
CHAPTER - II

POLITICAL HISTORY OF TORGAL JAHAGIR

FIRST PHASE: 1600 to 1755

* 1) Narsojirao Shinde: 1690 to 1731

* 2) Subhanrao Shinde : 1731 to 1749

* 3) Vyankatrao Shinde: 1749 to 1755

CHAPTER - II
POLITICAL HISTORY OF TORGAL JAHAGIR
(FIRST PHASE : 1690 to 1755)

CHIEFS OF TORGAL JAHAGIR:

Narsojirao Shinde as stated in previous chapter founded the Torgal Jahagir by the year 1690. Right from its foundation to its merger in the Republic of India, in ~~1949~~ 1949, in all ten chiefs were in power. Their genealogy is in the mentioned/appendix.

In the present Dissertation a particular period from 1710 to 1853 is studied and a brief survey of the ^{six} works of the/chiefs who ruled over Torgal Jahagir during this period is taken into account. These six chiefs were as under:

- (1) Narsojirao Shinde - (1690 to 1731 approx.)
- (2) Subhanrao Shinde - (1731 to 1749 approx.)
- (3) Vyankatrao Shinde - (1749 to 1755 approx.)
- (4) Laxmanrao Shinde I- (1755 to 1793 approx.)
- (5) Sambhajirao alias
Shankarrao Shinde - (1793 to 1828 approx.)
- (6) Laxmanrao Shinde II-(1828 to 1853 approx.)

The chiefs who ruled after this period were as under:

- (7)Subhanrao Shinde - (1853 to 1878)
- (8)Sambhajirao Shinde- (1878 to 1898)
- (9)Murarrao Shinde - (1902 to 1910)
- (10)Narsojirao Shinde - (1932 to 1949)

N.B.: The periods between 1898 to 1902 and 1910 to 1932 were minority periods, when the administration of Torgal Jahagir was carried on by Kolhapur Darbar.¹

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, as a reward of his valuable help in his war against the Chhatrapati of Satara.² From this year onwards the chiefs of Torgal Jahagir assumed the title of ' Senakhaskhel '.

THE FIXATION OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF TORGAL CHIEFS:

While making the fixation of periods of Torgal chiefs it is important to note that the exact periods of the first six chiefs are not found in any old records or documents. However, by the evidence in Modi script of a genealogical paper prepared in 1886, to be found in Kolhapur Record Office, Torgal Jahagir File No. 29, Page Nos. 103-04, and by some of letters in Modi script in Parasnis Daftar an effort has been made to fix approximately the periods of first six chiefs. So their periods are approximately mentioned.

However, the chronological periods of the remaining four chiefs can be fixed by some later and recent records and documents available to us.³



THREE PHASES OF THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF TORGAL JAHAGIR:

For the convenience of our study the total period of Torgal Jahagir is divided into three phases. The first phase from 1690 to 1755 includes Narsojirao, Subhanrao and Vyankatrao Shinde. The second phase from 1755 to 1853 includes Laxmanrao I, Sambhajirao alias Shankarrao and Laxmanrao II Shinde. The third phase from 1853 to 1949 includes Subhanrao, Sambhajirao, Murarrao and Narsojirao Shinde. These three phases are separately studied in chapters II, III and IV respectively.

TORGAL JAHAGIR : FIRST PHASE (1690 to 1755) :

NARSOJIRAO SHINDE (1690 to 1731 approx.)

Narsojirao Shinde by founding the Torgal Jahagir, led many expeditions in Karnatak and imposed Chauthai on many regions.⁴ He also built a citadel in Torgal Fort in 1700.

MATRIMONIAL RELATIONS WITH THE CHHATRAPATI OF KOLHAPUR:

Narsojirao Shinde had a son named Subhanrao and a daughter named Jijabai. Narsoji's brother, ~~Subhaji~~ Jiwajirao who was in power at Manoli had no daughter. He wanted to establish his relations with the royal family of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur for the purpose to get prestige and political support. So he adopted Narsoji's daughter Jijabai and arranged her marriage with Sambhaji I (1714-60) the

Chhatrapati of Kolhapur in 1726. He spent three lakh rupees on this marriage.⁵

Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur was aware of the powerful abilities of Narsoji and his son Subhanrao who were helping him in his civil ~~war~~ war against the Chhatrapati of Satara. It seems that because of this awareness Sambhaji accepted this matrimonial relations with 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. The same Jijabai, the fourth queen⁶ of Chhatrapati Sambhaji in future became prominent figure in the history of Kolhapur by her deeds. So it is a proper place to see the career of Jijabai in brief, here.

JIJABAI : (1716 to 1773):

Maharani Jijabai, the fourth queen of Chhatrapati Sambhaji I, of Kolhapur , who is described as 'Choutha Wada' in Marathi papers was hailed from Torgal, a small principality in Karnatak. But inspite of her juniority, she became the principal queen of Chhatrapati Sambhaji due to her sagacity, preseverance and firmness.⁷

At the time of Warana treaty (1731) she must

have been about fifteen. Even at that tender age, she is said to have played a prominent part in persuading her husband to try and enter into a treaty with Shahu, Chhatrapati of Satara. Since then it is obvious that her influence over Sambhaji had grown and in the year 1746 we find her taking a more active interest in the affairs of the Kingdom.⁸

In the boyhood of Shivaji II (1762-1813) the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, Jijabai successfully shouldered the responsibilities of Kolhapur Kingdom. In fact she was actively participating in politics ■ even in the days of her husband, Sambhaji. This is revealed from the sanadas which she had granted to many persons. She had made her own emblem which reads " शंभु राजस्य भार्यायां जिजादेव्यां
क्षयात्ते बालेदुस्त्रिं वरिष्ठं मुद्रामद्राय विराजते. " 9
Even Maharani Tarabai, whose ambitions and statesmanship is recorded in foreign documents had not her own emblem, but Jijabai had. So, it seems that Jijabai was the first queen in the family of Maratha Chhatrapati to possess an emblem of her own name.¹⁰

Jijabai ranks very high in the Chhatrapati family. After the death of Sambhaji (1760) her wisdom and strength maintained the Kolhapur Gadi.¹¹ Jijabai was next great queen to Tarabai in her diplomacy. She was more

brilliant and ambitious than her husband. The wellknown historian V V. Khare has rightly estimated her in his book ' Ichalkaranji Sansthanacha Itihas'. He writes, " She was the founder of Kolhapur State. Her policies, courage, firmness and family respect etc. are beyond comparison. She judge exactly the abilities of her opponents. As she knew bad results of interfrance of the Pradhans in Satara State, she did not allowed anyone to become more impressive in Kolhapur Court, and she alone, governed all the administ-ration of the State. She crumbled down the intrigue of Peshwa Nanasaheb (1740-61) to extinguish the Kolhapur State.¹²

Though the career of Jijabai is less important than that of Tarabai, her work was great. She supported the Kingdom in its critical days and faced all the disasters courageously and saved the Kingdom. So she deserves high recognition and praise by many historians.¹³ Thus, she carved out her name in the galaxy of the most distinguished queens of this country.

It is because of this valerious queen Jijabai Torgalkar Shinde got high esteem in the Kolhapur Darbar.

In this way, during the period of Narsojirao Shinde, there was an expansion of Torgal Jahagir and due to

matrimonial relations with the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur
Torgalkar Shinde got special significance in Maratha politics.

SUBHANRAO SHINDE : (1731 to 1749 approx.)

Subhanrao Shinde came in power in 1731, after his father, Narsojira. In the mean time the relations between Torgalkar Shinde and Chhatrapati of Kolhapur had developed and hence it seems that Subhanrao, many times helped Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur.

THE DECCAN EXPEDITION OF SUBHANRAO SHINDE:

In the beginning of his career, there was an unrest, because of riots and rebels at many places in Deccan. Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur ordered Subhanrao to undertake an expedition in Deccan to crush down the rebels. According to this order, Subhanrao, prepared himself by collecting his force and marched from fort Torgal to Deccan. He defeated all the rebellions and was successful in his expedition. Sambhaji was much pleased with Subhanrao Shinde, for his heroism.¹⁴

THE ROLE OF TORGALKAR SHINDE IN THE CIVIL WAR BETWEEN
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI AND CHHATRAPATI SHAHU OF SATARA:
(1710-31):

During the period of Subhanrao Shinde the civil war between Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and Chhatrapati of Satara,

which was started in the year 1710 became more violent. Udaji Chavan was the chief supporter of Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur during the civil war.

Udaji Chavan, the Himmatbahadur, declared his allegiance to Chhatrapati Sambhaji's faction. His main base was at Battis-Shirale on the banks of Warana and he had also established another base at Athani. From here in 1726, seeing the Shahu's army had been sent off into Karnatak he had made deep forays into Shahu's domain and had caused havoc in Tasgaon and Rahimatpur Districts. As Shahu's territory was enemy territory Udaji despoiled, plundered it and subjected it to his special tribute 'Chavan Chauthai'.¹⁵

A few days later while Shahu was still encamped in the forest of Battis-Shirale an attempt on his life was made by some hired assassins. From the confessions of the assassins Shahu believed that they were sent by Udaji Chavan and some how Sambhaji, Chhatrapati of Kolhapur was implicated in the plot. So Shahu decided to put down both Sambhaji and Udaji Chavan without delay. So he prepared his forces against them, Sambhaji too prepared to face Shahu's forces.¹⁶

TORGALKAR SHINDE'S ROLE:

Torgalkar Shinde played an important role in this

civil war. They took the side of Sambhaji , the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur by taking into account ~~their~~ their matrimonial relations and supported him. This is revealed from the following discription:

"..... During the troublesome days of the fights between Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and Chhatrapati Shahu of Satara, Narsojirao Shinde and his son Subhanrao Shinde espoused the cause of the former and helped Sambhaji, with all the resources at their disposal as chiefs of Torgal, as Sambhaji was the son-in-law of Narsoji and brother-in-law of Subhanrao.¹⁷

Sambhaji made efforts to get help from Nizam but Nizam refused. Sambhaji also wrote letters to his Cabinet Ministers and Chieftains to join his force with their contingents. Among those who responded and joined Sambhaji, were Bhagvantrao Amatya, Krishnarao Pratinidhi, Venkatrao Ghorpade, Shinde from Torgal and Sidhoji Ghorpade. As a result the Sambhaji's force numbered between twenty to twenty five thousand.¹⁸

WARANA TREATY: (1731) :

In this struggle between Shahu and Sambhaji, Shahu defeated Sambhaji. Thus the civil war that had started

with the release of Shahu came to an end. This struggle finally was terminated by the treaty of Warana, consisting nine articles. The treaty was then ratified on 13th April 1731.¹⁹ As a result of this Warana treaty two separate Kingdoms, Satara and Kolhapur came into existance.²⁰

What was exactly the status of Sambhaji after the treaty of Warana? Did he become a feudatory of Shahu ? The answers of such questions are not to be found in the clauses of the treaty. Clause number five states that the two should extend the boundries of the Kingdom by acting in collusion with eachother. From this it may not be wrong to deduce that it was a treaty between two independent Kingdoms.²¹

GRANT OF SENAKHASKHELSHIP: (1732):

TITLE OF SENAKHASKHEL:

Subhanrao Shinde the brother of queen Jijabai, wife of Sambhaji (1714-60), had helped Sambhaji in quelling an insurrection in the Deccan. Similarly he and his father Narsojirao had supported Sambhaji in his struggle with Shahu. So Sambhaji was much pleased with Subhanrao.

~~As Sambhaji~~ Subsequently on creation of principality of Kolhapur by the treaty of Warana, in 1731, Sambhaji in ~~the~~ the first year of his reign ~~as~~ conferred the high sound

honourary military title of 'Senakhaskhel' (Commander of select body of troops) on Subhanrao Shinde in 1732.²²

D.C.Graham, the then Political Agent of Kolhapur State had mentioned in his report about the Senakhaskhelship as follows." The (Torgal) Chief bears the title of Senakhaskhel which was bestowed upon Subhanrao Shinde by Sambhaji I in 1732. In consequence of his having proved himself useful in quelling an insurrection in the Deccan.²³

Thus Subhanrao Shinde received the robes of Senakhaskhelship from Sambhaji. Torgalkar Shinde afterwards used the title Senakhaskhel and it continued in their family. When a new successor came to power in Torgal Jahagir, the title of Senakhaskhel was bestowed on him as a matter of course.

GRANTS OF CASH SARANJAMS:

To support the title of Senakhaskhel, a considerable cash saranjam, in the form of a right to receive Mokassa and Chauth in many districts which have long ceased to be under Kolhapur, was conferred on Subhanrao Shinde by Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, for maintenance of troops, in his capacity of the Senakhaskhel.

The following are some important grants issued to Subhanrao Shinde, Senakhaskhel, by the Chhatrapati.

(1) From Raja Shumboo Chutrapati (of Kolhapur) to Desmukh and Deshpande of Mamale Hubli, Subha Sumpgaon, dated 1st Kartik Buhool Raj Shuk 59, Paridhawi, Sumwutsur (A.D. 1732-33).

The Mokasa inclusive of customs of the under-mentioned fourteen kuryats under Mamale Hubli, has been assigned to Subhanrao Sinday, Senakhaskhel for the maintenance of troops, namely,

1 Purguna Turf Hubli

1 Purguna Sumpgaon

1 Kuryat Bagewari

1 Kuryat Golwuli

1 Kuryat Oorwal

1 Kuryat Anukwar

1 Kuryat Munehol

7

1 Kuryat Neori

1 Kuryat Nuli

1 Kuryat Bulwuri Bebnak

1 Kuryat Nandgud

1 Kuryat Hulsi

1 Kuryat Kuwun Hosur

1 Kuryat Karlug

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you are therefore to yield obedience to him by paying him the Mokasa collections minus the Tunkha or standard revenues of Inam villages and Hill forts under the Subha.²⁴

(2) From Raja Shumbhoo Chhatrapati (of Kolhapur) to the Deshmukhs and Deshpandes of Purguna Kerdor, dated 1st Kartik Buhool, Raj Shuk 59, Paridhawi Sumwutsur AD 1732-33)

The choutaee Mokassa of your Purguna has been assigned to Subhan Rao Sinday, Senakhaskhel, for the maintenance of troops, you are therefore, hereby enjoined to pay him the Choutaee collections ~~including~~ including customs.²⁵

(3) From Raja Shumbhoo, Chhatrapati (of Kolhapur) to Deshmukhas and Deshpandes of Sumut Hindugi (and) Sumut Mudhgul dated 1st Kartik Wud Raj Shuk 59, Paridhavi Sumwutsur (1732-33 A.D.)

The Mokasa Choutaee inclusive of customs of the Purguna (Mudhgul) has been assigned to Subhan Rao Sinday, Senakhaskhel, for maintenance of troops. You are therefore to yield obedience to him by making over the choutaee collecting of his Karkun.²⁶

(4) From Raja Shumbhoo Chhatrapati (of Kolhapur) to the Deshmukhas and Deshpandes of Sumut Bulganur (and) Sumut

Mudhgul dated 1st Kartik Wud, Raj Shuk 59, Paridhavi
Sumwutsur (1732-33 A.D.)

The Choutaee Mokassa of the Purguna (K 7
Mudhgul) has been assigned to Subhan Rao Sinday, Senakhas-
-khel, for the maintenance of troops, you are therefore to
yield obedience to him by making over the Choutaee collect-
-ions inclusive of ~~xxx~~ customs to him.²⁷

(5) From Raja Shumbhoo Shhatrapati (Of Kolhapur) to
Doulatrao Ghorpade dated 13th Kartik, Muhool, Raj Shuk, 59,
Paridhavi, Sumwutsur (1732-33 A.D.)

Subhan Rao Sinday, Senakhaskhel has received an
assignment of the Choutaee for the maintenance of troops and
the necessary orders have been issued to the several Mahals
orders have ^{also} been issued to Hindurao Ghorpade, Mamlukat Mudar
and to the Officers, concerned to make over without fail to
the Senakhaskhel the choutaee of his (Hindurao's) saranjams
and this order is sent to you to enjoy in delivery of the
said choutaee without demur to the Senakhaskhel, should
Hindurao Ghorpade have made you the custodian (or manager)
of his saranjams. On every occasion on which the Senakhas-
-khel may write to you or send you a message, you are to act
in harmony with him in our affairs in such manner as will
secure our approbation. You will learn all that ~~is~~ is
necessary from the letter written to you by the Senakhas-
-khel.²⁸

(6) From Raja Shumbhoo Chhatrapati (of Kolhapur) to
Ramrao Dadaji Sucheo, dated 13th Kartik, Buhool, Raj Shuk

59, Paridhavi, Sumwutsur (1732-33 A.D.)

The Choutaee including customs of the saranjam of Hindurao Ghorpade Mamlukat Mudar has been assigned to Subhan Rao Sinday, Senakhaskhel, for the maintenance of troops, for the same reason this order is issued to you, You are accordingly to make over the Choutaee including customs of your saranjam to the aforesaid Subhan Rao Sinday, yield obedience to this order without demur and be in concord with the Senakhaskhel.²⁹

(7) From Raja Shumbhoo Chhatrapati (of Kolhapur) to Lingapa Desai of Purguna Yelburge, dated 13th Kartik, Buhool Raj Shuk 59, Paridhavi, Sumwutsur (1732-33 A.D.)

The Choutaee (One Fourth) of Purguna Yelburge has been assigned to Subhan Rao Sinday, Senakhaskhel, for the maintenance of troops and you are hereby enjoined to regularly make over to him the Choutaee collections inclusive of customs.³⁰

(8) From Raja Shumbhoo Chhatrapati (of Kolhapur) to Deshmukh and Deshpande of Turuf Govunkop, dated 2nd Bhadrapad, Buhool, Raj Shuk 61, Ananda Sumwutsur (1734-35 A.D.)

The Choutaee Mokassa of the Purguna (Govunkop) has been assigned to Subhan Rao Sinday, Senakhaskhel, you are therefore hereby enjoined to yield obedience to him by regularly making over the choutaee collections to him and to no one else.³¹

There is a Kaifiyat dated 4th November, 1732 in which there are also many evidences of granting Choutaee

and Mokassas to Subhanrao Sinde, Senakhaskhel, by Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. The Kaifiyat shows that Sambhaji Maharaj was pleased with Subhanrao Shinde and conferred the title of Senakhaskhel on him, so also he offered to him rich robes, Jaripatka etc. He also issued orders to many heads informing them to manage to give Subhanrao Shinde, the Choutae and Mokassa. Some of the heads are Hindurao Ghorpade, Daulatrao Ghorpade, Ramrao Dadaji, Sangauda Desai etc. These heads also gave their consent to it.³²

There are also some orders of Sambhaji, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur in Persian Daftar which show that the Choutae and Mokassa of the villages Anegiri purguna, Hisar, Dharwar, Karodage, Kittur, Lingnoor, Asodi, Nagavi, Hallyal etc. were granted to Subhanrao Shinde, Senakhaskhel.³³

Thus Subhanrao Shinde, the first Senakhaskhel rendered yeomen services to the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and acquired a big cash saranjams in Deccan from Chhatrapati Sambhaji, and eventually he became the main supporter of the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur.

VYANKATRAO SHINDE: (1749-to- 1755):

After Subhanrao Shinde, his eldest son Vyankatrao Shinde received the robes of Senakhaskhelship. His period lasted only for six years (1749-55). Unfortunately there are very few documents which also are not so

important for the study of his period. Therefore, it seems that his career as a Senakhaskhel was not very impressive.

Thus, the period of first ~~phase~~ three chiefs of Torgal (1690 to 1755) is an important phase in the history of Torgal Jahagir. In this period Narsojirao Shinde and his son Subhanrao rendered valuable service to the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and Subhanrao Shinde received the title of Senakhaskhel from the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. So also in this phase the marriage of Jijabai and Sambhaji took place, which was very remarkable event. It was because of this marriage that Torgalkar Shinde got high position and honour ~~in the~~ in the court of Kolhapur Chhatrapati.

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