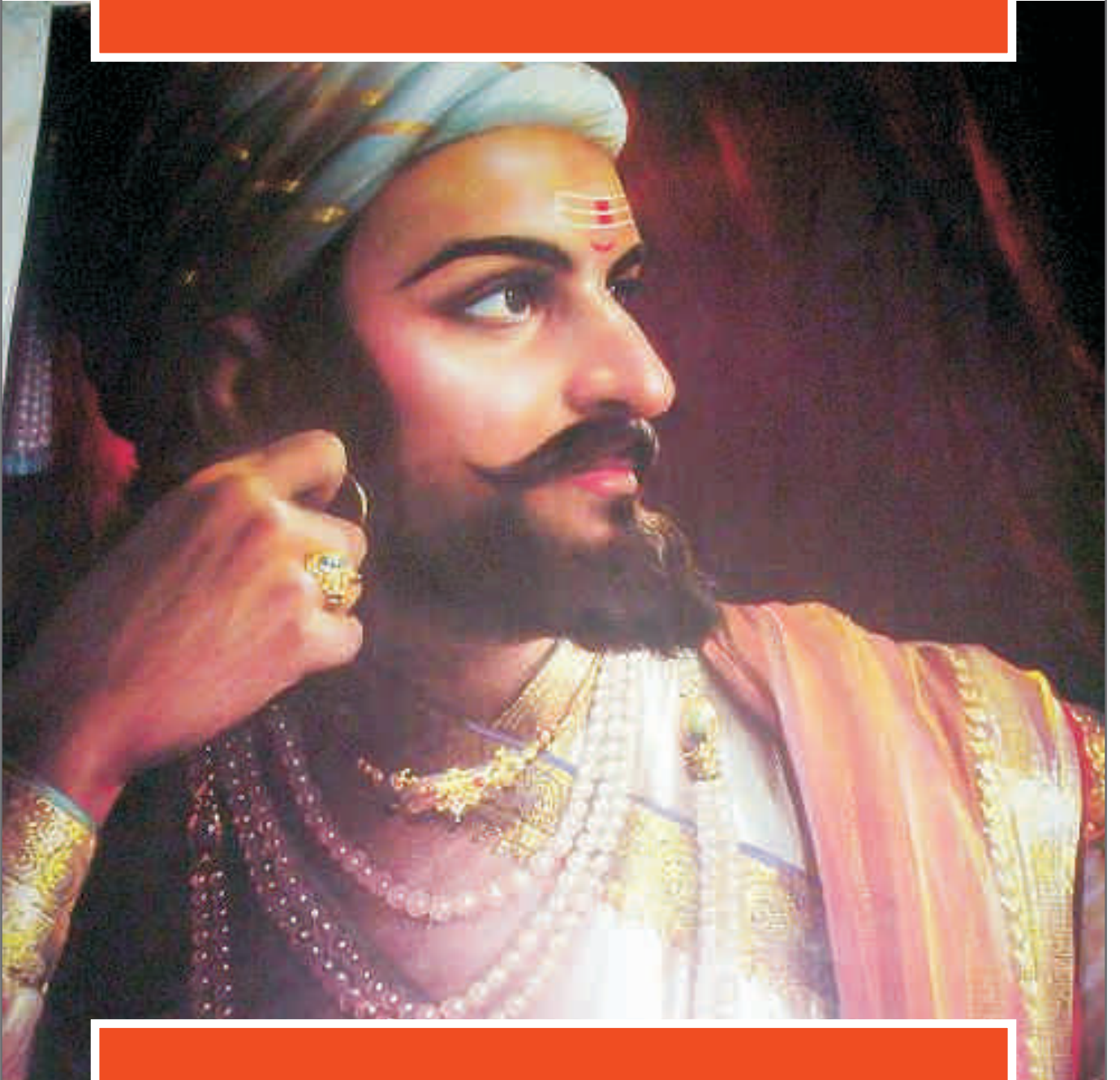


LARGER THAN LIFE

A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS



Chhatrapati Shivaji

Leadership, Bravery

(1627 - 1680)

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INTRODUCTION

- The history of India is incomplete without the history of Marathas and Shivaji is the nucleus of Maratha history.
- Shivaji Bhosle, also known as **Chhatrapati Shivaji Raje Bhosle** was the founder of **Maratha empire in western India** in 1674.
- He inspired and united the common man to **fight against the tyranny of Mughal ruler Aurangzeb**, by inculcating a sense of pride and nationality in them. He **used guerrilla tactics in attacks**.
- He was a brave and able administrator, and established a government that included such **modern concepts as cabinet** (Ashtapradhan Mandal), **foreign affairs** (Dabir), and **internal intelligence**.

BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

Shivaji was **born in the fort of Shivneri on 19th February 1627**. The child was **named Shiva, after the local Goddess Shivai**.

Shahaji, Shivaji's father **appointed the young Shivaji** under the care of his mother Jijabai to manage the **Pune holdings**. Shivaji took oath of **swarajya** at the temple of Raireshwar and assumed administrative responsibility in 1644.

Shahaji got **Lal Mahal** built at Pune. A royal seal was handed over to Shivaji. Thus Shivaji started his career as an independent young prince of a small kingdom on a mission. Shivaji used the title of Raja (king) only after Shahaji died.

MILESTONES

1646 - 1647: He carried out his **first military action by capturing Bijapur kingdom's Torna fort** at age 19, in 1646. By 1647 he had captured Kondana and Rajgad forts and had complete control of the Pune region.

1656: He **conquered Javli** from Chandra Rao More.

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1657: His troops were soundly beaten by the Mughal army, but the Mughals then withdrew, and he returned to raiding and several times defeated the Bijapur army.

1659: By 1659, he had captured forts in the Western Ghats and along the Konkan coast. He vanquished Afzal Khan in **the battle of Pratapgarh** which was fought on November 30, 1659. To counter the loss at Pratapgad, another army of over 10,000 was sent against Shivaji, commanded by Bijapuri general Rustemjaman. In a pitched battle, the enemy was crushed and Rustemjaman fled.

1660 - 1663: In **1660**, Mughal Governor Shaista Khan occupied Pune. Then in 1663, **Shivaji made an attack on Shaista Khan's harem and wounded him.**

1664: Shivaji **sacked the rich Mughal port of Surat** and thus provoked an organized Mughal campaign against him.

1665 - 1666: Shivaji was Defeated in 1665. In 1666, **he went to Agra to negotiate with Aurangzeb**, the Mughal emperor, but **was imprisoned**. After a daring **escape from Agra**, he returned to West India and undertook a series of raids that were not countered by the Mughals.

1670 - 1674: In 1670, Shivaji's forces launched a **concerted attack on Mughal garrisons in Maharashtra**. The force of the assault was overwhelming and **within six months Shivaji had regained most of his old territory**. From 1670 to 1674 Shivaji continued to expand his territory at the expense of the Mughals.

Shivaji was **formally crowned 'Chhatrapati' in 1674** at the Raigad fort, and given the title '**Kshatriya Kulavantas Sinhasanadheeshwar Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**'.

1976: At the end of 1676, Shivaji **launched a wave of conquests** in southern India.

DEATH

Shivaji died in 1680 at Raigad. Because of his struggle against an imperial power, Shivaji became an **icon of freedom fighters in the Indian independence struggle** that followed two centuries later. He is remembered as a just and wise king and **his rule is called one of the six golden ages in Indian history**.

Quiz

- 1) Shivaji was named after the local Goddess _____.
(Fill in the blank.)
- 2) In which year was Shivaji formally crowned 'Chhatrapati'?
- 3) Shivaji's rule is called one of the _____ golden ages in Indian History.

Send in your answers to one2one@clarislifesciences.com
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