



6. Conflict with the Mughals

So far, Shivaji Maharaj had successfully fought the Adilshahi; but for expanding the *Swaraj*, conflict with the Mughals was inevitable. The Mughals posed a great threat to the *Swaraj* even as it began to expand. Maharaj triumphed over this threat too. He regained his forts and territories from the Mughals. He got himself crowned. He took up a campaign of the South. We shall learn about all these events in this chapter.

Shaistakhan's Invasion : In February 1660, Shaistakhan left from Ahmadnagar and entered the Pune province. He ravaged the territory of the *Swaraj* by sending small units of his army to the neighbouring areas. He encamped at Chakan. Firangoji Narsala, the *Killedar* of the fort of Chakan offered a strong resistance to Shaistakhan's army. Finally, the Mughals captured the fort of Chakan.

Shaistakhan set up his camp at Lal Mahal in Pune where Shivaji Maharaj had lived in his childhood. Khan sent his forces in the regions around Pune. These forces looted the people. Two years passed, but he would not think of leaving Pune. Naturally, this had an adverse effect on the people's morale. In these circumstances, Maharaj drew up a bold plan.

Shivaji Maharaj decided to raid Lal Mahal secretly under his own leadership. On 5 April 1663, Maharaj raided Lal Mahal at night with a select band of soldiers. In this raid, Shaistakhan lost his fingers. He suffered great humiliation. He left Pune and shifted his camp to Aurangabad. Due to this episode, he incurred the displeasure of Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb transferred him to the province

of Bengal. The successful attack on Shaistakhan had an impact on the people and their faith in the capability of Maharaj was strengthened even further.



Can you tell?

If you want to visit the city of Surat, what route will you take? Show it with the help of a map.

- Visualise how Shivaji Maharaj must have reached Surat.

The Surat Campaign : In three years' time, Shaistakhan had ravaged large territories of the *Swaraj*. It was necessary to make good this loss. For this, Shivaji Maharaj devised a plan for teaching the Mughals a lesson. Surat was a big trade centre and port under Mughal control. The British, Dutch and French had their factories there. Maximum revenue was being generated by this city for the Emperor. It was a rich city. Maharaj marched on Surat. Inayat Khan, the *Subhedar* of Surat could not put up any resistance. Maharaj obtained plenty of wealth from Surat without bothering the common people. His campaign of Surat was completely successful. This campaign was a stunning blow to Emperor Aurangzeb's prestige.

Jaisingh's Invasion : With a view to curbing the increasing activities of Shivaji Maharaj, Aurangzeb sent Mirzaraja Jaisingh, an experienced and powerful Rajput *Sardar*. Jaisingh came to Pune. He started rallying all the forces against Shivaji Maharaj. To the Portuguese of Goa and Vasai, the Dutch of Vengurla, the British of Surat and the Siddis of

Janjira, Jaisingh suggested that they should start a naval campaign against Maharaj.

Jaisingh drew up a plan of capturing the forts in possession of Maharaj. Mughal forces were sent to various parts of the *Swaraj*. They ravaged the territories of the *Swaraj*. Maharaj endeavoured to resist the Mughals. Jaisingh and Dilerkhan laid siege to the fort of Purandar. When the Mughals put the fort of Purandar under siege, Murarbaji Deshpande fought with the greatest of courage. He died a hero's death. Considering the seriousness of the situation, Maharaj began talks for a treaty with Jaisingh. He met Jaisingh personally. A treaty between Jaisingh and Maharaj was signed in June 1665. It is known as the 'Treaty of Purandar'. In accordance with the terms of the treaty, Maharaj gave to the Mughals, twenty-three of his forts and the adjoining territories yielding an annual revenue of four lakh *hons*. He also assured the Mughals of help against the Adilshahi. The Treaty was ratified by Aurangzeb.



Gather information.

Find out how Shivaji Maharaj escaped from his house arrest at Agra.

Agra visit and escape : After the Treaty of Purandar, Jaisingh launched a campaign against the Adilshahi. Maharaj helped Jaisingh but this campaign of Jaisingh was not successful. Jaisingh and Aurangzeb felt that Shivaji Maharaj ought to be kept away, at least for some time, from the Deccan politics. Jaisingh proposed to Shivaji Maharaj that he should visit Agra and meet the Emperor. He guaranteed the safety of Shivaji Maharaj. Shivaji Maharaj set out for Agra. He was accompanied by Prince Sambhaji and a

few of his trusted people who were ready to risk their lives for him.

Shivaji Maharaj reached Agra. Aurangzeb did not treat him with due honour at his court. Maharaj gave vent to his rage. The Emperor then put him under house arrest. Undeterred by this action of the Emperor, Maharaj devised a plan of escaping from this house arrest. He adroitly escaped from Agra and reached Maharashtra safely after a few days. He reached Rajgad. While returning from Agra, he had left Sambhaji Raje at Mathura. Later, Prince Sambhaji was brought safely to Rajgad. While Maharaj was away from *Swaraj*, Veermata Jijabai and the associates of Shivaji Maharaj looked after the administration of *Swaraj*.

On the offensive against Mughals :

Immediately after returning from Agra, Maharaj did not want any conflict with the Mughals. However, he wanted to recapture the forts and territories given to the Mughals as per the Purandar treaty. For this, he prepared a comprehensive and bold plan. It was his strategy to capture the forts by sending a well-equipped army on the one hand, and on the other hand, to keep the Mughals unstable by invading the territories of the Deccan under their control. Maharaj attacked the Mughal territories of Ahmadnagar and Junnar. Then, he recaptured several forts such as Sinhgad, Purandar, Lohagad, Mahuli, Karnala, and Rohida, one after the other. Then Maharaj attacked Surat for a second time. While returning from Surat, he fought a great battle with the Mughals at Vani-Dindori in Nashik district. Maharaj defeated the Mughal *Sardar* Daudkhan in the great battle. After that, Moropant Pingale captured Triambakgad near Nashik.



Thus Shivaji Maharaj was successful in the offensive that he had launched against the Mughals. *Sardars* such as Tanaji Malusare, Moropant Pingale, Prataprao Gujar etc. made a valuable contribution in these offensives. Krishnaji Anant Sabhasad, a contemporary chronicler, thus describes this campaign : ‘(He) took as many as twenty-seven forts in four months and earned a great reputation for himself’.

Maharaj ascended the throne of *Swaraj*. He now became the Chhatrapati of the *Swaraj*. As a symbol of sovereignty, the Rajyabhisheka *shaka* (the coronation era) was started. Maharaj became the founder of a new era. On the occasion of the coronation, special coins were minted – a gold coin called *Hon* and a copper coin called *Shivrai* with the legend ‘Shri Raja Shivachhatrapati’ inscribed on them. Thereafter, all royal correspondence



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Coronation : The founding of the Maratha *Swaraj* involved a relentless struggle for over thirty years. Maharaj realised that now it was necessary for the *Swaraj* to win general recognition as a sovereign independent State. For this, a formal coronation was necessary. On 6 June 1674, he had himself coronated at Raigad by Gagabhatt, a learned Pandit.

(*Rajpatra*) carried the words, ‘Kshatriyakulaavantansa Shri Raja Shivachhatrapati’. A dictionary showing Sanskrit alternatives for Persian words was prepared. It is known as *Rajya-vyavahara-kosha*.



Fort Raigad



Do you remember?

Which Indian King started a new calendar?



Remember this—

Some equivalent words in the Rajya-vyavahara-kosha are worth mentioning. For example,

उदा., किताब - पदवी, फर्मान - राजपत्र,
जामीन - प्रतिभूती, हाली - सांप्रत,
माजी - पूर्व, फिलहाल - तत्काळ,
वाहवा - उत्तम,
वकूब - प्रज्ञा, बेवकूफ - मूढ,
दस्तपोशी - हस्तस्पर्श,
मुलाखत - दर्शन, कदमपोशी - पादस्पर्श,
झूट - मिथ्या, कौलनामा - अभय,
फतेह - विजय, फिर्याद - अन्यायवार्ता,
शिलेदार - स्वतूरगी.

The coronation of Shivaji Maharaj was a revolutionary event in the history of Medieval India. While explaining the importance of this event, Sabhasad (a contemporary chronicler) writes, 'It was no mean achievement for a Maratha King to become such a great Chhatrapati.'

Shortly after this, on 24 September 1674 Shivaji Maharaj had his second coronation performed under the guidance of Nischalpuri Gosavi. There were two traditions of religious ceremonies in India – Vedic and Tantric. Maharaj honoured both the traditions and had two coronation ceremonies performed.



Do you know?

Prince Sambhaji Raje was 17 years old at the time of the coronation of Shivaji Maharaj. He has described the coronation ceremony in the treatise 'Budhabhushanam'. It is based on his own experience.

Without measuring or counting, plenty of money, clothes, elephants, horses were donated to the great scholars who had come to attend the coronation ceremony from different regions.

Thus, Shivaji Maharaj spread his fame in different directions.



Do you know?

An extremely valuable and grand throne was made for the coronation of Shivaji Maharaj. There were eight bejewelled pillars on eight sides of the throne. This throne made of thirty-two 'mann' of gold had been studded with precious jewels.

- Learn about the unit 'mann' from your teacher.

The Campaign of the South : Three years after the coronation, in October 1677, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj undertook a campaign of the South. He went to Golconda. There he called on the Qutubshah. He entered into a treaty of

friendship with him. Later, Maharaj won Bengaluru, Hoskote in Karnataka, Jinji Vellore, etc. forts in today's Tamil Nadu and some other territories of Adilshah. He appointed Raghunath Narayan Hanamante the chief administrator to look after these conquered territories.

Vyankoji, the half-brother of Shivaji Maharaj, was then ruling at Tanjavur. Shivaji Maharaj tried to get him to participate in the activities of the *Swaraj*. After Vyankoji Raje, the rulers of Tanjavur encouraged art and learning. The Saraswati Mahal library there is world famous.

In this campaign of the South, Maharaj had annexed the fort of Jinji in Tamil Nadu to his *Swaraj*. This proved to be of great importance in later years. When the Mughal Emperor stayed put in Maharashtra to destroy *Swaraj*, the then Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj had to leave Maharashtra for reasons of safety. At that time, he took shelter in this southern fort of Jinji and ran the

administration of *Swaraj* from there.

Soon after the victorious campaign of the south, Shivaji Maharaj passed away on Raigad on 3 April 1680. His death at the age of fifty was a great loss for *Swaraj*. A great era came to an end.



The Samadhi of Shivaji Maharaj – Raigad



Exercise

1. Arrange in chronological order.

- (1) Southern campaign of Shivaji Maharaj
- (2) Raid on Lal Mahal
- (3) Escape from Agra
- (4) Coronation
- (5) Treaty of Purandar
- (6) Shaistakhan's invasion

2. Find the names from the chapter.

- (1) A dictionary containing Sanskrit words –
- (2) He won Trimbakgad –
- (3) This *Sardar* was defeated at Vani-Dindori –
- (4) A place where the British Dutch and French had their factories –

3. Write about these in your own words.

- (1) The Coronation of Shivaji Maharaj
- (2) Escape from Agra

- (3) Shivaji Maharaj's campaign of the South
- (4) Shivaji Maharaj's preparation for the coronation

4. Give reasons.

- (1) Shivaji Maharaj entered into the Treaty of Purandar.
- (2) Shivaji Maharaj took an aggressive stand against the Mughals.

Activities

- (1) How do you prepare for the special programmes on Independence Day/ Republic Day? Make a list with help of your teacher.
- (2) Visit a historical place in your neighbourhood and write a report on your visit.

