

CHAPTER – V

EPILOGUE

Raibag, was centre of trade and commerce, the soil of Raibag is highly fertile, apart from hereditary crops like jawar, cotton, groundnut, sugarcane. After 1980 irrigational schemes is the main crop today.

Apart from domestication of animals like Bullocks and she buffalo's, donkey, horses. Even today the place is famous for wild animals. And from this region His Highness Chatrapati Shahu found this place a place of Sikhar spent three months time every year here. The climate too is characterized by general dryness than moisture's climate at Kolhapur.

From the pre historic period this area is famous for black on red pottery. Right from the early period from Satavahana to Rashtrakuta and Rattas of saundatti made donations to the Jaina temples. Again from Chalukyas of Badami to Chalukyas of Kalyana to the Bahamnis it is connected to deccan history.

Again from Bahmanis period the place is known from this place itself. Raibag grew as a trade centre and this attracted the attention of both Bahmanis and adilshahis to plunder and conquer it and even they made this a administrative centre. From mughal period it was a district place and because of which the area was

conquered by Maratha ruler chatrapati Shivaji and Sambhaji in 1677.

Again from the establishment of Kolhapur house in 1710. this area was included in the administration of Marathas. First of all from the point of agricultural development of this area, and receiving the modern method of cultivation. This area is most lucky because other than neighbouring places of today this place received awareness through Chinchali agricultural fair and definitely that the agriculturists are making use of all the modern techniques. Even today the custom of domestication of Khillari bullocks can be seen all over this area and quality bollocks are brought from not only Karnataka but also from neighbouring state like Maharashtra. According to the local people observation lakhs of animals are brought and sold here on every fair and lakhs of people assemble here for the same fair.

And the most important part of the dissertation is Shahus rule and reforms and its impact on the Raibag area. First of all as like that of Kolhapur state this part remained as an ideal one in 19th century in all respects people began enjoying the fruits of Shahus reforms of equality right from the year 1919 by abolishing Kulkarni vatan and appointing talathis in their place.

Preference was given to scheduled caste candidates with promotions by abolishing Mahar vatans they were freed from age

old slavery. By other order H.H. Shahu Maharaja ordered for reservation of backward classes to the percentage of 50. The most important everlasting reforms was the fostering and education of all classes through opening of hostels for all classes in Raibag area as like that of Kolhapur which was the priority of only Brahmins.

Shahu Maharaj was succeeded by his son Rajaram who was born on July 30th 1897. after getting education at England was sent to the evening Christian college Allahabad where he studied agriculture. On May 31st, 1922 he succeeded to the Gaddi when he was 25 years old. Raibag area was progressive under Chhatrapati Rajaram as maharaja remained active in the fields of social upliftment and education.

Maharaja was invited to unveil a statue of late maharaja Madhavrao Scindia at Gwalior November 22, 1940 on his way back from Gwalior he underwent a operation in Bombay which unfortunately proved fatal. He died in Bombay on November 26th, 1940. His body was brought to Kolhapur where it was cremated the next day.

Chh. Rajaram was passionately fond in the field of sports and in his time Raibag remained a place of Hunting and Sports, as he also continued Shahu Maharajas patronage to the sports of wrestling.