
CHAPTER-I: THE FORMATION OF SANGLI STATE— BACKGROUND OF
THE FORMATION, NEED, SIZE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Sangli, the present headquarters of the Sangli district in the Maharashtra State of India was the capital city of the Sangli State in pre-independent India. The geographical set up of the Sangli State could be described as follows:

1. Area: The Sangli State was divided into six Talukas which were widely scattered, extending from the Bhima river in the North to the Tungbhadra river in the South. Out of the six Talukas the first included the villages near the valley of Krishna; the second group in the Kolhapur territory on the West and Jamkhindi State; the third group in Solapur district, near the junction of Man and Bhima rivers, the fourth in the Dharwar District; the fifth just North of the town of Belgaum; and the last to the South of the river Malaprabha and to the North-East of Kittur in Belgaum District.¹ The accompanying map will clearly show the scattered nature and size of the State. The total area of the State was about 1,112 square miles,² and for the administrative purpose, the state was divided as stated above into six Talukas. The following statement gives details of total area as well as total number of villages in each Taluka.²

	<u>Taluka</u>	<u>Area in Sq. miles</u>	<u>Villages</u>
a)	<u>Mangalwedha</u>	223.05	32
b)	<u>Kuchi</u>	218.77	30
c)	<u>Miraj Prant</u>	148.78	35
d)	<u>Terdal</u>	78.63	17
e)	<u>Shahapur</u>	132.33	57
f)	<u>Shirhatti</u>	<u>310.06</u>	<u>73</u>
	Total:	<u>1,111.64</u>	<u>244</u>

The details of locations of the Talukas were as follows:⁴

a) Mangalwedha: The Taluka Mangalwedha comprised five detached portions to the South of the Bhima river and was at a distance of some 80 miles from Sangli.

b) Kuchi: Kuchi Taluka was split up into six isolated portions between Sangli and Mangalwedha and about 25 miles distance from the former.

c) Miraj Prant: Miraj Prant was in the Krishna valley and was formed out of 11 isolated portions, the nearest of which was only about four miles from Sangli, while the farthest portion 35 miles away.

d) Terdal Taluka: Terdal Taluka was about 40 miles South-east of Sangli and split up into some 7 detached portions.

e) Shahapur Taluka: Further South about 80 miles from Sangli came Shahapur Taluka, which was in the centre of the Belgaum District, its chief town being only one mile away from Belgaum city. It was divided into two main blocks with whom isolated villages, one of which, Dodwad, was 40 miles from the main block of the Taluka.

f) Shirhatti Taluka: South-east of Shahapur came Shirhatti Taluka, which was at a distance of some 150 miles as the crow flies from Sangli. It was the only Taluka in the State within its own ring-fence.

In this way the state was scattered and hence added enormously to the difficulties and expenses of administration.

Nature: The general aspect of the four northern Talukas was monotonous in the extreme, the scenery being typical of Deccan Plateau, treeless and flat. Shahapur was rough and wooded and the aspect more picturesque than in any other taluka. In Shirhatti monotony was again the prevailing note, broken on the north-east border of the taluka by ragged, treeless hills.⁵

Water Supply: The water supply was that way sufficient as needs were also limited and the water was close to the surface in Mangalwedha, Kuchi and Shahapur. It was fairly good in Miraj Prant and Terdal but was very deficient in the black soil

portion of Shirhatti.⁶

Climate: The climate though hot, was not unhealthy. The hottest subdivision was Mangalwedha. Next in order of heat came Miraj Prant, Terdal, Kuchi, Shirhatti and Shahapur. In the rainy season the climate was everywhere pleasant, except perhaps in Shahapur, where the rain fall was heavy and constant. In the cold season the air was dry and the night cool. The rainfall was heavy in Shahapur. In other parts it was moderate.⁷

State Capital: Sangli was the capital and the chief town of the state, situated in lat. 16° 51' 35" N., and long. 74° 36' 20" E., on the bank of river Krishna, a little north of the confluence of the Warna and north-east of Kolhapur.⁸

Origin of the Sangli Rulers

This state of Sangli, although was a small one in comparison to other princely States in India, had its own glories and agonies. The rulers of this State were the famous Patwardhans who had occupied very prominent positions under the Peshwas. And what meritorious services that they rendered to Peshwas and what capabilities they exhibited in the art of War and administration secured them high rank of Saranjam under the Peshwas.

During the Wars that the Peshwa laid against the Nizam at Tandulja, Dharamaji Gaikwad at Satara and against the Nawab of Savanur and against Hyder Ali of Karnataka, the Patwardhans displayed rare courage and resourcefulness in the eventful reign of Balaji Bajirao and his son Peshwa Madhavrao-I. Govind Hari Patwardhan, the founder of Patwardhan Saranjam and his son Gopalrao rose to high eminence as military lords. During all these days, the Peshwas bestowed upon them, the grants of Mangalwedha, Miraj, Dodwad and other places. At the time of dispute between Peshwa Madhavrao-I and his uncle Raghunathrao, the state of affairs in Poona Darbar were far from satisfactory. The quarrels between young Peshwa Madhavrao-I and his ambitious uncle Raghunathrao disturbed the peace of Maharashtra for some time. As a Peshwa, Madhavrao-I, had very critical times while fighting against his uncle and it was during all those critical times, Govind Hari Patwardhan remained very much faithful and loyal to the young Peshwa Madhavrao-I. Naturally after acquiring full confidence in dealing with the State powers and after seeking consolidation of them, Peshwa Madhavrao-I, granted to Govind Hari and other Patwardhans a military Saranjam of Rs. 25,41,900 for the expenses of their cavalry in 1764 A.D.⁹

The details of the distribution of that Saranjam were as follows¹⁰ :-

4,600 Sowars to Govind Hari

2,400 Sowars to Parasharam Ramchandra

1,000 Sowars to Nilkantha Trimbak

The order of the grant of the Saranjam was issued in the name of Govind Hari as he was the head of the Patwardhan family. The other two Patwardhans who received the Saranjam were his nephews, namely Parashuram Ramchandra and Nilakanth Trimbak and all of them were living together as the members of joint family under the Hindus. With the help of his nephews, Govind Hari Patwardhan, the head of the Patwardhan family established the capital of his Jagir at Miraj and thence Miraj became known as the Saranjam or Jagir of Patwardhans. This Jagir of Miraj included the land of Miraj, Mangalwedha, Dodwad and other places. Then this Patwardhan family of Miraj was further divided into two families as Patwardhan of Miraj and Patwardhan of Sangli. The other two Patwardhans, namely, Parashuram Ramchandra and Nilkanth Trimbak, were also granted separate and independent Saranjams. As a result, they also established the places of their capitals independently respectively at Tasgaon and Kurundwad. However as all the Patwardhans were originated in one family, the brief account of their family history needs an attention and it runs as follows:-

Family History of Patwardhans

The founder of Patwardhan family was Harbhat the son

of Balambhat, a resident of Kotawade, a small village in Ratnagiri District.¹¹ He was born in 1655 A.D.¹² and spent his boyhood at his village in the study of Vedas. His family was poor and stricken with poverty. Harbhat left his native place and went to Ganapati Pule¹³ a famous shrine near Chiplun, to perform devote austerities in order to invoke the blessing of God Ganapati. It is said that twelve years later he obtained the fruit of his devotional austerities. Then he married the daughter of Shendye-Shastri of Pule.¹⁴ This Harbhat had seven sons and one daughter. The names of his seven sons in accordance with their chronological seniority were as¹⁵ Krishnabhat, Balambhat, Trimbakbhat, Govindbhat, Mahadeobhat, Ramchandrabhat, Bhaskarbhat.

Although Harbhat was deservedly reputed for piety and saintliness, his problem of earning bread to his large family was not solved. So to seek his fortune or at least to get enough of bread for his large family he left Kotawade and crossed the Ghats as so many in the Konkan had done it before him. This event had taken place some time between 1695 A.D. and 1700 A.D.¹⁶ And while wandering in search of shelter and food, he came into contact with Naro Mahadeo Joshi, a resident of the Kapashi of Ghorpades and who was also a protage of the Ghorpades of Kapashi. This place of Kapashi stood to the south of Kolhapur and was a seat of Santaji

Ghorpade, a Maratha General in the War of Liberation against Aurangzeb.¹⁷ Naro Mahadeo Joshi, who gave shelter and food to Harbhat Patwardhan, was a Brahmin, who in his later career founded the Ichalkaranji Jagir.¹⁸ This Naro Mahadeo took Harbhat Patwardhan to Ichalkaranji, the capital town of his Jagir and appointed him his family priest i.e., Kulopadhya in the year 1709-10 A.D.¹⁹

At the marriage ceremony of Venkatrao, the son of Naro Mahadev with Anubai, the daughter of Balaji Vishwanath, the first Peshwa, Harbhat got an opportunity to exhibit his skill and intelligence as the Kulopadhya of Ghorpades of Ichalkaranji. Here in that marriage at Satara in 1713 A.D.²⁰ Balaji Vishwanath was very much influenced by the skill and cleverness of Harbhat as the priest of marriage ceremony. The performance of Harbhat as the family priest drew the attention of Balaji Vishwanath and from that time, the Patwardhan family came into close contact with the Peshwas.²¹ Afterwards the Peshwa took him to Poona, then after some years he died in 1750 A.D. at Poona.²² After his death, his fourth son Govind Hari rose to eminence and in the memory of his beloved father founded a village after the name of Harbhat as 'Haripur' near Sangli on the banks of river Krishna in 1768 A.D.²³

Govind Hari - The Founder

The contacts of Harbhat Buva Patwardhan with Balaji

Vishwanath, the first Peshwa helped Harbhat to overcome his family problems and difficulties. While at Ichalkaranji he had four sons out of his seven sons and the four sons who accompanied him to Ichalkaranji were having either no jobs or jobs of less reputation. But the growing contacts between Harbhat and Balaji Vishwanath influenced the Maratha nobles under the Peshwas as well as in other feudatory states of the Marathas. In the meanwhile Harbhat secured an appointment of his fourth son Govind Hari in the service of Peshwa as Khasagi Karkun in 1719 A.D.²⁴ and subsequently as it was stated by D.B. Parasnis, he was appointed as the accountant,²⁵ Phadanis, of Indroji Kadam, a renowned Shiledar or cavalry Officer under Bajirao-I.²⁶

Under the service of Indroji Kadam, Govindrao proved to be an able and very competent Officer. This brought him favour from Peshwa Balaji Bajirao and got promoted and appointed after the death of Indroji Kadam as the Incharge Officer of the Indroji Kadam's contingent in 1741 A.D.²⁷ Then after seeking his position strong and stable, Govind Hari called his elder brother Trimbakrao and younger brother Ramchandrarao to Poona to serve the Peshwa. However his younger brother Ramchandra joined immediately but Trimbakrao remained to continue his service under the Chief of Akkalkot and sent his son Nilkanthrao to Poona.²⁸

Govind Hari was a soldier of high rank and had proved his mettle in many expeditions under Balaji Bajraoⁱ. Govindrao's son Gopalrao also served the Peshwa along with his father and proved his valour in the battles against the Nawab of Savanur in 1759 A.D.²⁹ The battle against the Nawab of Savanur was a great victory to Peshwa as in that battle, half of the Jagir was surrendered by the Nawab to the Peshwa. Later on, out of that Jagir the Peshwa gave a part of it to his two able lieutenants i.e., the Rastes and the Patwardhans. In addition to that Jagir of the regions of Savanur Nawab, the Patwardhans received directly from Nawab a grant in Inam of the Fort of Dodwad. Thus the Patwardhans acquired a large estate as an Inam that comprised a part of it granted by the Peshwa and the rest secured from the Nawab of Savanur.³⁰

In the earlier times, that led to the battle of Panipat in 1761 A.D., Govind Hari came to prominence for his individual acts of bravery and military excellence. Besides, he became famous on account of the great military deeds of his son Gopalrao. Gopalrao was appointed by the Peshwa at the command of the Peshwa forces, who captured the Fort of Mangalwedha and in 1755 A.D. Further Gopalrao played a very important role in the capture of Ahemadabad also. Naturally he was honoured by the Peshwa conferring upon him the traditional honour of the Choughada or native drum in the same year.³¹ Thereafter the

brave soldier Gopalrao was appointed to lead campaigns against Hyder Ali of Mysore and the Nizam of the Deccan and was raised to the command of 5,000 horses with personal tainat of 40,000.³² It was for these services that the father and son rendered to the Peshwas, the fort of Miraj along with his Saranjam were bestowed upon Govind Hari for the expenses of the army that they maintained on behalf of the Peshwa during the preceding years.

After the death of Balaji Bajirao, his second son Madhavrao-I, came to power as his elder brother Vishwasrao was killed in the battle of Panipat in 1761 A.D. Madhavrao was young and just 16 years old. The administration and the politics in the court of Peshwas were not known to him. Being the second son of Nanasaheb he had no opportunity according to the law of primogeniture to come to the power, and secondly no training essential to be a ruler was given to him as it was never expected of the death of Vishwasrao his eldest brother. In the meanwhile after the death of Nanasaheb, the father of Madhavrao, his ambitious uncle Raghunathrao planned to capture the Peshwaship. In fact, after the death of Nanasaheb a cold war took place between Madhavrao and his uncle Raghunathrao for power. In those critical days Govindrao and his son Gopalrao and all other members of the Patwardhan family of Harbhat, supported the cause of Madhavrao. They also

joined the party of Madhavrao against Raghunathrao and whenever necessary fought openly against Raghunathrao. In this war of succession, Madhavrao succeeded on the support of Patwardhans and many other Maratha Sardars. Then as a token of their fidelity and meritorious services, Madhavrao I restored to the Patwardhans in 1764 A.D. their old Jagir of Miraj, which was earlier lost by them in the turmoil between Peshwa Madhavrao and his uncle Raghunathrao.

This Miraj Jagir of an annual Saranjam territory yielding to Rs. 25,41,900 income also added by a territory with a revenue of $\frac{1}{2}$ lakh Rs., as a personal Tainat of Govind Hari. This territory lay mostly to the south of Miraj between Krishna and Tungabhadra. Govind Hari, the founder of Miraj Saranjam made Miraj his capital city and ruled his Saranjam from Miraj. His eldest son Gopalrao was a brave soldier and in the battle of Halasingi against Hyder Ali, proved a very eminent soldier and commander. However during the course of operations of the War against Hyder Ali, he fell ill and returned to Miraj and died on the next day i.e., on 17th January, 1771 A.D.³³ The premature death of Gopalrao, gave a great shock to Govindrao Patwardhan in his old age and as he could not tolerate the great shock of his son's death, he died on 21st November, 1771 A.D.,³⁴ at Miraj.

Wamanrao Patwardhan

After the death of Govind Hari Patwardhan, the founder of Miraj Saranjam, the right of succession to Miraj Saranjam was of Gopalrao Patwardhan, the eldest son of Govindrao. But as Gopalrao died during the life time of his father, the right to succession to the Miraj Saranjam of Govindrao, went to Wamanrao, the second son of Govindrao. Govindrao had in all four sons, namely - Gopalrao, Wamanrao, Pandurangrao and Gangadharrao. Gopalrao was the eldest and then the other three came one after another respectively. As a result after the death of Gopalrao, Wamanrao was privileged to the honour and post of Miraj Saranjam and his two younger brothers, Pandurangrao and Gangadharrao had to remain satisfied in supporting their brother Wamanrao. In case of Wamanrao, it was said that he 'inherited'³⁵ his father's military talent and was capable in regard to military duties under the peshwas. Peshwa Madhavrao-I, therefore, bestowed upon him his father's Saranjam of Miraj with the dress of honour in 1772 A.D.³⁶ Wamanrao even before succeeding to the Jagir of Miraj had made his mark in the battle of Motitalao by exhibiting remarkable courage and dash in inflicting a crushing defeat on Hyder Ali. But unfortunately he lived for very short time and died on October 2, 1775 A.D.,³⁷ at Warangaon, on the banks of Tapi river in the Khanadesh.

Pandurangrao Patwardhan

Wamanrao Patwardhan, the second chief of Miraj Saranjam died without a son and successor to his Miraj Saranjam. Naturally, according to law of Primogeniture, Pandurangrao, the younger brother of Wamanrao and the third son of Govindrao succeeded to the Miraj Saranjam, and received the dress of honour from Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao in 1776 A.D.³⁸ The days in which Pandurangrao succeeded to Miraj Saranjam were clouded with the War against Hyder Ali. Soon after coming to power he was sent to check the advances of the army of Hyder Ali towards Maharashtra. Hyder Ali intended to take possession of whole of Maharashtra, south of the Krishna river. Before advancing towards the regions south of the Krishna he had occupied the whole of the Peshwa's districts south of the Tungabhadra. Even he got Bellary and Gottiy and reached to the gates of Savanur. In such a tense atmosphere Pandurangrao and his cousin Konherrao were selected by the Peshwa's ministers to repulse and punish Hyder Ali. They undertook this military expedition with great eagerness and vigour and proceeded with their forces to put down the powerful enemy. But at the end, in the battle of Sawashi in January, 1777 A.D., they were defeated by Hyder's general Mahammad Ali.³⁹ Konherrao Patwardhan of Kurundwad branch was killed in the battle and Pandurangrao was taken as prisoner at Seringpatam, the capital of Hyder Ali. During his

imprisonment, the treatment meted out to Pandurangrao was far from being honourable and humane, that he did not survive long to bear the insults and dishonour of prison life and he died on the 4th November 1777 A.D.⁴⁰ Before death he had left behind three sons namely - Hariharrao, Chintamanrao and Vithalrao.

Hariharrao Patwardhan

Pandurangrao's death brought to the forefront the question of succession to the Patwardhan Saranjam of Miraj. In this situation Gangadharrao, the youngest and fourth surviving son of Govind Hari and younger brother of Pandurangrao wished to succeed the Saranjam. But there were problems, because there was no provision under Hindu traditions to provide a seat to Gangadharrao. After the death of Govindrao, his eldest son Gopalrao was to succeed, but Gopalrao died without an heir in the life time of his father, and Wamanrao, the second son of Govindrao succeeded. But he too died without an heir. As a result Pandurangrao, the third son of Govindrao succeeded and this Pandurangrao had three sons. As a rule it came that Pandurangrao, the third son of Govindrao was the lawful heir and successor and on account of that the right of succession to the Miraj Saranjam went to his eldest son Hariharrao. In spite of the fact that Gangadharrao had no claim on the Miraj

Saranjam, he tried in vain to get the favour and support of his cousin Parashuram Bhau, the Patwardhan of Tasgaon and who had a high position as a Chieftain in the Court of Peshwa. Parashuram Bhau, however, instead of giving support to Gangadharrao for succession, supported the right horse i.e., Hariharrao, the eldest son of Pandurangrao. Naturally, Hariharrao was invested with Saranjam of Miraj and was presented with the dress of honour by Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao in the Fort of Purandar on 1st October 1778 A.D.⁴¹ Hariharrao was well versed in the military art and accompanied Parashuram Bhau in many battles and specially in the battle of Borghat against the British in January 1781 A.D.⁴² He was a promising chieftain and a soldier of merit but his promising career was unfortunately cut short by his early death in 1782 A.D., without an heir.⁴³

Chintamanrao Appasaheb Patwardhan - The Founder of Sangli State

As Hariharrao the Saranjamdar of Miraj died without an heir, the problem of succession again got hold of the situation in Miraj. Gangadharrao, the youngest son of Govindrao and the uncle of Hariharrao, once more made an attempt to succeed to the seat of Miraj Saranjam. His rival was Chintamanrao, the younger brother of Hariharrao and the second son of Pandurangrao i.e., the nephew of Gangadharrao. This Chintamanrao

was just 8 years old and his right of succession was supported by Parashuram Bhau, the same Patwardhan of Tasgaon who did not support the stand of Gangadharrao when Hariharrao succeeded to Miraj Saranjam. Naturally, Chintamanrao at his early young days, when he was just 8 years old, became the Saranjam of Miraj and Parashuram Bhau helped him a lot. This Chintamanrao came to be known as the founder of the Sangli State, and ruled the same as the first Chief of Sangli from A.D. 1783 to 1851.

Formation of Sangli State

Family dissensions: After the death of Pandurangrao in 1777 A.D., his younger brother Gangadharrao wished to succeed the Miraj Saranjam in vain. But instead of him, Hariharrao, the eldest son of Pandurangrao was succeeded and after his death without an heir in 1782 A.D., his younger brother Chintamanrao succeeded to Saranjam. In this way as earlier told Gangadharrao lost the opportunity of succession. This resulted in the family dissensions of the patwardhans.⁴⁴

The real cause of the family dissension among the Patwardhans of Miraj was the disunity and disharmony of purpose among the Patwardhans. So long the Hindu tradition of succession to father's estate was prevailed and so long there was rightful claimant as a successor to father's estate, there was no problem of dissension among the Patwardhans.

However after the death of his two brothers Wamanrao and Pandurangrao, Gangadharrao might have wished to succeed to the seat of Miraj as he was the survived son of Govindrao, the founder of Miraj seat. He, therefore, tried his best to establish his claim on the seat of Miraj but as his case was not supported by Parashuram Bhau, as had been described earlier, he could not succeed. But if there would have been support from Parashuram Bhau, there was possibility of establishing claim of Gangadharrao on the seat of Miraj. This kind of atmosphere and a hope of him to regain support of Parashuram Bhau, after the death of Hariharrao, made Gangadharrao to seek support of Parashuram Bhau for securing the seat of Miraj. That time again, Parashuram Bhau did not support Gangadharrao. Naturally the case of Chintamanrao Appasaheb, the second son of Pandurangrao and younger brother of Hariharrao, became strong. And he was invested with the powers of the Miraj Saranjam in 1783 A.D.⁴⁵ However it seems that the case of the claim of Gangadharrao was not that weak on the ground that in comparison to the case of Chintamanrao, his second nephew. His own case was strong on the ground that Chintamanrao was not the son of the eldest male member of the rulers of Miraj Saranjam. Secondly, it seems that he had some kind of support from some influential corners. And it might be, because of that, instead of accepting his claim on the Miraj Saranjam, he might have

appointed as a regent and guide to Chintamanrao. This shows that the court of Peshwas was also not firm to reject the claim of Gangadharrao. And it has tried to bring compromise between the uncle and the nephew and appointed the minor as the Chief of Miraj and his uncle Gangadharrao as his regent or defacto ruler. Gangadharrao accepted this position but his ambition to become the chief of Miraj was uncompromising. This was to result then to create trouble and ill will against the minor chieftain and his supporters.

Then a number of incidents which caused trouble to relations between Chintamanrao and Gangadharrao took place after 1789 A.D., and some of them could be mentioned in brief as follows:

- 1) In 1789 A.D., Chintamanrao accompanied Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao to Nashik along with two priests i.e., Govindbhat and his brother Sadashivbhat against the will of Gangadharrao. After their return from Nashik, Gangadharrao removed the above named two bhats from their services,⁴⁶ against the desire of Chintamanrao.
- 2) Generally Hindus offer prayers or perform Yadnyas to God for seeking recovery from illness of a dear one or to get a boon. Then, in the illness of Chintamanrao to get his recovery from illness, his mother Baisaheb,

after consulting the Majumdar got performed "Shatchandi Yoga" in 1793 A.D., at Miraj without making it known to Gangadharrao. Gangadharrao, after knowing it, felt the act as an insult of him and evil deed to injure him. He, therefore, to revenge the concerned people imprisoned the Majumdar, on the side of Baisaheb. Due to this unwanted episode Chintamanrao decided to leave Miraj.⁴⁷

- 3) The relations between Gangadharrao and Chintamanrao were also strained because Gangadharrao did not make any arrangement for the expenditure of Chintamanrao's mother and younger brother while they were staying at Poona. Similarly when Chintamanrao's wife Yashodabai who was ill after delivering a son and who was to be sent to Poona for medical treatment Gangadharrao did not agree to send servants to accompany her and also did not manage to provide for her expenditure. Under those circumstances she died at Poona in 1799 A.D.⁴⁸ This had then, naturally created more tension between Chintamanrao and Gangadharrao.
- 4) Gangadharrao ill-treated the persons those who sided the cause of Chintamanrao. One of the illustrious examples was that of Juiba Anna Joshi who was imprisoned by the suggestion of Gangadharrao in 1797 A.D., at Poona.⁴⁹
- 5) In 1798 A.D., Chintamanrao accompanied Parashuram Bhau

in the campaign of Karnataka. During the course of operations, Chintamanrao demanded money from Gangadharrao who was at Miraj for his expenses, but Gangadharrao did not send him money. Chintamanrao was badly in need of money and to procure money he made efforts through his Kamavisdars in Karnataka Mahal. Even then Gangadharrao prevented those Kamavisdars from giving him money.⁵⁰

- 6) Gangadharrao was very prudent, and had maintained cordial relations with Nana Phadnis and Parashuram Bhau, with a hope that if there arose the problem of family dissension, they should keep Chintamanrao under their pressure and vest responsibility of Saranjam in him as before. But when the time came to do so, they — Nana Phadnis and Parashuram Bhau — could not ride the wrong horse of Gangadharrao.⁵¹

Chintamanrao Appasaheb because of such a feud between him and Gangadharrao used to stay many times with Parashuram Bhau at Tasgaon and used to tell his grievances whenever opportunities permitted him. Parashuram Bhau, although was a busy man, gave attention towards family feud of Miraj. He found that it was impossible for Gangadharrao and Chintamanrao to remain together. So Parashuram Bhau as well as his son Ramchandra Appa sent letters to Gangadharrao about the settlement

of the feud. The latter personally met him and suggested for division of Saranjam between the uncle and the nephew.

Gangadharrao apparently showed his readiness but practically tried to delay everything. The result was that the matter of division of Saranjam remained unsettled till the time of September 1799 A.D.⁵²

Aggressive Policy of Chintamanrao Appasaheb

In the year 1798 A.D., Parashuram Bhau with his two sons undertook a campaign against two wives of Mahadaji Scindia and the Karnatak territory of Kolhapur Chhatrapati as they were ravaging the lands in the region of Peshwa.⁵³ In order to check them, Parashuram Bhau established his military posts in the parts of Savanur, Gokak and encamped with his army at Yalbarga. Here in this encounter against the Scindia and Kolhapur Chhatrapati, Parashuram Bhau proved to be successful, but fell seriously ill, although he was recovered after some days. During all that stay of 10 months in 1798 A.D., Chintamanrao was all the while with Parashuram Bhau.

In June 1799 A.D., while in the company of Parashuram Bhau at Yalbarga, Chintamanrao requested the Bhau to consider his claim on the Saranjam of Miraj, so also the claim of his uncle Gangadharrao in the Miraj Saranjam, immediately. The urgency that Chintamanrao showed to Parashuram Bhau for the

division of the Miraj Saranjam between him and his uncle, made Parashuram Bhau to write to Gangadharrao about the plan of partition of the Miraj. But as usual Gangadharrao tried to delay the accomplishment.⁵⁴

In such a condition, Parashuram Bhau, found himself in a desperate situation and could not control Chintamanrao. Chintamanrao too could not find any alternative, but to have partition of the Miraj Saranjam. Then Chintamanrao told Parashuram Bhau the plan of partition as follows⁵⁵:-

"Miraj Saranjam territory which yielded Rs. 12 lakhs annually for the maintenance of 4,000 Swars which was continued from Peshwa Government, from which I may be given 9 lakhs for the maintenance of 3,000 Swars, along with Miraj Prant, Sangli and other Saranjam territory. Gangadharrao should transfer to me Miraj Fort or give me Rs. 1 lakh to build a new fort". While putting this plan Chintamanrao warned that, his uncle Gangadharrao should accept this plan within a stipulated time, otherwise he would choose his own way.⁵⁶

Chintamanrao waited for stipulated time given by him and eventually on 11th July 1799 A.D., he established his separate military camp independent of Parashuram Bhau.⁵⁷ He also collected near about 500 cavalry and 300 to 350 infantry.⁵⁸ Although the matter went up to this stage, Chintamanrao waited for 15 days

on Parashuram Bhau's promise. But as there was no possibility of compromise, he marched with his forces towards Terdal and captured it. Then he also conquered Mangalvedha⁵⁹ from Gangadharrao. And from this incident the gulf between Chintamanrao and Gangadharrao widened to have no compromise between them.

In order to avoid the serious consequences of the family feud between Chintamanrao and Gangadharrao, Parashuram Bhau took initiative to divide the Miraj Saranjam between them. But due to the cunning policy of Gangadharrao, no effective measures were taken to divide the Saranjam at earliest.⁶⁰

Division of Patwardhan Saranjam of Miraj

Parashuram Bhau died in the Kolhapur campaign on 4th Sept. 1799 A.D.⁶¹ and could not be able to partition the Miraj Saranjam. But after his death both parties were ready for the division of Saranjam as he directed. Ramchandra Appa, son of Parashuram Bhau and Raghunathrao Kurundwadkar played very prominent roles in negotiating both the parties i.e., Chintamanrao and Gangadharrao. As a result the partition was agreed upon and the main terms and conditions of the partition were settled as follows⁶²:-

- 1) Out of the total number of 4,600 cavalry that was granted

to Govind Hari, the founder of Miraj Saranjam, 2,600 were to be given to Chintamanrao and 2,000 to Gangadharrao. And Saranjam territory was to be divided between them in accordance with the proportion of the horses granted to them.

- 2) Available money, clothes, dues payable and receivable, pots, animals, farms, the Inam villages, horses, Kunabis, Shinde-porage, gold and silver pots were to be divided into two equal parts.
- 3) In addition to this - clothes regarding Pathak, available jewellery, nazarana, dues payable and receivable, Pagas, horses, elephants, camels, thattis, sheep, shegoats, chariots, carts, pharaskhana etc. and such other articles were to be divided into two equal parts and be given and to be taken from each other.

Besides the three of the major conditions as mentioned above there were some other minor conditions also.

In this partition, it was presumed that both of them lived together upto 4th June 1799 A.D., and parted from one another on 6th June 1799 A.D.⁶³ From this onwards, the family of Gangadharrao Balasaheb became known as Mirajkar Patwardhan and that of Chintamanrao Appasaheb as the Sanglikar Patwardhan.⁶⁴

Although both parties thus separated from each other the family feud between them was continued for unabated period.⁶⁵

Resumption of family feuds

After the partition of the Miraj Saranjam between Gangadharrao and Chintamanrao, as the Saranjam of Miraj and the Saranjam of Sangli, for some time there was peace between the two parties. It was mostly because Chintamanrao was a weak one. However he changed his circumstances and captured lands of Miraj Saranjam which included the Mangalvedha, Terdal, Miraj Prant, Lakshmeshwar, Hubli etc.⁶⁶ Then against the forces of Dhondia Wagh, a daring freebooter⁶⁷ who was released from the jail of Seringapatam after Tipu's death in 1799 A.D., Chintamanrao fought very bravely and proved his mettle as an expert soldier and commander. This brought him honour and prestige in the court of the Peshwa. Naturally because of the growing influence of Chintamanrao, Gangadharrao was forced to implement the terms and conditions of the partition of Miraj Saranjam.⁶⁸

Establishment of Sangli as a Capital of the State

In the meanwhile, Chintamanrao disgusted with the quarrelsome disposition of his uncle Gangadharrao, left his own

palace of Miraj and moved to a rural place called the "Ganapati Mala" a nearby place out of Miraj town.⁶⁹ He lived there for some days, and then made Sangli, an insignificant small village on the bank of the Krishna river his place of stay in 1801 A.D.⁷⁰ Thereafter he started the construction of the Sangli town and the Ganesh Durg i.e., the fort of Sangli. He called traders and artisans to settle down at Sangli and gave them liberal concessions and facilities. The layout plan of the Sangli town prepared by Chintamanrao is yet available and proves advanced ideas of town planning that were practised at Sangli. Thereafter Chintamanrao succeeded in getting his proper share from the Miraj Saranjam, and made Sangli as the Capital town of his state and settled there in the year 1808 A.D.⁷¹

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