

INTRODUCTION

In the late fifties and early sixties of the 18th century Marathas went beyond the Tungabhadra in the south. This expansion prompted the Peshwa to establish Sardars of his favour in the south.

Peshwas in subsequent days thought that they had two enemies on their southern flank - Haider Ali of Mysore and the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur.

In order to guard the enemies on the southern border Peshwa Balajirao - Nanasaheb - created the Sardars like the Patwardhans were the most powerful. Fortunately enough they had a big joint family to espouse the Peshwa's cause in the south. During Peshwa Balaji Bajirao's career, Gopalrao Patwardhan was coming forth as a soldier of exceptional merit. It was Gopalrao Patwardhan upon whose ability, the Peshwa had entrusted the management of the Maratha territories in the south.

During Madhavrao I (1761-1772) the Patwardhans were established at Miraj in 1764. In that year they were given a Tainat to maintain 8,000 troops to guard the territories from the two above mentioned enemies.

The years 1760 to 1800 were the years of prosperity of the Patwardhans. In this period a galaxy of valient soldiers was

given by this illustrious family to the Maratha nation. Upto the last quarter of the 18th century they were a joint family with Miraj as the headquarters. But with the death of Parashurambhau in the battle of Pattankudi the family disintegrated into branches.

The original Tainat Jabta was given in the name of Govind Hari Patwardhan. He died in 1771. He was survived by four sons, namely, Gopalrao, Wamanrao Pandurangrao and Gangadhar. Of the four, the first two died heirless. Therefore, the Tainat Jabta was made in the name of Govind Hari's third son Pandurangrao. This Pandurangrao had three sons, namely, Hariharrao, Chintamanrao and Vithalrao. Of these three, only Chintamanrao (1783-1851) survived.

Chintamanrao Appasaheb I was the nominal head of the family, in whose name the Tainat was changed only after the death of Wamanrao in 1775. When Chintamanrao Appasaheb was a minor Parashurambhau managed the Jahagir with sincerity and honesty.

When Chintamanrao Appasaheb I became major, he tried to assume authority from his uncle Gangadharrao of Miraj, who was managing the affairs after Parashurambhau had died. So, in the last couple of years of the 18th century the family feud started between Chintamanrao and his uncle Gangadharrao. This quarrel dragged on for years and consequently Chintamanrao

left Miraj -- the headquarters of the Patwardhans -- and established himself at Sangli in 1808. From 1808 the history of the Sangli State begins and here we have tried to trace the administrative history of the Sangli State from 1808 to 1910 in this M.Phil. dissertation.

In the period from 1808 to 1910 there are three phases, the first phase begins with 1808 and ends in 1851 with death of the founder of the state - Chintamanrao Appasaheb. The second phase is of his son - Dhondiraj Tatyasaheb (1851-1901) - and the third phase (1901-1910) of the administration is represented by the Political Agent of the Sangli State.

In Chapter One I have traced the historical background upon which the Patwardhans came to establish themselves in the S.M.C., also their achievements in broad outlines.

In Chapter Two the general administrative set-up of the Patwardhans with emphasis on Police, education and Ganapati Sansthan have been studied. It was Ganapati Sansthan which was the prestige point of the Sangli State.

In Chapter Three the Revenue System has been studied in details. The British system of land measurement had a great impact on the Patwardhan land revenue system.

In Chapter Four the Judicial system of the Sangli State has been reviewed. The details would indicate that the Judicial

administration of the State was definitely different from other States.

In Chapter Five the political relations between the Patwardhans and the British have been traced. The Chapter would indicate that the Chief of the Sangli State had a definite status over the other states in the S.M.C.

While dealing with these Chapters I have used original as well as secondary sources. Among the original sources, the Standing Orders of the Sangli State and the Ordinances issued by the Sangli State from time to time have proved to be of immense use to me. On the basis of these sources the attitude of the Patwardhans regarding many branches of the administration can be explained. Also there are some original pamphlets regarding the achievements of the Patwardhans. In 1926, the Chief of Sangli State through a petition had requested the then Governor General, the Right Honourable Lord Frederick Lindley Wood of India, for some concessions to be given to the Patwardhans. This petition includes a number of original letters written by many British Officials to the Patwardhans.

There is yet another long letter entitled "The Grant of the Title of 'Highness' To and Enhancement of the Status of the Rulers of the Sangli State". This original document gives a better understanding of the position and status of the

Patwardhans in the eyes of the British.

As regards the Revision Settlement of the Land Revenue of the Sangli State, the Revision Settlement Reports given by Colonel Anderson are very useful. These reports have been published by the State authorities in 1918.

There is a booklet which provides an original correspondence between Mountstuart Elphinstone and Chintamanrao Appasaheb I of Sangli. A typed copy of this booklet is duly attested by the State Karbhari.

Apart from these original sources, the secondary sources have been used to justify my contention.

In the end, I must express my sense of deep gratitude to the persons and institutes who have been instrumental in bringing this work to an happy end.

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(B.N. Sardesai)

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