
CHAPTER-III: THE RULERS OF SANGLI STATE - THEIR
ADMINISTRATION - INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL POLICIES

The Rulers of Sangli State

The history of Sangli state consisted of three generations.¹ Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I (A.D. 1783 to 1851), the founder of the Sangli State belonged to the first generation, Dhundirao Tatyasaheb (A.D. 1859 to 1901) of the second generation and Chintamanrao Dhundirao alias Appasaheb Patwardhan (A.D. 1910 to 1948) belonged to the third generation. The life and career of these three rulers of Sangli could be traced in brief as follows:-

1. Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I - (1783 A.D. to 1851 A.D.)

Birth: Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I, the first ruler and founder of Sangli State was born on Pousa Shudha 4 Shake 1696 i.e., 5th January 1775 A.D. in Miraj Fort.² He was the second son of Pandurang Govind Patwardhan. His mother Laxmibai alias Bai was daughter of Balaji Naik, a family of Bhide Savakar from Poona.³

Education - Vedmurti Sadashiv Bhat Gadgil taught him Stotras and other religious education, when he was boy. Reading, writing and accounts were taught to him by Patwardhan Guruji. Besides horse riding, playing with bhala and bothati, shooting etc., which were necessary for Sardars were also taught to him.⁴

Munja ceremony - His munja ceremony was performed in 1780 A.D. with his cousin brother, Keshavrao Daji in Miraj Fort by his elder brother Hariharrao.⁵

Invested with Saranjam Jagir - (6th Feb., 1783 A.D.)

After the unfortunate death of Hariharrao, his elder brother in 1782 A.D. Chintamanrao was invested with Saranjam Jagir by the help of his uncle Parashuram Bhau, on the 6th February 1783 A.D.⁶ At this time Chintamanrao Appasaheb was only a boy of eight years' old.

The first important event in the life of Chintamanrao was the combined movement in 1790 A.D., of the three allies - the Maratha, the Nizam and the English, against Tipu Sultan who had greatly harrassed them and had become a source of constant danger to their power. Chintamanrao although was 17 years old at this time, took considerable interest in this campaign and was ready to join his uncle Parashuram Bhau.⁷ Unfortunately when he actually accompanied the Maratha army for a few stages, fell seriously ill and had to return to his capital.⁸

Participation in the battle of Kharda - (1795 A.D.)

One of the important battles in which Chintamanrao figured for the first time was that of Kharda, which was fought

between the Nizam and the Marathas in 1795 A.D. On this occasion Chintamanrao rendered most timely help to his uncle Parashuram Bhau, who was Commander-in-Chief of the whole Maratha army and attended his wounds. When the victorious armies of the Marathas returned to Poona, the Peshwa rewarded the services of the Commander-in-Chief, Parashuram Bhau by granting him a Chowghada⁹ and costly presents. Chintamanrao also received a valuable dress and pearl-necklace from the Peshwa.¹⁰

Campaign against Dhondia Wagh - (1800 A.D.)

On the fall of Tipu Sultan in 1799 A.D., a daring adventurer named Dhondia Wagh gathered round him a strong band of Tipu's disbanded soldiery and tried for some time to disturb the peace and security of Maratha and English territory, north of Tungbhadra. General Wellesley invited the Maratha Chiefs to join him with their forces and accordingly Chintamanrao Appasaheb joined him with his cavalry on 25th July 1800 A.D.¹¹ He made a dash upon the enemy with his handful of men and fought desparately like a brave hero. He received three serious wounds in the action. But due to his determined resistance the enemy fled away. In this way the bravery and heroism displayed by Chintamanrao in the encounter with Dhondia Wagh became a subject of general admiration and congratulatory

letters were received by him from General Wellesley, the Peshwa and the other Patwardhan Chiefs. This was the excellent testimony to the gallant performance of Chintamanrao¹² and as a result of that, since that event he was known for his military skills and generalship.

Division of Saranjam Jagir at Miraj - (1799 A.D.)

While Chintamanrao was engaged in the campaign against Dhondia Wagh, his uncle Gangadharrao, who had been his guardian during his minority, tried to usurp some of his Jagir. This led to family dissensions and feuds amongst the Patwardhans. At last through the intervention of friends and relatives, a compromise was brought between them and some portion of the Jagir together with the fort of Miraj was given to Gangadharrao and with the remaining, Chintamanrao established himself at Sangli, an unimportant and a small village on the banks of the Krishna in 1801 A.D.¹³ This had since been transformed into a flourishing town and capital of the Sangli State.

Chintamanrao's refusal to serve company Government

On the downfall of Peshwa in 1818 A.D., Sangli State along with other Patwardhan States came under the company Government. In that year company Government entered into

engagement with the head of each of these states separately. Chintamanrao Appasaheb gave some trouble by refusing to serve under the company Government, stating the most discourteous manner that, the Peshwa being his sole master, his own position vis-a-vis the company was that of an equal, not of a subordinate. He also argued that it was derogatory to his position and dignity to render military service to any, except Peshwa. An attempt was made by Mr. Elphinstone in 1819 A.D., to overcome his objections, but he was inflexible and it was eventually settled that he should in commutation of service cede territory of the annual rental of Rs. 1,35,000 to the company in lieu of military service with a contingent of 450 horsemen. In the early part of 1821 A.D., land of the required amount was formally ceded by Chintamanrao, comprising the Paraganas of new Hubly, Turus, Burdole and Bomungutte, the Sirdeshgut of Gopunkup and certain villages in the Paragana of Shahapur.¹⁴

Chintamanrao's aid to British Government - 1844.

The important aid that Chintamanrao rendered to the British Government was in 1844 A.D., when a serious outbreak took place in the Kolhapur State, which is known as the "Samangadache band" or revolt of Samangad. On this occasion Chintamanrao displayed displayed his fidelity and devotion to the British, by promptly

deapatching his military force to the aid of the British authorities, thus rendering them most timely and valuable services against Kolhapur. Mr. H.L. Anderson writes "These services can only be faintly represented by the record of Government".¹⁵

The present of a valuable sword to Chintamanrao

For his valuable assistance, Sir George Arthur, the Governor of Bombay, on the 6th Dec. 1844, highly eulogised Chintamanrao and conveyed to him the sincere thanks of Government. He strongly recommended his name to the Court of Directors for some higher recognition which met with their approval. The Court of Directors were pleased to forward a valuable sword as a present to Chintamanrao "in testimony of their respect for his high character and in acknowledgement of his unswerving fidelity and attachment to the British nation". The sword was presented to Chintamanrao with great ceremony at Belgaum by Col. Reeves, the Political Agent, in the presence of all the military officers, on the 15th Nov. 1846 A.D.¹⁶

Death of Chintamanrao - 15th July 1851 A.D.

Chintamanrao ruled the Sangli State under the British regime from 1818 A.D. to 1851 A.D. He passed away on Monday,

the 15th July 1851 A.D.,¹⁷ at the ripe old age of 77, highly respected and widely mourned. He represented in his person a living link between the Maratha independence and the new order of British rule. He was a historical figure who had come into contact with great names in the Maratha history, such as, Sawai Madhavrao, Nana Phadanavis, Mahadaji Schindia, Haripant Phadake and Parashuram Bhau.

No less important and creditable was his contact with the early representatives of the British power like Sir Arthur Wellesley, Mount Stuart Elphinstone, Sir John Malcolm and William Chaplin. Sangli had every reason to feel proud of such a founder and of the tradition of benevolent rulership bequeathed by him to his successors.¹⁸

2. Dhundirao Tatyasaheb - 1859 A.D. to 1901 A.D.

After the death of Chintamanrao Appasaheb, his son Dhundirao Tatyasaheb was succeeded to the Gadi. He was the second ruler of the Sangli State.

Dhundirao Tatyasaheb was born in the month of Ashadh Vadya 6 Shake 1760 i.e., 1838 A.D.¹⁹ His mother Ambabai was sister of Ramchandra Sakharam alias Gangumama Karmarkar. Unfortunately as she died in 1842 A.D.²⁰, his father Chintamanrao Appasaheb kept for him one foster-mother and took

care of him under his own supervision.

Education - A teacher named Trambakpant Sahasrabudhye taught him reading, writing and accounts. Besides the traditional learning military education was also given to him.²¹ In 1849 A.D., he was married to eight year old daughter of Vasudev pant Pendase, a relative of Balavantrao Phacanis from Sangli.²²

Installation on the Gadi

On attaining majority, at the age of 21 years, Dhundirao Tatyasaheb was installed on the Gadi on the 12th July 1859 A.D.²³ On that occasion the young Chief promised to promote the welfare of his people, particularly of the agricultural class, and to protect his subjects against injustice and misrule. But with all his good intentions and benevolent impulses, Dhundirao Tatyasaheb's inexperience led to laxity in the administration. In order to remedy this state of affairs, British Government decided to associate one of its officers of the Political Department with the Chief for the Joint Administration of the State for a period of three years from 1873 A.D. This period was extended later on, and came to an end in 1887 A.D. Captain West²⁴ was the first Joint Administrator from 1873 A.D. to 1878 A.D. and was succeeded by Major Waller who was the Joint Administrator for the major portion of the period of joint administration.

Restoration to powers

Dhondirao Tatyasaheb was restored to powers on the 1st of December 1887 A.D.²⁵ under certain conditions viz., that in all important matters, he should be guided by the advice of the Political Agent, Kolhapur and S.M. Country; that he should maintain the efficiency of the administration and that he should not appoint or dismiss the state Karbhari without the sanction of Government.²⁶ However after getting full power he ruled the next 14 years, and died on the 12th December 1901 A.D.²⁷ at the age of 63. Unfortunately he had no male issue and on account that the British conducted the Sangli affairs from 1901 to 1910 A.D., according to their own wishes until the time Chintamanrao Dhundirao, the adopted son of him was installed in 1910 A.D.

3. Chintamanrao Dhundirao alias Appasaheb Patwardhan
(1910 A.D. to 1948 A.D.)

Dhondirao Tatyasaheb, the second ruler of the Sangli State died without an heir to the throne. As a result of this kind of situation, the British permitted Buddhibaisaheb, the senior surviving wife of Shrimant Dhundirao Tatyasaheb Patwardhan to adopt Vinayakrao Bhausahaeb the eldest son of Chintamanrao Ganapatrao Patwardhan. This Vinayakrao was born to them on 14th Feb. 1890 A.D. and was given in adoption to the

Sangli State. After adoption, then as per Hindu tradition his original name was changed to Shrimant Chintamanrao Appasaheb and he ruled the Sangli State from 1910 to 1948 A.D.²⁸ The important events in his life and career can be discussed as follows²⁹:

Education and Installation

Chintamanrao Appasaheb educated in Rajkumar College, Rajkot, where he passed the Diploma Examination in April 1909 A.D. Afterwards, Captain Burke arranged to give him practical training in all branches of the state administration with a view to fitting him for the responsibilities of government. Then he was installed with powers on the throne of the Sangli State on 2nd June 1910 A.D.

Marriage and family life

Within a month of his installation, the Rajasaheb's marriage was celebrated at Sangli on the 29th of June 1910 A.D. with Miss Kamalabai Joshi, the 18 year old daughter of Mr. Moropant Vishwanath alias Annasaheb Joshi of Amaravati.

The Rajasaheb and Ranisaheb were blessed with three sons named The Yuvaraj Madhavrao Raosaheb (born on 7th March 1915 A.D.), Rajakumar Pandurangrao Balasaheb alias Pratapsinha (Born on Nov. 26th, 1916 A.D.), Rajakumar Govindrao Bhayyasaheb

(Born on 31st March 1918 A.D., death 24th Sept. 1927 A.D.) and four daughters named Indumatiraje (Born on 6th March 1912 A.D.), Chandravatidevi (Born on 21st Nov. 1919 A.D.), Ushadevi (Born on 21st Sept. 1923 A.D.), Shakuntaladevi (Born on 12th Nov. 1925 A.D.).

Contribution to the cause of First World War

During the period of First World War (A.D. 1914 to 1918), Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, cooperated with British Government and contributed freely and enthusiastically to the cause of War both in men and money. Over 990 men from the State went to the battle-front as soldiers and in one shape or another Rs. 75,000 were contributed to different War Funds and War purposes of which the Motor Ambulance worth Rs. 30,000 was particularly notable; and the War-loans totalling 5 lakhs were purchased by the people and the State.

His Honours and Titles

In recognition of valuable services rendered by Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, in connection with War, British Government granted him a permanent salute of nine guns in January 1918 A.D. This position led him to enter into the Prince's Conference in January 1919 A.D. Further in October 1919 A.D. the honorary Rank of Lieutenant was conferred on him.

In 1923 A.D., on the New Year's Day the honour of K.C.I.E. i.e. "Knight Commander of the Indian Empire" carrying with it the title of 'Sir' was conferred upon him and he was made Honorary A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay in May 1924 A.D. On the 26th November 1927 A.D. the personal salute of 11 guns coupled with the designation of 'His Highness' was bestowed upon him by His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor. In 1924 A.D. in the capacity of the Sangli Prince he was elected as a member of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes and he held that position until 1945 A.D. And he was selected as a member of the Princes' Delegation to the Round Table Conferences held in London in 1930 A.D. and 1931 A.D. In the birthday honour list of 1932 A.D. Chintamanrao Appasaheb was honoured by His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor with the hereditary title of 'Raja'. He was the first among the Rulers of the Deccan States to receive this distinction. And in May 1938 A.D., he was promoted to the rank of Honorary Captain in His Majesty's Land Forces. Then as he did in the First World War, Chintamanrao Appasaheb contributed richly to the British in the Second World War through 5,000 soldiers, 250 technical men, 45 Officers and a handsome amount of War Fund. As a result of it he was appointed as a member of the Advisory Body to the National Defence Council in 1942 A.D. and the title of Knight Commander

of the Order of the Star of India (K.C.S.I.) was conferred on him in June 1946 A.D.

Establishment of responsible Government

In order to establish responsible government in the State, he developed the Rayat Sabha, which came into being in 1908 A.D. from consultative body into a full fledged Parliament. This was to fulfil the growing demands of the people. Then towards the end of 1946 A.D., practically complete responsible government was established in the Sangli State.

The Merger of Sangli State (8th March 1948 A.D.)

However as India became free and independent of the British Empire, the Free Government of Independent India wanted unity and integrity of all the Indian people and the Princely States. A call to that extent was given therefore, by the free India Government to all the States in India. And in response to that H.H. Chintamanrao Appasaheb responded positively and thus the Agreement of Merger of the Sangli State was signed in Bombay on the 19th February 1948 A.D. and the ceremony was celebrated on 8th March 1948 A.D. Thus ended the era of the State and H.H. Chintamanrao Appasaheb joined the wishes of the people as he did earlier also as the Ruler of the Sangli State.

Administration of Sangli State

The administration of various Saranjamdars under Maratha rule was almost on the pattern of Peshwa Government. But after the downfall of Peshwa rule in 1818 A.D., the Saranjamdars came under the British control. Therefore every Saranjamdar had formed his own set up of administration. In Sangli State, the administrative machinery created by Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I, continued on old form until the creation of Joint Administration in 1873 A.D. to 1876 A.D. From onwards many changes were made in it and during the regime of Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, the model of the administrative methods of British India was accepted.³⁰

The administrative machinery can be classified under the two following main heads:-

A) Civil Administration, and B) Police Administration.

A) Civil Administration

1. Ruler - The Chief of the State

At the head of both Civil and Police administration was the Chief, who was assisted by Karbhari, one District Officer, six Mamlatdars, one Vahiwatdar and six Munsiffs with a staff of hereditary and stipendary establishment. Though in theory he was an autocrat, in practice allowed a great deal of his

authority to be exercised under the rules by his advisers and subordinate officers.³¹

The powers of his subordinate officers were as follows³² .

2. State Karbhari

The State Karbhari had a general supervisory authority over all State Departments. As a Chief Revenue Officer he performed most of the duties assigned to a collector in British Districts. He was the District Magistrate of the state and as such was responsible for the work of the police, besides hearing appeals from convictions by second and third class magistrates, deciding revisional applications, etc. From May 1920 A.D., onwards he was being called as the Diwan.

3. The District Officer

The District Officer was placed over the Shrihatti and Shahapur Taluka. He exercised a general control over the Mamlatdars and Munsiffs in his charge and was vested with First Class Magisterial powers.

4. Mamlatdars

The Mamlatdars had the same powers as similar officers in British India and were vested with Magisterial powers of the third class according to their capabilities.

5. Vahiwatdar

The Vahiwatdar was virtually a Mamlatdar, but as he had charge of only one large isolated village, Dodwad, he was not given that designation.

6. Munsiff

There was in each taluka, Munsiff except of Terdal, where the Mamlatdar held the office of Munsiff in addition to his own.

These officers had powers to decide cases in value upto Rs. 2,000, appeals from their decision lying to the Huzur Court.

Village Administration

Village was the last unit of administration. Each village had it's police and revenue Patil and it's Kulkarni, whose functions were the same as in other parts of the Southern Maratha Country under the British Government. The Patils and Kulkarnis generally held Inam lands in lieu of remuneration.³³

Revenue Administration

1. Land Revenue - The Land Revenue Department was placed under the State Karbhari or Diwan, who was the chief executive

officer of the State. It's work was carried on in accordance with the Bombay Land Revenue Code as adopted to the conditions of the State. The Department maintained a complete and upto-date record of the rights and interests in agricultural lands known as "Records of Rights" and of the incidents of ownership regarding building sites ascertained by City Surveys carried out in towns. Land Revenue rates were fixed by Survey Settlements and revised whenever necessary by experienced Revenue Officers lent by the Bombay Government, being on a level with those in the contiguous districts of Bombay. In the places, in which there were complaints about their being higher, they were later brought down. The subordinate staff had to submit to the test of Lower and Higher Standards Examinations, as in Bombay province.³⁴

The revenues of the State in 1910-11 A.D., amounted to Rs. 10,06,656 and in 1946-47 A.D. it was raised to approximately Rs. 34,00,000.³⁵

Judicial Administration

In early times before the introduction of a regular system of Civil and Criminal Courts etc., into the State in 1851-52 A.D., there was neither a recognised code of laws nor a prescribed form of trial, nor any regular courts for

administering justice. The prevailing form of judicial administration was as follows³⁶ -

1. Village justice - In the villages justice was administered by the Patil with the help of the Kulkarni. If they failed, the dispute was referred to a Panchayat (or jury) who summoned as occasion arose.

2. Huzur Nayadhish Fad Sangli - About the year 1840 A.D. to 1842 A.D., Mr. Bapujee Narayan Toragalkar was appointed as Nayadhish. His Court was called as Huzur Nyayadhish Fad Sangli. He performed all the duties of a Civil and Criminal Judge for the whole state - some times personally, some times with the assistance of a Panchayat. He disposed of all such cases as were referred to him by the Chief for decision. His orders appeared to have been revised by the Karbhari in some cases, but were generally final.

3. Civil Courts - In 1851 A.D., Civil Courts were created and Munsiffs were appointed to supervise them. There was one court for Sangli Miraj Prant and for the villages in Kuchi Taluka, one for Shahapur, one for Shrihatti, one for Mangalwedha and one for Terdal. The Vahivatdar at Dodwad was also given civil jurisdiction. In 1880 A.D., a change was effected in the constitution of the different Munsiff's Courts. The number of Munsiffs were reduced to three, one for Sangli and Miraj

Prant, one for Mangalwedha, Kuchi and Terdal and one for Shahapur and Shirhatti. The rules of procedure etc., prevailing were on the lines of those of British India.

First Appellate Court

There were no first appeals from the decrees and appealable orders of these Munsiffs. Until 1872 A.D. all appeals lay to the Huzur Court direct. The first appellate court, viz., the Nyayadhish Court was first established in 1872 A.D. The Nyayadhish was empowered to hear appeals from decrees and orders from the Munsiffs and to try as a court of original jurisdiction suits of the value of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. Appeals from his decrees both in appeal and in original suits lay to the Huzur. The Nyayadhish Court did not last long. It came into existence in May 1872 A.D. and ceased to exist in March 1873 A.D. It was re-established in 1876 A.D. and again abolished in 1877 A.D. In 1880 A.D., it was once more re-established, since which date it had been regularly in existence.

4. Criminal Courts - The Huzur Court was the highest criminal court in the State. It had powers to try its subjects for capital offences. It had also powers to try British subjects for similar offences committed within its jurisdiction subject

to the sanction of the Political Agent, Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country. The Huzur Court exercised all the powers of the High Court within the meaning of Criminal Procedure Code.

There was further, the Sessions Judge's Court which tried all offences excepting capital ones and was subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the Huzur Court.

There were in all 27 Magistrates in the State namely one District Magistrate, five First Class Magistrates, five Second Class Magistrates and eight stipendary, Third Class Magistrates, and three Honorary Third Class Magistrates exercising powers of ⁱcriminal courts according to the Criminal Procedure Code.

The Huzur Court, the Sessions Judge's Court and the District Magistrate's Court were located at Sangli. There were besides one First Class, one Second Class and one Third Class Magistrates at Sangli.

At each Taluka station there was either a First Class or Second Class Magistrate and also a Third Class Magistrate. At Mangalwedha, Shirhatti and Terdal there was an Honorary Magistrate of the Third Class.

5. The Huzur Court - The Huzur Court was the highest court of appeal in the State in all Civil, Criminal, Revenue and other

matters. It was a Court of second appeal so far the civil claims of the value of Rs. 5,000 and under. As regards similar claims exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value, it was a court of Regular Appeal and it further exercised Revisionary ^uJ_kisdiction over all the subordinate Courts in all Civil matters in which no appeal was allowed by law. In Revenue and Inam matters etc., including cash allowances, it exercised the highest powers vested in a Local Government by British laws which were mutatis mutandis in force in the State.

In August 1912 A.D., a Bench of two Judges was constituted to deal with civil appeals made to the Huzur Court and two years later (Huzur order of 14th April 1914 A.D.) all the powers formerly exercised by the Ruler as High Court in all Civil matters were transferred to it. The work of trying offenders on charges of murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder, heretofore attended to by the Ruler himself, was delegated to one of the Judges of the Huzur Court, while an appeal lay to the Ruler.³⁷

B) Police Administration

In the beginning the police work of the state was performed by men, known as Hasham and Kavayati servants of the state. Until 1870 A.D., there was no regularly constituted police force in the State. About the year 1876 A.D., the

Police Department as such was created under the management of the Karbhari. The progress of the Department in its early years was very slow and the establishment of the British Administration in 1901, found the State possessed of a police force utterly inefficient and useless.³⁸

In 1902 A.D., the entire force was re-organised and placed under the Superintendent of Police, who was under the supervision of the District Magistrate and the Huzur.³⁹

Division of Police Force

The divisions of the police force according to the re-organisation scheme and subsequent modifications,⁴⁰ were as the Police Superintendent, Police Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables. The Police Force was further divided into two main sections as Armed and Unarmed Police.

Armed Police

The duties of the armed police were to guard the Treasury and the Jail, to escort prisoners and transfers of cash from one Taluka to the other and to do every kind of guard duty.

The Sub-Inspector at the Sangli Headquarters was responsible for the drill and discipline, maintenance of order, and general supervision of the police at Sangli staff.

Unarmed Police

The 'Unarmed Police' were intended specially for the maintenance of public peace and prevention and detection of crime. Their distribution according to grade was as the Sub-Inspectors (Fouzdars), Head Constables Class-I and II, (Jamadar), Head Constables Class-III (Hawaldar), Head Constables Class-IV (Naiks), Constables Class-I, Constables Class-II, and Constables Class-III.

Other Police

The Section of Other Police included the Mounted Police or Risala. The services of 'Mounted Police' or 'Risala' were utilised especially for escort Huzur and the work of pursuit of offenders. The grades of them were known as Dufedar, Naiks and Sowars.

The Risaldar gave instructions in drill to the Mounted Police and had besides the general supervision thereof. The Sowars were provided with Swords and lances.

Besides, whenever special Police were required for services in plague famine or processions and such other special activities they were employed with the sanction of the Huzur at the cost of the State. And if any subject of the State applies for a certain number of Police being given to him either

for protection of his person or property, his request, if reasonable, was complied with on receipt of expenses in advance on account of pay, pension, and clothing etc. from him.

Punitive Police

If the peace of any village or town was disturbed by its inhabitants and a serious crime was reported and so also good grounds existed to show that such a measure was desirable as a punishment for their misbehaviour, a party of Punitive Police was to be stationed in the village at the cost of inhabitants until public peace was to be restored.

Village Police

The management and working of the village Police was entirely in the hands of the District Magistrate. The Police Patil was the head of the village Police. Every Police Patil had some Sanadis or Rakhawaldars under him. All these were usually Vatandars.

The duty of the Police Patil was to execute the orders of the District Magistrate, Taluka Magistrate and the officer in charge of the Police Station, look after the sanitation of the village, maintain peace therein, prevent crimes, inform the District Police of any crime that occur in his village and

do every thing for the protection of the villagers.

III. Internal and External Policies

A. Internal Policy

The internal policy of Sangli State can be studied under the following three main heads, namely - 1. Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I (A.D. 1783 to 1851), 2. Dhundirao Tatyasaheb, (A.D. 1859 to 1901) and 3. Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, (A.D. 1910 to 1948).

1. Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I (A.D. 1783 to 1851)

Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I, the founder of Sangli State, was an able competent ruler. The key-note of his administration was to keep his subject contented. Captain West in his memoirs said that "he was a liberal Landlord and always showed himself solicitous to secure the comfort of his subjects with which view he constructed numerous tanks, wells, and other works of irrigation".⁴¹ With this view in mind, he carried out some other reforms in his State as follows⁴² -

1. Code of laws - He promulgated his code of Civil, Criminal and Revenue Procedure in 1850 A.D., but he had been collecting materials for this code for over ten years. The codes of laws promulgated by Mr. Elphinstone were of course before him, so

also the codes issued by Tipu Sultan of Mysore and the rules and regulations issued in Kolhapur and in other places were before his orders.

2. Grants of lands for religious and charitable purposes - He granted lands for religious and charitable purposes to all creeds without distinction.

3. Mining Operations - He took considerable interest in mining operations, particularly gold mining in Kupalgad Hills, which he encouraged. In one of his tours he found marble stones at Vervi in the Shirhatti Taluka. He set about exploring for it and other stones etc., in Shirhatti. In 1835 A.D., he issued orders reserving the right of state in respect of gold, silver and precious stones, while free opportunity to all to explore for litho stones, Manganese and other minerals.

4. Interest in Horticulture - He also took keen interest in horticulture and prided himself on the beauty of his gardens and the number of exotic plants he had introduced into the State.

5. Pure breeding of cow, bull and camel - He was also interested in pure breeding of cattles like cows and bulls. For that purpose, he tried to bring pure breed bulls called 'the Krishna Valley breed' from outside. At that time the healthy

and strong bulls were useful in army to pull the guns. Besides, he also managed for pure camel breeding at Talsangi in Mangalwedha Taluka.⁴³

6. Foundation of new Sangli - He laid down the foundation of new Sangli and spared no pains to promote its amenities and prosperity. Marwar Peth, as its name suggests, was the centre of trade in cloth, gold and silver. Ganapati Peth was the market for agricultural produce, foodgrains, groceries etc. The fame of Sangli for gold and silverware and brassware of distinctive quality and pattern, dated from his days. He ensured the security of the new town by constructing the fort and beautified it by constructing the Ganapati Temple and laying out flower gardens. The first printing press was also set up by him at Sangli in May 1821 A.D.⁴⁴

2) Dhundirao Tatyasaheb - (1859 to 1901 A.D.)

On his accession to power in July 1859 A.D., Dhundirao Tatyasaheb, immediately set about introducing several reforms and improvements in every part of his estate as follows⁴⁵ -

i) Public Works

Roads - During his early part of regime, the road from Fort to Ambarai garden in Sangli (1863 A.D.), the Sangli-Astey road (1864-65 A.D.), the Miraj-Kuchi road (1868 A.D.), the

Miraj-Nagav road; the Sangli-Digraj road and others were constructed. In addition to that he contributed Rs. 50,000 towards the construction of the bridge over Krishna River in 1869 A.D. near Udgaon.

ii) Economic reforms

a. Uniformity in weights and measures - In the year 1866 A.D. weights and measures were made uniform throughout the state. And he directed that the sale of cattles in market overt unless accompanied with a Thalchitti (a certificate) issued by the Patil and Kulkarni showing the ownership of the vendor should not take place.

b. Land revenue - He prohibited oppression and severity in the realization of revenue and did away with the punishment of imprisonment for non-payment of revenue. In the year 1863 A.D., a proclamation was issued to the effect that, if Jirayat lands were converted into Bagayat, the Jirayat rates only would be charged for at least ^wtwenty years. The talukas of Shahapur, Shirhatti and Mangalwedha were surveyed and settled and revised rates of assessment were introduced into them in 1868 A.D.

iii) Social reforms - In 1859 A.D., he prohibited gambling directing that the guilty should be punished and the property

found in their possession should be forfeited to the State.

In 1863 A.D., the sale of opium was brought under control and in the same year the sale of Bhang, Ganja, Majum and other intoxicants was prohibited except under license and a permit to be issued on payment of fees to the State.

In 1866 A.D., the sale of arms etc., except under a license was prohibited.

iv) Educational reforms

He took lively interest in the cause of education and largely increased the number of Schools. An Anglo-Vernacular School was established at Sangli in 1863-64 A.D. and suitable school house was constructed at a cost of Rs. 12,000. However there were no schools for untouchable pupils.

v) Introduction of the Criminal Procedure Code (1862 A.D.)

Under the advice of the Majesty's court of Judicature at Bombay, he sanctioned the introduction of all forms under the Criminal Procedure Code in the State in 1862 A.D. and constructed a jail at Sangli in 1864-65 A.D. making provision for male and female wards.

Changes in the constitutional powers of Dhundirao Tatyasaheb (1887 A.D.)

In 1859 A.D., when Dhundirao Tatyasaheb was invested

with powers, there were no restrictions imposed beyond what were contained in the treaties. But the changes which took place in the constitutional powers of the Chief in 1887 A.D., when he was restored to full powers were materialised as⁴⁶ -

- 1 that the Chief should follow in all important matters the advice of the Political Agent for the S.M. Country.
- 2 that he should maintain the efficiency of the Administration at its (present) high standard to the satisfaction of the Political Agent.
- 3 that he should exercise his powers of appointing or dismissing the State Karbhari with the sanction of Government.
- 4 that he should give a written agreement to the Political Agent to abide by these conditions.

3) Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II (1910-48 A.D.)

Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II took up the Government of the State on 2nd June 1910 A.D., and handed it over to the Indian Union on 8th March 1948 A.D. His way in the words of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was that of "constant and conscientious endeavours throughout his long period of reign and had been to advance the moral and material well-being of his State

and his subjects by every means within his capacity and power."⁴⁶ Some of his endeavours can be attempted under certain heads as follows⁴⁷ -

i) Administrative Reforms

His administrative services were manned by qualified men. For top posts he generally took up men trained in the administrative set up of the neighbouring Province of Bombay.

Though in theory an autocrat, he decentralised his powers and in practice allowed a great deal of his authority to be exercised under the rules by his advisers and subordinate officers.

The people were associated with the administration, being led by well-conceived stages through dyarchy to full responsible government. Thus the people of Sangli State enjoyed the rights of self-government before its merger in the Indian Union.

ii) Land revenue rates

Land revenue rates were on a level with those in the contiguous districts of Bombay Province. In the places in which there were complaints about their being higher they were later brought down.

iii) Local Self-Government

Local Self-Government registered substantial progress in the process of its democratisation. The elective elements in each municipality and Taluka Local Board were raised to three-fourths of the total numbers of its Councillors and members respectively. The municipalities had further the right of electing their Presidents, while the Taluka Mamlatdars were ex-officio President of the Local Boards. The Board of Trustees for Town Improvement was set up in Sangli to regulate the building activity in the city. There were thirteen Gram Panchayats in addition to the municipalities and Local Boards.

iv) Rural Uplift Work

He set apart 1/2 of the proceeds of income-tax for the purpose of rural uplift. In those days rural uplift work was an anticipation to a certain extent of the Community Development Work of the present times. P.M. Limaye in his book "Sangli State 1910-48 A.D.", enumerated the following as the typical objects covered by the Rural Uplift Fund that 1. Village approach roads; 2. Water supply; 3. Prevention and care of Malaria; 4. Grants to village dispensaries; 5. Supply of Medical Chests; 6. Employment of nurses; 7. Subsidies to Vaidyas; 8. Grants to Private Primary Schools; 9. Night Schools for adult education; 10. Assistance to agricultural associations;

11. Cattle shows; 12. Employment of veterinary dressers;
13. Aid to villagers for maintaining stud-bulls; and
14. Prevention of erosion of soil.

v) The Judicial Department

The judicial administration as observed by Justice M.C. Chagla, was in almost complete conformity with that of the Bombay province. The higher judges were appointed from among the veteran and efficient judges of the Bombay service and in Shri Chagla's words "justice was fairly and ably administered", there never having been "any the least suspicion of the official interference with the normal course of justice", which, "was a high praise indeed.

vi) Limitation on Privy Purse

In 1930 A.D., he voluntarily set a limit to the funds he took from the State Treasury for his private expenses. In 1946-47, the Privy Purse was fixed at Rs. three lakhs, which represented less than ten per cent of the revenue of the State.

vii) Education

He pursued the policy of free and compulsory education, which had been already adopted. By the end of 1929-30 A.D., compulsory education was introduced into 71 village areas.

In 1930-31 A.D., there were 7 Government Harijan Schools for low caste students but in 1943-44 A.D. there were only 6 schools for those students. There were 192 Government Primary Schools in 1943-44 A.D. There were, in addition, 45 educational institutions either Government recognised or unrecognised. A Training College was opened in 1942 A.D. to train teachers in primary schools. The "Shrimant Vijayasinha Montessori School" was established in 1944 A.D. There was an exclusive High School for girls conducted by the Women's Education Society, with the help of a grant-in-aid from the State. The Willingdon College was conducted by the Deccan Education Society on the outskirts of Sangli and the New Engineering College by the Maharashtra Technical Education Society with the help of sufficient donations from the State.

viii) Communication and Other Public Works

Through the Public Works Department, Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II carried out from year to year programmes of constructing buildings, roads, bridges etc., and of special repairs. The more important among them were the Sangli Water Works, the Town Extension Scheme at Sangli, the Irwin Bridge on the Krishna at Sangli, the Man Bridge between Mangalwedha and Pandharpur, the Weir across the Krishna near Sangli, and purchase of shares of Barsi Light Railway to secure

participation in its management.

ix) Economic Development

The following were among the main features of his policy to stimulate economic development:

- a) Development of the Sangli State Railway.
- b) The maintenance of law and order and the prevalence of the rule of law.
- c) The re-organisation of the Sangli Chamber of Commerce as a semi-state Institution.
- d) The setting up of the Sangli Bank with a State contribution of Rs. 1,50,000 to its share capital and state's subscribing to half of its shares.
- e) The State policy of advancing loans and granting temporary exemption from taxation and other concessions to industries at their start.
- f) The establishment of the Industrial Bank at Sangli with the State's contribution of Rs. 50,000 to its share capital.
- g) The economic survey of the State carried out by two most eminent economists of India - Shri D.G. Karve and Shri D.R. Gadgil.

h) Sangli was one of the few Indian States of those days to make a five year plan of agricultural and industrial development. The plan proved abortive, as the State merged in the Indian Union.

x) Other achievements

His other achievements in a number of spheres were such as protection, police and jails, agriculture, forest, cattle, cooperation, trade, the War efforts, the constitutional reforms culminating in the establishment of responsible Government in the strict sense of the term and the efforts to create the United Deccan State as an integral part of the Indian Union.

B. External Policy

The constitution of Sangli State may be described as being embodied in the Tainat-Japtas of 1763-64 A.D. and of 1773-74 A.D. issued by the Peshwa in favour of the Patwardhan and the treaties of 1812 A.D., 1819 A.D. and 1820 A.D. entered into with the Patwardhan Jagirdars by the East India Company.⁴⁸

Accordingly as other Princely States in India the Sangli State was bound to⁴⁹ -

1 Subordinate co-operation in the task of resisting foreign aggression and

- 2 It had not any right to negotiate with any other States or powers without the intervention of the British Government.
- 3 It was also bound to act in subordinate cooperation with the British Government and to be guided by the advice of the Political Agent subject to the opinion on British Government which was final in all matters.
- 4 It could not send their representatives to foreign Government but was made to communicate with the British Government through the British representative.
- 5 The State had not any direct intercourse with the commercial agents of foreign States.
- 6 A Chief absenting himself from his Jagir for more than 15 days was bound to intimate the fact to the Political Agent in order to enable him to see that the arrangements made for the management of the State were adequate and satisfactory. This was applicable even to Sangli State.
- 7 The Chief was bound to communicate the occurrence of any important events either political or administrative or which were of public interest e.g., riots, natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes etc.

It was thus, the three rulers - Chintamanrao Appasaheb-I,

Dhundirao Tatyasaheb and Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, had ruled the Sangli State from 1783 to 1948 A.D. and tried their best to make their regime as worthy as possible. No doubt, there were some pitfalls and drawbacks in their forms of administration and actual practice of life, they had tried sincerely to bring up their small state on the modern lines and to/set up the of democratic form of governments. The establishment of schools from 1863-68 A.D. , introduction of the local self-government and the establishment of the Rayat Sabha in 1908 and then the responsible government in 1946 gave the proof of sincerity and the idea of welfare state in the minds of the Sangli Rulers. This was really creditable and quite upto the mark considering the modern concept of good government and the welfare State.

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