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CHAPTER - I

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## CHAPTER - I

### Introduction

#### A) Geographical Background of Ichalkaranji

#### B) A Brief History of Ichalkaranji

### INTRODUCTION :

Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, a Jagirdar of Ichalkaranji from 1892 to 1943, introduced many reforms in his jagir. He knew the value of education. He, therefore, opened schools within his territorial limits. He also opened a full-fledged highschool known as the Govindrao High School, which had been built and named in the memory of his beloved father, and many Scholarships were awarded to the poor and deserving students, irrespective of caste, creed, or colour, with a view to further their College and other advanced studies.

Many reforms in all the progressive departments of the administration, were also made the agricultural, medical and forest departments have been greatly improved. Co-operative credit societies were in a more flourishing condition in Ichalkaranji Jagir. Public Works Department was also encouraged. The capital town had a number of commodious public buildings,

such as the highschoools, the libraries, the hospitals, vernacular schools, clubs, guest houses, municipal office and many others, because of Babasaheb's efforts. Babasaheb Ghorpade had taken a very keen interest in literary, political and religious problems of the day.

He represented the Sardars and Inamadars of the Deccan in the Bombay Legislative Council for twelve years. His work in the council was essentially on questions concerning the interests of the masses.

A) GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF ICHALKARANJI :

Ichalkaranji lies in the Panchaganga Valley about eighteen miles east of Kolhapur and half a mile north of the river, in Hatkanangale taluka. It is six miles South-east of Hatkanangale railway station. The town is said to be formed of seven hamlets. It's longitude is  $74^{\circ} 25'E$  and latitude is  $16^{\circ} 40'N$ .<sup>1</sup>

Ichalkaranji Jagir consisted of an area of some 241 Square miles. According to 1941-42 Census the population of Ichalkaranji Jagir, was eighty three thousand. The total income of jagir was rupees 1,96,748 in the year 1892-93 and in 1941-42 it became rupees 3,47,363. It means that in the

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regime of Babasaheb Ghorpade, the total income of Ichalkaranji jagir, increased quite significantly.

Roads of Ichalkaranji  
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" It had three outlets to the highway between Miraj and Kolhapur, a highway which parallels the highway and on which there are good motor services. One outlet runs north to Hatkanangale which is the railway station, the second outlet towards the north-east, joins the highway about six miles further east, and is itself about six miles in length; while the third, running north-west, connects west of Hatkanangale and about seven miles away. There is fourth good outlet a mile and a quarter from the centre of the town. All these were good motor roads and have their several services." <sup>3</sup>

Mr. J.L.Goheen who was an administrator of Ichalkaranji has given description of Ichalkaranji town as it looked in 1934. He writes in his book, ' The Glimpses of Ichalkaranji,' approaching the town from the road coming from Hatkanangale, one enters Ichalkaranji territory where the road begins to be lined with banyan trees, some two miles out from town of Ichalkaranji. From this point one can see the palace towers off in the distance to the south-east. A mile further on, there is an

abrupt turn to the left, from which point the attractive guest-house, Hava-Mahal is seen about a furlong to the south, seen in a grove of shady trees. Making this turn, the road leads down towards the town proper, and soon ginning factories and a prominent baling press, to the right are passed. This is the new extension of the town and one observes that a large square water cistern, above ground, has recently been constructed to meet the needs of the population of this Section." 4

There were 80 villages in Ichalkaranji territory. The whole area, with the exception of Ichalkaranji itself, being rural. This territory was divided into two talukas viz. Ajara and Ichalkaranji, the former containing about 70 villages, The villages lying in Ichalkaranji taluka however were much smaller in number, but all of the villages therein were considerably larger in population and area furnishing more revenue than those of the hilly Ajara Section.

B) A BRIEF HISTORY OF ICHALKARANJI :

I - Early Period

Naro Mahadeo :

The house of Ichalkaranji, tracing its origin back to the middle of the seventeenth century, has had a long and

Honourable record. A poor Brahmin widow, by the name of Joshi, came to Kapashi with her only son Naro Mahadeo from Mhapan, near Vengurala, in the Ratnagiri district, where the brave Santaji Ghorpade, one of the faithful generals of Shivaji, lived. Naro Mahadeo early took a keen interest in the cavalry - horses of this general and one day persuaded syce to allow him to ride a fiery war horse to the river to water. This was observed by the alert Santaji. " Naro Mahadeo found favour in Santaji's eyes and both fame and fortune were his ultimate reward. He proved an able lieutenant to the brave Senapati, who affectionately styled him his son, and eventually Naro Mahadeo assumed the Surname of 'Ghorpade' as a sign of respect towards the Senapati family." <sup>5</sup>

It is not definitely known, when Naro Pant actually died, but V.V.Khare thinks that his death took place sometime between 1718 and 1720. He left behind him his wife Laxmibai, his son Venkatrao, and a host of faithful followers and admirers to mourn his loss.

In 1701 Laxmibai gave birth to Venkatrao. As it was believed that the boy was born due to the blessings of Venkoba of Giri, Naropant accepted Venkoba as his family deity.

II) Ichalkaranjkar Ghorpade in the  
Peshwa Period :

Venkatrao Narayan I  
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At the time of the death of Naro Pant, his son Venkatrao was about 17 or 18 years in age. Therefore, Haribhatbaba and his sons Krishnabhat and Trimbak Pant looked after the family.

" Venkatrao, the son of Naro Mahadeo, was married to Anubai, the youngest daughter of Balaji Vishwanath Bhat, who very soon became the Peshwa of Shahu of Satara branch of the Shivaji family." <sup>6</sup>

Under Peshwa Bajirao first, Poona became the seat of power of the Peshwa. Venkatrao and his wife Anubai spent part of their time each year in that centre. By the reason of this alliance with Peshwa the house of Ichalkaranji came into prominence, Venkatrao becoming a Sardar of Shahu Maharaja.

Ichalkaranji, being in the vicinity of Kolhapur, was utilized by Pune Government as a check to the power of Kolhapur. Chhatrapati of Satara gave Venkatrao a village as inam by name 'Shirdhon' in 1922, upon the request of Peshwa. In addition to this, villages like Manerajuri, Nandani, Arag and Mhapan were

also given as inams to Venkatrao. In 1724, Uttur was also gifted to him as inam. " On Wednesday, 18th March, 1724, Venkatrao was presented with a Seperage ' Saranjamjabata ' named as ' Mamalakat Madar & by Shahu Chhatrapati." <sup>7</sup>

According to the Saranjamjabata of 1703, Venkatrao became the servant of Kapashikar Senapati, and his chief was Karveerkar Maharaja. But according to Saranjamjabata of 1724, Venkatrao cut his relations with Kapashikar and Karveerkar Maharaja as he had become the Saranjamdar of Shahu Maharaja, the Chhatrapati of Satara.

" In 1743, Venkatrao suffered from tuberculosis. As a result, he became weak and debilitated. He changed his residence to different villages like Nandani, Takali and Uttur. Venkatrao died in 1745 at Sadalge." <sup>8</sup>

Narayan Venkatrao I  
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Narayan Venkatrao, popularly known as Tatyasaheb Ghorpade, was born in the year 1723-24. He was neither a good general nor an efficient administrator.

" Narayanrao Tatyasaheb fell sick in the beginning of the year 1770. Day by day his health deteriorated and he died on 10 Nov., 1770." <sup>9</sup>



" Few men had been given greater opportunities to distinguish themselves and to promote the prestige of their family inheritance than Narayanrao, that unfortunate prince who comes down to history as an inglorious failure." <sup>10</sup>

Anubai Ghorpade  
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Anubai Ghorpade was the wife of Venkatrao Narayan-I, the the mother of Narayan Venkatrao-I. In the regime of Narayanrao Tatya, his mother Anubai was the lady who played a vital role. For more than the efforts of Narayanrao the services of Anubai brought glory and prosperity to Ichalkaranji. Anubai was a woman gifted with wit and sagacity. She had different means and sources at her disposal. When Narayan Tatya was lingering on his deathbed, his mother, Anubai busily engaged at Poona with the Peshwa in settling an important problem of Ichalkaranji.

" There are only two prominent figures in the Ichalkaranji jagir to recon with. They are Naro Mahadeo and Anubai." <sup>11</sup>

She lived for Ichalkaranji, she ruled Ichalkaranji in a perilous period and she served Ichalkaranji. She tried for extension more of the city at the time when it was at the height of its importance. " Anubai, breathed her last at



Tulapur in 1783. She had ceased to take any active part in the state administration, since 1777 following her unwise act of supporting the imposter Sukhnidhan." <sup>12</sup>

As the daughter of Balaji Vishwanth, she commanded universal respect, from the ruling Peshwa, to the commonest soldier. She played an important role during her regency in the minority of her son Narayanrao and furthered the interests of Ichalkaranji for over 30 years from 1745 to 1776. She always maintained good relations between herself and the Patwardhans, the tact she always displayed in administering the affairs of her state and her overriding ambitions were the factors that contributed to her success.

Ramabai :

At the time of Anubai's death, Venkatrao II, was a fairly well experienced young man and by nature brave, active and intelligent. But in a short time the financial position of the state was completely disorganized and with the death of his mother, Laxmibai, in 1788, the last possible check on his wild career was removed, so that, Venkatrao gave full scope to his whims and vices.

" He was addicted to drinking alcohol. He could not keep up with his wife even for a shortest possible time. The

flood situation in the jagir resulted in bankruptcy. Total pandemonium prevailed. People started commenting that he should either give up his drinking or allow the government to arrest him. If he did not give up drinking, his principality should be taken over by the government." 13

Ramabai, the wife of Venkatrao Narayan II, was a clever judge of the situation. She could visualise the calamity in store for her husband and his principality. She was clever enough to understand well in advance that the government would put her husband behind the bars and his principality would be taken over. Considering all these factors she sent her envoy Kurundwadkar to Peshwa, requesting him to help her. She proposed that the government should not put her husband in prison. If the estate was to be confiscated, her opinion must be taken into consideration. The administrator to be appointed must have her consent. She further suggested that she would manage the expenses of the principality and pay installments of the loans in collaboration with administrator. She suggested that government could supervise her state dealings. Following this the jagir was confiscated and Mahadji Vithal was appointed to work under Raghunathrao Kurundwadkar to manage the affairs and pay the installments of loans concerned.

" It was decided that Venkatrao should be confined to home for a year on the bank of the river Krishna. If during this period he would improve his behaviour, he would be forgiven by the government." <sup>14</sup>

At Takali Venkatrao became totally upset due to government's dissatisfaction with him. He was fed up with his wife's vigilance over him. He became an introvert. His notoriety pinched him a lot. He started thinking of putting an end to his life as he had become a burden upon others. " He committed suicide by drinking the liquid extraction of 'Rui', on Tuesday 23 Dec., 1794." <sup>15</sup>

Narayanrao Babasaheb-(Venkatesh)

After the death of Venkatrao Narayan II, his wife, Ramabai adopted Narayanrao Babasaheb, but the Ichalkaranji jagir had not yet become free from the government control and the loans concerned. As long as they were unable to pay the loans, the jagir was destined to remain under the control of Mahadji Vithal. Babasaheb took loans from different sources and paid the required money to Nana Fadnis. And thus, he became the master of his own jagir. Shahu Maharaja of Satara and Peshwa government promised Babasaheb that all the inams presented to him by Satarkar Maharaja would be continued.

Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb's regime had to face many upheavels. He had to face tremendous odds. The position of Ichalkaranji as a counterpoise to Kolhapur, was essentially based on the constant support of the Peshwa government. As the power of the Peshwa government declined, Kolhapur took opportunity of attacking Ichalkaranji, Narayanrao Babasaheb, therefore paid large amount of money as Nazarana to Kolhapur.

Narayanrao Babasaheb died on 3 Jan. 1827 at the age of 50. His wife was Gangabai. He had two sons and five daughters. His sons were Venkatrao and Keshavrao.

Narayanrao Babasaheb did not appear to have been an outstanding ruler or statesman. But he lived in a very difficult and critical period and probably his belief that discretion was the better part of valour was of greater service to his state than would have been the policy of a more ambitious ruler.

" He was, however both courageous and discreet, and always rose to the occasion when the circumstances of the state demanded it. He certainly upheld the reputation of the founders of the state, for to him must be given the credit, if not of building up a state, at least of preserving it more or less intact against tremendous odds."

III) Ichalkaranjkar Ghorpade in post  
Peshwa Period - Begining of  
British Control.

Venkatrao Narayan III :

After the demise<sup>of</sup> Narayanrao Babasaheb, his elder son, Venkatrao, became his heir-apparent to the Ichalkaranji Throne. In the meanwhile Peshwa's regime had to suffer a death blow and it had come to an end. By then British government had tightened its clutches over a very large territory. It had established itself firmly. British administrators made their foundations deeply rooted.

In the meantime Buva Maharaja of Karvir wrote a letter to British government requesting that, if at all the Ichalkaranji jagir was to be merged, it should be merged in the Kolhapur state rather than in the British empire.

H.G. Ranks writes in his book 'The Story of Ichalkaranji, "Immediately following the death of Narayanrao Babasaheb, the Kolhapur Raja made efforts to annex the Ichalkaranji State, but in view of the strong evidence produced by the State from the Peshwa Daftar, the British government refused to accept this unjustifiable claim of Kolhapur and informed the Darbar that it had not right to annex the State."<sup>17</sup>

Venkatrao Raosaheb died on 16 Feb., 1738. He had married twice in his lifetime. His first wife was Ramabai, the daughter of Chintamanrao Appasaheb Sanglikar. She also died young. After her death, Venkatrao got married with Annapurnabai, the daughter of Ramdurgakar Bhave. Both the women did not have any issues. Therefore, Venkatrao was succeeded by his younger brother Keshavrao Tatyasaheb.

Keshavarao Tatyasaheb :

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The darbar of Kolhapur again presented its case to the British government. From both the sides no stone was left unturned to get the government's verdict in its favour.

" Finally in the year 1847, the British government gave the verdict to the effect that, ' Ichalkaranji principality will work under Karvirkar's power.' <sup>18</sup>

Keshavarao Tatyasaheb was completely disillusioned to see this unexpected verdict against him. He thought that he was destined to lose the power which had been protected by his predecessors. At the end, Tatyasaheb agreed to work under Kolhapurkar on the condition that, if in future, he had to adopt a son, he must be permitted to do so.

Both Venkatrao and Keshavarao Tatyasaheb were noble gentlemen free from any vices of power or wealth. They did not have the opportunity to distinguish themselves either in the battlefield or in the council chamber, for both of them ruled at a time when the British government was paramount in Maharashtra and when the utmost that any ruler could do was to place his evidence before the political agent and wait for final decision which had to be accepted.

Venkatrao Keshav :  
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On the death of Keshavrao Tatyasaheb in 1852, his wife Yashodabai adopted, with the consent of mother-in-law a young boy from the Huparikar Joshi family. The adoption was recognised by the British government, but as the young boy Venkatrao was a minor the government appointed an administrator. Venkatrao married the next year, but unfortunately he died immediately afterwards in 1853, a calamity which produced a real crisis in the history of Ichalkaranji.

With the accidental death of Venkatrao again they sought permission for another adoption. But the Company Government refused to permit Ichalkaranjekar to do so, as it



was against Company government's policy. After the mutiny of 1857, the government changed its policy and accordingly, Shrimant Govindrao Keshav the boy of Vishwanth Huparikar, was adopted. Thus, he became the heir to Ichalkaranji gadi in the year, 1874.

Govindrao Keshav -(Govindrao Abasaheb)  
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" Abasaheb was very clever, wise and a sane ruler. He rose to the occasion and handled the crisis with cool head. He presented a blue-print for many new reforms in his state. But unfortunately he cut short his life and died on 15 Feb. 1876."<sup>19</sup>

" Govindrao Abasaheb had no children, and therefore, government was once again requested to permit the wife of Govindrao Abasaheb, to adopt a son. Gopalrao the youngest son of Laxmanrao Joshi, residing at Karkamb in Sholapur district, was selected for adoption." <sup>20</sup>

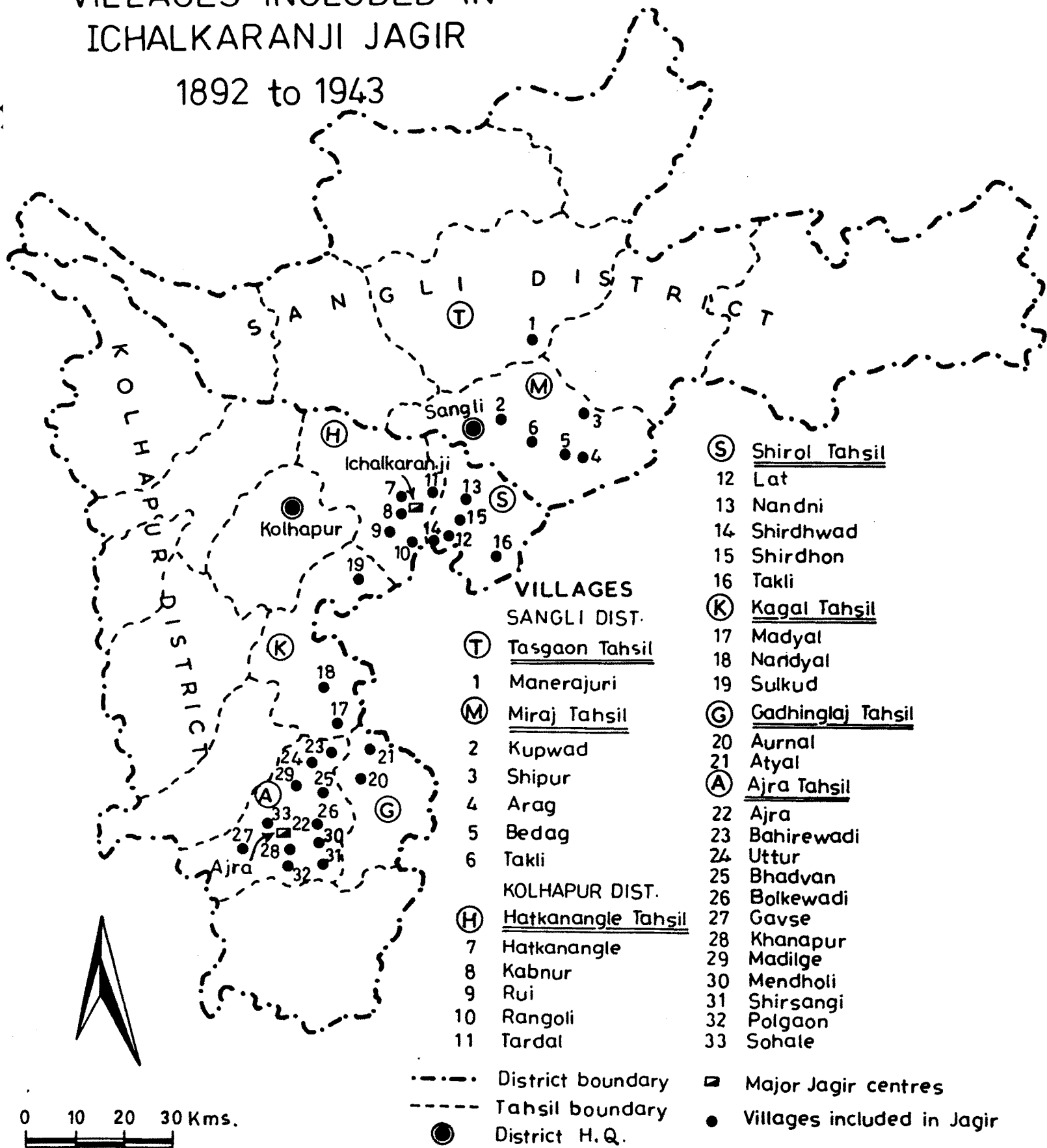
The boy was named Narayanrao Babasaheb, and the adoption ceremony was celebrated on August 10, 1876.

TABLE -I : Rulers of Ichalkaranji Jagir.

Sr. No.	Name of the Ruler	<u>B</u> : Birth date or <u>A</u> : Accession.	Year of the death
1	2	3	4
1.	Narayanrao Mahadeo	B. 1663	1720
2.	Venkatrao Narayan I	B. 1701	1745
3.	Narayanrao Venkatrao I	B. 1724	1770
4.	Venkatrao Narayan II	A. 1771	1795
5.	Narayanrao Venkatesh	A. 1795	1827
6.	Venkatrao Narayan III	A. 1827	1838
7.	Keshavarao	A. 1838	1852
8.	Venkatrao Keshav	A. 1853	1854
9.	Govindrao Keshavrao	A. 1874	1876
10.	Narayan Govindrao alis Babasaheb Ghorpade	A. 1892	1943

# VILLAGES INCLUDED IN ICHALKARANJI JAGIR

1892 to 1943



- (S) Shirol Tahsil
- 12 Lat
- 13 Nandni
- 14 Shirdhwad
- 15 Shirdhon
- 16 Takli
- (K) Kagal Tahsil
- 17 Madyal
- 18 Naridyal
- 19 Sulkud
- (G) Gadhinglaj Tahsil
- 20 Aurnal
- 21 Atyal
- (A) Ajra Tahsil
- 22 Ajra
- 23 Bahirewadi
- 24 Uttur
- 25 Bhadvan
- 26 Bolkewadi
- 27 Gavse
- 28 Khanapur
- 29 Madilge
- 30 Mendholi
- 31 Shirsangi
- 32 Polgaon
- 33 Sohale

- VILLAGES**
- SANGLI DIST.**
- (T) Tasgaon Tahsil
  - 1 Manerajuri
  - (M) Miraj Tahsil
  - 2 Kupwad
  - 3 Shipur
  - 4 Arag
  - 5 Bedag
  - 6 Takli
- KOLHAPUR DIST.**
- (H) Hatkanangle Tahsil
  - 7 Hatkanangle
  - 8 Kabnur
  - 9 Rui
  - 10 Rangoli
  - 11 Tardal

- - - - - District boundary
- - - - - Tahsil boundary
- District H. Q.
- Major Jagir centres
- Villages included in Jagir

0 10 20 30 Kms.

N O T E S

1. Maharashtra State Government, Maharashtra State Gazetteer, Kolhapur District, 1960, p.840.
2. Author Anonymous, Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, Adhipati, Ichalkaranji, in Maha-Rashtra, edited by P.R.Ambike, 1942, p.27.
3. J.L.Goheen, Glimpses of Ichalkaranji, 1934, p.5.
4. Ibid, pp. 5,6.
- 5a Author Anonymous, A brief history of the State of Ichalkaranji, Aryabhushan Press, 1913, p.2.
6. J.L.Goheen, Op.cit, pp.38,39.
7. V.V.Khare, Ichalkaranji Sansthanacha Itihas, 1913, pp. 33,34.
8. Ibid, p.34.
9. Ibid,p.106.
10. H.G.Franks, The Story of Ichalkaranji, 1930, p.63.
11. V.V.Khare, op. cit., p.131.

12. H.G.Franks, op.cit, p.80.
13. V.V.Khare, op.cit, p.133.
14. Ibid, p. 134.
15. A L S, IX, 3596.
16. H.G.Franks, op.cit, p.129.
17. Ibid, p. 108.
18. V.V.Khare, op.cit. p.174.
19. Ibid, p.182.
20. H.G.Franks, op.cit, p.129.