



## CHAPTER - IV

### THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF TORGAL JAHAGIR

#### (THIRD PHASE : 1853 to 1949)

#### INTRODUCTION:

The present study of the history of Torgal Jahagir includes the period from 1710 to 1853. This period is already studied as first phase (1690 to 1755) in Chapter II and second phase (1755 to 1853) in Chapter III respectively. However, this jahagir existed even after 1853, till 1949, and the descendents of Shinde Family were in power and had the title Senakhaskhel till 1949. This is the third and the last phase of the Torgal Jahagir.

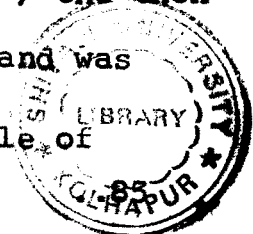
Though this third phase (1853-1949) is not in the period of our study, it is necessary to study it to get the full idea of the Torgal Jahagir. Therefore, an effort is made to present the major political events of this phase, in a nut-shell.

The following four persons were the chiefs and Senakhaskhels of Torgal Jahagir, in this period:

- (1) Subhanrao Shinde : (1853 to 1878)
- (2) Sambhajirao Shinde: (1878 to 1898)
- (3) Murarrao Shinde : (1902 to 1910)
- (4) Narsojirao Shinde : ( 1932 to 1949)

#### SUBHANRAO SHINDE: (1853 to 1878):

In the year 1853, Laxmanrao Shinde II , the then Senakhaskhel and Chief of Torgal Jahagir died and was succeeded by his son Subhanrao Shinde. The title of



Senakhaskhel was bestowed upon him in the year 1853, by the Political Superintendent of Kolhapur on behalf of Kolhapur Darbar.<sup>1</sup> Thus Subhanrao Shinde became the 6th Senakhaskhel.

TORGAL; A PART OF KOLHAPUR TERRITORY

Some years before Subhanrao Shinde became the Senakhaskhel, about the year 1844, the British had taken the administration of Kolhapur State into their hands. They placed the Kolhapur State under the control of a British Political Superintendent. Major D.C.Graham was the first Political Superintendent.<sup>2</sup> This was a remarkable event in the political history of the Kolhapur State. Its effects were both on the Kolhapur State and its feudatories and they were far reaching.

The assumption of the administration of the Kolhapur State by the British Government had a direct effect on the destinies of the Torgal Jahagir also.<sup>3</sup> As the chief of Torgal was the Senakhaskhel of Kolhapur, the British political officers began to look upon and treat the chief as under their control and on ~~the~~ or about 1848, the Torgal Jahagir was began to be looked upon as a part of Kolhapur territory,<sup>4</sup> though it was an independent jahagir .

IMPOSITION OF NAZARANA AND SERVICE COMMUTATION ON TORGAL

JAHAGIR:

There were two important events in the period of Subhanrao Shinde. The first is of the imposition of Nazarana and service commutation on Torgal Jahagir. From the beginning ~~of~~ the Chiefs of Torgal had neither to pay nor even were paid any amount by way of Nazarana or service commutation to the Kolhapur Darbar or anybody else, before they became Senakhaskhels. The succession was automatic.

However, on the occasion of bestowing the title of Senakhaskhel on Subhanrao, for the first time it was imposed to levy a Nazarana and service commutation.<sup>5</sup>

D.C.Graham, the Political Superintendent recommended the succession of Subhanrao as a Senakhaskhel only on this condition.<sup>6</sup> Subhanrao lodged many protests against this but it was of no use. He was informed, on the other hand, that Kolhapur Darbar had a right to demand the assistance of petty states, subordinate to it, towards maintainance of its own military establishment.<sup>7</sup>

AGREEMENT OF 1862:

The second important event during the period of Subhanrao Shinde, Senakhaskhel, was the agreement of 1862. After the great revolt of 1857, Shivaji III (1838-66)

The Chhatrapati of Kolhapur demanded to restore all the powers of administration to him from the British. As he was loyal to the British in the general uprising and revolt of 1857, the British agreed, and made an agreement with Shivaji III in 1862. In the article 8 of the agreement it is mentioned that certain of the higher jahagirdars should be considered as still under the supervision of the British. The chief of Torgal is mentioned amongst these jahagirdars.<sup>8</sup> As a result of this agreement there was a limitation on the freedom of the chief of Torgal. Thus, there was a dominance of Kolhapur and British on the administration of Torgal Jahagir.

However, so long as Subhanrao was alive (1878) there was no intervention in his administration though the chief of Torgal was mentioned in the agreement as one of the higher jahagirdars under supervision of British. Subhanrao managed his estate bravely and he exercised fully civil and criminal rights. He died on 12th March, 1878.<sup>9</sup>

SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE; (1878-1898):

After Subhanrao Shinde's death (1878) his eldest son Sambhajirao of 34 years old became the next i.e. 7th Senakhaskhel and chief of Torgal Jahagir as the rightful

~~as the rightful~~ heir on condition of his paying the succession Nazarana and Service commutation.<sup>10</sup>

CURTAILING OF POWER:

A remarkable event in the period of Sambhajirao Shinde was the more curtailing of the powers of Senakhaskhel.

The Senakhaskhels before Sambhajirao Shinde (1878 to 1898) were given all the full rights of administration but Sambhajirao, owing to his want of proper training in law,<sup>11</sup> and he was illiterate and too advanced in age to improve, he was supposed to be not competent for administration. So he was denied civil and criminal powers. He was given only revenue powers. For it also he had to depend upon the help and advice of Karbhari, appointed by the Political Agent's approval. Further the amount of Nazarana and Service commutation was increased.

Sambhajirao Shinde, as the chief of Torgal, filed a number of representations in protest. But the British turned down ~~xx~~ his requests, only the increased amount of Nazarana and Service commutation was reduced.<sup>12</sup>

In this way there were many limitations on the power of administration of the chief of Torgal during the

period of Sambhajirao Shinde, Senakhaskhel(1873-98)

and he lost his position as an independent chief of Torgal.

Gradually he became helpless as the British continued to regard the chief of Torgal as a vassal of Kolhapur.

Sambhajirao Shinde, Senakhaskhel died on 11th June, 1898.<sup>13</sup>

MURARRAO SHINDE : (1902 to 1910)

THE MINORITY PERIOD:( 1898-1902):

Sambhajirao Shinde, Senakhaskhel died in 1898. Murarrao Shinde was his only son. When Sambhajirao died Murarrao was of 29 years old. However, he got the rights of the chief of Torgal and Senakhaskhel in 1902. Therefore the period between 1898 and 1902 is considered as the minority period in Torgal Jahagir.

In this minority period there was a lot of correspondence between the chief of Torgal, the Kolhapur Court and the British, for the fixation of Nazarana amount and service commutation. At last every thing was settled and on 27th February, 1902, Murarrao Shinde got the title of Senakhaskhel and the chief of Torgal by heritage.<sup>14</sup> In the mean time, during the minority period, the administration of Torgal Jahagir was managed by Kolhapur Darbar.<sup>15</sup>

MORE RESTRICTIONS ON SENAKHASKHEL:

There were more restrictions laid on the power of Senakhaskhel during the period of Murarrao Shinde, though

he became the 8th Senakhaskhel and Chief of Torgal.

He was also supposed, as his father, not properly trained in administration, his knowledge was limited and he did not know English. His Karbhari had no legal qualifications.<sup>16</sup> By these pretexts he was denied the civil and criminal powers. He was given only the revenue powers, for that also he was informed to stay at Kolhapur for six months, for training. Thus, the Kolhapur Darbar followed more restricted policy upon Torgal Jahagir.

In this way, the tenure of Murarrao Shinde was a very short period of eight years. As he had no requisite powers he could not imprint anything remarkable. He suffered from diabetics in the last years of his life and died on 1st October, 1910 at Ramdurg.<sup>17</sup>

NARSOJIRAO SHINDE: ~~XXXXXX~~ ( 1932 to 1949: ):

MINORITY PERIOD ( 1910 to 1932)

Narsojirao Shinde (1932-49) was the 9th Senakhaskhel in succession<sup>18</sup> and the 10th descendent of Shinde family. As he was immature at the time of his father's death he was not given the powers of administration as a Senakhaskhel and the chief of Torgal till 1932. So the period between 1910 to 1932 was the minority period.



in this minority period the administration of Torgal Jahagir was carried on by the Kolhapur Darbar,<sup>19</sup> as in the first minority period (1898 to 1902) in the days of Murarrao Shinde , Senakhaskhel, the father of Narsojirao Shinde.

#### HIS CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION: (1910-32)

A remarkable thing about the childhood of Narsoji-  
-rao Shinde was that his mother died when he was an infant  
of 11 days and his father ~~died~~ when he was just 5 months  
old.<sup>20</sup> In this respect he was unlucky, unlike his ancestors.  
He was nursed for some years by ~~an~~ expert English doctors  
and trained English nurses at Miraj Wanless Hospital. Then  
afterwards he was under the guardianship of then Chhatrapati  
Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj (1884-1922) the Chhatrapati of  
Kolhapur and his son Rajaram Maharaj (1922-40), the  
Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. In the meantime he obtained a  
good knowledge of administration, English language and law.<sup>21</sup>

#### HONOUR OF SENAKHASKHEKSHIP: 1932 :

As Narsojirao Shinde had attained the age of 20  
years and as he had a long experience of training of  
administration to discharge his duties as Jahagirdar, the  
Kolhapur Darbar and the British decided to bestow upon  
him the title of Senakhaskhel and the Cheif of Torgal .This  
title was bestowed upon him with honour and ceremony on

3rd June, 1932.<sup>22</sup> Thus he became the 9th Senakhaskhel.

HIS CAREER AS A SENAKHASKHEL:

Narsojirao Shinde had received a good knowledge of administration so he got the full rights of administration which were not given to his father and grandfather. He received civil, criminal and judicial rights. During his period as a Senakhaskhel of 17 years, he made many efforts about the various rights of his jahagir in the court of Kolhapur and with proper English authorities upto London. He succeeded in some efforts. We can find a lot of correspondence about his efforts in the Kolhapur Record Office, Kolhapur. In his correspondence he had presented many old documents of his ancestors from the foundation of Torgal Jahagir as an evidence. It is because of his efforts that many old documents of Torgal Jahagir are available and the students of History have to owe him for his efforts.

His correspondence, his firmness and stickness throw light on his career. By all this one is tempted to say if Narsojirao Shinde had become a Senakhaskhel and the Chief of Torgal long before, he had changed the destiny of his jahagir and carved out a big jahagir as his

ancestor, Narsojirao Shinde, the founder of Torgal Jahagir who had established it in 1690. But the times were against him, the circumstances were changed and the Kolhapur State was merged into the Republic Of India on 1st March 1949 and with this merger the Torgal Jahagir and Senakhaskhelship lost their identity .

Narsojirao Shinde died on 25th July, 1974. His two sons Udaysing and ~~Prat~~ Pratapsing are alive today as his heirs. They are the descedents of the great historic Torgalkar Shinde dynasty.

In this way there were four Senakhaskhels in this last and third phase(1853-1949) of about 100 years. During this span of 100 years there was an increasing dominance of the British in India, particularly on Kolhapur State and eventually the Torgal Jahagir came to an end in course of time. Thus there was the rise and fall of Torgal Jahagir in the glorious Maratha History. With the merger of Torgal Jahagir in the Republic of India in 1949 ends the political history of Torgal Jahagir for ever as in the case of other feudatories and Indian States.

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