Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Why in News

Recently, the President of India paid tributes to **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**

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

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 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:**

  - Shivaji **passed away in Raigad in 1680** and cas cremated at the Raigad Fort.

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 $1/4^{th}$ 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.

Raigad Fort

- The fort, which was earlier called Rairi, was the **seat of the Maratha clan Shirke in the 12th century.**

  - The **British Gazette states the fort** was known to early Europeans as the **Gibraltar of the East.**
- In 1656, **Chhatrapati Shivaji captured it from the More's of Javli** who were under the suzerainty of the Adilshahi Sultanate.
- In 1662, Shivaji formally changed the **fort's name to Raigad** and added a number of structures to it.
- By 1664, the fort had **emerged as the seat of Shivaji's government.**
- The **fort not only helped Shivaji challenge the supremacy of the Adilshahi dynasty** but also opened up the routes towards Konkan for the extension of his power.
- As the **Marathas under the leadership of Shivaji gained strength in their struggle against the Mughals,** the announcement of a sovereign, independent state was made.

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