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Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

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Why in News

On the occasion of the anniversary of **Maratha king's coronation day (6th June)**, the Goa government has released a short film on Chhatrapati Shivaji.



Key Points

- **Birth:**
 - He was **born on 19th February, 1630 at Shivneri Fort in District Pune** in the present-day state of Maharashtra.
 - He was born to **Shahaji Bhonsle**, a Maratha general who held the jagirs of Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate and **Jijabai**, a pious woman whose religious qualities had a profound influence on him.
- **Early Life:**
 - He displayed his military zeal for the first time **in 1645** when as a teenager, he successfully **got control of the Torna Fort** which was under Bijapur.
 - He also acquired the **Kondana Fort**. Both these forts were under Adil Shah of Bijapur.
- **Important Battle:**

Battle of Pratapgad, 1659	Fought at the fort of Pratapgad near the town of Satara, Maharashtra, between the forces of the Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the Adilshahi general Afzal Khan.
Battle of Pavan Khind, 1660	Fought at a mountain pass in the vicinity of fort Vishalgad, near the city of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, between the Maratha Sardar Baji Prabhu Deshpande and Siddi Masud of Adilshahi.
Sacking of Surat, 1664	Fought near the city of Surat, Gujarat, between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Inayat Khan , a Mughal captain.
Battle of Purandar, 1665	Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire.
Battle of Sinhagad, 1670	Fought on the fort of Sinhagad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra between Tanaji Malusare, a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and Udaybhan Rathod , fortkeeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief.
Battle of Kalyan, 1682-83	Bahadur Khan of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and took over Kalyan.
Battle of Sangamner, 1679	Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire. This was the last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought.

- **Conflict with Mughals:**

- He raided Mughal territory near Ahmednagar and in Junnar, 1657.
- Aurangzeb responded to the raids by sending Nasiri Khan, who defeated the forces of Shivaji at Ahmednagar.
- Shivaji defeated a large force of **Shaista Khan (Aurangzeb's maternal uncle)** and the Bijapur army in Pune, 1659.
- In **1664**, the wealthy Mughal trading **port of Surat was sacked by Shivaji.**
- In June 1665, the **Treaty of Purandar** was signed between Shivaji and Raja Jai Singh I (representing Aurangzeb).

As per this treaty, many forts were relinquished to the Mughals and it was agreed that Shivaji would meet Aurangzeb at Agra. Shivaji also agreed to send his son Sambhaji as well.

- **Arrest of Shivaji:**

- When Shivaji **went to meet the Mughal emperor at Agra in 1666**, the Maratha warrior felt he was insulted by Aurangzeb and stormed out of the court.
- He was arrested and kept prisoner. The **clever escape of Shivaji and his son** from imprisonment in disguise out of Agra is legendary today.
- After that there was peace between the Marathas and the Mughals until 1670.
- The **jagir of Berar** which was granted to Sambhaji by the Mughals was taken back from him.
- Shivaji in response attacked and recovered many territories from the Mughals in a short span of four months.
- Through his military tactics, Shivaji **acquired a large part of the land in the Deccan and western India.**

- **Granted Title:**

- He was crowned as the **king of the Marathas** on 6th June , 1674, at Raigad.
- He took on the titles of **Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.**
- The **Maratha Kingdom** founded by Shivaji grew larger over time and became the dominant Indian power in the early 18th century.

- **Death:**

He died on 3rd April 1680.

Administration under Shivaji

- **Central Administration:**

- It was founded by Shivaji for the sound system of administration which was greatly inspired from the **Deccan style of administration.**
- Most of the administrative reforms were inspired from **Malik Amber reforms in Ahmednagar.**
- The **King was the supreme head of state** who was assisted by a group of eight ministers known as the '**Ashtapradhan**'.
- The **peshwa, also known as the mukhya pradhan**, originally headed the advisory council of the raja Shivaji.

- **Revenue Administration:**

- Shivaji abolished **the Jagirdari System** and replaced it with **Ryotwari System**, and changes in the position of hereditary revenue officials which was popularly known as **Deshmukhs, Deshpande, Patils and Kulkarnis**.
- Shivaji strictly supervised the **Mirasdars** who had hereditary rights in land.
- The revenue system was patterned on the **Kathi system of Malik Amber** in which every piece of land was measured by Rod or Kathi.
- Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were other sources of income.
 - **Chauth** amounted to **1/4th of the standard** which was paid to Marathas as a safeguard against Shivaji's forces raiding Non-Maratha territories.
 - **Sardeshmukhi** was **an additional levy of 10%** demanded from areas outside of the kingdom.

- **Military Administration:**

- Shivaji organised a disciplined and efficient army.
- The ordinary soldiers were paid in cash, but the chief and military commander were paid through **jagir grants (Saranjam or Mokasa)**.
- The army consists of Infantry i.e. Mavali foot soldiers, Cavalry i.e. Horse riders and equipment holders, Navy.

Source: IE