PARMAR SSC

# Marathas



# Maratha Empire



## Timeline Overview:

- The Maratha State: 1674 – 1720
- The Maratha Confederacy: 1720 – 1818
- **Script:** Most Maratha state documents, administrative papers, and literary texts from this era are found in the Modi Script.

## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1674 – 1680)

The founder of the Maratha Empire and a legendary warrior.

- **Birth:** Shivneri Fort in 1630.
- **Father:** Shahji Bhonsle.
- **Mother:** Jija Bai.
- **Religious Teacher:** Samarth Ramdas.
- **Death:** He passed away in 1680.

## Early Conquests & Military Tactics



Torana Fort



- **First Victory:** At the young age of 16, Shivaji captured the Torana Fort.
- After capturing Torana, he renamed it Prachandagad (meaning 'Massive Fort').
- Shivaji mastered the art of **Guerrilla Warfare** (known as Ganimi Kava). He used the rugged terrain of the Sahyadri mountains to launch surprise attacks and defeat much larger Mughal armies.

## Major Battles & Conflicts

### Battle of Pratapgarh (1659)

- The Sultan of Bijapur sent General Afzal Khan to suppress Shivaji's rising power. Afzal Khan was a physically imposing figure who planned to capture or kill Shivaji through treachery.
- Afzal Khan invited Shivaji for a "Friendship Treaty" meeting.
- **Shivaji's Counter-Strategy:** Sensing danger, Shivaji wore iron armor and an iron cap under his clothes. He concealed a weapon called Wagh Nakh (Tiger Claws) in his left hand.
- When they embraced, Khan tried to stab Shivaji. Shivaji's armor saved him, and he used the Wagh Nakh to disembowel Afzal Khan.
- The Maratha army, hidden in the dense forests, attacked and defeated the leaderless Bijapur troops.



## Conflict with Shaista Khan (1660–1663)

- **Who was Shaista Khan?** Aurangzeb's maternal uncle (Mama) and the Mughal Governor of Deccan.
- He captured Pune and set up camp in Lal Mahal, Shivaji's childhood home.

**The Surgical Strike (1663):**

- Shivaji disguised his soldiers as a marriage procession to infiltrate Pune.
- They entered the kitchen of Lal Mahal at night.
- Shivaji attacked Shaista Khan directly. Khan tried to escape through a window but lost three fingers in the attack.
- **Result:** Shaista Khan survived but fled in fear/humiliation.
- **Sack of Surat (1664):** To replenish his treasury, Shivaji plundered the wealthy Mughal port city of Surat.

## Treaty of Purandar (1665)

- Aurangzeb appointed Raja Jai Singh I of Amber to lead a campaign against Shivaji.
- Shivaji was forced to sign the treaty and agreed to surrender 23 out of his 35 forts to the Mughals.

## Agra Visit & Escape (1666)

- Shivaji visited Aurangzeb's court in Agra but was insulted and imprisoned.
- He famously escaped later that year (legend says by hiding in a basket of sweets).

## Battle of Salher (1672)

- This was a fierce open battle where the Maratha forces led by Shivaji (commanded by Prataprao Gujar & Moropant Pingle) defeated the Mughal army.
- **Coronation:** 1674 at Raigad Fort. He assumed the title "Chhatrapati".

# Administration & Revenue System

## The Ashtapradhan System (Council of 8 Ministers)

1. **Peshwa**: Prime Minister (Head of Administration).
2. **Amatya**: Finance Minister (Managed Treasury).
3. **Mantri (Waqia-Navis)**: Interior Minister (Intelligence/Home).
4. **Sachiv (Shurunavis)**: Secretary (Drafted Royal Orders).
5. **Sumant**: Foreign Minister (Diplomacy).
6. **Senapati**: Commander-in-Chief (Military Campaigns).
7. **Panditrao**: High Priest (Religious Affairs).
8. **Nyayadhyaksha**: Chief Justice (Judicial Matters).

## Revenue System (Taxation)

- The Marathas collected specific taxes from territories outside their direct control (Swarajya):

### Chauth:

- **Meaning**: "One-Fourth" (1/4th).
- **Rate**: 25% of the land revenue.
- **Purpose**: It was a protection tax. Territories paid this to avoid Maratha raids.

### Sardeshmukhi:

- **Rate**: An additional 10% tax imposed on top of Chauth.
- **Purpose**: Collected in areas where Marathas claimed hereditary rights (Sardeshmukh) or where their troops were stationed.

## Successors of Shivaji

### Chhatrapati Sambhaji (1681–1689)



- Eldest son of Shivaji and Saibai.
- **Succession**: He defeated his brother Rajaram to claim the throne.
- **Achievements**:
  - **Raid on Burhanpur**: He successfully attacked and raided Burhanpur.
  - He fought against the Portuguese and captured Goa and Konkan regions from them.
- He gave shelter to Aurangzeb's rebellious son, **Prince Akbar**. This enraged Aurangzeb, leading to Sambhaji's capture and brutal execution. His wife Yesubai and son Shahu were imprisoned.

### Chhatrapati Rajaram (1689–1700)

- He was the son of Shivaji and Soyarabai.
- He succeeded the throne with the help of ministers at Rajgarh.
- He created a new post: **Pratinidhi** (Total no. of minister now nine (Pratinidhi + Ashtapradhan)).
- He died in **Satara** which became the capital after the fall of **Gingee to Mughal** (1698).



## Tarabai (1700–1707)

- Wife of Rajaram; Regent for son Shivaji II.
- Led resistance against Mughals.

## Shahuji (1707–1749)

- Son of Sambhaji; Released by Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah I.
- Battle of Khed (1707): Shahu defeated Tarabai with the help of Balaji Vishwanath to claim the throne.

## THE PESHWA ERA



### Balaji Vishwanath (1713–1720)

- **First Peshwa:** Became the first Peshwa in 1713.
- **Career:** Began as a small revenue official.
- **Title:** Given the title "Senakarte" (Maker of the Army) by Shahu in 1708.



### Baji Rao I (1720–1740)

- **Lineage:** Eldest son of Balaji Vishwanath.
- He never lost a single battle in his entire life.
- **Victories:**
  - Defeated Nizam-ul-Mulk or Asaf Jah I (First Nizam of Hyderabad).
  - **Treaty of Doraha Sarai:** Signed with Jai Singh after defeating a combined force of Nizam, Awadh, and Rajputs.
  - **Raid on Delhi:** Raided Delhi in 1737.
  - **Capture of Bassein:** Captured Bassein from Portuguese in 1739.
- **Legacy:** The concept of Maratha Confederacy emerged during his tenure.



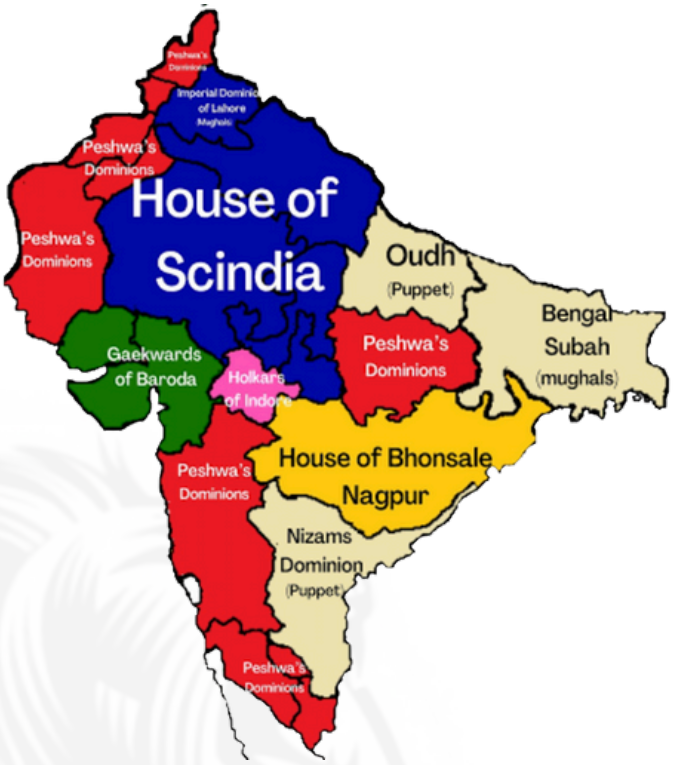
### Balaji Baji Rao (Nana Saheb) (1740–1761)

- 3rd Battle of Panipat (1761):
  - **Marathas:** Led by Sadashivrao Bhau.
  - **Afghans:** Led by Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani Empire), supported by Najib-ud-Daula (Rohilla) and Shuja-ud-Daula (Awadh).
  - **Result**: The Marathas lost. It is known as one of the deadliest wars in the world.

## Maratha Confederacy

- The Empire was split into 5 powerful Houses:




## ANGLO-MARATHA WARS

### First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-1782)

- **Cause**: Internal conflict. Raghunath Rao (brother of Balaji Baji Rao) wanted to become Peshwa.
- **Opposition**: Nana Fadnavis (Finance Minister) opposed him.
- **Events**:
  - Raghunath Rao signed Treaty of Surat (1775) and later Treaty of Purandar (1776) with British for support.
  - British were defeated initially and signed Treaty of Wadgaon (1779).
  - British attacked again under Warren Hastings and defeated Marathas.
- **Conclusion**: Treaty of Salbai (1782) was signed at the end.

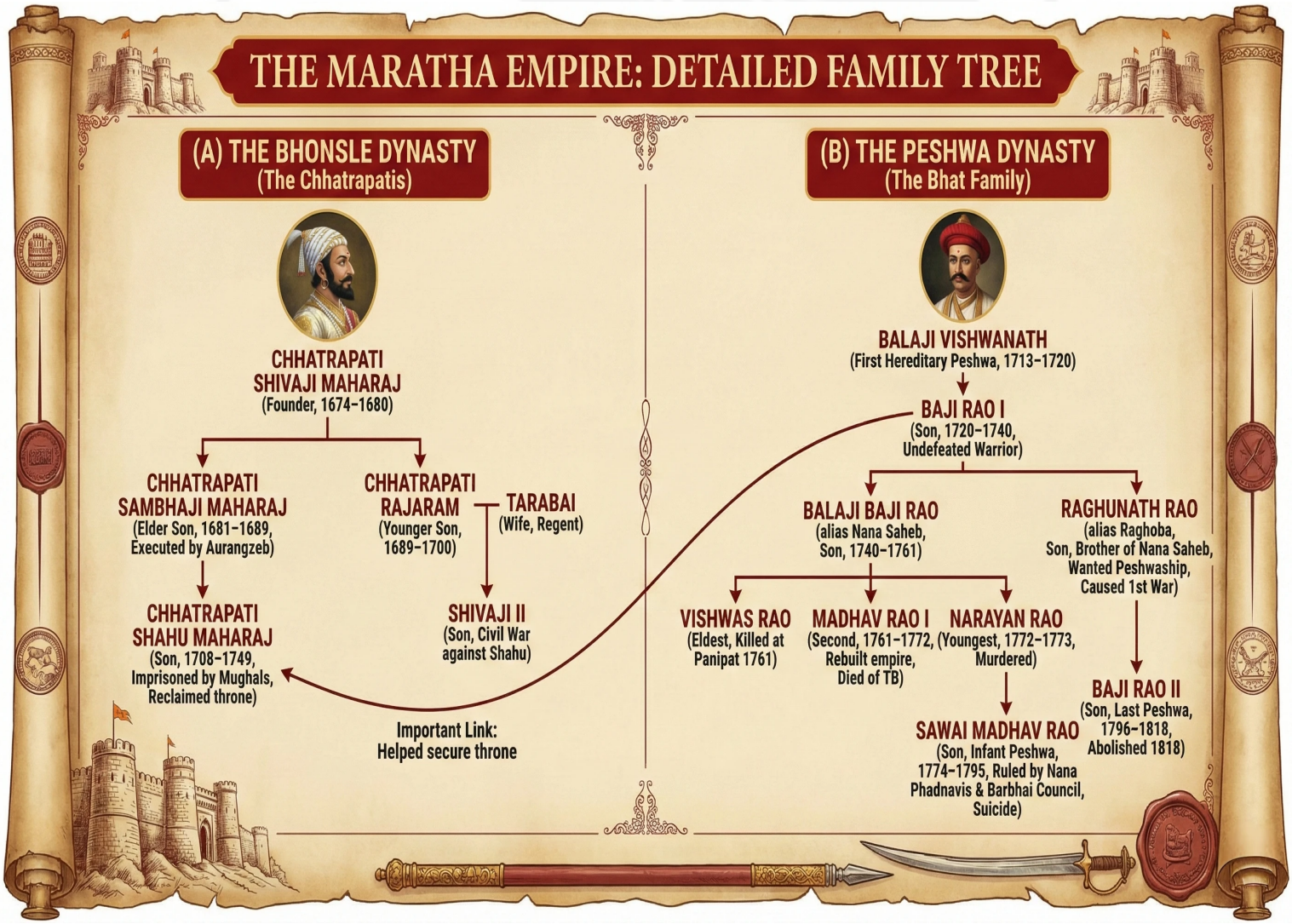


## Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–1805)

- **British Leadership:**
  - **Deccan**: Led by Arthur Wellesley.
  - **North India**: Led by General Lake.
- **Cause:** Baji Rao II signed a subsidiary alliance with British (Treaty of Bassein, 1802).
- **Outcome**: War won by British.
- **Treaties**:
  - Treaty of Deogaon (1803): With Bhonsles (after Battle of Argaon).
  - Treaty of Rajghat (1805): With Holkars.
- **Gain**: Cuttack was acquired by Britishers.

## Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817–1818)

- **Also known as**: "Pindari War" (Pindaris were tribal people who supported Marathas).
- **Treaty**: Treaty of Mandsaur (1818) signed between British and Holkar chief.
- **Result**:
  - From 1818, Peshwaship was abolished.
  - Baji Rao II was captured and sent to Bithoor (Kanpur).







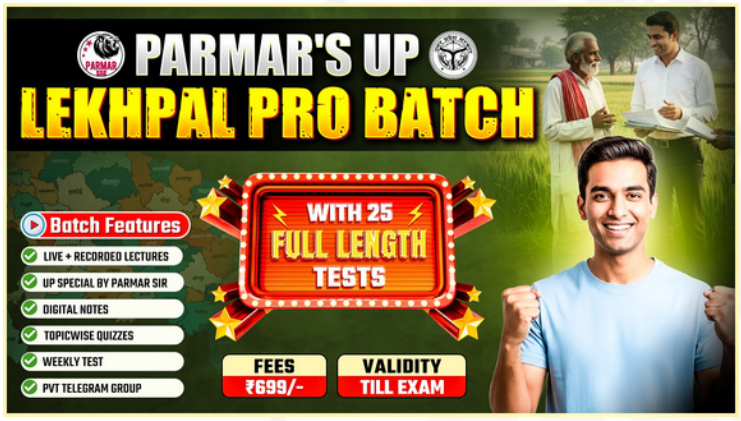


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