

CHAPTER - I

I N T R O D U C T O R Y

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION : RISE OF THE EAST

INDIA COMPANY AND EARLY ANGLO -

MARATHA RELATIONS

The Kolhapur State founded by Tarabai, the daughter-in-law of 'Shivaji, the Great', in 1710 A. D. was occupying an important position in the History of Indian States, prior to independence and its rulers were assuming an honorific Title of Chhatrapatis because its rulers were direct descendants of Shivaji. This Second Maratha Raj came into being in 1710 and lasted upto 1949. The first capital was at Panhala and later on it was shifted to Kolhapur. Kolhapur State was a premier State in the Deccan and major power with which the East India Company came into contact during the early period of their territorial expansion in India.

From the records and antiquities available to us it appears that Kolhapur was one of the oldest culture-breeding centres of Western India. From remote past the city of Kolhapur played important role in the cultural activities of Maharashtra. Kolhapur was also known as the 'Dakshina Kashi' or the Kashi of the South, the ancient temple of Mahalaxmi being the main attraction.

Kolhapur was one of the oldest religious and trade centres in Western India. It has ever remained the great centre of learning and culture too.

It was the capital of the former Kolhapur State, a premier State in the Deccan and was also the seat of the British Residency for Deccan States.

The area of Kolhapur State extended between $17^{\circ}10'-45''$ and $15^{\circ}50'-20''$ North Latitude and $74^{\circ}44'-11''$ and $73^{\circ}44'-16''$ East Longitude. Including the outlying districts of Raibag and Katkol in the East and South East, the State had an area of 2,493 miles.¹

The East India Company came into contact with this important Maratha State right from its inception and succeeded in imposing many humiliating treaties and finally appointed her own political Superintendent Major D. C. Graham in 1844 and thus established their political supremacy over Kolhapur State. Therefore, the study of the relations between the East India Company and the Chhatrapaties of Kolhapur (1710 to 1857) is indeed fascinating one. Before we study the direct relations between these two powers it is essential to take a survey of the rise, development and early activities of East India Company in India in general

and in Western India in particular as well as the Anglo-Maratha relations during the Shivaji's period.

RISE OF BRITISH POWER IN INDIA :

England's relations with India began in 1600 A. D. when a company of London Merchants received a Charter on 25th December, 1600 from Queen Elizabeth to trade with the East Indies. The main object of the enterprise was to traffic in the luxuries of the rich, in spices, silks, precious stones, camphor, indigo and sulphur.²

EARLY CAREER OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY :

The company organised separate voyages in the beginning. These voyages were organised by a number of persons who contributed money for the voyages and distributed profit among themselves.

The Englishmen directed their attention towards India because the Dutch had established themselves firmly in the Spice Islands.

The first Englishman to appear before Jahangir was Captain Williams Hawkins who arrived at Surat (in his ship 'Hector'). In August, 1608 with a letter from

James I, King of Great Britain, asking for trade facilities.³ He brought with him a gift of 25,000 gold pieces and was well received by the Emperor in April, 1609. Hawkins could speak Turki and Persian and hence needed no interpreter.

The next Englishman of note to appear at the Court of Jahangir was one Paul Canning, who too appears to have come to Agra in 1612, with a further letter from King James.

The third English Ambassador, William Edwards came from Surat (1615) also with a letter from King James. But the most important and the most famous of the English representatives was Sir Thomas Roe. Smith describes him as a gentleman of good education, a polished courtier and trained diplomat, well qualified for the task assigned to him, which was the negotiation of a treaty giving security to English trade.⁴ He wanted to negotiate provided for the free access of the English to all ports belonging to the Great Mughal including those of Bengal and Sind, and the free passage for their goods without payment of any duty beyond the usual - customs, they were to be allowed to buy and sell freely to rent, factories. Though Roe did not succeed in this

he remained in India for three years and finally left India on February 17, 1619, but during his mission English traders obtained some concessions for their trade.

This voyage was led by Captain Hawkins who landed at Surat and established the first English Factory at Surat in 1608 with the permission of Jahangir (1605 - 1627 A. D.) .

In 1612, Portuguese Fleet was defeated near Surat by Captain Best. The victory reduced the Portuguese influence at the Court of Jahangir and the English obtained the permission to set up a Factory at Surat.

In 1615 King James I of England sent Thomas Roe as his Ambassador to the Court of Jahangir, the expenses of Sir Thomas Roe were paid by the Company inspite of some opposition from the vested interests; the mission of securing permission for the Company to set up factories at certain places. Thus the English factories remained under the control of Surat Factory. Sir Thomas Roe was a highly educated, a gentle man and a polite courtier and an able diplomat of an unaggressive and mercantile policy. The policy laid down by him was followed by the Company for 70 years. In 1661 the Company obtained Bombay from King Charles II at a

nominal rent of £ 10 a year. King Charles II had received Bombay from the Portuguese as a part of the dowry of his Queen. Catherine of Braganza. Bombay soon developed into a big city and important commercial centre and by 1687, it replaced Surat as the most important settlement of the Company on the Western Coast like the Portuguese and the Dutch, the Englishmen also wanted to establish their monopoly in the eastern trade.

Firstly, they were encouraged by the high profits made by the Portuguese. The Englishmen wanted to become rich by following their example. Secondly, England was purchasing eastern goods from the traders of the trade with the east, would result in the lowering of the prices of the imported goods. In 1599 a group of merchants formed an association under the Chairmanship of Lord Mayor of London and passed a Resolution to trade directly with India. They applied to Queen Elizabeth for a charter to trade in the East in 31st December, 1600, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the Governor and Company of the Merchants of London to trade freely in the East. Thus the East India Company under the name, "The Governor and Company of merchants of London trading

with the East Indies⁸ was formed and obtained exclusively right to trade with India for 15 years.

Between 1580 to 1640 Portugal was under Spain which naturally meant hostilities between the English and the Portuguese. When in 1640 Portugal became independent of Spain, the relations between the English and the Portuguese further improved and the English right to trade in the East was conceded by the Portuguese. Charles II, the King of England, received of Bombay as a part ~~the~~ dowry in his marriage with Catherine of Bargarza. This facilitated the conclusion of a treaty with the English in 1661 by which the English agreed to support the Portuguese against the Dutch. Bombay then belonged to the Portuguese. Charles II sold Bombay to the English East India.⁸ Company at 50,000 £ and soon it became the centre of the English factories in India.

The first half of the 17th century was not much prosperous in so far as the English trade was concerned, but the renewal of the Charter of the Company by Cromwell and Charles II and James II and the financial support it received from home led to rapid progress in the Company's trade which became prosperous in no time.

THE ENGLISH ACTIVITIES IN THE WEST-COAST :

The East India Company's first important trading centre was at Surat where they established their first factory in 1608. Then ceforward Surat became the centre for their commercial activities in the West Coast. In the later period the foregin merchants established the trade centres at various places on the West Coast of India. On the West Coast they established their factories or trading centres at Dabhol, Rajapur, Bombay and Karwar; from these places they traded with the Enland mart-towns the foreign merchants at Rajapur traded with Raibag the major mart town in the Deccan and the merchants of Karwar had trade relations with the Kanara Country of Karnataka and the town of Hubli.

Rajapur had a special significant due to its association with Maratha State. Rajapur was a very close to Kolhapur state and a main centre of English activities. From this place the English merchants started their trading activities against Maratha Portuguese and Siddhis of Janjira.¹⁰

In the first of the 17th Century Surat was the main centre of the commercial activities of the English in India. During the reign of Moghul emperor Jahangir - (1605 to 1627 A.D.) English traders received some - concessions and established factory at Surat 1612, which became the important political centre. As Surat being very close to the land of Deccan, the foreign merchants looked forward to Deccan as a land useful to sell their goods in the native mart towns and to purchase the goods for European Markets.

The English East India Company also made attempts to conduct trade in the Nizamshahi and the Adhilshahi Kingdoms since the year 1611. In spite of their persistent efforts, the English merchants could not established - their factory or trading centres on the Konkan Coast until the year 1611. The Portuguese of Goa were much opposed to the entry of the English in Indian trade. However, some efforts were made by the English merchants to open trade in the Nizamshahi and Adhilshahi Kingdoms during the 1611 to 1635. Malik Ambar the Prime-Minister of Nizamshahi - Kingdom promised Sir Henry Middleton, Englishman of the East India Company to permit the English merchants to trade in the Nizamshahi Kingdom. However, later on when the ship

of the East India Company well to settle their factory on the coast of the Nizamshahi Kingdom, they were not allowed to establish their factory for their trade and the relations between the English and Nizamshahi Kingdom were strained. The Nizamshahi rulers remained hostile towards the English. The Nizamshahi Kingdom came to an end in the year 1636 and the Talkokan or the Narrow coastal tract of the Nizamshahi Kingdom was ceded to the Adhilshahi Kingdom according to the treaty settlement of 1636 between the Mughals and the Adhilshahi Kingdom.¹¹

ESTABLISHMENT OF RAJAPUR :

Sir Henry Middleton made an attempt to open trade in the Adhilshahi Kingdom in 1612 A.D. However, he was not given the permission by the Adhilshahi Authorities to conduct trade in the Adhilshahi Kingdom. In the year 1617 Sir Thomas Roe, the Ambassador of the King of England to the Mughal emperor, had some correspondence with the Governor of Dabhol in connection with opening trade in the Bijapur Kingdom. Some English vessels began to visit the ports of the Adhilshahi Kingdom after 1619. However, the English merchants could not establish their factory on the coast of Bijapur Kingdom until 1635 and it

was due to the portuguese opposition to the trade of the English in the Kingdom of Amhadnagar and Bijapur. In the year 1635 accord was reached at Goa between the Portugueses and the English and it was decided to end hostile relations between the Portuguese and the English. Thus, when the hostile relations between the Portuguese and the English came to an end, the merchants of the English company started vigorous trading activities on the coast of the Bijapur Kingdom from the year 1635. At the end of the year 1635 or at the beginning of 1636 the Company's factor William Pitt was sent to pabhol with the letters addressed to Aga Raja the Governor of Dabhol, requesting the King of Bijapur to give licence to establish the factory at Dabhol. They received the farman of the King of Bijapur to trade in his territories, with the consent of the King of Bijapur to trade in his territories, the English merchants opened new counters of trade at other places under Bijapur such as Rajapur.

Henry Bornford, the English merchant was Send to Rajapur in February 1637. At this time Rajapur did not seem more promising than Dabhol. The Governor of Rajapur desired them to trade at Rajapur promising

all freedom and courtesy. He also undertook to -
furnish 3,000 Khandis of pepper yearly and buy good
quantities of English commodities.

By 1639 the English East India Company had
established a factory at Rajapur.¹² The factory in
the 17th Century was warehouse for storing the -
European merchandise for the sale and to store the
collected goods from the native mart towns. Thus
before 1640 the English trading company had opened
its counters at two places named Rajapur and Dabhol.
Some factors or the company's servants were kept there
to sell the commodities in the Deccan and to collect
the goods from the mart town of Raibag. The English
factory at Rajapur was commercially connected with the
mart town of Raibag whereas later on the English -
factory of Karwar had commercial links with Hubli,
another mart town in Deccan.

The factories of Dabhol and Rajapur were started
in order to procure the commodities like papercoir
cussumba, the cloth Goni's or Sacks, Cardamoms etc. from
the Marttown of Raibag. The English merchants not only
bought the native products but sold the European -
commodities also.

From 1636 Rajapur became the main centre of activities and important English centres of Political activities, at the same time Shivaji the founder of the Maratha Swarajya was also trying to carve out the Hindu Sawarajya at the cost of Adhilshahi, - Shivaji's father was the former Adhilshahi Sardar and got Jahagir in Poona, Supa, Baramati. Shivaji fought many battles against Adhilshahi, Mughal, Siddhi of Janjira and also against Portuguese and the English. So at this juncture it is essential to narrate the East Indias company's relations with Shivaji because the Kolhapur State itself was a part and parcel of Shivaji's Kingdom and also the rulers of Karveer State who were the direct descendant of Shivaji.

"ANGLO-MARATHA RELATIONS DURING THE SHIVAJI'S PERIOD":

As stated above the English had factories at Rajapur, Hubli and Karwar, they later acquired Bombay and thus became close neighbours of Shivaji and his naval rival the Siddi of Janjira. The first conflict between them and the Maratha Prince was not due to any aggression on his part. Henry Revington of the Rajapur factory had helped Shivaji's enemies by actively - participating in the siege of Panhala and Shivaji retaliated by plundering the English factory.

English factory records now published, throw full light on the affair. When early in 1660 Shivaji's men came upon Dabhol that fort had three trading vessels belonging to Afzalkhan who had then been cut down by Shivaji. Muhamad Sharif, the Governor of Dabhol conveyed those ships quickly to Rajapur at the request of Fazlkhan and delivered them for safely into the custody of the English factory. As Shivaji was at war with Bijapur he sent his agent to Rajapur to take possession of those ships of his enemy. The British would not give them over on the plea that Fazlkhan owed them amounts ships they wanted to recover out of the property contained in those ships.¹³ Thus early in January, 1660 Shivaji's General Daroji seized the port of Rajapur in pursuit of three junks of Afzalkhan in which Afzal's agents at Dabhol had fled with his own and his masters property when Marathas captured Dabhol port. From this incident arose the first collision between the English and the Marathas but its real cause was not any hinderance offered by Shivaji to the legitimate trade of the East India Company or its servants.

When Shivaji arrived at Rajapur, the Chief of the factory, Remington, for fear of being seized, - ran for safety out of the sea, but Daroji succeeded in seizing the goods and the detaining the second officer Gifford (20th Jan. 1680). At this stage - Rustam-Zaman pleaded with Shivaji for resorting the goods and releasing Gifford. Shivaji agreed and the affair was for the moment closed.

Then came the seize of Panhalgad, where the Rajapur factors came to fight against Shivaji at the call of Siddi Jauhar Salabat Khan. Remington Mingham, Gifford and their interpreter velj. went to Panhalgad, supplied ammunition and opened a most damaging fire against Shivaji. Shivaji warned them that as traders they ought to remain neutral and not take sides in a internal matter and that since they had taken part in the war against him, they would have to suffer the consequences. They ridiculed this threat and exhibited their own flag at Panhala in open defiance and fired some very distractive shots making Shivaji's position untenable. It was this wanton offence for which Shivaji was bent upon exacting full retribution.

Such a time was not long in coming, the English grenades were fired at Panhala in July 1660, and Shivaji appeared at Rajapur in the following march with the double object of punishing the English traders and bringing under his sway the whole of the Southern Konkan, then belonging to Bijapur. On arrival at Rajapur he invited the factors to pay him a visit, and they too out of curiosity, as if in utter ignorance of their conduct at Panhala, called on him, when six of them Randolph Taylor, Richard Taylor, Gifford, Ferrand, Richard Napier, and Samuel Bernard were immediately put under restraint, their goods confiscated, and they themselves were removed to different places and confined, some at fort Songad near Mahad, and some at fort Wasota. Shivaji stationed a competent officer, Raoji Somnath, to manage the affairs of Rajapur and look after the comforts of the six factors in confinement. In a few days Raoji Somnath informed the factors that they would be set at liberty and amply recompensed for their losses, if they would readily help Shivaji in his projected campaign against the Siddis of Janjira, but that if they refused, they would have to pay ransom for their release. The factors flatly rejected this offer. Many Muslim and Hindu traders and bankers of Rajapur were similarly

dealt with Shivaji urged that he was in open war against Bijapur, and whoever opposed him would have to suffer the consequences.¹⁴

Thus Remington and his colleagues Richard Taylor, Randolph Taylor, Philip Gifford, were carried away as prisoners and were not released until two years later. The English factors at Rajapur helped Sidhi Jauhar 1660 and it was on this account they were arrested by Shivaji. This incident was grafically described by the President of Surat who wrote to the prisoners on the 10th March 1662 - " How you came in prison you know very well. I was for going to the seige of pannella and tossing balls, with a flag that was known to be the Englishes..... It (Shivaji's - action) was but as any other would having power to revenge himself of such affronts " ¹⁵

The English demanded compensation for what loss the company and it's employees had suffered on that occasion. Shivaji did not deny his liability but he wanted the English to settle once again at Rajapur. Shivaji obtained considerable wealth from Rajapur. The English factors at Rajapur had supplied ammunition to Sidhi Jauhar during the seize of Panhala. For this Henry Recington, Richard Taylor, Randomph Taylor and

Philip Gifford were arrested and thrown into prison, first at Vasota and then in the fort of Songad. - Shivaji then precided to obtain wealth from the most of the towns in the Kokan reign.

Shivaji staitoned a competant officer Raoji Somnath informed factors that they would based at liberty and amply recompensed for their loss if they would readily help Shivaji in his projected campaign against the Siddhis of Janjira but if they refused it they would have to pay ransom for their release. The factors flatly rejected this offer. Shivaji took - particular care to supply the best available comforts to the factors whom he had kept in confinement. There release was, however, long delayed owing mainly to - their stiff and uncompromising attitude and partly to Shivaji's preoccupations also. Theyswerve and - threatened committed self abnegation, sent highly - provocative and distorted accounts to their Resident at Surat whom they requested to intercede with Shivaji, pay the fine and obtain their release, but the president refused to interfere in this affair as it had originated from their own unwarranted behaviour.

The president confessed his inability to coerce Shivaji into obedience and when the prisoners became convinced that they could not obtain release through any outside agency, they pleaded with Raoji Somnath for mercy. In the meantime Remington fell ill and obtained release for treatment. He reached Surat on 17th Oct. 1661 and died three a year later in - Jan.1665, Raoji Pandit came and carried the other captives to Rajapur where they were released, when the following message under Shivaji's seal was read to them, " Let as forget the past we had on hand a war with Bijapur for which funds were needed, and so Rajapur had to suffer. We shall not repeat the affair after this the English factors resumed their trade at Rajapur. A writer in that factory inform the Surat President that, " Shivaji " is raid on Rajapur coast it in plunder the amount of 24,000 Hons, the death of two persons and the detention of the factors of two years ". The English merchants long continued to press Shivaji Separation of the damage caused to them in the Rajapur plunder but the declined being sure he had acted with perfect justice.¹⁶

Later on 3rd Feb.1663, the council commission the Captain of H.M.S. Convertile to capture two vessels

of considerable burden which Shivaji was fitting out at Jaitapur for Mocha and loading with " such goods as were driven by storms upon his coast, - which was of considerable value "17

The next important event took place was the sack of Surat by Shivaji in Jan.1664. Shivaji looted Surat, but the English and the Dutch defended themselves. Shivaji made demands on them but seeing that they were defending themselves stubbornly, he wisely left them alone.18

During his attack on Surat in 1670, the English had met Shivaji. They were treated with consideration by him and invited to carry on their trading activities in Rajapur. The English wanted reparations for the loss sustained by them at Rajapur when Shivaji's forces had attacked that place earlier. Shivaji sent an envoy to the English at Bombay. He was anxious to procure " Grenadoes, Mortar pieces and ammunition " from the English to pursue the war with the Siddis of Janjira. The English were not anxious to see him in possession of Janjira but they knew the benefits which would acquire to them by having trading activities in Shivaji's territory. At last the English sent lieut.

Ustick went to his mission on 10th March, 1672. The negotiations especially about the amount to be paid for the losses, of the English at Rajapur were not successful.¹⁹

Meanwhile negotiation between Shivaji and the English about the compensation for the factory losses at Rajapur dragged on. The English were nearly impatient at the slow progress of the negotiations. Now (1673) to the Rajapur incident the loss sustained by the English at Hubli was added when that town sacked by the Marathas. Yet the English did not want to - break off negotiations. Piliji the envoy of Shivaji was in Bombay since the end of December 1672. As the English were involved with the Dutch at that time they sent him away, and later on the English decided to send Thomas Nicolls to Shivaji to settle the case of Rajapur factory. The damage caused to the factory of Hubli and certain matters connected with the transport of salt in Shivaji's territory. The mission of - Nicollos to Shivaji lasted from 19th May to 17th June 1673. In this connection Bhimaji (Shivaji envoy) - arrived in Bombay in June 1673 and after discussion the English he and Narayan Shenvi went to Shivaji after some more correspondence between the parties

and agreement seemed to the insight, but the treaty had however not been signed till the end of year - 1673.²⁰

PEACE WITH THE ENGLISH 1674 : AND THE EMBASSY
OF HENRY OXIENDON :

As we pointed out that the Island of Bombay had just been acquired by the English were planning to shift their head-quarters from Surat to Bombay. The incident of Rajapur rankled in their hearts, but no actual collision occurred. After his escape from Agra 1666 A.D. Shivaji's power rapidly increased and the English became anxious to secure his good will in order that their trading operations might not suffer, with this object in view the President of Surat sent envoys to Shivaji, from time to time, Ustick in 1672, Nicolls in 1673, Henry Oxiendon in 1674. And Austen in 1675. Of these the visit of Oxienden for Raigad at the time of Shivaji's coronation is historically noteworthy, as that Englishman has left a full and accurate account of what he saw and heard at that important event in Shivaji's life. Oxenden brought Shivaji's presents from the company alongwith their congratulation. A treaty of mutual trade and friendship

was then arranged between them and their relations remained cordial during Shivaji's life time.²¹

Henry Oxenden, relative of the President George Oxenden of Surat, who was present at Raigad on deputation from East India Company on that occasion by invitation, has left a realistic narrative of what he saw and heard personally about this grand ceremony.

About 8¹/₂ 0 clock in the morning as soon as Shivaji became free from the religious performances, he gave an interview from the throne to Henry Oxenden. The latter was accompanied by his assistant and interpreter Narayan Senoy. The Ambassador brought in presents, a ring an English chain, a crest a pair of wristlets set in jewels and a cluster of three large Pearls all totalling to Rs. 3,000 in value.²²

SAMUEL AUSTEN'S MISSION TO SHIVAJI 1675 :

The English who had suffered damages to the factory at Dharangaon in Khandesh, sent Samuel Austen to Raigad to put in their claims for compensation.²³

Samuel Austen met Shivaji on 7th September, 1675 and spoke at the damages suffered by the company.

Shivaji refused to accept the company's request for satisfaction but agreed to issue cowls, assurances of safety to the English factories. The cowls were - issued according to promise.²⁴

FRESH TREATY :

Shivaji wanted to buy, guns and ammunition from the English. The English on the other hand, were unwilling to give the Moghal any offence. At the same time they could not reject the offered friendship of Shivaji as Bombay depended entirely on his country for provision and fuel. The situation was further complicated by the Siddhi's converting Island of Bombay into his naval base. A treaty was formally concluded in 1674. Ultimately Shivaji decided to cut the gordian knot by taking possession of the small Island of Kenery (1679), which commanded the Harbour of Bombay. This led to an armed conflict between the English and the Marathas, but the English could not put their confidence in the good faith of the Siddhi and their financial resources were extremely limited. They came to terms with Shivaji and a fresh treaty was concluded.

This treaty was confirmed by Shivaji, as we learn from a Bombay letter dated 18th March, 1679/80 Factory Records, Surat, Vol.108, Fol.(62), and the English received from Shivaji's ministers 1000 - Khandis of white Betelnut. But as before the English were unable to prevent the Siddhi's depredations. He refused to refrain from raiding Shivaji's country and went so far as to fire upon and capture Manchua Flying English colours. Not did the Siddi consent to respect the neutrality of Bombay and though the English - prisoners were returned to Bombay, the treaty remained, for all practical purposes, in operative when Shivaji died in April, 1680, " of a bloody flux, , being sick 12 days." ²⁴

Shivaji's death in 1680, was the great blow to the Maratha nation, after his death his eldest son Sambhaji succeeded on the throne but like his - predecessor Sambhaji was not a wise and sighted rulers, the English opened negotiations with his son and - successor on the vexed question of the Rajapur losses and the freedom of trade in the mart towns. Mr. Henry Smith was deputed as an evnoy to Sambhaji. ²⁵ - Unfortunately during the reign of Sambhaji (1680 to - 1689 A.D.) the Maratha Swaraja was threatened by the arrival of mighty Mughul emperor, Auranzeb who came

to Deccan and remained upto his death. In 1689 due to carelessness, Sambhaji was imprisoned by Mughul Officer Zulfikarkhan and later on put to cruel - death by Aurangzeb. After the fall of Raigad on 3rd Nov. 1689 Shahu the infant son of Sambhaji and Yesubai became the prisoner of Aurangzeb.

After the death of Sambhaji, Rajaram became the head of Maratha state and continued the war of independence against Mughuls until his death in 1700, and the last phase of war of independent was carried out under the dynamic leadership of Tarabai, the widow of Rajaram and ultimately Aurangzeb breathed his last on 28th Feb. 1707 and thus the struggle between Marathas and Mughul came to an end. During this period of Maratha Mughul conflict English did not took part on either side and remained neutral.

FOUNDATION OF KOLHAPUR STATE :

The death of Aurangzeb on 20th Feb. 1707, marks a distinct break between the old order that was - passing and the new that was coming. The Emperor had spent full twenty-five years of his long reign and the vast resources of his extensive dominions in a vain - attempt to sub-due the Marathas.

On hearing of Aurangzeb's death his second surviving Son Azam Shah hastily returned to Ahmadnagar and performed the funeral rites. Next on 5th March, he proclaimed himself Emperor and at once started with all his fathers camp for the north, to put down his elder brother Shah Alam, who was coming from Lahore to contest the throne. Shahu had no choice but to accompany Azam Shah. His mother and party numbered about two hundred. He had long formed a friendship with Zulficar Khan who looked upon the Mughul Deccan as his future charge. After reaching Bhurhanpur Zulficar Khan presented Shahu to Azam Shah. Pleaded his cause and begged that he might be released and sent back as a contrivance for keeping the Marathas divided by a domestic feud.²⁶

Later on 8th May, 1707, Shahu was released by Azam Shah leaving behind as hostages, a small party including his mother, wife and others. Thus the death of Aurangzeb and the return of Shahu to the Deccan ignited a spark for a split in the ranks of the Marathas. When Shahu started his south ward march he received a hearty welcome from the Rajput princes.

He addressed letters to a large number of Maratha Sardars informing them of his arrival and asking them to join him with their troops. Parsoji Bhosale was the first to join him with about fifteen thousand men. Within a short time a number of Maratha Sardars like Mansing More, Haibatrao Nimbalkar, Nemaji Shinde and other joined Shahu. On his way to Ahmednagar Shahu sent letters to Tarabai informing her of his arrival in Deccan. Rajaram had made a number of attempts to bring back Shahu from the Mughal captivity may be because of this, Shahu expected a warm welcome.

Tarabai, however, was in no mood to resign the power that she had enjoyed for sometime. Her stand was that the kingdom gained by Shivaji was lost by Sambhaji and Rajaram acquired a new kingdom after ten years of hard troubles with Aurangzeb. She also tried to declare Shahu an imposter. She rallied round her eminent persons like Ramchandra Pant Amatya, Parashuram, Trimbak Pratinidhi, Shankarraoji Narayan Sachiv and Dhanaji Jadhav Senapati. She issued a general declaration that anyone helping Shahu would be severely punished. She reinforced the principal forts in territory and after making all preparations to meet Shahu she informed him that she would not recognise his claim.²⁷ Shahu encamped at Ahmednagar and

kept a close watch on the activities of Tarabai. On hearing that Tarabai had despatched Dhanaji Jadhav with forty thousand men, Shahu marched further. The two armies came face to face on the banks on Bhima. Shahu was at Khed and Dhanaji Jadhav pitched his tents at Vadus on the opposite bank. Shahu had no general of the eminence of Dhanaji Jadhav. He, therefore, tried to induce Dhanaji to join him. A little before this three trusted colleagues of Dhanaji viz. Balaji Vishwanath Bhat, Khando Ballal and Naro Ram had joined Shahu after being convinced of his rights. Dhanaji was prevailed upon to desert Tarabai's side just at the time of the battle. The battle took place on October 12, 1707.²⁸ Shahu led his army in person. Dhanaji did not give a battle and Parashuram Trimbak who accompanied him was defeated. Dhanaji was appointed as the Senapati of Shahu and Khando Ballal as Chitnis.

At this time Satara was the capital of the Marathas. Shahu, therefore, marched to Satara via Poona, Supe and Jejuri in November, 1707. Shahu besieged Satara which was controlled by Parashram Trimbak Pratinidhis in November, 1707. Shahu seized the family of Shaikh Mira, the Killedar of Satara and

sent him a message that if the garrison did not submit the members of his family would be blown to pieces. On this Shaikh Mira arrested the Pratinidhi and opened the gates of Satara for Shahu. On January 12, 1708, Shahu got himself crowned at Satara.²⁹

On Shahu approaching Satara, Tarabai left the fort and went to Panhala. Shahu offered to accept river Varana as a boundry line between his and Tarabai's possession. Tarabai rejected the offer.

Tarabai secured the support of Khanoje Angre, Bahinji Hindurao Ghorpade and also managed to bring by Khanderao Dabhade to her side. In 1708 Shahu succeeded in capturing Panhala, Pawangad and Kolhapur. Tarabai shifted to Rangana. The next two years were spent in the struggle between the Shahu and Tarabai. During this period because of the death of Dhanaji Jadhav and Parsoji Bhosale, Shahu's side was weakened to a great extent. Ultimately Shahu left the Kolhapur area and went back to Satara. Tarabai regained Panhala and declared her son to be the Chhatrapati in 1710.³⁰

The period from 1700 to 1707 may be looked upon as the most brilliant period of her career. Not only she was looked upon as the defacto head of the

state by the Marathas, but the Portuguese also referred to her as the queen of the Marathas.

Thus separate Maratha state of Kolhapur was founded by Tarabai, the daughter in law of Great Shivaji and the wife of Rajaram in the name of her Son Shivaji-~~I~~ in 1710 A.D. and the seat of the - second Maratha state was at Panhala. In 1710 Tarabai issued a proclamation from Panhala that her son - Shivaji was the Chhatrapati.³¹

By this declaration she meant that Panhala and not ~~a~~ Satara was the real capital of the Maratha Kingdom. Now there were two Maratha states, Satara, and Panhala. The Kingdom of Panhala later on came to be known as ' Karveer ' or ' Kolhapur Kingdom ' ³² and Shivaji whose name the proclamation was issued came to be called as the first Shivaji of Kolhapur dynasty. He ruled Kolhapur state upto 1714, as - Shivaji-I and due to the Bloodless Palace Revolution, he and his mother Tarabai were removed from the power and put in to prison at Panhala, where he died in - 1726 and from 1714 Sambhaji the second son of Rajaram from Rajasbai ascended on the Kolhapur Gadi, during in which period the first treaty was signed by ' The East India Company ' and a new era commenced in the history of Kolhapur. *State*

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