

P R E F A C E

The State of Kolhapur was founded by Tarabai, the daughter-in-law of Shivaji the Great and widow of Chhatrapati Rajaram (1689-1700) at Panhala in 1710, which was later shifted to Kolhapur. This State existed till 1949. The Chhatrapati of Kolhapur occupied an important status as they were the direct descendants of Shivaji the Great. As a second branch of Maratha Rajya Kolhapur had a special significance in Maratha History.

The Kolhapur State founded by Tarabai was flourished, developed and was protected by the heroism of many sardars and warriors, coming from brave families. The Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur granted jahagirs to many such heroic sardars. These sardars were known as feudatory states and saranjams under the Kolhapur State. There were nine feudatory States and saranjams under Kolhapur Rajya. The Torgalkar Shinde was one of the minor feudatories of Kolhapur Darbar, who rendered great service to Kolhapur State. ,

Torgal, the headquarter of the chief of Torgalkar Shinde, is about a 100 miles south-east of Kolhapur. In 1690 Torgal was taken from the Bijapur Government by Narsojirao Shinde, the son of Murarrao Shinde, who was regarded as the founder of this Shinde family and was given to him as a saranjam or military grant by Chhatrapati Rajaram. Narsojirao rendered great services to Rajaram Maharaj during precarious days.

Sambhaji I (1714-60), the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur , married Jijabai who hailed from the Torgalkar Shinde family, the daughter of Narsojirao Shinde, and his family got special significance in Kolhapur Darbar. During the struggle between Sambhaji and Shahu, the Chhatrapati of Satara, the Shinde Family rendered yeomen services to the cause of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Chhatrapati Sambhaji I (1714-60) gave the title of 'Senakhaskhel' (Commander of the select body of troops) to Torgalkar Shinde in 1732.

Narsojirao Shinde and his successors, Subhanrao Shinde, Laxmanrao Shinde I, Sambhajirao alias Shankarrao Shinde and Laxmanrao Shinde II rendered valuable services to the Kolhapur State.

Here an attempt has been made to study the history of Torgal Jahagir right from its origin i.e. 1690 to 1853, the period which is the most important period of Torgal Jahagir from political point of view. During this period the Jahagir was fully independent. In this period the Shinde family of Torgal rendered valuable services to the Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur by supporting them in many critical times of conflicts and diplomacy. Till the year 1853 the matrimonial alliances between Torgalkar Shinde and the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur were more rigid. The end of this period marks the end of independency of Torgal Jahagir.

This is a descriptive-cum-interpretative study of Torgal Jahagir by using original source material such as Nivadee, Chitnisi, Parasnis Daftars and mainly political files

of correspondence between the Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur and Torgalkar Shinde.. 'Torgal Jahagir Files' which are preserved in the State Archives of Kolhapur. In this work I have also referred to so many published works relating to this subject.

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I am personally responsible for the opinions expressed and the errors, if any, in this Dissertation.

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