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CHAPTER - VI

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EPILOGUE

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CHAPTER - VI

EPILOGUE

After losing the battle against Shahu, Tarabai, the daughter-in-law of Shivaji the Great and wife of Chhatrapati Rajaram, founded a separate Maratha State at Panhala, in 1710. She proclaimed her son Shivaji as the Chhatrapati of this newly founded Maratha State. The first capital was at Panhala and later on it was shifted to Kolhapur, so the rulers of this State were ~~kn~~ called the Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur. This Kolhapur State existed till 1949.

The Kolhapur State, founded by Tarabai, had a special significance and unique position in the history of Maraths as the rulers bore the honorific title of Chhatrapati and as they ~~xxx~~ were the direct descendents of Shivaji the Great. In later years, the Kolhapur State flourished, developed and was protected by the heroism of many sardars and warriors. The credit of its security went to the Chhatrapati as well as the heroism and deeds of some sardars.

The Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur granted jahagirs to such sardars. These sardars were known as feudatory States and saranjams under the Kolhapur State. There were nine feudatories. Four were Major and five were minor.

In the foregoing pages an attempt has been made to trace the history of Torgal Jahagir, one of the important

jahagirs in the State of Kolhapur, and the contributions of the Chiefs of Torgal Jahagir to the history of Kolhapur State of a particular period 1710 to 1853 which is an important, interesting and fascinating one.

During the reign of Sambhaji (1680-89), Akabar, the son of Aurangzeb revolted against his father and came to Deccan to get the help and shelter of Sambhaji against his father. Aurangzeb came to Deccan to suppress the revolt of his son, Akabar, and to capture the Maratha Kingdom in 1682.

Chhatrapati Sambhaji (1680-89) prepared himself against the invasion of Aurangzeb and there began a prolonged struggle between Marathas and Mughals. During this atmosphere of panic and fear many Maratha Sardars took part in this Maratha-Mughal struggle. Out of them was Murarrao Shinde, the Patil of Shendri-Bendri, in Satara District. He formed his army and made a havoc in Karnatak. He had three sons viz. Narsojirao, Jiwajirao and Sultanrao. All these three sons of Murarrao Shinde showed their bravery and created jahagirs at different places. Narsojirao Shinde created the Torgal Jahagir.

Narsojirao Shinde conquered a vast territory in Karnatak from out of Kingdom of Bijapur. He appeared before the fort, Torgal and besieged it. He cut off the supplies of the garrison and after a three years stiff fight he took possession of the fort and the territory under it. Narsojirao then fortified the fort in or by the year 1700 and made it the capital seat of his acquisitions. Thus, Narsojirao founded an independent Torgal Jahagir round about 1690.

The headquarter of this jahagir was at Torgal. This Torgal is now situated in Ramdurg Taluka, District Belgaum, on the banks of Malprabha river. It is nearly 100 miles away to the south-east of Kolhapur. There is an ancient solid and huge fort at Torgal. Torgal had much ancient history. It underwent various vicissitudes under the Chalukyas of Kalyani, the Sevunas of Deogiri, ~~Vijay~~ Vijayanagara, Adilshahi and Marathas. Being affiliated more to the Belgaum District than to the District of Kolhapur Torgal Jahagir soon after its merger, (1949) was included in the Collectorate of Belgaum, by the Government of Bombay.

Right from the foundation of Torgal Jahagir (1690) to its merger (1949) in the Republic of India, in all ten chiefs were in power in the jahagir. Out of these ten chiefs, the second chief Subhanrao Shinde (1731-49) the son of Narsojirao Shinde, received the great honour of 'Senakhaskhel' (Commander of select body of troops) in 1732 from Sambhaji I (1714-60) the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. From this year onwards the chiefs of Torgal were assumed the title of 'Senakhaskhel'.

Narsoji's brother Jiwajirao, who was in power at Manolikad had wanted to establish the relations of Shinde family with the royal family of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur for the purpose to get prestige and to get political support. So he adopted Narsoji's daughter- Jijabai and arranged her marriage with Sambhaji I (1714-60) the Chhatrapati of

Kolhapur, in 1726. Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur was aware of the powerful abilities of Narsojirao and his son Subhanrao Shinde, who were helping him in his civil war against the Chhatrapati of Satara. It seems that because of this awareness Sambhaji accepted this ~~mat~~ matrimonial relations with the Torgalkar Shinde family. By this marriage Narsoji and his son Subhanrao came into close contact with Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and enhanced their prestige.

After Narasojirao, his son Subhanrao Shinde came in power in 1731. In the beginning of his career, by the orders of Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, Subhanrao Shinde made an expedition in the Deccan and defeated all the ~~re~~ rebellions. During the period of Subhanrao Shinde the civil war between Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and Chhatrapati of Satara, became more violent. Torgalkar Shinde took the side of Sambhaji by taking into account their matrimonial relations. Narsojirao and his son Subhanrao Shinde helped Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur with all the resources at their disposal as chiefs of Torgal.

Subhanrao Shinde, the brother of queen Jijabai had helped Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur in quelling an insurrection in the Deccan, and in the civil war between Sambhaji and Shahu. So Sambhaji was much pleased with Subhanrao. Subsequently, in the first year of his reign he conferred the high military title of 'Senakhaskhel' on Subhanrao Shinde, in 1732. To support the title of

Senakhaskhel a considerable cash saranjam, in the form of a right, to receive Mokassa and Chauth in many districts was given, for the maintenance of his troops, by Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Torgalkar Shinde afterwards used the title 'Senakhaskhel' and it continued in their family.

In this way, Subhanrao Shinde, the first Senakhaskhel rendered yeomen services to the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and eventually he became the main supporter of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur.

After Subhanrao Shinde his eldest son Vyankatrao Shinde received the robes of Senakhaskhelship. His period lasted six years only. (1749-55). Unfortunately there are very few documents which also are not so important. Therefore it seems that his career as a Senakhaskhel was not very impressive.

After Vyankatrao Shinde, his younger brother Laxmanrao Shinde I, succeeded as a Senakhaskhel in 1755. During the period of Laxmanrao Shinde I (1755 to 1793), we find an addition in cash saranjam to Torgalkar Shinde, ~~granted~~ granted by Shivaji II (1762-1813), the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. In addition to this Torgalkar Shinde got the Mokassa Bab of Kittur Prant. Thus the income of Torgal Jahagir was increased by these new grants.

The relations between Torgalkar Shinde and the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, which was established since the marriage of Jijabai and Chhatrapati Sambhaji (1714-60) became more intimate, by many occasions, during the period

of Laxmanrao Shinde I. Afterwards Torgalkar Shinde family stood on the side of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur in his various conflicts. One of such conflict was the battle of Alate(1793).

On December 12, 1793 the battle of Alate was fought between Shivaji II, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and Peshwa's mightest Sardar Parashuram Bhau Patwardhan. Shivaji II defeated Patwardhan, in this battle. In this significant battle, Laxmanrao Shinde, Senakhaskhel, and his son Sambhajirao and their army fought valiantly and helped Shivaji II to get the victory.

Shivaji II, rewarded Laxmanrao Shinde, Senakhaskhel and his men for their great valour in the battle of Alate. The son of Laxmanrao Shinde, Sambhajirao got the titles 'Sena-Dhurandhar' and 'Vishwas-Nidhee', from the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Laxmanrao Shinde died in 1793 at Kolhapur. During his period of nearly 40 years there was a considerable increase in the income of the jahagir and also the relationship with the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur became more intimate; and Torgalkar Shinde family got more honour and prestige and became a dominant and valerous chief in the Deccan.

After the death of Laxmanrao Shinde I(1793) his eldest son Sambhajirao alias Shankarrao succeeded as the chief of Torgal and assumed the title of Senakhaskhel. The period of Sambhajirao alias Shankarrao Shinde (1793-1828) as a Senakhaskhel is remarkable because of two important

battles i.e. Pattankudi (1799) and Sawgaon (1808), against the Patwardhan and Nipanikar Desai respectively.

In the year 1797, Shivaji II, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur undertook an ^{Karnatak} expedition against Patwardhan and Peshwa. In this expedition Sambhajirao Shinde, Senakhaskhel, showed his great valour and got the many grants for the maintenance of his troops. This Karnatak expedition of Chhatrapati ended in the battle of Pattankudi. The battle was fought between Parashuram Bhau Patwardhan and Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, in which Parashuram Bhau was killed and the army of Patwardhan was completely routed. Sambhajirao Shinde, Senakhaskhel, and his army did a great work in the battle of Pattankudi and then in the seige of Kolhapur in 1800. For this valour the Chhatrapati gave the another title 'Sumust Shree Dhurandhar' to the Senakhaskhel.

Further, in the Sawantwadi expedition of Shivaji II, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, and in the battle of Sawgaon fought between Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and Sidhojirao Nimbalkar, Nipanikar. Sambhajirao Shinde supported the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. After the battle, Chhatrapati of Kolhapur declared his rewards and grants to the soldiers of Senakhaskhel who had shown a great valour in the battle.

After this battle of Sawgaon a new matrimonial alliance took place between Torgalkar Shinde and the

Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, Akubai, the daughter of Shivaji II, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur was married to Laxmanrao Shinde II, the son of Sambhajirao Shinde, Senakhaskhel.

This matrimonial alliance and the service which Sambhajirao Shinde rendered to the Chhatrapati, created a unique position for Sambhajirao Shinde in the Kolhapur darbar. He became the mightiest Sardar in the Darbar and got a high social status and prestige in general.

Sambhajirao alias Shankarrao Shinde, Senakhaskhel died in 1828. Before his death his son Laxmanrao II had received the robes of Senakhaskhelship and Chief of Torgal Jahagir in or about 1825. During the period of Laxmanrao II a remarkable event took place in the Torgal jahagir. The Torgalkar Shinde revolted against the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur in 1827. The circumstances which caused this revolt were as follows. During the period of Laxmanrao Shinde II the relations between Torgalkar Shinde and Chhatrapati of Kolhapur became strained. So also the influence of the British was most dominant on the Kolhapur State, especially during the reign of Buwasaheb (1822-1838), the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Buwasaheb, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur had to sign a treaty with the British in 1826, by which the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur lost his dominance over the jahagirdars in the Kolhapur State. It created a typical and effective reaction in the minds of jahagirdars. As they realised that ^{the} British power was more dominant and powerful than the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Hence they thought to

become an independent rulers with the support of the British. In the year 1827 Torgalkar Shinde declared himself as an independent king and started his defiance to Chhatrapati of Kolhapur.

Buwasahab, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur led an expedition to Torgal to crush down the revolt. This expedition continued for a year. Atlast the expedition was ended by a stren warning to both sides, from the British. As a result the British became more dominant in Kolhapur Darbar and in Torgal Jahagir. Laxmanrao Shinde II, Senakhaskhel, died in 1853.

After the death of Laxmanrao Shinde II(1853), there were four Senakhaskhels in later periods of about 100 years the]1853-1949]. During this period because of/dominance of the British, the importance of Torgal Jahagir gradually become less. After Laxmanrao Shinde II, his son Subhanrao Shinde (1853-78) was in power as Chief of Torgal and Senakhaskhel. During his period an agreement was signed between the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and the British, by which Torgal Jahagir became the part of Kolhapur territory. He died in 1878.

After Subhanrao Shinde, his son Sambhajirao became the Senakhaskhel. During his period(1878-98) his powers as a chief of Torgal and Senakhaskhel were curtailed by the Kolhapur Darbar and the British Political Agent. In his period Torgal Jahagir became a vassal of Kolhapur.

Sambhajirao Shinde, Senakhaskhel died in 1898. His heir , his son, Murarrao Shinde got the robes of chief of Jahagir and Senakhaskhel in 1902, after four years inquiry for succession. So the period of 1898-1902 of Torgal Jahagir ~~ix~~ ^{was} considered as minority period, and during this minority period the administration of Torgal Jahagir was managed by Kolhapur Darbar. Murarrao was also not given the full powers of administration. He exercised revenue powers only. Criminal and Judiciary powers were withheld for want of training in law. In his period the position of Torgal Jahagir became worse. He died in 1910.

At the time of Murarrao Shinde's death his son Narsojirao Shinde, the 10th descendent of Shinde family, was just 5 months old. He was looked after the Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur- Shahu (1884-1922) and Rajaram(1922-40). He received, with ceremony the title of Senakhaskhel and chief of Torgal in 1932. Again the period from 1910 to 32 was considered as minority period. During this period the administration of Torgal Jahagir was managed by Kolhapur Darbar. As he had a good knowledge of English language and administration, he was given full powers and rights of administration of Jahagir. But the political situation in his days was so changed that he could not enjoy his full rights. He had a lot of correspondence for the internal problems of Jahagir with Kolhapur Darbar and the British.

At last on 1st March, 1949 the Kolhapur State was merged into The Republic of India. With it Torgal Jahagir also was merged onto The Republic of India and this merger, the Torgal Jahagir lost its identity.

Upto 1878, the chiefs of Torgal Jahagir ruled like an independent king. They enjoyed civil, criminal and judicial powers. In the administration of the jahagir the Jahagirdar was the master and there was Karbhari and other officials for his help. The land revenue was the main source of income. So also there were other minor sources of income. The Jahagirdars spent ~~by~~ their income on various items. On the whole the jahagir was economically in sound position, during this period.

The Torgal Jahagir was fully secular. There were temples of Hindus, as well as Durgah, Masjids of the Muslims.

Both the Hindus and Muslims lived together happily. This secularism was a remarkable thing of Torgal Jahagir.

The Jahagirdar had judiciary rights for both civil and criminal crimes. He declared punishments according to the crime.

In this way the Torgal Jahagir starting from Narsojirao Shinde in 1690 ended in 1949 with Narsojirao Shinde, the last Senakhaskhel. During this period of about 250 years the Jahagir passed through many ups and downs. The chiefs and the Senakhaskhels showed their great heroism and brought prestige to the Jahagir.

Though the Jahagir existed even before the Kolhapur State the chiefs remained loyal to the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. In course of time there was a decline and fall

of the powers of the chiefs. Today, only the remains
are found of that past glory of Torgal Jahagir. Thus,
from Narsoji to Narsoji the circle came to an end.
