

P R E F A C E

Chhatrapati Pratapsinh of Satara was a fascinating character in the history of the Marathas. He was a great social reformer, an able administrator and he had a good sense of justice. Pratapsinh Maharaj during the period of his office from 1808 to 1839 tried his best to make his state an ideal one. When I was serving as a junior Lecturer in History in the Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara in 1978-79, I got deeply interested in the life story of this unlucky Chhatrapati of the Marathas. So naturally when I registered my name for M.Phil.Degree Course in History, I chose to study the life and career of Chhatrapati Pratapsinh of Satara. However, soon it was found that there is a voluminous source material available on this topic in English, Marathi, Modi and Persian in different archives in Maharashtra State. To study all the aspects of Pratapsinh's career, administration, external affairs etc. systematically and in details seemed to be a very huge project and hence very difficult to be covered within a period of M.Phil.course limit. Therefore, a modest attempt had been made in the present dissertation to study only some important aspects of Chhatrapati Pratapsinh's career and administration.

While preparing this dissertation the works of the great predecessors in the field of historical research have been carefully used. The works produced by scholars like Dr.B.D.Basu, Dr.R.D.Choksey, Dr.A.R.Kulkarni, Dr.V.G.Khobrekar

etc. and also the writings of Shri R.G.Rane and K.S.Thakare proved to be of immense use. Besides, the published primary sources like the Poona Residency Correspondence, Selections from the Records of Bombay Presidency (New Series) Volumes of Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Mountstuart Elphinstone's report on the territories conquered from the Peshwa have been utilised for the purpose of this study. A few volumes of Pratapsinh's unpublished Rojnishi written in Modi script and a number of rumals of the Satara Maharaja Daftar which constitute a bulk of unpublished source material on this topic have also been made use of while preparing this dissertation.

It is my duty and pleasure to thank all those who have inspired and helped me to venture into the present task. Among them my research guide Dr.Arun Bhosale, Reader, Dept.of History, Shivaji University, Kolhapur deserves special mention and I am personally obliged and indebted to him without whose support, inspiration and guidance the present thesis would have remained an impossibility. I am also grateful to Dr.B.R. Kamble, Professor and Head, Dept.of History, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for giving me inspiration and kind guidance.

My thanks are also due to the authorities of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara for deputing me to pursue my M.Phil. studies and my elder friend Prof.Vilas Patil (S.G.M.College, Karad) for his inspiration and sympathetic consideration to me in various ways.



My thanks are also due to Prin.Namdeorao Waman,
M.J.S.College, Shrigonda, Prof.Sampatrao Mane, Prof.Mahadeo
Godase, Prof.Chandrakant Nagare, Prof.Dadasaheb Babar for
their kind help and co-operation.

I am thankful to the staff of the following
Institutions who allowed me full access to their libraries
and archives to consult some historical documents and works :
Poona Archives, Maharashtra State Archives, Bombay, Deccan
College Historical Museum, Pune, Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak
Mandal, Pune, Jaykar Library, University of Poona, Barr.
Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and
Satara Nagar Vachanalaya, Satara and Chhatrapati Shivaji
College, Library, Satara.

V.S.JADHAV