.
- The residents of the disturbed area had to pay an **additional house tax** to meet the expenditure arising out of **maintaining these armed forces**.
- **Baji Rao II** appointed additional **police officers** to detect and **seize offenders**.
- In the **urban areas**, magisterial and police powers were given to the **Kotwal**.
- Their additional duties were to monitor the prices, take a census of the inhabitants, conduct trials on civil cases, supply labour to **the government** and **levy fees** from the professional duties given to **the Nagarka or police superintendent**.

Judicial System

The Judicial System was **very imperfect**. There was **no codified law**.

- There were **no rules of procedure**. **Arbitration** was given **high priority**.
- If it failed, then the case was transferred for decision to a panchayat appointed by the Patel in the village and by the leading merchants in towns.

- The **panchayat** was a **powerful institution**. Retrial also took place.
- **Appeals** were made to the **Mamlatdar**. In criminal cases there was a hierarchy of the judicial officers.
- At the top was the **Raja Chhatrapati** and below him were **the Peshwa, Sar-Subahdar, the Mamlatdar and the Patel**.
- Flogging and torture were inflicted to **extort confession**.

Army

- The Maratha military system under **the Peshwas** was **modelled** on the **Mughal military** system.
- The mode of recruitment, payment of salaries, provisions for the families of the soldiers, and the importance given to the cavalry showed a **strong resemblance** to the Mughal military system.
- The **Peshwas** gave up the notable features of the military system **followed** under **Shivaji**. **Shivaji** had **recruited soldiers** locally from Maratha region.
- But the Peshwas drafted soldiers from all parts of India and from all social groups.
- The **army had Arabs, Abyssinians, Rajputs, Rohillas and Sikhs**. The **Peshwa's army** comprised mercenaries of **the feudal chieftains**.
- As the fiefs of **the rival chiefs** were in the same area, there were lots of internal disputes. It affected the solidarity of the people of the Maratha state.

Cavalry

- The cavalry was naturally **the main strength** of the Maratha army.
- Every **jagirdar** had to bring a stipulated number of horsemen for a general muster, every year.
- The horsemen were divided into **three classes** based on **the quality of the horses** they kept.

Infantry and Artillery

- **The Marathas** preferred to **serve** in the **cavalry**. So men for infantry were recruited from other parts of the country.
- The **Arabs, Rohillas, Sikhs and Sindhis** in the Maratha infantry were **paid a higher salary** compared to the Maratha soldiers.
- The Maratha **artillery** was **manned** mostly by the **Portuguese and Indian Christians**.
- Later on, the **English** were also **recruited**.

Navy

- The Maratha navy was built for the purpose of **guarding the Maratha ports**, thereby checking piracy, and collecting customs duties from the incoming and outgoing ships.

- **Balaji Vishwanath** built naval bases at **Konkan, Khanderi and Vijayadurg**. **Dockyard facilities were also developed.**

Maratha Rule in Tamilnadu

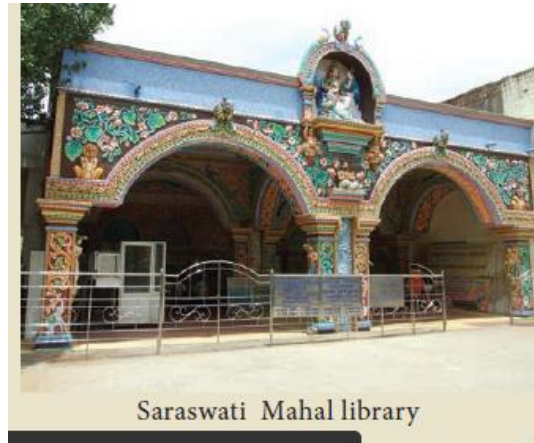
Circumstances leading to its establishment

- **Krishna Devaraya**, during his reign (1509-1529), developed the **Nayankara** system.
- Accordingly, the Tamil country was divided into three large **Nayankaras: Senji, Thanjavur and Madurai.**
- Under the new system the subordinate chieftains were designated as **Palayakkarars** and their fiefdom as **Palayams.**
- **Thanjavur** which remained as a part of **the Chola territories** first and then of the **Pandya kingdom** became a **vassal state of the Madurai Sultanate**, from which it **passed into the hands of Nayaks.**
- The rivalry between the Nayaks of Madurai and Thanjavur finally led to the eclipse of **Nayak rule of Thanjavur in 1673.**
- **Troops from Bijapur**, led by the Maratha general **Venkoji**, **defeated the Nayak of Madurai and captured Thanjavur.**
- **Venkoji crowned himself king**, and **Maratha rule began in Thanjavur in 1676.**
- When **Shivaji** invaded **the Carnatic in 1677**, he **removed Venkoji and placed his half-brother Santaji on the throne.**
- But **Venkoji recaptured Thanjavur** and, after his death, his son **Shahji** became the **ruler of Thanjavur kingdom.**
- **Shaji** had no heir to succeed. So his brother **Serfoji I** became the **next ruler** and remained in power for **sixteen years (1712-1728).**
- After him one of his brothers **Tukkoji succeeded him (1728)**, followed by **Pratap Singh (1739-1763),**
- whose son **Thuljaji ruled up to 1787.** **Serfoji II** aged 10, was then **crowned**, with Thuljoji's brother **Amarsingh** acting as **Regent.**
- Disputing this succession, the English thrust an agreement on **Serfoji II**, according to which the latter was forced to cede the administration of the kingdom to the British.
- **Serfoji II was the last ruler of the Bhonsle dynasty** of the Maratha principality of Thanjavur.

Serfoji II

- **Serfoji II** was a **remarkable ruler.** He was **educated by the German Christian missionary Friedrich Schwartz, Serfoji.**
- Similarly **Serfoji II** turned out to be a well-known **practitioner of Western science and medicine.**
- Yet he was a devoted keeper of Indian traditions. He **mastered several European languages** and had an impressive library of books in every branch of learning.

- Serfoji's modernising projects included the **establishment of a printing press** (the first press for Marathi and Sanskrit) and **enrichment of the Saraswati Mahal Library**.



Saraswati Mahal library

- His most innovative project, however, was the establishment of **free modern public schools** run by his court, for **instruction in English** and the vernacular languages.
- Serfoji II found in his **contemporary missionary scholar C.S. John** in Tranquebar, an innovator in education.
- **John** carried out reforms and experiments in schooling ranging from residential arrangements for students and innovations in **curriculum and pedagogy**.
- But his most important proposal was a project submitted to the **English colonial government in 1812**, urging it to **sponsor free schools for Indian children**, for instruction in **Tamil and English**.
- This was at a time when **English education was not available to non-Christian Indians**.
- **Thomas Munro, governor of Madras, proposed a scheme** for elementary public schools in the 1820s, but the **Company government did not establish** a modern school for natives in **Madras till 1841**



Serfoji II

- In contrast, from the start, the German missionaries had run several **free vernacular and English schools** in the southern provinces **since 1707**.
- **Serfoji II** was in advance of both the **missionary and the colonial state**, for as early as **1803 in Thanjavur** he had established the first modern public school for non-Christian natives.

- While Indian rulers often **endowed educational institutions of higher learning**, they did not establish elementary schools, nor did they administer any schools or colleges.
- Serfoji's most striking initiative was the **founding and management of free elementary and secondary schools for orphans and the poor in Thanjavur** city and other adjacent places.
- Included were schools for all levels, **charity schools, colleges and padashalas** for Sanskrit higher learning.
- The schools catered to the court elites, Vedic scholars, orphans and the poor. A second innovation was the introduction of **navavidya** ('modern' or 'new' learning) in the state-run schools.
- In 1822, at the **free school in Muktabal Chattiram** the king's favourite almshouse established in 1803, 15 teachers taught a total of 464 students of diverse castes, in two classes, in the morning and in the evening.
- Serfoji also **supported a free school for needy Christians**, run by missionaries in the village of **Kannandangudi**.
- Serfoji II established **Dhanvantari Mahal**, a research institution that produced herbal medicine for humans and animals.
- Maintaining case-sheets of patients was introduced.
- Physicians of modern medicine, **Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha** schools undertook research on drugs and herbs for medical cure.
- They produced eighteen volumes of research material.
- Serfoji also catalogued the important herbs in the form of **exquisite hand paintings**.
- Serfoji's strategic initiatives in modern education enabled the **Thanjavur court elite** and subjects to enter and benefit from the **emerging colonial social and economic order**.
- The court officials, mostly Brahmins, trained in European knowledge, technologies and arts became leading agents of colonial modernity, **equal to the English educated dubashes**, writers and interpreters, both Hindu and Christian, who mediated between the Europeans and Indian courts.
- **Two of Serfoji's pandits** (one of them was Kottaiyur Sivakolundu Desigar) joined the Company's College of **Fort St. George** and became leaders in translation and print culture.

Serfoji's projects

- The careers and projects of **Serfoji and John** illuminate the important roles that enterprising individuals, and small places, such as a Danish-Tamil fishing village and a Maratha-Tamil principality, played in the **history of change in colonial Tamilnadu**.
- Serfoji II was a **patron** of traditional **Indian arts** like dance and music. He authored **Kumarasambhava Champu, Devendra Kuravanji, and Mudra rakshaschaya**.
- He **introduced western musical instruments** like clarinet, and violin in Carnatic music. He is also credited with popularising the unique Thanjavur style of painting.

- Serfoji was interested in painting, gardening, coincollecting, martial arts and patronized chariot-racing, hunting and bull-fighting.
- He created the **first zoological garden in Tamilnadu** in the Thanjavur palace premises.
- **Serfoji II died on 7th March 1832** after almost forty years of his rule.
- His **death was mourned** throughout the kingdom and his **funeral** procession was **attended** by more than **90, 000 people**. At his funeral, **Rev. Bishop Heber** observed: '**I have seen many crowned heads, but no one whose deportment was more princely**'.

More to Know:

- According to an 1823 report produced for **Governor Munro's** census of education, 21 of the **44 free schools** in the wider Thanjavur district were run by Serfoji's government, 19 by the missionaries, one by a temple.
- There were **three schools** that were run by **teachers** themselves **free of cost**.
- In the state-run free schools Serfoji made **modern education** available to **all**.
- **The Saraswati Mahal library**, built by the **Nayak rulers** and enriched by Serfoji II contains a record of the day-to-day proceedings of the Maratha court - as **Modi documents**, French-Maratha correspondence of the 18th century.
- **Modi** was the **script** used to write the **Marathi language**. It is a treasure house of rare manuscripts and books in many languages

Raja Desinghu:

- The Maratha king **Rajaram**, threatened by Mughal forces, had to flee from Raigarh and take **asylum** in **Senji**.
- Pursuing him, the Mughal forces led by General Zulfikar Khan, and then by Daud Khan, succeeded in taking over Senji.
- During the Mughal expedition against Senji, a Bundela Rajput chieftain, Swarup Singh was employed as **Kiladar** (fort commandant) of Senji in **1700**.
- In due course **Swarup Singh** gained control over the entire Senji. After his death in **1714**, his son Tej Singh (Desinghu) assumed the governorship of Senji. Desinghu refused to pay tribute to the **Mughal emperor** and **invited** the wrath of **Nawab Sadat-ul-lah Khan**.
- In the ensuing **battle Raja Desinghu**, who was only twenty two years old then, was **killed**.
- His young **wife** committed **sati**.
- **The gallantry** displayed by the daring Rajput youth against the Nawab is immortalized in many popular ballads in **Tamil**.
- Peshwa is a **Persian word** which means "**Foremost**" or the "**First Minister**".
- "The religious revival [in Maratha country] was not Brahmanical" in its orthodoxy, it was heterodox in its spirit of protest against forms, ceremonies and class distinctions.
- The saints sprang chiefly from the lower order of the society other than Brahmins. – **Justice Ranade**.