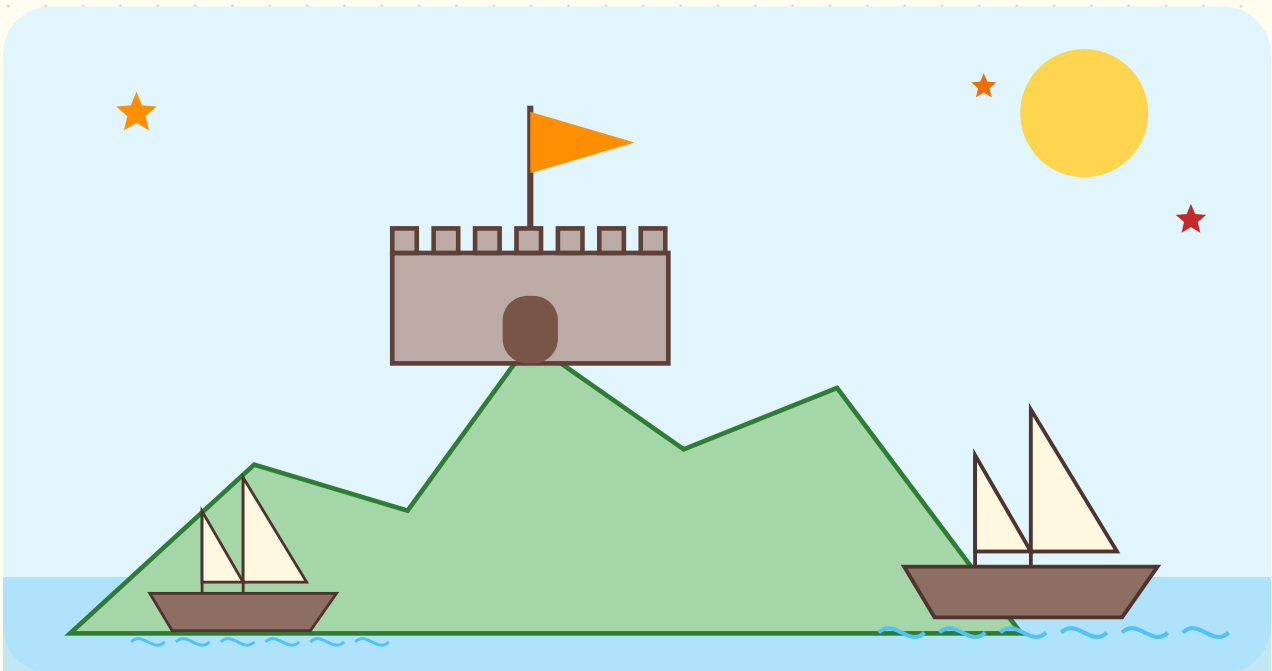


CLASS 8 | SOCIAL SCIENCE

Exploring Society: India and Beyond - Part I
Tapestry of the Past

CHAPTER 3

The Rise of the Marathas



Handwritten Notes + Kuch Mazedaar Questions!
Textbook Q&As + Extra Questions + Most Important + Quick Revision

www.masterg.net

Contact: 9910725407

Notes are based on the NCERT textbook (Reprint 2026-27)

Chapter Roadmap – Aaj Kya Padhenge?



- 1 **Who are the Marathas?**
Deccan, Marathi language, Yadavas, Bhakti saints
- 2 **Foundation of Maratha Power and Rise of Chhatrapati Shivaji**
Navy, guerrilla warfare, Surat, Agra escape, coronation
- 3 **The Marathas after Chhatrapati Shivaji**
Sambhaji, Rajaram, Tarabai, Peshwas, Panipat, Anglo-Maratha wars
- 4 **Maratha Administration**
Civil, Ashta Pradhan, taxes, military, forts, navy, judiciary, trade
- 5 **Cultural Revival**
Seal, Marathi, women rulers, Thanjavur and Serfoji II
- 6 **The Maratha Legacy**
Big Questions answered + Swarajya
- 7 **NCERT Questions and Activities – Solved**
All 8 textbook questions with model answers
- 8 **Quick Revision**
Who is Who, key terms, mind map, rapid fire

The Big Questions

1. Who were the Marathas? How did they manage to become the **largest pan-Indian power** before the British took over?
2. What were some features of their **governance**?
3. What **impact** did the Maratha Empire leave in Indian history?

(We will answer all three at the end – see section 6!)

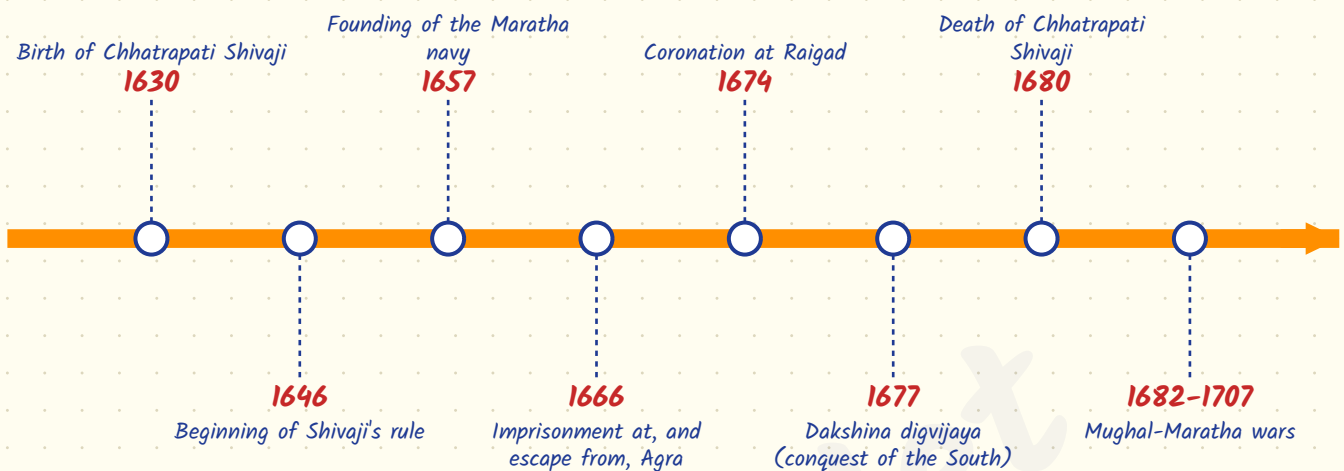
Chapter Opener

Yaad rakhna: Fig. 3.1 – Raigad Fort, where Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was crowned in 1674, marking the formal beginning of the Maratha Empire.

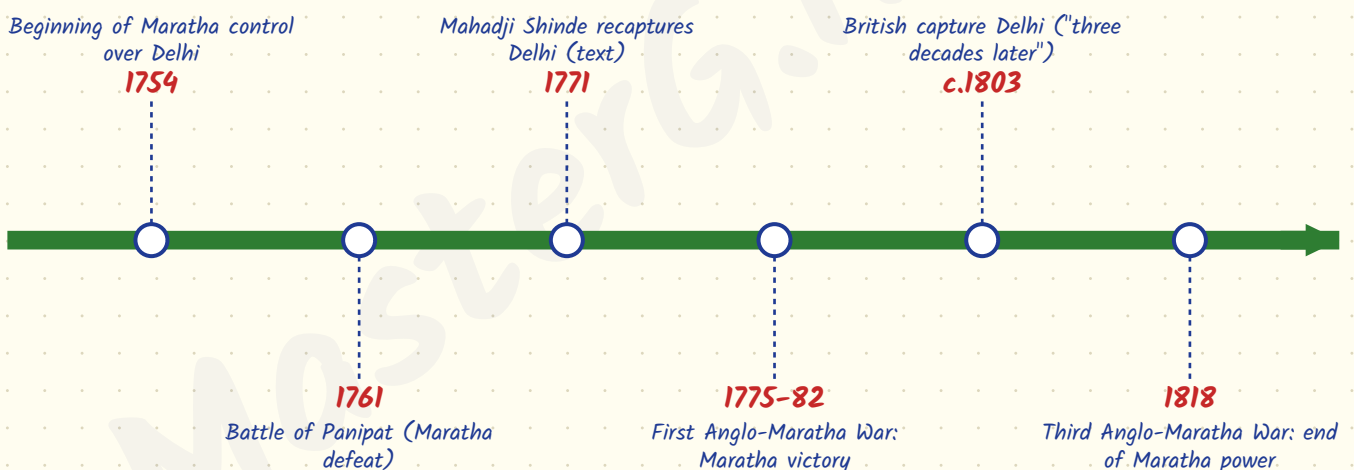
Starting quote of the chapter: **Ramachandrapant Amatya, Adnyapatra (1715)** – warns that the Europeans ("hat-wearers") are not mere merchants; they want territory and religion, and their weapons are **Navy and gunpowder**. Their traffic should be controlled and they should not be allowed to build strong buildings.

T Timeline - Poora Safar Ek Nazar Mein

Phase 1: Shivaji and the early Marathas (1630 - 1707)



Phase 2: Expansion, Panipat and the British (1750 - 1818)



Date Alert

Dhyan do: The textbook timeline marks 1754 as the beginning of Maratha control over Delhi, while the text says Mahadji Shinde recaptured Delhi in 1771, and it stayed under Maratha control till the British captured it about three decades later. Use the dates exactly as given by NCERT in exams.

Kuch Mazedaar Questions - Set I

Timeline and Who are the Marathas? (Mix of MCQ, short and thinking questions)

[MCQ] 1 mark

Q1. The Marathas are identified with the language they speak. Which one is it? (a) Hindi (b) Marathi (c) Kannada (d) Telugu

Ans. (b) Marathi - it has had a rich and continuous literary history since the 12th century.

[Fill] 1 mark

Q2. The Yadava dynasty had its capital at _____ (present-day _____).

Ans. Devagiri (present-day Daulatabad).

[T/F] 1 mark

Q3. The Yadava dynasty was overcome by the Mughals in the early 14th century.

Ans. False. It was overcome by the Khilji Sultanate of Delhi (the Mughals came much later).

[Map/Date] 2 marks

Q4. Arrange in correct order: Coronation at Raigad, Birth of Shivaji, Escape from Agra, Founding of the Maratha navy.

Ans. Birth (1630) -> Navy founded (1657) -> Escape from Agra (1666) -> Coronation at Raigad (1674).

[Short] 2 marks

Q5. Define literary history and bhakti.

Ans. **Literary history** - the historical development of writings in prose or poetry in a particular language.

Bhakti - devotion to the divine or to a particular deity.

[Short] 3 marks | Extra

Q6. Why did the bhakti saints compose their songs and poetry in the languages of the masses?

Ans. So that their messages could travel far and wide and be understood by ordinary people from all sections of society; the saints themselves came from diverse sections of society and preferred devotion to merely external ritualism.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q7. How did the bhakti saints of Maharashtra prepare the ground for the rise of the Marathas as a political power?

Ans. • Saints like Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Tukaram and Ramdas became popular.

• They translated texts like the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita into Marathi, making philosophy accessible.

• Some also worked for social organisation and political awareness (like the Sikh gurus).

• This gave society a solid cultural foundation which later helped the Marathas organise themselves politically.

[HOTS] 2 marks | Extra

Q8. Political rulers changed in the Deccan (Yadavas -> Khiljis), yet bhakti traditions continued. What does this tell you about culture and politics?

Ans. Culture can be stronger and longer-lasting than a ruling dynasty. Even when kings changed, shared devotion and language kept people connected - and that unity became the base for later political strength.

1 Who are the Marathas?



- The Marathas are a group of people native to the **Deccan plateau** - more specifically present-day **Maharashtra**.
- They are identified with their language, **Marathi**, which has a rich, continuous **literary history** since the **12th century**.
- In the **13th century** most of Maharashtra was ruled by the **Yadava dynasty**; capital = **Devagiri** (present-day Daulatabad).
- In the **early 14th century**, the Yadavas were overcome by the **Khilji Sultanate** of Delhi.
- But political changes did not stop cultural traditions - especially **bhakti** (devotion to the divine or a particular deity).

Bhakti Movement - Quick Notes

- Between the **7th and 17th centuries**, saints and seekers from many parts of India chose the path of **bhakti** over mere **external ritualism** for spiritual upliftment.
- The saints came from **diverse sections of society** and composed songs and poetry in the **languages of the masses**.
- Maharashtra saints: **Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Tukaram, Ramdas** - translated the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita into Marathi.
- Some also taught **social organisation and political awareness**, similar to the Sikh gurus.
- Result: a **solid cultural foundation** -> later helped the Marathas organise into a political power.

Key Terms (Pehle Yeh Yaad Karo)

Jagir - land given by a king/ruler to a noble or soldier as a reward for service. The holder could **collect taxes** from the land and use the money for personal needs or to help the king when needed.

Bhajan - devotional song. **Literary history** - development of writings (prose/poetry) in a language.

Surgical strike - a military attack meant to damage only a specific target, with no or minimal damage to other people or infrastructure.

By the **17th century**, some Maratha chiefs tried to establish sovereignty but **failed** - until **Chhatrapati Shivaji** rose and brought the Marathas together.

- **Let's Explore (NCERT)**: Choose a bhakti saint, learn about their life and teachings, and share a poem or bhajan with the class.

Dekhe Kya Seekha Tumne?

- » Marathas = people of the Deccan/Maharashtra, identified by the Marathi language.
- » Yadavas (Devagiri) -> Khiljis in early 14th century.
- » Bhakti saints gave a cultural base; Shivaji later united the Marathas politically.

2 Foundation of Maratha Power and the Rise of Chhatrapati Shivaji ★ ★

A. Early life

- Born in 1630 in the **Bhonsle clan** to **Shahji** and **Jijabai**.
- Shahji served the **Deccan sultanates** and was often away; Shivaji grew up in his **jagir at Pune** under Jijabai and trusted officials - values and a good education.
- The Pune region suffered from **constant infighting between the Deccan sultans** (whom the Marathas served) - great hardship for common people.
- At just **16**, he began military campaigns - first consolidating Pune by capturing **neglected and unoccupied forts** and strengthening their defences.
- His vision of **Swarajya** (sovereign kingdom) grew - **political, economic and cultural** aspects.

B. Navy and guerrilla warfare

- Kingdom expanded to the **west coast** -> need for a **navy** to secure coastal resources. **Revolutionary step!**
- Bijapur Sultanate (Adil Shahi) had merchant ships but **no full-time naval force**; even the Mughals used a navy very little. (Navy founded 1657.)
- **Guerrilla warfare** = small groups used in a focused way with **speed, surprise and knowledge of the terrain** to defeat bigger armies.

Afzal Khan Episode

Bijapur sent the veteran general **Afzal Khan** -> Shivaji and his advisers convinced him to meet **one-on-one** at the foot of **Pratapgad fort** amid thick forests -> Shivaji **killed Afzal Khan** (with the **wagh nakh** - a small weapon shaped like a tiger's claw) -> Marathas, hidden in the mountains, **routed the Khan's army** with guerrilla attacks.

C. Shaista Khan, Surat and Purandar

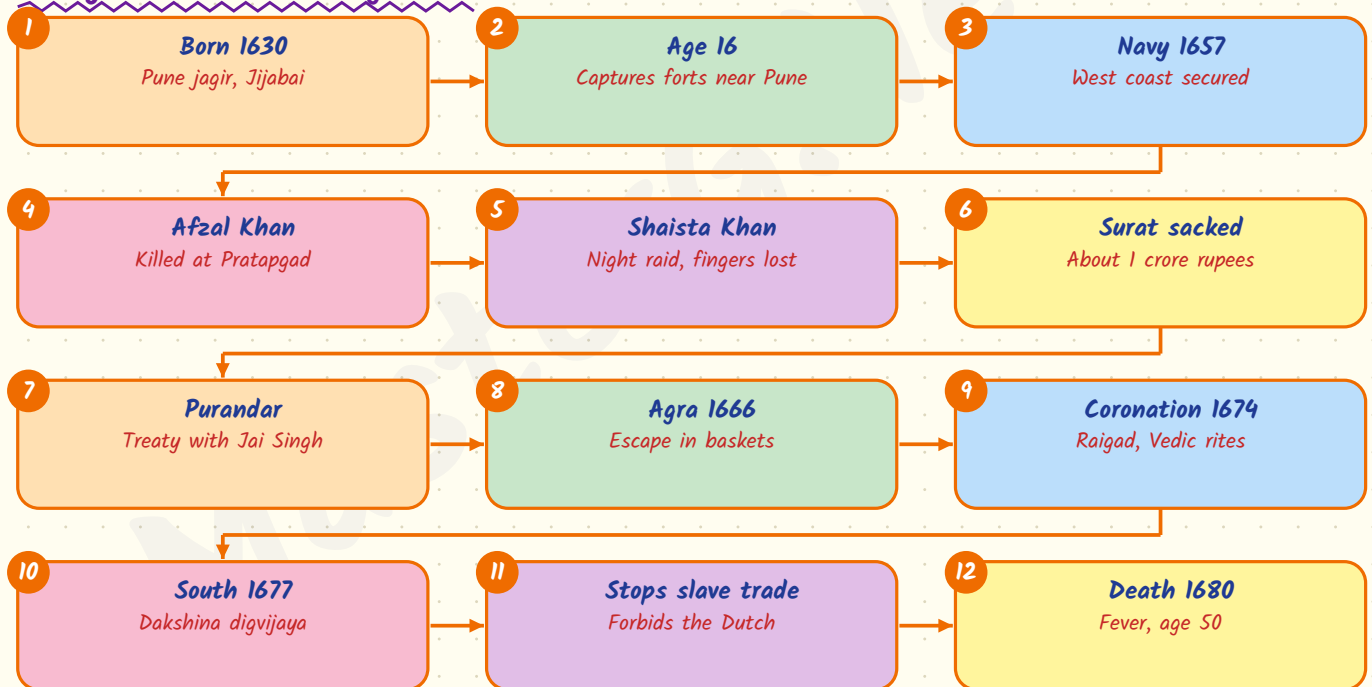
- Mughal noble **Shaista Khan** invaded for **3 years**. Shivaji, with only a few soldiers, raided his camp **at night**; the Khan barely escaped, **losing a few fingers**, and left Maharashtra. (Resembles a modern surgical strike.)
- In retaliation Shivaji **sacked Surat** - a wealthy Mughal port (present-day Gujarat); treasure worth almost **one crore of rupees**. He did **not attack religious places** and spared the house of **Mohandas Parekh**, a charitable man. Sacked again after a few years.
- Fame: the **London Gazette** reported that he wrote to European diplomatic agents in Surat demanding "immediate presents of money" or he would "return and ruin that city".
- Insult to Mughal prestige -> Aurangzeb sent **Jai Singh** (Rajput general). At **Purandar fort** (near Pune) Shivaji conceded defeat and entered a **treaty**: gave up a **sizeable part of his kingdom**; son **Sambhaji** entered Mughal service.

Extra info: Afzal Khan - 1659; Shaista Khan raid - 1663; first sack of Surat - 1664; Treaty of Purandar - 1665 (dates beyond the textbook, good for sharp minds).

D. Agra, coronation and the South

- Jai Singh persuaded Shivaji to visit the Mughal court at **Agra**. He was made to stand behind lesser nobles - including a general he had once defeated. **Incensed, he stormed out**; Aurangzeb put him under **house arrest**.
- Escape (1666)**: he distributed gifts (fruits and sweets in **big baskets**) to holy men and Mughal generals. Guards first checked, then stopped checking -> Shivaji and Sambhaji **hid in the baskets** and escaped. Aurangzeb never captured him again.
- Coronation 1674** at the mountain fortress of **Raigad** with **full Vedic rites**. Title: "**Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati**". Started his own era - the **Rajyabhisheka shaka**.
- Dakshina-digvijaya (conquest of the South, 1677)**: northern **Tamil Nadu** and parts of **Karnataka** (then ill-defended). Gave Marathas **strategic depth** against Mughal invasion.
- In the South he **forbade the Dutch from trading slaves** - when most Europeans captured and sold Indians as slaves unopposed. Shows his concern for his subjects.
- Death**: a fever claimed his life in **1680** at the age of **50**.

Shivaji ka Safar - at a glance



Shivaji ki Shohrat - His Fame

- Europeans compared him with ancient generals like **Alexander**.
- Bundela prince **Chhatrasal** was inspired by his struggle and created an independent kingdom of **Bundelkhand** (between present-day Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh).
- Famous Hindi poet **Bhushan** came to Maharashtra to meet him and composed poems in his praise.
- Think About It:** If you could time-travel and meet Shivaji, what three questions would you ask and why? (Sample at end.)

Dekhe Kya Seekha Tumne?

- >> Born 1630, Pune jagir, Jijabai; started campaigns at 16 by capturing forts.
- >> Navy (1657) + guerrilla warfare = his two big strengths.

- >> Afzal Khan, Shaista Khan, Surat, Purandar, Agra - in this order!
- >> Crowned at Raigad in 1674; South conquest 1677; died 1680 aged 50.

Kuch Mazedaar Questions - Set 2



Shivaji ka Uday: foundation, navy, guerrilla warfare, Afzal Khan, Shaista Khan, Surat, Agra

[MCQ] 1 mark

Q9. Shivaji's parents were (a) Shahji and Jijabai (b) Sambhaji and Tarabai (c) Shahu and Jijabai (d) Ekoji and Tarabai

Ans. (a) Shahji and Jijabai; clan: Bhonsle.

[Fill] 1 mark

Q10. Shivaji was only ____ years old when he launched his first military campaigns.

Ans. 16 years.

[T/F] 1 mark

Q11. Shivaji sacked Surat but attacked religious places there as well.

Ans. False. He was careful not to attack religious places and even spared the house of Mohandas Parekh.

[MCQ] 1 mark

Q12. The title taken by Shivaji after his coronation was (a) Peshwa (b) Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati (c) Sultan-e-Hind (d) Maharaja Adhiraj

Ans. (b) Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati.

[Short] 2 marks

Q13. What is a jagir? Where was Shivaji's jagir?

Ans. A jagir was a piece of land given by a king/ruler to a noble or soldier as a reward for service; the holder could collect taxes from it. Shivaji grew up in his jagir at Pune.

[Short] 2 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q14. What was Swarajya? Which aspects did it include?

Ans. Swarajya = Shivaji's vision of a sovereign kingdom (self-rule). It extended to political, economic and cultural aspects.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q15. Why was establishing a navy a "truly revolutionary step" for that time?

- Ans.
- Shivaji's kingdom expanded to the west coast and he wanted secure access to coastal resources.
 - The Bijapur Sultanate had merchant ships but no full-time naval force to protect the coast.
 - Even the Mughals' use of a navy was very limited.
 - So a standing Maratha Navy was a new idea - its exploits became legendary.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q16. What is guerrilla warfare? How did Shivaji use it against Afzal Khan?

Ans. Guerrilla warfare uses **small groups** in a focused way, with **speed, surprise and knowledge of terrain**, to defeat bigger armies. Shivaji lured Afzal Khan to a one-on-one meeting at the foot of **Pratapgad** amid thick forests, killed him (wagh nakh), and the Marathas hidden in the mountains **routed the Bijapur army** with guerrilla attacks.

[Short] 2 marks

Q17. Why is Shaista Khan's defeat compared with a "surgical strike"?

Ans. With **only a few soldiers** Shivaji raided Shaista Khan's camp **at night**, hit a specific target, and left - the Khan barely escaped, losing a few fingers. Like a surgical strike, it was a **targeted attack** with **minimal damage elsewhere**.

[Short] 4 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q18. Why did Shivaji sack Surat? What does the episode tell us about his character and the fame of his deeds?

Ans.

- It was **retaliation** for the three-year wave of attacks by Shaista Khan.
- Surat was a wealthy Mughal port; he gained treasure worth almost **one crore rupees**.
- He **spared religious places** and Mohandas Parekh's house -> disciplined, respectful of faith, discerning of a charitable man.
- The London Gazette reported his demands to European agents -> his deeds were known even in England.

[Short] 3 marks

Q19. What happened at Purandar? What were the terms of the treaty?

Ans. Aurangzeb sent the Rajput general **Jai Singh**; Shivaji had to **concede defeat at Purandar** (near Pune). Terms: he gave up a **sizeable part of his kingdom** and his son **Sambhaji** had to enter Mughal service.

[Short] 4 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q20. Describe Shivaji's visit to Agra and how he escaped.

Ans.

- Jai Singh persuaded Shivaji to visit Aurangzeb's court at Agra.
- He was made to stand before Aurangzeb and a general he had earlier defeated - **insulted**, he stormed out; Aurangzeb put him under **house arrest**.
- He began sending baskets of fruits and sweets as gifts to holy men and Mughal generals; guards stopped checking.
- Shivaji and Sambhaji **hid in the baskets** and escaped (1666). Aurangzeb never captured him again.

[Short] 3 marks

Q21. Write a short note on Shivaji's coronation.

Ans. Held in **1674** at the mountain fortress of **Raigad** with **full Vedic rites**. Formal title: **Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati**. Like some past rulers he started his own era - the **Rajyabhisheka shaka**. It marked the formal beginning of the Maratha Empire.

[Short] 2 marks

Q22. What was the dakshina-digvijaya and why was it important?

Ans. The conquest of the South (northern Tamil Nadu and parts of Karnataka), then ill-defended. It later gave the Marathas great strategic depth against Mughal invasion.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra

Q23. Why do you think Shivaji forbade the Dutch from trading slaves? What does this show about him?

Ans. Most Europeans were capturing and selling Indians as slaves without opposition from Indian powers. By forbidding it, Shivaji showed deep concern for the dignity and safety of his subjects - a ruler who protected people, not just territory.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra

Q24. Shivaji "spared the house of Mohandas Parekh" and avoided religious places at Surat. Why is this significant?

Ans. It shows he fought for power and revenge against the Mughals, not to harm common people or faith. It reflects discipline, justice and respect for religion - values that later became part of the Maratha ideal of Swarajya.

[HOTS] 2 marks | Extra

Q25. Why did Aurangzeb's guards stop checking the baskets? How did Shivaji turn this to his advantage?

Ans. Repeated harmless gifts made the guards relax and lose caution. Shivaji had expected this - a lesson in patience, planning and understanding human behaviour.

[Source] 3 marks | NCERT Think About It | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q26. Read the extract of the letter: "Wood from big trees like teak is required for the Navy... Other trees like mango and jackfruit... do not touch them... do not use force in any circumstances." What does it tell us about Shivaji's values as a ruler?

Ans.

- He allowed cutting teak for the Navy but only with permission - rules and discipline.
- He protected mango and jackfruit trees because people look after them like children - empathy for subjects.
- "If you accomplish something by oppressing others, it perishes soon" - justice, non-oppression.
- He valued the welfare of the common people and long-term thinking (sustainability).

[Long] 5 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q27. Describe the foundation of Maratha power and the rise of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

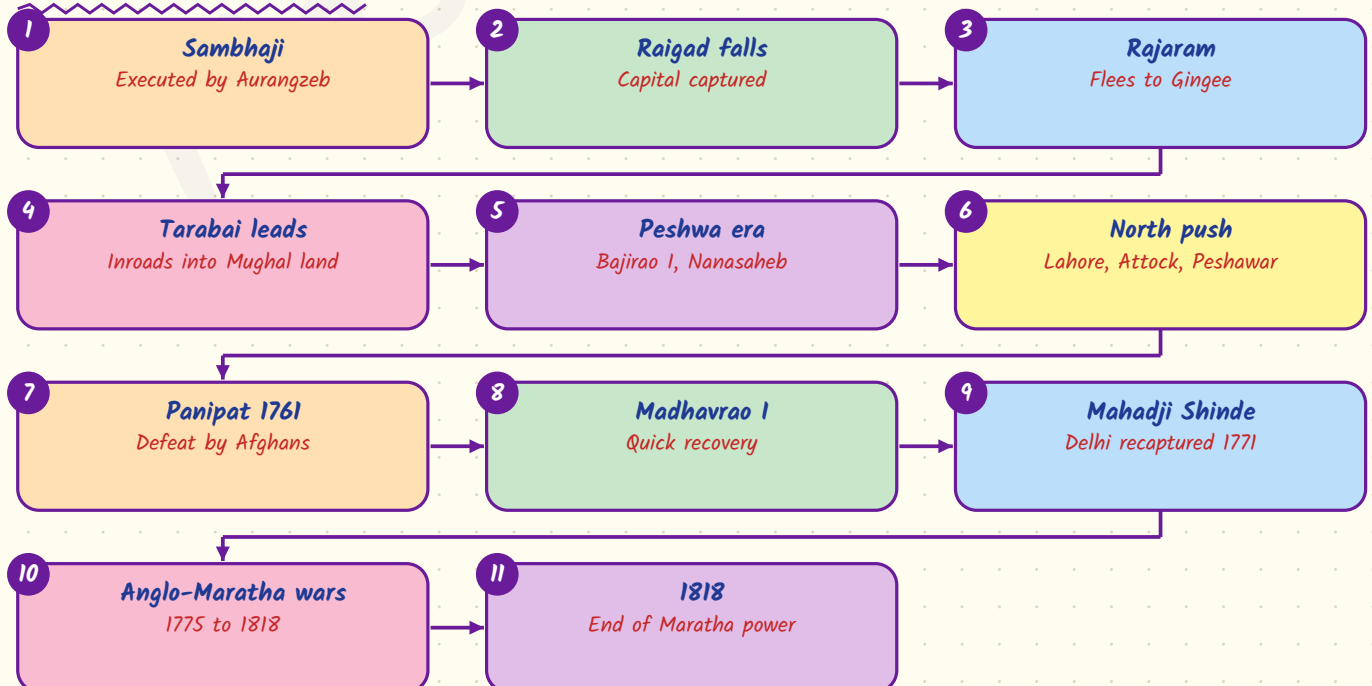
Ans. • **Early life:** born 1630, Bhonsle clan; Shahji and Jijabai; grew up in jagir at Pune with good values and education.

- **Background:** Deccan sultans fighting each other - hardship for common people.
- **First steps:** at 16, captured neglected forts near Pune; vision of Swarajya.
- **Strengths:** guerrilla warfare and a navy for the west coast.
- **Triumphs:** killed Afzal Khan; Shaista Khan raid; sacked Surat; escaped from Agra.
- **Sovereignty:** crowned at Raigad (1674) with Vedic rites; own era; Dakshina-digvijaya.
- **Legacy:** inspired Chhatrasal, poet Bhushan; compared with Alexander.

3 The Marathas after Chhatrapati Shivaji

- Shivaji had two sons: **Sambhaji** and **Rajaram**. After his death, **Sambhaji** became Chhatrapati.
- The Marathas were then the **only obstacle** to total Mughal control of the Deccan. Aurangzeb invaded and **conquered Bijapur (Adil Shahi) and Golconda (Qutb Shahi)**.
- He captured **Sambhaji**, tortured him brutally and **executed him**; then he captured **Raigad**, the Maratha capital.
- **Rajaram** became Chhatrapati and fled to **Gingee** (present-day Tamil Nadu) -> the Mughal-Maratha conflict spread to **South India**.
- The Marathas **staunchly defended fortresses**, often had the upper hand in battles and skirmishes. Aurangzeb could not leave the Deccan and **died without subduing them**. (1682-1707 wars)
- **Tarabai**, Rajaram's queen, led the Marathas - no longer defensive, they made **large-scale inroads** into Mughal territory and eventually conquered large parts of India.

Maratha Power Ladder



Structural transformation (Centralised -> Decentralised)

- The **centralised state** of Shivaji gave way to a **decentralised structure** - still nominally centred around the Chhatrapati, but **chiefs wielded more power**.

- The **Peshwa** (Persian term for **prime minister**) wielded great influence - even over the Chhatrapati. Peshwa Bajirao I and his son Nanasahab Peshwa were instrumental in the **pan-Indian expansion**.
- Marathas ruled large areas **generally well**, but regional chiefs' autonomy led to **occasional indiscipline and abuse** - in stark contrast with Shivaji's values.

Northward expansion and the British

- Marathas briefly controlled **Lahore, Attock and even Peshawar** (modern Pakistan).
- Fought the Afghans - **disastrous defeat at Panipat (1761)** - but quickly recovered under Peshwa Madhavrao I.
- Under **Mahadji Shinde (Scindia)** they recaptured **Delhi in 1771**, held till the British captured it three decades later.
- In the latter half of the 18th century, the **chief rivals of the British** were the Marathas. **Three Anglo-Maratha wars (1775-1818)**.
- Reasons for Maratha defeat: **internal disunity + superior organisation and technology** of the British.
- **Key line:** "The British took India from the Marathas more than from the Mughals or any other power."

Don't Miss Out - Nana Phadnavis

Nana Phadnavis, a powerful official under the Peshwas, is credited with organising the **first pan-Indian anti-British alliance** - he even united with old adversaries like **Hyder Ali of Mysore** and the **Nizam of Hyderabad**. (Fig. 3.11 shows a British officer surrendering before Nana Phadnavis and Mahadji Shinde after the first Anglo-Maratha war.)

Dekhe Kya Seekha Tumne?

- » After Sambhaji's execution, **Rajaram (Gingee)** and **Tarabai** kept the fight alive.
- » Power shifted from the Chhatrapati to Peshwas and chiefs - **decentralised state**.
- » North: **Lahore-Attock-Peshawar**; **Panipat 1761 defeat**; **Mahadji Shinde took Delhi 1771**.
- » **Three Anglo-Maratha wars ended Maratha power in 1818**.

Kuch Mazedaar Questions - Set 3



Marathas after Shivaji: Sambhaji to Anglo-Maratha wars

[MCQ] 1 mark

Q28. Who led the Marathas after Rajaram, making large-scale inroads into Mughal territory? (a) Ahilyabai (b) Tarabai (c) Jijabai (d) Nana Phadnavis

Ans. (b) Tarabai, Rajaram's queen.

[Fill] 1 mark

Q29. Rajaram fled to _____ (present-day Tamil Nadu) after Sambhaji's execution.

Ans. Gingee.

[MCQ] 1 mark

Q30. "Peshwa" is a Persian term meaning (a) commander (b) prime minister (c) chief justice (d) governor

Ans. (b) Prime minister.

[Match] 2 marks

Q31. Match: (1) Mahadji Shinde (2) Nana Phadnavis (3) Madhavrao I (4) Bajirao I with (a) pan-Indian expansion (b) first pan-Indian anti-British alliance (c) recaptured Delhi 1771 (d) recovery after Panipat

Ans. (1)-(c), (2)-(b), (3)-(d), (4)-(a).

[Short] 2 marks

Q32. Why was Aurangzeb unable to leave the Deccan?

Ans. The Marathas defended their forts staunchly and often had the upper hand in battles and skirmishes; the Mughals could not subdue them, so Aurangzeb stayed engaged in the Deccan and died there without succeeding.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q33. What structural transformation took place in the Maratha state during its expansion?

Ans. The centralised state of Shivaji changed into a decentralised structure, still nominally centred around the Chhatrapati but with chiefs and the Peshwa wielding more power. The Peshwa became influential even over the Chhatrapati.

[Short] 2 marks

Q34. How did the regional chiefs' autonomy affect Maratha rule?

Ans. It caused occasional indiscipline and abuse, in stark contrast with Shivaji's values – though the Marathas generally ruled well.

[Short] 2 marks

Q35. Name the places in modern Pakistan that the Marathas briefly controlled.

Ans. Lahore, Attock and Peshawar.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q36. Write about the Battle of Panipat (1761) and what followed.

Ans. The Marathas fought the Afghans and suffered a disastrous defeat at Panipat in 1761. But they quickly recovered under Peshwa Madhavrao I, and under Mahadji Shinde recaptured Delhi in 1771.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q37. Why did the Marathas lose to the British?

Ans. • Increased internal disunity among the Marathas.

• Superior organisational abilities of the British.

• Superior technological abilities of the British.

Three Anglo-Maratha wars were fought (1775-1818); the Third ended Maratha power in 1818.

[HOTS] 3 marks | NCERT | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q38. "The British took India from the Marathas more than from the Mughals or any other power." What does this mean? Give evidence from the chapter. (NCERT Q4)

Ans. It means that by the late 18th century the **Marathas, not the Mughals, were the dominant Indian power**, so the British had to defeat **the Marathas** to become rulers of India.

Evidence: Marathas controlled large parts of central and northern India, even Delhi (1771-c.1803); they were the **chief rivals of the British**; they won the First Anglo-Maratha War; Nana Phadnavis organised the first pan-Indian anti-British alliance; their defeat in the **Third war (1818)** ended the main resistance.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra

Q39. Why do you think Tarabai's leadership was crucial after Aurangzeb captured Raigad?

Ans. Raigad had fallen, Sambhaji was dead and Rajaram was at Gingee. Tarabai **organised armies** and turned the Marathas from the **defensive to offensive** - striking Mughal territories in the north, forcing the Mughals to stay stretched; this saved Maratha independence.

[Source] 2 marks

Q40. Read Fig. 3.11/Don't Miss Out: Who organised the first pan-Indian anti-British alliance? Whom did he unite with?

Ans. Nana Phadnavis (official under the Peshwas) united with old adversaries **Hyder Ali of Mysore and the Nizam of Hyderabad**.

[Long] 5 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q41. How did the Marathas manage to become the largest pan-Indian power before the British took over? (Big Question 1)

Ans. • **Foundation:** Shivaji's Swarajya, forts, navy, guerrilla warfare and efficient administration.

• **Resistance:** decades of Mughal-Maratha wars (1682-1707) gave experience; Rajaram at Gingee, Tarabai's leadership - Aurangzeb died without subduing them.

• **Expansion:** under Tarabai and then the Peshwas (Bajirao I, Nanasaheb) they went northward - Lahore, Attock, Peshawar.

• **Resilience:** recovered from Panipat (1761) under Madhavrao I; Mahadji Shinde took Delhi (1771).

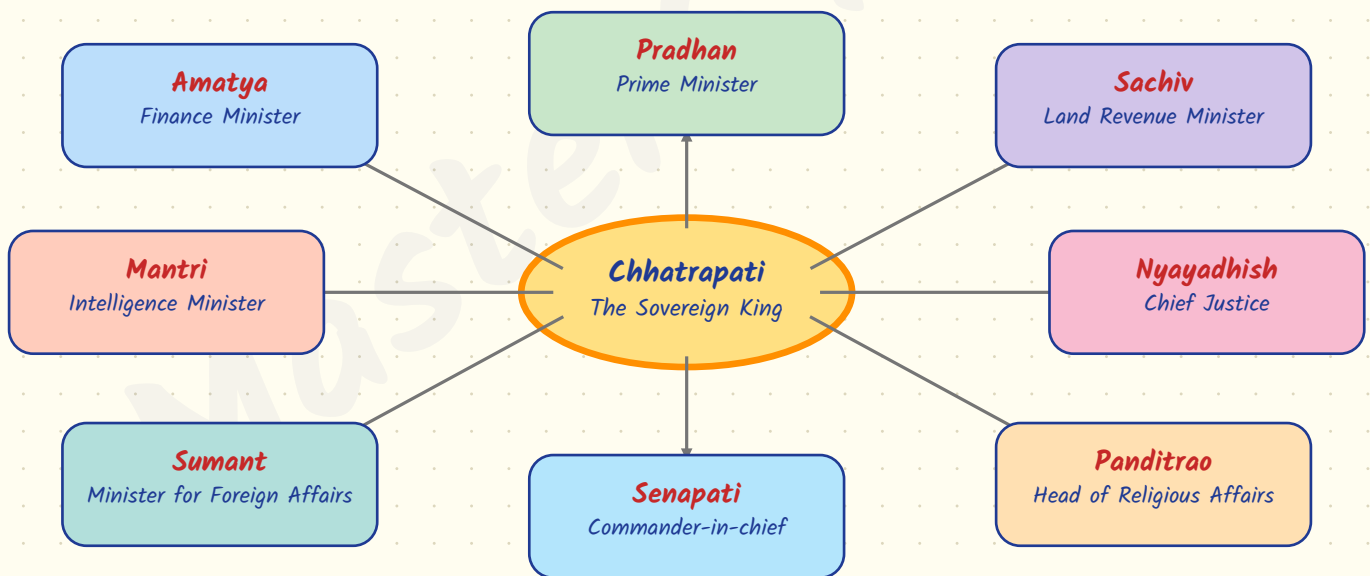
• **Result:** a decentralised but vast empire - the largest before the British.

4 Maratha Administration

A. Civilian administration

- Shivaji built a **relatively centralised** administration.
- He **abolished hereditary posts** (common under the Sultans and Mughals) and **land assignments**, and paid a **salary from the state treasury** to every official.
- Many officials were **periodically transferred** so that no one had enough power to **dictate terms to the king**.
- He gave **pensions to widows of soldiers** who died in battle and offered **military posts to their sons** - care for soldiers and families.
- Strict orders: **do not mistreat subjects or forcibly grab even a blade of grass** from them (see the letter in Set 2).
- He minted **gold and copper coins in his own name** (sovereignty) in the **Devanagari script** (cultural identity). (Fig. 3.12)

Ashta Pradhana Mandala - Council of Eight Ministers



Memory Trick

Yaad karne ka trick: Pradhan - Amatya - Sachiv - Mantri - Sumant - Senapati - Panditrao - Nyayadhish. Remember: Prime, Finance, Revenue, Intelligence, Foreign, Army, Religion, Justice - one word per minister!

B. Taxes: Chauth and Sardeshmukhi

Tax	Rate	Levied on	In return
Chauth	25 per cent	Provinces not directly under Marathas (Deccan and north India)	Maratha protection ; no interference in internal administration
Sardeshmukhi	Additional 10 per cent (over chauth)	Same provinces	Same. Mughals approved through treaties; some provinces later became part of the Empire

Don't Miss Out - Coins

In the 18th century the Marathas often adopted the **Mughal style of coinage** (popular) but added their own symbols. The rare **Ganapati-Pantapradhan rupee** (early 19th century, minted by the **Patwardhans**, generals under the Peshwa) carries inscriptions in **two scripts - Devanagari and Persian**: one side an invocation to **Ganapati (Ganesha)**, the other declares loyalty to the **Peshwa** (Pantapradhan in Marathi).

C. Military administration

- Forces in **three parts: infantry, cavalry and navy**.
- Cavalry = **bargirs** (horses and equipment paid by the **state**) + **shiledars** (horses and equipment paid by the **soldiers themselves**).
- 18th century: noticed the superiority of **European-style disciplined troops and artillery** and tried to raise such troops - **Mahadji Shinde** had a large European-style army.
- Preferred weapons: **swords and lances**, but also **guns** in sizable numbers. **Rockets** used from Shivaji's days; by 1770, **metal tube rockets** too.

D. Forts - the core of the state

- Forts were the **mainstay** of Maratha power - they helped to **control important routes and shelter the army** during guerrilla warfare. Shivaji controlled and built a considerable number; the Marathas later held **hundreds** of forts.
- Types on the map (Fig. 3.9): **hill forts** (Raigad, Pratapgad, Gingee, Koppal), **coastal forts** (Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg), **land fort** (Vellore).

Ramachandrapant Amatya on Forts (Adnyapatra)

Forts are the **core of the state** - without them land gets devastated in an invasion. The kingdom was created by Shivaji **from forts alone**. Even though Aurangzeb conquered great empires like **Bijapur and Bhaganagar**, it was **due to forts** that the Maratha state survived decades of onslaught.

E. Maritime supremacy

- Shivaji created the navy to secure the **west coast**; in the 18th century **Kanhoji Angre** guided the Marathas to many naval victories through **clever use of geography and battle tactics**, despite less advanced ships than the Europeans.
- European strength = navies. They forced Indians to buy naval trade passes - **cartaz** (Portuguese) - any ship without one was **confiscated**.
- The Marathas **challenged this** and started demanding passes from the Europeans - who called Kanhoji Angre a "**pirate**"!
- Muscat 1665**: four ships of Shivaji's fleet reached Muscat (Oman); the ruler captured them, but on hearing the Navy had **more than a hundred ships** he retreated into the harbour. (Fig. 3.16 - Maratha ships attacking English ships.)

F. Judicial system

- Efficient and remarkable for **moderation in capital punishment** (death penalty).
- The **panchayat** - local gathering of officials and prominent men - was the main body delivering justice (not the same as today's Panchayat, a governmental body).

- **Appeal** could be made to a **Maratha chief** against an unsatisfactory verdict.
- In prominent towns (Pune, Indore, etc.) the **kotwal** (police) maintained law and order.

G. Trade networks

- Shivaji **encouraged trade** and personally took part in **maritime foreign trade**; he and his officials sent ships to **Mocha (Yemen)**, **Muscat (Oman)**, **Malacca (Malaysia)** carrying gold, textiles, etc.
- **Roads** were built and maintained; **bridges** over rivers and streams; a **network of ferries** in places like **Odisha** (18th century).

Dekhe Kya Seekha Tumne?

- » Civil: salaries not jagirs, transfers, pensions for widows, Ashta Pradhan Mandala (8 ministers).
- » Chauth 25% + Sardeshmukhi 10% from provinces not under direct rule - in return for protection.
- » Army: infantry, cavalry (bargirs/shiledars), navy; forts were the core of the state.
- » Navy: Kanhoji Angre challenged the cartaz system. Justice: panchayat + kotwal. Trade: ports, roads, ferries.

Kuch Mazedaar Questions - Set 4A

Civil administration, Ashta Pradhan Mandala, taxes and coins

[MCQ] 1 mark

Q42. Which minister looked after land revenue in the Ashta Pradhana Mandala? (a) Amatya (b) Sachiv (c) Sumant (d) Mantri

Ans. (b) Sachiv.

[Match] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q43. Match the minister with the department: Amatya, Mantri, Sumant, Senapati, Panditrao, Nyayadhish.

Ans. Amatya - Finance; **Mantri** - Intelligence; **Sumant** - Foreign Affairs; **Senapati** - Commander-in-chief; **Panditrao** - Religious Affairs; **Nyayadhish** - Chief Justice. (Also **Pradhan** - Prime Minister; **Sachiv** - Land Revenue.)

[Fill] 1 mark

Q44. Sardeshmukhi was an additional ____ per cent tax levied over chauth.

Ans. 10 per cent (chauth was 25 per cent).

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q45. How was Shivaji's civil administration different from that of the Sultans and the Mughals?

- Ans.**
- He **abolished hereditary posts and land assignments**, which were generally practised under Sultans/Mughals.
 - Every official got a **salary from the state treasury**.
 - Officials were **transferred periodically**, so they could not become powerful enough to dictate terms to the king.
 - The result was a **relatively centralised administration**.

[Short] 2 marks

Q46. Why were officials periodically transferred under Shivaji?

Ans. To make sure they would not build enough power in one place to dictate terms to the king - keeping control with the Chhatrapati.

[Short] 2 marks

Q47. How did Shivaji show his care for soldiers and their families?

Ans. He gave pensions to the widows of soldiers who died in battle and even offered military posts to their sons.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q48. What were chauth and sardeshmukhi? Why did provinces agree to pay them?

Ans. Chauth = 25 per cent tax; sardeshmukhi = additional 10 per cent. They were levied on provinces not directly under the Marathas (Deccan, north India). In return the Marathas protected them and did not interfere in their internal administration; the Mughals also approved through treaties.

[Short] 2 marks

Q49. Why did Shivaji mint coins in his own name and in Devanagari?

Ans. Coins in his own name signified his sovereignty; the Devanagari script was an assertion of his cultural identity.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra

Q50. The Ganapati-Pantapradhan rupee has inscriptions in Devanagari and Persian. What does this reveal about the Marathas of the 18th-19th centuries?

Ans. The Marathas adapted existing practices (Mughal-style coinage and Persian, popular with traders) while adding their own cultural symbols (Ganapati, Devanagari, loyalty to the Peshwa). It shows pragmatism, cultural pride and a blend of traditions.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra

Q51. Why was a council of eight ministers (Ashta Pradhana Mandala) useful for the king?

Ans. It divided responsibilities (finance, revenue, justice, intelligence, foreign affairs, army, religion, prime minister) among experts, helped the Chhatrapati administer efficiently, and gave him specialised advice while he remained the sovereign king at the centre.

Kuch Mazedaar Questions - Set 4B



Military, forts, navy, judiciary and trade

[MCQ] 1 mark

Q52. Cavalry soldiers whose horses and equipment were paid for by the state were called (a) shiledars (b) bargirs (c) kotwals (d) peshwas

Ans. (b) Bargirs (shiledars paid for their own horses and equipment).

[T/F] 1 mark

Q53. The Marathas never used guns or rockets in warfare.

Ans. False. They used guns in sizable numbers; rockets from Shivaji's time, and metal tube rockets by 1770.

[Fill] 1 mark

Q54. The Portuguese word for a naval trade pass was _____.

Ans. Cartaz.

[Short] 2 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q55. Differentiate between bargirs and shiledars.

Ans. Bargirs - horses and equipment provided by the state.

Shiledars - horses and equipment paid for by the soldiers themselves.

[Short] 2 marks

Q56. Why did the Marathas try to raise European-style troops in the 18th century? Who had a large such army?

Ans. They noticed the superiority of European-style disciplined troops and artillery. Mahadji Shinde had a large European-style army.

[Short] 4 marks | NCERT | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q57. Why were forts called "the core of the state"? How did they help the Marathas survive against larger enemies? (NCERT Q6)

Ans. • Forts helped control important routes and shelter the army during guerrilla warfare.

• Amatya wrote that without forts the land is devastated in an invasion.

• The kingdom was created by Shivaji from forts alone.

• Though Aurangzeb conquered Bijapur and Golconda, the Maratha state survived decades of onslaught due to forts; fortress defence frustrated the Mughals.

• The Marathas controlled hundreds of forts - hill, coastal and land forts.

[Short] 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q58. What was the cartaz system? How did the Marathas challenge it?

Ans. Europeans forced Indians to purchase naval trade passes (cartaz); ships without one were confiscated. The Marathas challenged this by demanding passes from the Europeans themselves; frustrated Europeans called Kanhoji Angre a "pirate".

[Short] 3 marks

Q59. Who was Kanhoji Angre? What made his naval victories remarkable?

Ans. In the 18th century he guided the Marathas to victory in many naval battles, using geography and clever tactics, even though Maratha ships were not as technologically advanced as European ones.

[Short] 3 marks

Q60. Describe the Maratha judicial system.

Ans. • Remarkable for **moderation in capital punishment**.

- The **panchayat** (local gathering of officials and prominent men) was the main body delivering justice.
- An **appeal** could be made to a Maratha chief.
- In towns like Pune and Indore, the **kotwal** (police) ensured law and order.

[Short] 3 marks

Q61. How did Shivaji and the Marathas promote trade?

Ans. Shivaji personally took part in **maritime trade**, sending ships to Mocha, Muscat and Malacca (gold, textiles); roads were built and maintained; **bridges** over rivers; **ferries** in places like Odisha.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra

Q62. What does the Muscat incident of 1665 tell us about the Maratha Navy?

Ans. The ruler of Oman captured four Maratha ships but **retreated into harbour** when he heard the Navy had **over a hundred ships** - showing the Navy's size, reputation and the fear it created across the Arabian Sea.

[HOTS] 4 marks | NCERT | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q63. Analyse how geography (mountains and coastlines) guided Maratha military strategy and state formation. (NCERT Q1)

- Ans.** • **Mountains (Sahyadri/Deccan):** hill forts like Raigad and Pratapgad gave **natural protection**; thick forests and hills suited **guerrilla warfare** (speed, surprise, knowledge of terrain).
- **Coastlines:** the west coast gave access to **resources and trade**; Shivaji built a **navy**, coastal forts (Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg), and ports; Kanhoji Angre used geography against Europeans.
 - **State formation:** a **fort-based state** controlling routes; the South (Gingee, Thanjavur) gave strategic depth.

[Source] 3 marks | NCERT

Q64. Read Amatya's quote: "Forts are the core of the state... it was due to forts that the state survived despite decades of onslaught." (i) Who wrote it? (ii) Which work? (iii) What does it say about Maratha strategy?

Ans. (i) **Ramachandrapant Amatya**, finance minister of Shivaji. (ii) **Adnyapatra** ("The Royal Edict"). (iii) Maratha strategy was **fort-centred defence**: forts protected the land and army and allowed the state to survive even when great empires fell.

5 Cultural Revival



- The Marathas contributed substantially to India's cultural development. Shivaji's **Swarajya** is visible in his **seal** - with a **Sanskrit inscription** (a departure from prevalent Persian seals): "This seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji, son of Shahji, waxing like the new moon, revered by the world, reigns for the welfare of the people."
- He commissioned the treatise **Rajya-Vyavahara-Kosha** to promote **Marathi** - Sanskrit equivalents for Persian words used in diplomacy -> fewer foreign loanwords in Maratha diplomacy.
- A **devout Hindu** who **respected other religions** while upholding his own. His **saffron flag** was adopted by all Marathas.
- He **rebuilt desecrated temples**, promoted **Sanskrit and Marathi** literature, religious institutions and traditional arts.
- His biggest contribution: showing people that **mighty kingdoms and empires could be defeated**, and that the Marathas could maintain, expand and administer an empire of their own.
- The **Modi script** (a cursive form of Devanagari) was the main script for Maratha correspondence.
- Shivaji's example inspired successors: the **Bhonsles of Nagpur** supported local culture; worship of **Lord Jagannath at Puri** (Odisha), often interrupted under Mughal rule, was **revived with Maratha support**.

The Mighty Maratha Women

	Tarabai	Ahilyabai Holkar
Who?	Fearless warrior queen of Rajaram; ruled in the early 18th century	From the Holkar dynasty (central India, around present-day Indore); governed for 30 years even after losing husband and son
Known for	Saw that with Aurangzeb in the Deccan, north India was unprotected ; sent large armies to invade Mughal territories in the north	Wise administration, care for common people; built/restored hundreds of temples, ghats, wells, roads (Kedarnath to Rameswaram)
Big achievement	Architect of the northward Maratha expansion ; outsmarted the Mughals and preserved independence	Rebuilt Kashi Vishwanath (Varanasi) and Somnath (Gujarat); promoted Maheshwar weaving (Madhya Pradesh)

In focus: Thanjavur

- Ekaji**, Shivaji's **half-brother**, conquered the **Thanjavur** region (present-day Tamil Nadu) in the **late 17th century** - beginning of Maratha rule there.
- Thanjavur Marathas created a **syncretic culture** - rich and full of innovation; great patrons of the arts; many rulers were **poets and dramatists**. Thanjavur-style painting (delicate gold foil work) flourished under them.
- Environment was **multilingual**: local **Tamil** culture, **Telugu** culture of the former rulers and **Marathi** culture of the new rulers interacted freely.

Serfoji II – The Scholar King of Thanjavur

- Well-versed in many Indian and European languages; wrote the Marathi play **Devendra Kuravanji** describing world geography as then known.
- Patronised talented musicians - modern **Carnatic music** took shape in his time, as did early stages of **Bharatanatyam**.
- Founded **Dhanwantari Mahal** - a medical centre giving free treatment using both Indian and Western medicine.
- Started a **printing press** - the first by a native ruler in India.
- Got the **history of the Bhonsle family inscribed** on the walls of the **Brihadishwara temple** at Thanjavur - one of the largest single inscriptions in India (Fig. 3.22, in Marathi).

Dekhe Kya Seekha Tumne?

- » Sanskrit seal, Rajya-Vyavahara-Kosha, saffron flag, Marathi and Sanskrit promotion - Shivaji's cultural revival.
- » Tarabai = military strategist; Ahilyabai Holkar = builder-administrator.
- » Ekoji founded Maratha rule in Thanjavur; Serfoji II = medicine, printing press, music and dance patron.

Kuch Mazedaar Questions – Set 5

Cultural revival, Maratha women and Thanjavur

[MCQ] 1 mark**Q65. The Modi script is a cursive form of (a) Persian (b) Tamil (c) Devanagari (d) Telugu****Ans. (c) Devanagari.****[Fill]** 1 mark**Q66. Shivaji's half-brother _____ conquered the Thanjavur region.****Ans. Ekoji.****[Match]** 2 marks**Q67. Match: (1) Devendra Kuravanji (2) Dhanwantari Mahal (3) Rajya-Vyavahara-Kosha (4) Adnyapatra with (a) Amatya's royal edict (b) Serfoji II's play (c) free medical centre (d) Marathi promotion treatise****Ans. (1)-(b), (2)-(c), (3)-(d), (4)-(a).****[Short]** 3 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)**Q68. How did Shivaji's seal reflect his vision of Swarajya?****Ans.** The seal carried a **Sanskrit inscription**, a notable departure from the prevalent Persian seals - asserting an Indian cultural identity and sovereign authority. It declares the rule is "for the welfare (of the people)".

[Short] 3 marks

Q69. What was the Rajya-Vyavahara-Kosha? How did it help the Marathi language?

Ans. A treatise commissioned by Shivaji giving Sanskrit equivalents for Persian words used in diplomacy. As a result the percentage of foreign loanwords in Maratha diplomacy decreased considerably, promoting Marathi.

[Short] 4 marks | NCERT | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q70. Compare how Shivaji and later Marathas treated religious places and people of different faiths. (NCERT Q5)

Ans.

- **Shivaji:** a devout Hindu who respected other religions; at Surat did not attack religious places; rebuilt desecrated temples; supported Sanskrit and Marathi and religious institutions.
- **Later Marathas:** Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath and built temples, ghats and wells all over India; the Bhonsles of Nagpur supported local traditions; Jagannath worship at Puri was revived.
- **Evidence of tolerance:** the legacy section says they revived local Hindu traditions without religious discrimination.

[Short] 4 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q71. Write about the contributions of Tarabai and Ahilyabai Holkar.

Ans. **Tarabai:** ruled in the early 18th century after Rajaram's death; organised large armies and sent them to invade Mughal territories in the north - the architect of the northward expansion; her strategy preserved Maratha independence.

Ahilyabai Holkar: governed her state for 30 years; built and restored hundreds of temples, ghats, wells and roads (Kedarnath to Rameswaram); rebuilt Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath; promoted Maheshwar weaving.

[Short] 4 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q72. List four contributions of Serfoji II of Thanjavur.

Ans. (1) Wrote the Marathi play **Devendra Kuravanji**. (2) Patronised musicians - Carnatic music took shape and Bharatanatyam's early stages developed. (3) Set up the **Dhanwantari Mahal** (free treatment, Indian and Western medicine). (4) Started a **printing press** - first by a native ruler. (5) Got the Bhonsle family history inscribed on the **Brihadishwara temple** walls.

[Short] 2 marks

Q73. Why is Thanjavur's culture called multilingual/syncretic?

Ans. Because **Tamil** (local), **Telugu** (former rulers) and **Marathi** (current rulers) cultures interacted freely, producing a rich and innovative blended culture.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra

Q74. Why was the Maratha seal in Sanskrit rather than Persian considered significant?

Ans. Persian was the language of the earlier sultanate/Mughal courts. A Sanskrit seal showed independence from earlier courtly culture, pride in Indian languages, and the idea that Marathas were an independent power with their own identity.

[HOTS] 3 marks | Extra**Q75. The Modi script, Devanagari coins and a Sanskrit seal: what common theme do they share?****Ans.** All show the assertion of cultural identity and sovereignty through language and script - part of Shivaji's Swarajya vision.**[Source]** 2 marks**Q76. Look at Fig. 3.22: What is recorded on the Brihadishwara temple wall and in which language?****Ans.** The history of the Bhonsle family, in Marathi - one of the largest single inscriptions in India, made at the time of Serfoji II.

6 The Maratha Legacy



- Maratha rule **challenged Mughal dominance** and created the **largest Indian empire before the British** - much of central and northern India.
- A new way of governing with an **efficient administration**; revived local Hindu traditions **without religious discrimination**.
- The fight against oppressive rule and foreign power was driven by the ideal of **Swarajya** -> later inspired many Indians to believe they could **govern themselves**, planting early seeds of the **freedom movement**.

Before We Move On...

- Shivaji founded the Maratha kingdom in the **17th century**; decades of resistance to the Mughals gave experience for **pan-Indian expansion in the 18th century**.
- The British captured India effectively **from the Marathas** more than from any other power.
- Forts** were the core of the state - hundreds of forts strengthened control.
- The **navy** resisted European naval supremacy for a long time despite lacking the latest technology.
- The Marathas inspired **new cultural confidence** across regions - cultural revival and innovation.

Kuch Mazedaar Questions - Set 6 (Big Questions)



Answers to the three Big Questions of the chapter

[Long] 4 marks | **Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)****Q77. Who were the Marathas? How did they become the largest pan-Indian power before the British? (Big Question 1)****Ans. Who:** people of the Deccan (present-day Maharashtra) identified by the Marathi language, with a cultural base built by bhakti saints.**How:** Shivaji united them and built Swarajya through forts, guerrilla warfare, a navy and administration; resisted Mughals for decades (1682-1707) under Sambhaji, Rajaram and Tarabai; under the Peshwas and chiefs (Bajirao I, Nanasaheb, Madhavrao I, Mahadji Shinde) they expanded to Lahore-Attock-Peshawar and Delhi.

[Long] 5 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q78. What were the main features of Maratha governance? (Big Question 2)

Ans. • **Civil:** relatively centralised; no hereditary posts; salaries; transfers; pensions; Ashta Pradhana Mandala.

- **Revenue:** chauth (25%) and sardeshmukhi (+10%).
- **Military:** infantry, cavalry (bargirs/shiledars), navy, rockets; European-style troops later.
- **Forts:** core of the state.
- **Maritime:** Navy, Kanhoji Angre, challenged cartaz.
- **Judiciary:** panchayat, appeal, kotwal, moderate capital punishment.
- **Trade:** ports, roads, bridges, ferries.

[Long] 4 marks | Exam mein zaroor aayega! (*)

Q79. What impact did the Maratha Empire leave in Indian history? (Big Question 3)

Ans. • Challenged Mughal dominance; created the **largest Indian empire** before the British.

- Efficient administration and **revival of local traditions** without discrimination.
- **Cultural revival and confidence** - Marathi, Sanskrit, arts, Thanjavur's music, dance and learning.
- The ideal of **Swarajya** inspired Indians to believe in self-governance - **early seeds of the freedom movement**.

7 NCERT Questions and Activities – Solved



Model answers for all eight textbook questions (pp. 81). Activity-type questions have sample answers - students should add their own research and creativity!

1. Analyse how geography (mountains and coastlines) guided Maratha military strategy and state formation.

Ans. See Set 4B, Q on geography: mountains and forests -> hill forts + guerrilla warfare; coastline -> navy, coastal forts, ports, trade and naval tactics; forts and the south gave strategic depth.

2. Short biography of a Maratha leader (sample: Ahilyabai Holkar).

Ans. Para 1: Ahilyabai Holkar belonged to the Holkar dynasty, one of the chief families behind Maratha expansion in north India, ruling around present-day Indore.

Para 2 (challenge): She lost her husband and her son, yet she bravely governed the state for thirty years, administering it wisely and caring for common people.

Para 3: She built and restored hundreds of temples, ghats, wells and roads from Kedarnath to Rameswaram, and rebuilt the Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath temples.

Para 4: She promoted the Maheshwar weaving industry, reviving handloom crafts that thrive today - an inspiration for her courage, service and vision.

3. Visit one Maratha fort (e.g., Sindhudurg or Raigad) – research and present.

Ans. Sample (Raigad): hill fort in Maharashtra; site of Shivaji's **coronation in 1674**; Aurangzeb captured it after Sambhaji's execution; **strategic importance:** strong mountain fortress, capital of the Marathas. **Sindhudurg:** a naval/coastal fort near the Maharashtra-Goa border built by the Marathas to guard the coast. Present with photos, map and a one-line "why I chose it".

4. "The British took India from the Marathas more than from the Mughals or any other power."

Meaning and evidence.

Ans. See **Set 3, HOTS question** – Marathas were the chief rivals of the British in the late 18th century and controlled Delhi and large parts of India; British victory in three Anglo-Maratha wars (1775-1818) ended the main Indian power.

5. Compare how Shivaji and later Marathas treated religious places and different faiths.

Ans. See **Set 5, 4-mark question** – Shivaji spared religious places at Surat, rebuilt temples and respected other faiths; later Marathas (Ahilyabai, Bhonsles of Nagpur) rebuilt/supported temples; legacy section says they revived local traditions **without religious discrimination**.

6. Why were forts "the core of the state"? How did they help survive against larger enemies?

Ans. See **Set 4B, 4-mark question** – routes, shelter for the army, guerrilla warfare; state survived Aurangzeb's decades of onslaught due to forts.

7. Design a Maratha coin and explain its symbols.

Ans. Sample design: Obverse – a hill fort (Raigad) = forts as the core of the state; a ship = the navy; **Reverse** – saffron flag = Swarajya; Devanagari inscription "Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati" = sovereignty and cultural identity; a wagh nakh or sword = courage and guerrilla tactics; border of eight stars/dots = the eight ministers (Ashta Pradhana Mandala).

8. Most important contribution of the Marathas? (paragraph with examples)

Ans. Sample: I think the most important contribution was **planting the ideal of Swarajya**. The Marathas, starting from a few forts, defeated mighty powers, built the largest Indian empire before the British, set up efficient administration (salaried officials, Ashta Pradhana Mandala, navy, judiciary), revived culture (Marathi, Sanskrit, Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam) and inspired Indians to believe they could govern themselves – the early seeds of the freedom movement.

Think About It / Let's Explore – Quick Hints

Three questions for Shivaji (sample): (1) How did you plan to hide in the baskets and escape Agra? (2) Why did you decide to build a navy? (3) How did you keep your soldiers disciplined and your subjects safe during wars?

Bharatanatyam link: It took early shape in Thanjavur during the time of Serfoji II, the Maratha ruler – patron of musicians and dancers.

Guerrilla warfare elsewhere (for group discussion): e.g., Vietnam (forests, jungle), Afghanistan (mountains), Cuba (Sierra Maestra) - geography again gave the weaker side an advantage.

8 Quick Revision

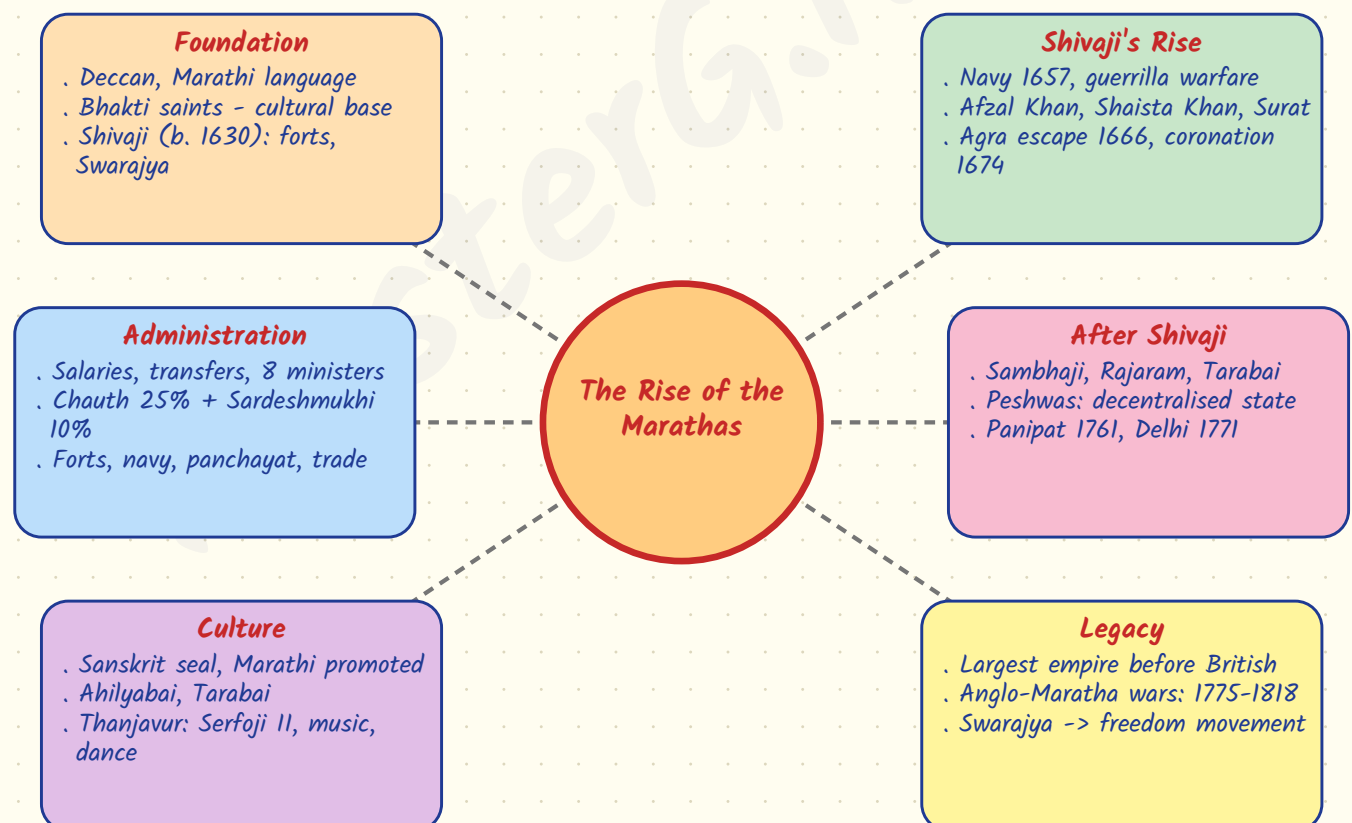
Who is Who?

Person	Known for
Shahji	Father of Shivaji; served the Deccan sultanates
Jijabai	Shivaji's mother; raised him in Pune
Afzal Khan	Bijapur general killed at Pratapgad
Shaista Khan	Mughal noble; lost fingers in the night raid
Jai Singh	Rajput general of Aurangzeb; Purandar treaty
Mohandas Parekh	Charitable man of Surat whose house was spared
Sambhaji	Shivaji's elder son; executed by Aurangzeb
Rajaram	Younger son; fled to Gingee
Tarabai	Rajaram's queen; architect of northward expansion
Bajirao I and Nanasaheb	Peshwas who led pan-Indian expansion
Madhavrao I	Peshwa; recovery after Panipat
Mahadji Shinde	Recaptured Delhi in 1771; European-style army
Nana Phadnavis	Organised first pan-Indian anti-British alliance
Kanhoji Angre	Naval hero of the 18th century; called a pirate by Europeans
Ahilyabai Holkar	Governed 30 years; rebuilt Kashi Vishwanath, Somnath
Ekaji	Shivaji's half-brother; conquered Thanjavur
Serfoji II	Scholar king: printing press, Dhanwantari Mahal
Ramachandrapant Amatya	Finance minister; author of Adnyapatra
Chhatrasal	Bundela prince; created Bundelkhand
Bhushan	Hindi poet who praised Shivaji

Key terms - ek line mein

Swarajya	Sovereign kingdom - political, economic, cultural
Jagir	Land granted for service; holder collects taxes
Guerrilla warfare	Small groups, speed, surprise, terrain knowledge
Surgical strike	Targeted attack, minimal damage elsewhere
Peshwa	Persian term for prime minister
Chauth / Sardeshmukhi	25% and additional 10% tax
Bargir / Shiledar	Cavalry paid by state / self-equipped
Cartaz	Naval trade pass of Europeans
Panchayat	Local gathering delivering justice
Kotwal	Police in towns
Wagh nakh	Tiger's claw weapon
Modi	Cursive Devanagari script of Maratha letters

Chapter Mind Map



Dekhe Kya Seekha Tumne? - Rapid Fire



One-line answers - cover the answers and test yourself!

1. Capital of the Yadavas? **Devagiri (Daulatabad)**
2. Who overcame the Yadavas? **Khilji Sultanate**
3. Shivaji born in? **1630, Bhonsle clan**
4. Navy founded? **1657**
5. Afzal Khan killed at? **Foot of Pratapgad**
6. Weapon? **Wagh nakh**
7. Who lost fingers? **Shaista Khan**
8. Port sacked? **Surat**
9. Treaty with Jai Singh at? **Purandar**
10. Escape from Agra? **1666 (in baskets)**
11. Coronation? **1674, Raigad**
12. Own era? **Rajyabhisheka shaka**
13. South conquest? **Dakshina-digvijaya 1677**
14. Death? **1680, fever, age 50**
15. Who fled to Gingee? **Rajaram**
16. Led after Rajaram? **Tarabai**
17. Panipat defeat? **1761**
18. Delhi recaptured by? **Mahadji Shinde, 1771**
19. Naval hero? **Kanhoji Angre**
20. Wars with British? **Three, 1775-1818**
21. Rebuilt Kashi Vishwanath? **Ahilyabai Holkar**
22. Printing press ruler? **Serfoji II**

Last Words

MasterG.Net Tip: In exams, always write **date + place + person** together (e.g., "Shivaji was crowned at Raigad in 1674"). Use the NCERT keywords - **Swarajya, guerrilla warfare, navy, forts, Ashta Pradhana Mandala, chauth, cartaz** - in long answers. All the best!

MasterG.Net CBSE Coaching Classes | www.masterg.net | 9910725407