

# Rise and Fall of the Maratha Empire

1750-1818

Sanish  
Nandakumar



INDIA • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA



## **Notion Press**

Old No. 38, New No. 6  
McNichols Road, Chetpet  
Chennai - 600 031

First Published by Notion Press 2020  
Copyright © Sanish Nandakumar 2020  
All Rights Reserved.

ISBN 978-1-64783-960-4

This book has been published with all efforts taken to make the material error-free after the consent of the author. However, the author and the publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

While every effort has been made to avoid any mistake or omission, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that neither the author nor the publishers or printers would be liable in any manner to any person by reason of any mistake or omission in this publication or for any action taken or omitted to be taken or advice rendered or accepted on the basis of this work. For any defect in printing or binding the publishers will be liable only to replace the defective copy by another copy of this work then available.

**Dedicated to My Parents**

Late Rev. KR Nandakumar

Mrs. Soumya Nandakumar

And to my sister

Nisi Nandakumar

For their Love, Care, Guidance,  
Encouragement and Support.



# CONTENTS



|                                                                 |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <i>Preface</i>                                                  | 7  |
| <i>Introduction</i>                                             | 9  |
| 1. Northern Campaign                                            | 11 |
| 2. Abdali's Invasions and Conflicts With Marathas               | 12 |
| 3. Southern Campaign                                            | 14 |
| 4. Decline of Maratha Power in North                            | 15 |
| 5. Events and Battle of Panipat                                 | 17 |
| 6. Pictures                                                     | 33 |
| 7. Madhavrao Become Peshwa                                      | 39 |
| 8. Battle of Alegaon                                            | 42 |
| 9. Battle of Rakshasbhuvan                                      | 43 |
| 10. Madhavrao's Karnataka Campaign                              | 44 |
| 11. Death of Malhar Rao Holkar and Condition of<br>Indore State | 45 |
| 12. Peshwa's Second Expedition to Karnataka                     | 48 |
| 13. British in Pune                                             | 49 |
| 14. Madhavrao Vs Raghunathrao                                   | 50 |
| 15. Peshwa's Third Expedition to Karnataka                      | 51 |
| 16. Northern Expansion                                          | 52 |
| 17. Capture of Delhi                                            | 54 |
| 18. Death of Peshwa Madhav Rao                                  | 57 |
| 19. Peshwa Narayanrao and His Reign                             | 58 |

|                                                    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| 20. Assassination of Narayanrao                    | 59 |
| 21. Raghunathrao Become Peshwa                     | 60 |
| 22. Revolt of Raghunathrao                         | 62 |
| 23. Treaty of Purandhar                            | 63 |
| 24. First Anglo-Maratha War                        | 64 |
| 25. Treaty of Salbai                               | 66 |
| 26. Second Mysore Maratha-War                      | 67 |
| 27. Conflict in Delhi                              | 70 |
| 28. Conflicts With Rajputs                         | 71 |
| 29. Death of Mahadji Scindia                       | 73 |
| 30. Battle of Kharda                               | 74 |
| 31. Death of Peshwa Madhavrao II                   | 76 |
| 32. Death of Nana Fadnavis                         | 78 |
| 33. Conflict With Holkar and the Treaty of Bassein | 79 |
| 34. Second Anglo Maratha War                       | 81 |
| 35. Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-18)              | 84 |
| <i>Bibliography</i>                                | 86 |

# PREFACE



Maratha History has its own glory. Indian History is incomplete, without including Maratha History. The sacrifice and contribution made by Marathas to this country is invaluable. They always sacrificed their lives for the sake of this motherland. Marathas always considered their ultimate duty was to protect and serve this country.

Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj laid down the foundation of the Maratha Empire. After his death Sambhaji, Bajirao, Madhavrao etc. carried the legacy of Maratha Empire. Maratha Empire was not formed just in a day. Many warriors such as Bajiprabhu Despande, Tanaji Malusare, Prataprao Gujjar, Hambibrao Mohite etc. sacrificed their life for the foundation of this Mighty Empire.

The History of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Sambhaji Maharaj and Peshwa Bajirao I is well know to many of us. Therefor, through this book, I tried to present the History of Maratha Empire after the death of Bajirao I. This book gives a detail information of, how the Marathas expanded their empire to all parts of the country. This book also tells about third battle of panipat and how the Marathas recovered after huge loss of this battle. It tells about the rise and fall of Maratha Empire.

The main motive of the book is to help the readers to understand the glorious History of our country. To tell them, how the brave people of our country sacrificed their lives to save this country from foreign invaders.

I personally encourage you all to read more about the history of our country.





# INTRODUCTION



Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj had a dream of an Independent and united India. He wanted to throw out the Mughal power and free his people from the clutches of Mughals. For making his dream come true, he worked hard day and night, fought a plenty of wars with the Mughals. Finally, after a long struggle and hardship he was able to fulfill his dream, in spite of a tough resistance by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. Chattrapati Shivaji was succeeded in making an Independent territory which was called “The Maratha Empire”.

In 1672, Shivaji was crowned as the first ruler of Maratha empire and took the title of “Chattrapati”. Under his leadership Marathas started to dominate every part of the country. But after the death of Shivaji Maharaj in 1680, gradually the Maratha power started to decline. Even though the next ruler Chatrapati Sambhaji was a great and valour king, he was not able to hold the Maratha power for a long time. In 1689, he was caught, tortured and killed by Aurangzeb. Even today he is remembered as a symbol of self respect because of the supreme sacrifice he made to protect his religion and motherland. After the death of Sambhaji Maharaj, Mughals started to recapture the territories which they had once lost to Shivaji Maharaj. The vast and powerful empire of Shivaji Maharaj has thus become small and weak. But the Maratha fortune changed when the Maratha power came into the hands Peshwa Baji Rao.

Bajirao was mighty and courageous warrior as well as a great administrator. He was the son of first Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath Bhatt. Under the guidance of Chattrapati Shahuji

and leadership of Peshwa Bajirao, Marathas started to rise again. During his tenure Bajirao started to extend the Maratha Empire and after his death this work was carried out by his son Balaji Bajirao (Nana Saheb).

After the death of Shahuji Maharaj in 1742, Peshwa Balaji Bajirao took the complete control of the Maratha Empire. During his tenure, the Maratha Empire reached its peak. Except Delhi nearly the whole Indian Territory was under Maratha domination. From north to south Maratha flag was waving at the top.

# NORTHERN CAMPAIGN



North India witnessed a number of battles during this particular time period. The Mughals were the central authority, but they were only the nominal heads. The real power was in the hands of Marathas. After the death of Aurangzeb, Mughal Empire started to decline and with the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739, Mughal Empire was completely weakened. They were not in a position to defend any more attacks, making them to totally depend on Marathas for their survival. As a result a treaty was signed between Mughals and Marathas in which Mughal gave the control of all Indian territories (except Delhi) to Marathas and in returned they wanted the Marathas to protect them from any further attacks.

Maratha power was rapidly increasing in north India. Marathas under the leadership of Dattaji Scindia and Malhar Rao Holkar took control of many Indian territories including the Rajputana. They also got the rights to collect taxes from them. This was the time when Dattaji Scindia of Gwalior and Malhar Rao Holkar of Indore rose up to a prominent position and established themselves as a major figure in North India. Both Holkar and Scindia were the major power of Peshwa in North India.

# ABDALI'S INVASIONS AND CONFLICTS WITH MARATHAS



In 1758, taking the advantage of Mughal's weakness in north India, Ahmad shah Durrani popularly known as Ahmad shah Abdali ( ruler of Afghanistan) raided Delhi and looted it with the support of Najib- Ud-Daulla ( subedar of Rohilkand). They also captured Punjab and Lahore and plundered a large number of resources. On his return to Afghanistan Abdali appointed his son Timur Shah to guard the captured forts.

The success of Abdali made the Peshwa alarmed. He immediately sent a large army under the command of his brother Raghunath Rao to recapture the lost territories. He was accompanied by Malhar Rao Holkar as his deputy in this campaign. Marathas attacked and captured Delhi by defeating Najib khan. They further moved to Punjab and captured Lahore on 20 April 1758, Attock on 28 April and by 8 May 1758, Marathas under the leadership of Raghunath Rao and Malhar Rao Holkar defeated the Afghans and captured the strong forts of Peshawar. Timur Shah was chased beyond Khyber Pass. Marathas extended their empire till the borders of Afghanistan ( 2000km away from their capital Pune) and hoisted Maratha flag in Attock. It was a glorious victory for Marathas. Raghunath Rao was highly praised for his outstanding bravery. Maratha empire was at its peak.

Raghunath Rao and Malhar Rao Holkar were not interested in holding the positions in North for a long time. As a result Peshwa gave the supreme command of North to

Dattaji Scindia. He was appointed as the guardian to protect the captured forts Punjab. Like Raghunath Rao, Dattaji was also not interested to stay in Punjab. Therefore, he appointed Sabbaji Scindia as the governor of Punjab and returned to Ganga valley to suppress Najib-ud-daulla.

# SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN



In south India, the Nizam of Hyderabad Salabat Jung decide to recapture the lost forts of Deccan from Marathas. Therefore he waged war against Marathas. To suppress him Peshwa Balaji Bajirao sent a large army under the command of his cousin brother Sadashiv Rao Bhau. Sadashivrao Bhau was a great general as well as a great administrator. He was a man of strong character. He was the son of mighty Maratha general Chimmaji Appa (brother of Peshwa Bajirao)

In 1760, battle was fought between Marathas and Nizam at Udagir. In this battle Maratha army under the command Sadashivrao Bhau defeated the army of Nizam. Nizam surrendered before Marathas and signed a treaty in which he agreed to pay the tax of amount 5 lakh rupees per annum to Marathas. He also had to submit the strong forts of Daulatabad and Udgir to Marathas. It was a great victory for Marathas in south India. With the victory over Nizam Hyderabad, Maratha Empire reached its zenith. From North to South Maratha power dominated every part of the county.

# DECLINE OF MARATHA POWER IN NORTH



It was unbearable for Abdali to overlook his defeat in North. He took the advantage of the absence of Maratha chiefs in Punjab. He along with his commander Jahan Khan took a massive army of 60,000 and attacked and defeated small army of Marathas in Peshawar and Lahore and recaptured his lost forts. He further moved forward to Delhi where he was accompanied by Najib Khan.

On 24 December, a battle was fought between Abdali and Dattaji scindia, in which Dattaji was defeated with a loss of 2500 soldiers. On January 1760, another battle was fought between Dattaji and Najib khan at Burari Ghat near Delhi. In this battle Najib Khan defeated and killed Dattaji Scindia.

It was a great loss for Maratha army in North as they had lost their territories and above all they had lost one of their best military General of North (Dattaji Scindia)

To take the revenge of Dattaji's death and to recapture the lost territories, Peshwa Balaji Bajirao sent huge army under the command of Sadashivrao Bhau to north India, Which resulted the "The third battle of Panipat".





# EVENTS AND BATTLE OF PANIPAT

## **Background**

Pune was in a celebration mode. Marathas were celebrating their victory over Nizam, unaware about the incidents happening in North. As soon as the news of Dattaji's death and defeat of Maratha army in North reached Pune, the celebration turned to tragic.

The victory in the battle of Udagir was overshadowed by the defeat in Burari Ghat. Peshwa Balaji Bajirao immediately called the high level meeting of his minister. In the meeting it was decided that Marathas will sent a huge army to crush Abdali and to recapture its territories.

Raghunath Rao wanted the Peshwa to send him as the commander-in-chief, as he had the great experience of North India. But instead of sending Raghunath Rao, Peshwa decided to sent his cousin brother Sadashivrao Bhau as the commander-in-chief.

This decision was criticized by many historians as Bhau had no experience of North India and it is also considered as one of the major reason for the defeat of Marathas in Panipat.

Sadshivrao Bhau along with a massive army set out his journey from Pune to Delhi. He was accompanied by Peshwa's elder son Vishwas Rao, Commanders: Ibrahim Gardi, Vittal shivdev, Yashwantrao Pawar, Antaji Mankeshwar, Damaji Gaekwad and Balaji Janardhan. They were also accompanied by a large number of common people who were travelling to North as pilgrims

## **Marathas in North**

On 24 June 1760, Maratha army reached Gwalior, where they were joined by Malharrao Holkar and Mahadji Scindia along with their armies.

Malhar Rao and Mahadji Scindia wanted to move to Delhi, so that they can immediately take action against Abdali as his soldiers were tired of consecutive battles and their reinforcement was also not reached from Afghanistan. So Holkar and Scindia wanted to take the advantage of it. But on the other hand Bhau was not interested to move to Delhi Immediately as he wanted to take some time to study the area and also wanted to give some time to his soldiers to take rest as they were tired of such a long travelling.

On 11 July 1760, Maratha army captured Mathura. Before moving to Delhi, Bhau wanted to get alliance of the regional rulers mainly from Rajputs, Jats and nawab of Awadh.

Rajputs declined to offer any support to the Marathas because in earlier occasions Marathas used to collect tax from them. Moreover they also used to interfere in their political matters. Therefore, Rajputs wanted to keep the Marathas away from their territories and hence decided to remain neutral by not giving support to both Marathas and Abdali.

On the other hand Holkar and Scindia managed to get the support of Surajmal Jat . both Holkar and Scindia knew that it was very important to get Jat king Surajmal on their side because he had a strong hold on the areas surrounded to Delhi. Surajmal Jat had a good understanding with Holkar and Scindia. Therefore he accompanied them to Mathura where he met Bhau and Vishwas Rao. Surajmal Jat agreed to help the Marathas but at a condition that after winning the battle, Bhau will hand over Delhi to him. This condition was not at all accepted to Bhau, because of the treaty signed between Marathas and Mughals, in which it was mentioned that Delhi will remain the Seat of power of Mughals, and in return Marathas got the authority to collect chaut (tax) from

rest of India. So he was not ready to go against the treaty. Moreover, Bhau knew very clearly that if he hand over Delhi to Jats, Maratha power will be eliminated from North and the vast Maratha empire will be limited to South India.

Therefore, Bhau declined to accept the condition putted by Surajmal Jat. As a result a bitter argument broke out between Bhau and Surajmal. Malhar Rao tried to calm the situation but in vain. Surajmal left the Maratha camp without offering any support.

After the decline of support from both Rajputs and Jats, there was only one hope left for Marathas and that was from the Nawab of Awadh Suja-ud-daulla.

Sadashiv Bhau sent his diplomat Pandit Kashiraj to get the support of Suja-ud-daulla. On the other hand Abdali also wanted to get the Nawab on his side. Abdali did not wish to stay in India for a long time. He wanted to return back to Afghanistan. But Najib Khan requested him to stay for some more time as Marathas had already reached near Delhi. He knew that if Abdali will return back Marathas will take revenge from him, as he was the main culprit. He was the one who invited Abdali to India. He was the mastermind of all these destructions. So he wanted Abdali to stay with him to defeat the Marathas. But Abdali was worried about the expenses. He did not wish to bear the expense of his army for someone's else help. Therefore he asked Najib Khan to manage the money for the expenses as he was staying here for his help.

Najib khan trapped Suja-ud daulla by playing a trick. He assured Nawab that, if he will support Abdali against Marathas. Abdali will make him the wazir (prime minister) of Mughal Dynasty after the war. Moreover he told the

nawab that it is a war of religion, so as a follower of Islam he should support his community against Hindus. On the other hand Pandit Kashiraj tried his best to get Nawab on his side, but all in vain.

Nawab of Awadh decided to help Abdali because of the offer made by him of making him the wazir. With the rejection of help from Nawab, Marathas were left all alone without any alliance in North. But at the same time Abdali had a strong support of Najib khan and Suja-ud-daulla

### **Marathas captured Delhi**

During the month of June there was a heavy rain in Delhi. Yamuna river was flooded and was overflowing. Abdali moved from Delhi to Aligarh, leaving behind a small force to guard Delhi.

On August 1761, the slow moving Maratha army finally reached Delhi. Maratha army under the command of Mahadji Scindia defeated the small army of Afghans and took the control of Delhi. Delhi was now under Maratha control.

Mughals had already left Delhi due to the fear of Abdali. Emperor Shah Alam Sani was in Bihar. He was a victim of his own courtiers. His wazir Imad-ul-mulk wanted to kill him to take the complete control in his hand. Analyzing the intention of Imad-ul-mulk, Shah Alam escaped from Delhi to save his life. Now Imad-ul-mulk had also left Delhi because of the fear of Abdali.

Now both marathas and afghans were stationed on the either sides of the river yamuna. For nearly two months Bhau stayed in Delhi without taking any action against Afghans. In the course of time they were running out of food and money.

So, they decided to attack Kunjpura which was 30km away from Delhi.

Kunjpura was the place where Abdali had stored all his looted wealth's. Bhau knew that if he attack kunjpura, he can get lots of wealth which can be used for providing food for his army and pilgrims.

### **Battle of Kunjpura and after events**

On 12 October 1761, Maratha army under the command of Mahadji Scindia along with the artillery support of Ibrahim Gardi attacked kunjpura. Abdali's commander Najabat Khan was guarding kunjpura fort with his 12,000 troops.

Mahadji Scindia's extraordinary bravery and effective artillery support of Ibrahim Gardi helped the Marathas to achieve a easy victory over the Afghan Forces. Najabat khan and many other prominent Afghan commanders were killed in this battle. Qutub shah was beheaded by Scindia army taking the revenge of Dattaji Scindia's death. Qutub shah was the one who killed Dattaji in Burari Ghat.

Maratha army got a large amount of wealth from Kunjpura. From kunjpura Marathas got 2000 horses, 2 lakh ton of grains and a large amount of money which was used by Bhau to strengthen his army. Mahadji also got his elephant named Jawahar, which was captured by Afghan army in Burari Ghat. The massacre of Kunjpura was within the sight of Abdali. But he couldn't do anything. He was standing helplessly on the other side of the river.

Angered by the lose of kunjpura, Abdali ordered his army to cross Yamuna at any cost to take the revenge from Marathas. On October 24, Abdali's army crossed Yamuna near Bhagpat.

Malharrao Holkar advised Bhau to attack Abdali immediately, as Abdali had lost some of his soldiers while crossing the river and also their cannons were temporarily become inactive as water entered in it. Abdali army was weak at this situation. So Holkar told Bhau that it was the best time to attack Abdali. But Bhau decided to move to Kurukshetra so that he can stop Abdali from getting reinforcement from Afghanistan. He also wanted get alliance with Sikhs in Punjab. Therefore he moved toward Kurukshetra with Maratha army.

On the other hand, Abdali reached Panipat and stationed his army behind Maratha army by cutting their all way of supplies from Delhi, Agra and Gwalior. This strategical move of Abdali prevented Bhau from going to Kurukshetra. Bhau had to come to Panipat. This was a crucial time for Marathas, as they were cut off from all their supplies. Abdali captured Kunjpura too. Both Marathas and Afghans were stationed in Panipat at distance of 4km.

In this crucial time also, Bhau did not take any action against Abdali. He was waiting to get any sort of help from Pune. Abdali camp was getting regular supplies from Najib Khan and Suja.

Maratha camp was running out of money and grains. There was nearly 1 lakh civilians in Maratha camp. The condition was becoming worse day by day. Bhau asked Govind Pant Bundela (an ally of Marathas in north) to help him. Govind Pant immediately set out to help Bhau with his supplies, but unfortunately he was caught and killed by Afghan soldiers on the way. His supplies were also looted by them. By the end of December 1760, the condition of Maratha camp became worst. There was a situation of starvation. A large number of

soldiers and animals starved to death. The harsh climate of December was another factor which was weakening the army. Maratha army was losing its morale.

The commanders pleaded Bhau to attack Abdali. They told Bhau that they are soldiers. They will like to die in war, rather than dying due to starvation. By this time Bhau had also lost the hope of getting any help from Pune. During this entire time Bhau had sent a couple of letters asking help from Peshwa. But the letters were caught in the midway by afghan soldiers. Therefore, Peshwa was not getting any news of Maratha army. He was not aware of the situation his army was facing in North.

When Bhau knew that there was no way left to get any help from Pune, he decided to go for war with Abdali. Before moving to battlefield, Bhau instructed Malhar Rao Holkar that, if at any point he thinks that Marathas are going to lose the battle, immediately take out all the Maratha women to a safe place. This was the reason why Malhar Rao Holkar did not fight the war. But many of the historians say that Holkar ran away from the battlefield due to fear. But the reality was that he was instructed to do so by his commander in chief.

Here, I strongly oppose the arguments putted by all those historians and scholars who say that Holkar ran away from battlefield out of fear. Malhar Rao Holkar was a courageous man. He was the first subedar of Maratha army in North India. He entered in the Maratha service as a soldier during the reign of first Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath Bhatt and during the period of Peshwa Bajirao I, he emerged as a great warrior and rose up to the position of subedar. He along with Bajirao, had fought many wars. He is often credited as the one who established Maratha supremacy in North. So, there is no question or any reason that



Holkar ran out of fear. He left the battlefield to fulfill the order of his commander in chief and to save the Maratha pride.

## **Battle of Panipat**

On 14<sup>th</sup> January 1761, on the day of makarshankranti Maratha army and Afghan army came face to face in Panipat.

Sadashivrao Bhau was leading the Maratha army. Other commanders of the army were: Vishwas Rao, Malhar Rao Holkar, Ibrahim Gardi, Mahadji Scindia, Jankoji Scindia, Tukoji Scindia, Yashwantrao Pawar, Damaji Gaekwad, Vittal Shivdev, Antaji Manekeshkar, Shamsheer Bahadur and Bala Janardhan.

Ahmad shah Abdali was leading the Afghan army supported by Najib khan and suja-ud-daulla with their forces. Barkurdar Khan was the main commander of Afghan army.

Both the armies had nearly 1 lakh of soldiers including cavalry, infantry along with artillery. Sadashivrao Bhau was mounted on the elephant and was on the central part of the army. Vishwasrao was on the frontline. Jankoji Scindia, Mahadji Scindia, Tukoji Scindia, Antaji Mankeshwar, Samsher Bahadur and Malhar Rao Holkar were on the right flank of the army. Damaji Gaekwad, Vittal Shivdev and Ibrahim Gardi were on the left flank.

On the other hand Abdali was on the frontline. While his commanders Barkurdar Khan and Dade Khan were on the right flank. Najib khan and suja were on the left flank of the army. Abdali had also kept an reserved army of about 10,000 soldiers.

The battle started at 9 in the morning. The battle ground of Panipat was ready to witness one of the most important

and destructive battle of medieval era. During the early phase, Maratha army was overpowering Afghan army. Artillery unit under Ibrahim Gardi was at its best. It caused a great damage to barkurdar khan's unit. Scindia forces were fighting under the command of Jankoji Scindia. There direct conflict was with Najib khan. Mahadji scindia was fighting with all his might. Vishwasrao and Bhau were also fighting bravely. Marathas were totally overpowering afghans. At a time it was like, Marathas are going to win the battle but all the scenario changed after 12pm, when Abdali introduced his fresh reserved force. Maratha army was tired of continuously fighting for three hours without water.

Suddenly, the phase of the war turned into favour of Abdali, when Vishwasrao got hit by bullet on his forehead and he succumbed to his injury. Sadashiv Bhau mounted on the elephant witnessed this tragic incident. Seeing his nephew being killed in front of him, he lost his temper out of anger and emotion. Without waiting for a moment or thinking about the consequence, he jumped from his elephant mounted on a horse went deep inside the Afghan flank to take the revenge for the death of his nephew. This was a major turning point of the war which completely changed the phase of the war in the favor of Afghans.

In no course of time Bhau was surrounded by Afghan soldiers. But he fought bravely and sacrificed his life for the motherland. The news of the death of Sadashivrao Bhau, broke out as a fire all across the Maratha army. Maratha soldiers started to run from the battlefield out of fear. They knew that it was impossible for them to win the battle without their commander in chief. In the meantime Malharrao Holkar also left the battlefield and took Parvati Bai (wife of sadashiv

bhau) and all other womens of Maratha camp and safely escorted them to Bharathpur.

Tukoji scindia died fighting the war. Jankoji scindia was caught and later executed by barkurdar khan. Antaji Mankeshwar and Damaji Gaekwad managed to escape the battlefield. Mahadji Scindia severely injured and was later saved by a man named Rane khan. Artillery commander Ibrahim Gardi fought courageously and was finally caught by Afghan soldiers and was brought before Ahmad shah Abdali. Being a Muslim, Abdali asked Ibrahim Gardi to join Afghan force to which Ibrahim Gardi said that, he will like to die for his motherland rather than to join hands with the invaders, who had came to loot his country. Further he added, If I get one more chance to choose between you and Bhau. I will choose that Brahmin commander hundred times over you. It will good for you to kill me because if you will leave me, I will go to Pune and with the help of Peshwa, will bring a huge army to defeat you.

Ibrahim Gardi was cruelly tortured and executed by Abdali. His body was chopped into pieces before the execution.

The battle was over. Abdali emerged victorious. Marathas suffered a huge loss. They had lost nearly 1 lakh people including soldiers and civilians. A generation of Maratha army was finished in a single day. Prominent Maratha commanders Sadashiv Bhau, Vishwasrao, Ibrahim Gardi all made supreme sacrifice to save the dignity of out nation.

### **Peshwa got the news**

Peshwa Balaji Bajirao was worried about his army. He had not got any news of Maratha army after the battle of Kunjpura.

Therefor he took an army and moved to North. Peshwas along with his reinforcement crossed river Chambal and reached Gwalior. Here, he was met by a merchant who gave him a letter in which it was written that “Two pearls have been dissolved, 27 gold coins were lost, and the loss of silver and copper cannot be estimated”.

Actually it was the news of the outcome of Panipat war, which was secretly sent to Peshwa. It took no time for Peshwa for understand the meaning of the letter. The two pearls mentioned above were his cousin Sadashivrao Bhau and his elder son Vishwasrao. 27 gold coins were other commanders of the Maratha army. The silver and copper that cannot be estimated were the numbers of soldiers died in the battle. This news was a major setback for Peshwa. He was overwhelmed by grief. He had lost his everything in the battle of Panipat. He had lost his son, his cousin, army, commanders and above all he had lost his hold in North India. After the loss of Panipat, Maratha army was no were in North India. Abdali had captured Delhi, Punjab and Agra.

Later, Peshwa was met by Balaji Janardhan who had managed to escape the battlefield. Bala Janardhan told the detailed news of Panipat war to Peshwa. After getting the news of loss, Peshwa was not wished to move to North. Therefor he returned to Pune. He was totally broke down by the defeat and never recovered from it.

### **Abdali in Delhi**

After the victory over Marathas in Panipat, Ahmad shah Abdali marched to Delhi.

In Delhi Abdali announced that he did not want to move to forward or did not wish to fight with Marathas anymore.

Moreover, he added that he want to go back to his country. Therefor, he appointed Gasiuddin Imad-ul-mulk as the wazir(Prime Minister) of Mughal Empire. Actually Abdali did not want to collide with Marathas anymore, so he appointed Imad-ul-mulk as the wazir because Marathas were the one who had made Imad-ul-mulk the wazir. By doing so , Abdali want to show that he has no personal conflict with Marathas and did not wish to take control of Delhi.

Najib-ud-daulla was made the Mir Bakshi of Punjab. Punjab was attached to Durrani Empire. Suja-ud-daulla did not got any post as promised. Hence he returned back to Awadh with disappointment.

### **Reasons for the defeat of Marathas**

There are several reasons for the defeat of Maratha army in the battle of Panipat. I have listed some of the reasons below

- The major reason of the defeat was Marathas failed to get any alliance in North. Rajputs and Sikhs remain neutral by not giving any supports to either sides. Jats came for support but unfortunately due to some political and personal differences they also withdrawn their support. Marathas also failed to get Suja on their side. It was very necessary for get an alliance for Marathas as they were very far way from their capital Pune. But unfortunately Marathas were left all alone in Panipat without any support. On the other hand Abdali got strong support of Najib Rohilla and Suja of Awadh.
- Second reason of the defeat was carrying a large number of civilians to battlefield. This caused many hardship to the army. Large number of civilians slowdown the

movement of the army. This also caused the shortage of food in the camp. Soon there was a situation of starvation. Bhau was not able to fully concentrate on the war because of the women in Maratha camp whose responsibility was on his shoulders.

- Third reason was the delay, Bhau made to take action against Abdali. Bhau reached Delhi in August but the main battle took place in January. For nearly 5 months, Bhau took no action against Abdali in spite of having a number of opportunities.
- Instead of Bhau if Raghunath Rao was made the commander-in-chief, the result of the battle could have changed. There is no doubt that Bhau was a great warrior and an able leader, but he was not aware about the political situation of North that is why he failed to get any support there. On the other hand Raghunath Rao had a great experience of North. He had won a plenty of wars in the Northern terrain.
- Bhau lost his temper when he saw his nephew being killed in front of him. Out of emotion he went deep inside the Afghan flank and was killed there. As a commander-in-chief Bhau should have controlled his emotions. He should have thought about the consequence of the war. He should have thought about his army because an army will never fight without their commander. Here, also same situation arose, when Bhau was killed soldiers started to run away from the battlefield and Marathas lost the battle.

### **Situation after the battle**

Third of Panipat created a political unrest in North India. Abdali's invasion caused a great disturbance in north. Mainly

in Delhi and Agra. In Delhi when people heard that Abdali has won the battle and is marching toward Delhi, people started to leave the city out of fear. Soon the city of Delhi was abandoned.

In South, Pune was in a state of shock. Peshwa couldn't believe that Marathas had lost the battle. Maratha power was totally declined in North. It took another 10 years for the Marathas to re-establish their power in North.

Even, though the battle was lost by Marathas, Abdali also suffered a huge lose. His strength was also weekend to such an extent that, he never invaded India anymore in his lifetime.

The defeat of Marathas created way for the rise of Britishers in India. With the decline of Marathas in North, there was no power left that could stop Britishers from establishing their empire in India. If Marathas could have not lost the battle, Britishers could never have established their suzerainty in India. The defeat in the battle of Panipat gave Britishers a golden opportunity to take control of Indian territories.

In 1764, British East Indian Company defeated the combined army of Awadh, Bengal and Mughals in Buxer. Mughal Emperor Shah Allam II was arrested and kept in captivity in Allahabad by the Britishers. With the victory of Buxer, Britishers got the complete control of Bengal, Bihar and Orrisa. Gradually British power started in rise in North India.

### **Death of Balaji Bajirao**

The loss of Marathas in Panipat was huge setback for the Peshwa. He was completely broken and was never recovered from the grief and died on 23 June 1761.

Peshwa Balaji Bajirao's era witnessed the rise of Maratha Empire. During his reign Maratha empire reached its zenith,

but at the same time his era also witnessed the decline of Maratha power.

Balaji Bajirao was not a great warrior like his father Bajirao I, but he was a great administrator. The 21 years of his reign is often referred to as a golden period in Maratha Empire. During his power Marathas extended their power till Attock in North. It was during his tenure Marathas raised as the supreme power of India. But unfortunately inspite of having all this achievements, he is often blamed for the loss of Marathas in Panipat. Historians criticizes him by saying that if Peshwa could have took the correct decision in correct time, Marathas could have not lost the battle.



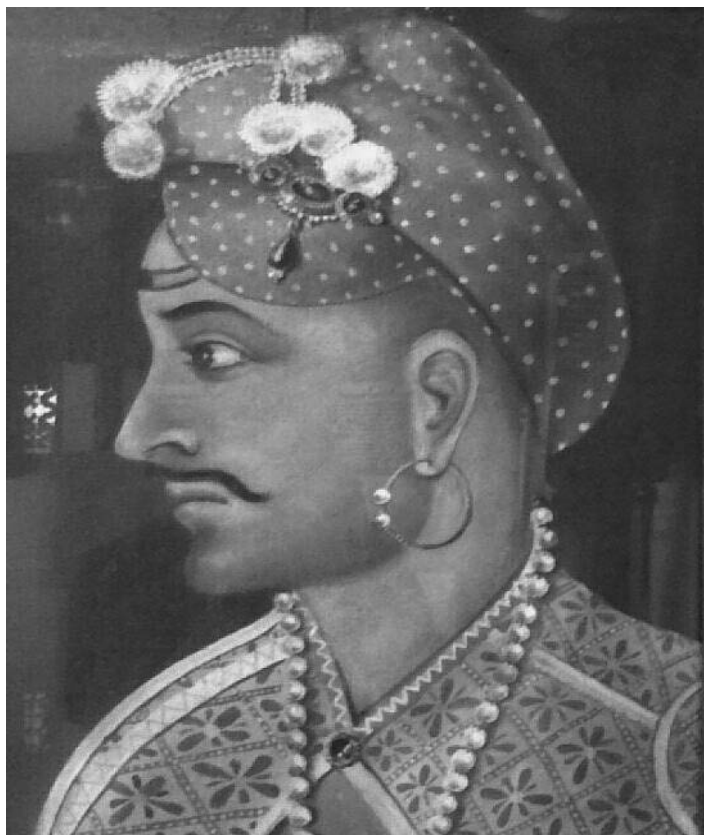
# PICTURES



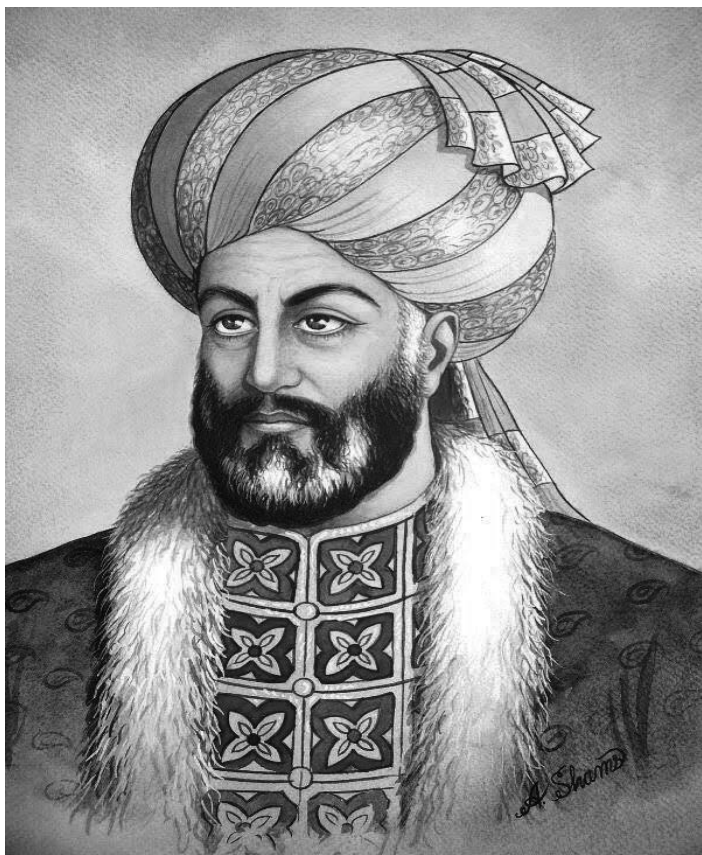
Portrait of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj



Portrait of Peshwa Bajirao I



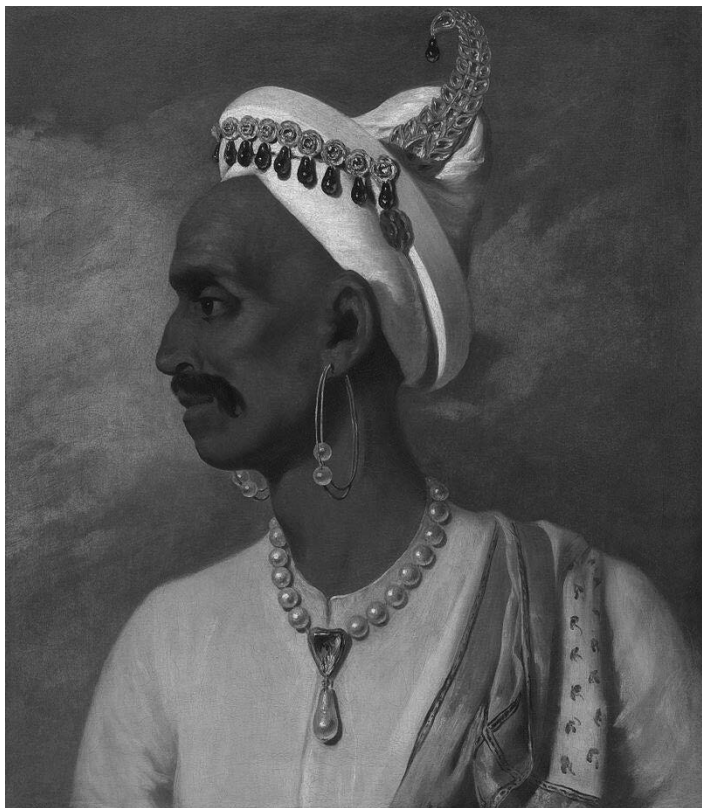
Sadashivrao Bhau, the commander-in-chief of Maratha army  
in Third Battle of Panipat 1761



Afghan Ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali, who invaded India several times from 1748 to 1761.



Great Maratha Warrior Mahadji Scindia



Maratha Statesman Nana Fadnavis

# MADHAVRAO BECOME PESHWA



After the death of Balaji Bajiro in 1761, his second son Madhavrao ascended the throne as the next Peshwa of declining Maratha Empire. The time when Madhavrao ascended the throne, political situation of the empire was not stable. As a Peshwa he had a great challenges ahead of him. He not only had to fight with the external forces but also with the internal forces. His own uncle Raghunath Rao was a great hurdle for him.

Raghunath Rao wanted to become Peshwa. He always thinks that after his father Bajirao he is the most worthy person in Peshwa family. Therefore he should be the Peshwa. He always opposed Madhavrao in every matters and often refused to accept his orders.

As a Peshwa Madhavrao had a great responsibilities. He was only of 17 when he became Peshwa. But his young age never became a hurdle in his way. He was a determined person. The main responsibility for him as a Peshwa was to re-establish Maratha Power in India. At the same time he has to keep a check on his uncle Raghunath Rao with the advice of his Anandi Bai who was trying his level best to dethrone him. The condition of Maratha empire was not good. But this particular time period witnessed the rise of two prominent Maratha figures Mahadji Scindia and Nana Fadnavis (Balaji Janardhan) who assisted Madhavrao in re-establishing Maratha power. Nana Fadnavis helped Madhavrao in stabilizing the political situation of the state while Mahadji helped him in

recapturing the lost territories. During his tenure Madhavrao made Mahadji his commander-in-chief and also made him the subedar of Gwalior, Agra and Ajmer.

Peshwa Madhavrao was tired of Raghunath Rao who used to interfere in every matters and always opposed his orders. Due to this there was always conflicts between Madhavrao and Raghunath Rao.

Raghunath Rao gained the support of all the experienced and elder courtiers like Haripant Phadke and Sakaram Prabhu. He also managed to keep Scindia and Holkar away from Pune. He wanted to make the Peshwa alone. He also resigned from his post along with his supporters. He thought that Peshwa will become insufficient to look after the matters without his help. But Madhavrao with the help of Nana Fadnavis effectively managed the affairs of the state. This made Raghunath Rao more frustrated and angry. Internal conflicts of Maratha empire paved the outsiders a opportunity to attack them. Taking the advantage of the situation Nizam Hyderabad marched to Pune to defeat Madhavrao and to take the revenge of the defeat of Battle of Udagir.





Statue of Peshwa Madhavroa I, located at Peshwa Park in  
Pune

# BATTLE OF ALEGAON



On November 1762, Nizam of Hyderabad marched to Pune with his army to defeat the Marathas. Raghunath Rao thought that it was a golden opportunity for him to dethrone Madhavrao. He therefor allied with Nizam against Peshwa. Bhonsale of Nagpur also joined him. The combined army of Nizam, Raghunath Rao and Bhonsale joined together to fight against Peshwa Madhavrao.

Peshwa Madhavrao also went with his army to face Nizam. Battle was fought in Alegaon. In this battle Madhavrao was heavily defeated and had to surrender before Nizam. He also had to give back all the territories and forts, which Sadashiv Bhau had won in the battle of Udagir. The strong forts of Daulatabad was lost to Nizam. This was a major setback to Maratha Empire and also for Peshwa Madhavrao.

# BATTLE OF RAKSHASBHUVAN



Over confident with the victory of Alegaon, Nizam Ali khan once again went to fight against Marathas to totally broke them. But this time Raghunath Rao did not allied with Nizam. He supported Madhav Rao, infact he was made the commander-in-chief if the Maratha army.

On 10 August 1763, Raghunath Rao and Madhavrao jointly faced Nizam in the battle of Rakshasbhuvan. In this battle Nizam Hyderabad was heavily defeated inspite of having good artillery support.

Nizam Ali khan surrendered before Madhavrao and had to give back all the territories and forts which he had re-gained in Alegaon. It was a great victory for Marathas. Probably the first victory for Marathas after the battle of Panipat.

# MADHAVRAO'S KARNATAKA CAMPAIGN



In mid 1764, Hyder Ali, the Prime Minister of Krishnaraj Wodeyar of Mysore attacked the Nawab of Savanur. Nawab of Savanur was not efficient to face the strong army of Hyder Ali. Therefore, he appealed Peshwa Madhavrao to help him as Savanur was a confederacy of Maratha Empire. Peshwa Madhavrao along with his uncle Raghunath Rao set out for Karnataka to crush Hyder Ali. But due to some conflicts between Raghunath Rao and Madhavrao, Raghunath Rao returned to Pune from the midway and Peshwa had to go alone to Karnataka.

Hyder Ali did not want to face Maratha army. So, he ran from Savanur and crossed Tungabhadra river, but Maratha army managed to get him in Rattihali fort. Battle was fought in Rattihali. In this battle Hyder Ali was heavily defeated by Marathas. He also lost his 1000 soldiers. Anyhow he managed to escape from there saving his life. Later, Hyder Ali had to give 35 Lakh Rupees as a tribute to Madhavrao, to end this war. Some of his major forts were also captured by Marathas. It was his first major victory for Peshwa Madhavrao, as he had won this battle without the support of Raghunath Rao. Peshwa Madhavrao was highly praised for this splendid victory over a strong opponent like Hyder Ali.

# DEATH OF MALHAR RAO HOLKAR AND CONDITION OF INDORE STATE



On 20 May 1766, while campaigning against Jats in Alampur, Malhar Rao Holkar passed away at the age of 72. Malhar Rao Holkar was a great warrior and a major figure of Maratha Empire. He along with Ranoji Scindia expanded the Maratha Empire in North. He fought a plenty of wars for Maratha Empire. He also accompanied Raghunath Rao to Attock and played a major role in defeating Afghans in Attock and Lahore. He was given the Jagir of Indore State in 124, by then Peshwa Bajirao I.

Malhar Rao Holkar served four Peshwas during his lifetime. He started his career as a simple soldier during Balaji Vishwanath reign and rose up to a prominent position during the reign of Bajirao I and Balaji Bajirao. He is also considered as the major pillar of Maratha Empire during Peshwas rule. During his whole life he faithfully served Maratha Empire. His contribution to the Maratha Empire is truly invaluable.

Malhar Rao Holkar's son Kanderao had earlier died in 1754, during the seize of kumher fort. Therefore, after the death of Malhar Rao Holkar his grandson Malerao was made the ruler of Indore under the regentship of Ahilya Bai Holkar.

Ahilyabai was the wife of Kanderao and daughter-in-law of Malhar Rao Holkar. After the death of Kanderao in 1754, Malhar Rao Holkar prevented Ahilya Bai from committing sati. Malhar Rao trained her in military and political affairs.

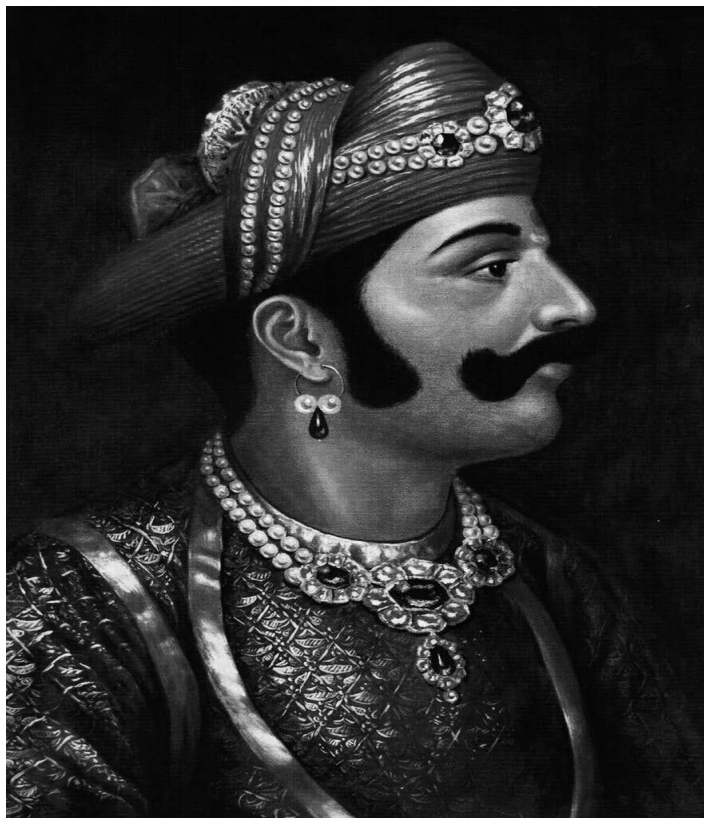
Malhar Rao considered Ahiliyabai has his own daughter. In the later ages of Malhar Rao Holkar, Ahiliyabai used to look after the political affairs of the state.

Malerao was very young at the time, when he was made the ruler of Indore. Therefor, his mother used to rule the state on behalf of him, but soon within a year Malerao also died due to illness.

In 1767, Ahiliyabai Holkar took the complete control of Indore. With the assistance of Tukoji Holkar she effectively managed the affairs of the state. Tukoji Holkrar was a trusted commander of Malhar Rao Holkar. He also remained loyal towards Ahiliya Bai during her tenure. Ahiliya Bai also respected him and often took his advice to manage the affairs.

Ahiliya Bai Holkar was a great ruler. Her time period witnessed the growth of Indore state. She was a religious lady and was very caring toward her people. The people of Indore highly respected Ahiliya Bai and considered her as their mother.

After the death of Ahiliya Bai Holkar on 1777, Tukoji Holkar succeeded her and become the ruler of Indore. He too was a effective ruler like Ahilya Bai and Malharrao Holkar.



Portrait of Malhar Rao Holkar of Indore

## PESHWA'S SECOND EXPEDITION TO KARNATAKA



In 1767, Peshwa Madhavrao took 2<sup>nd</sup> expedition to Karnataka.

He asked his uncle Raghunath Rao to join him, but he declined to join and went to Nasik. Peshwa Madhavrao took his trusted generals Gopalrao Patwardhan, Vinchurkar and Naro Shankar and went toward Karnataka to crush Hyder Ali and expand Maratha Empire in Karnataka. Hyder Ali with his army faced Maratha army. Maratha army defeated Mysore army in Sira and Nandigarh. They also captured the forts of Nandigarh.

Hyder Ali had to do peace treaty with Peshwa Madhavrao on the condition that Mysore will pay 14 lakh rupees per annum to Maratha empire as a tribute. Some of his forts were also taken by Marathas.



# BRITISH IN PUNE



On December 3 1767, British officer Mastin visited Peshwa Madhavrao in Pune to get permission to establish British factory in Vasai, But Madhavrao knew that the real intention of the Britishers were to station army in Vasai. So, anticipating their real intention, Peshwa Madhavrao declined to give them permission.

# MADHAVRAO Vs RAGHUNATHRAO



Peshwa Madhavrao's effective administration and his consecutive victories over his enemies made him very popular. The success of Madhavrao made Raghunath rao angry and jealous. Therefor, he waged war against him.

On June 1768, Raghunath Rao with the help of Janoji Bhonsale and Sakaram Bapu waged war against Peshwa Madhavrao. Madhavrao and Raghunath Rao faced each other in Dhadop, where Raghunath rao was defeated by Peshwa army.

Raghunath Rao was arrested by Madhavrao and kept under home arrest in shanivarvada along with his companion Sakaram Bapu. Raghunath Rao was in home arrest till the death of Madhavrao in 1772. Janoji Bhonsale signed a peace treaty with Peshwa and also had to pay 5 lakh rupee as war expense.

# PESHWA'S THIRD EXPEDITION TO KARNATAKA



In 1769, Hyder Ali broke the treaty with Marathas by not paying them the money as per the agreement. Therefore, Peshwa along with his army marched to karnatka for 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

Maratha army reached till Bangalore and captured Bangalore, Kolar and Nandigarh. He further wished to move toward Mysore capital Seringapatnam, but unfortunately on mid june 1770, Peshwa Madhavrao struked with illness and hence had to return back to Pune, leaving the Karanataka campaign in midway.

In Pune it was discovered that Peshwa was suffering from tuberculosis, and in those days there was no treatment for tuberculosis. Madhavrao was never able to recover from this deadly disease.

# NORTHERN EXPANSION



In 1770, Peshwa Madhav Rao sent Mahadji Scindia to re-establish Maratha supremacy once again in North India. Mahadji Scindia along with Tukoji Holkar and Visaji Krishna Baniwala went to North along with their forces.

During this time Najib Khan was managing the affairs of Delhi. In North Marathas had to face three major powers Rajputs, Jats and Rohillas in order to establish their power.

Therefor, Mahadji Scindia decided to attack Rajputana first. So he moved to Rajputana with his army. Earlier Malhar Rao Holkar had defeated Rajputs in the battle of Mangrol in 1762. In 1770 Mahadji and Tukoji defeated Rajputs and levied heavy tax on them. Mahadji Scindia took control of Udaipur. Victory of Marathas in Rajputana alarmed Najib Khan. He was worried as he had grown old and had no enough strength to face Marathas. He sent a letter to Abdali to help him. But Abdali refused to come to India, this made Najib khan more worried. So, he decide to take the benefit of his relationship with Malharrao Holkar. He considered Malhar rao as his father. Therefor, he approached Tukoji Holkar for a peace settlement. Tukoji also had a soft corner for Najib Khan because of his relation with Malhar Rao. Tukoji asked Visaji Krishna and Mahadji Scindia to do a peace settlement with Najib khan. Mahadji did not agreed to Tukoji and told that, Najib khan is the main reason for the downfall of Maratha Empire. He was the one who invited Abdali to invade India. He is the reason behind the death of Dattaji Scindia. Therefor, no peace settlement should be done with me. Instead, he

should be punished, then only the revenge of the Marathas will complete. Mahadji never agreed to do settlement with Najib. Tukoji Holkar managed to get Visaji Krishna on side and through him, he sent a letter to Peshwa to let them do treaty with Najib khan as Najib is ready to help Marathas in re- establishing Maratha power in north.

Peshwa Madhavrao agreed for the settlement and asked Marthas to defeat Jats instead of Rohillas. Mahadji did not supported the decision of Peshwa, but he had to agree it and had to do settlement with Najib. This incident made dispute between Scindia and Holkar.

Marathas advanced to Mathura to take action against Jats. Marathas successfully suppressed the Jat power and took the control of Mathura. Meanwhile Najib khan passed away due to old age on 30 October 1770 and his son Zabita khan succeeded him.

After defeating Rajputs and Jats, Mahadji decided to take over Delhi to completely establish Maratha supremacy in North India. He therefor went to capture Delhi along with Visaji Krishna, but he did not allowed Tukoji to accompany them due to his relation with Rohillas and earlier incident.

# CAPTURE OF DELHI



In January 1771, Mahadji Scindia defeated Zabita Khan's Rohilla army and took control of Delhi.

Zabita khan fled to Najibabad to save his life. Maratha victory over Delhi, once again made them the major power of India. Mahadji Scindia was praised highly for his outstanding bravery. He hoisted the Maratha flag in Red Fort. By doing so, he fulfilled the dream of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Bajirao Peshwa of hosting maratha flag in Delhi.

After winning over Delhi, he moved to Allahabad to rescue Emperor Shah Alam sani from the captivity of Britishers. A fierce battle took place between Mahadji Scindia and British East India Company, in which Mahadji Scindia emerged victorious. The defeat was a severe blow to British East India Company. Probably it was the first defeat of Britishers in Indian soil. This victory further strengthen the power and status of Mahadji Scindia. Even Britishers praised Mahadji for his bravery.

Mahadji Scindia successfully resuced Shah Alam II and escorted him safely to Delhi. On January 1772, Mahadji and Shah Allam reached Delhi. It was a very emotional moment for Shah Allam, as he was returning to Delhi nearly after 15 years. Mahadji Scindia made Shah Allam the Emperor, but the regentship was in Marathas hand. That means Shah Allam was only nominal head, real power was in the hands of Maratha Empire.

In Delhi, Emperor Shah Allam Sani highly praised Mahadji Scindia for his bravery and kind gesture. He bestowed Mahadji Scindia with the titles of 'Amir-ul-umra' and most importantly

with the title of “Vakil-ul-mutlaq”(Regent of Empire). That means every orders of Mughal Empire has to be carried out with the permission of Mahadji Scindia. With this honor and titles, Mahadji Scindia established himself as a major figure in North India. He was highly respected by every rulers in North India. Mahadji's power can be identified from the fact that, he use to manage the political affairs of many states. He was also highly praised by Peshwa Madhavrao for his bravery and victory in North.

After winning Delhi, Mahadji asked the permission of Peshwa Madhavrao to take action against Rohillas.

Now, Peshwa Madhavrao had strong confident in Mahadji Scindia, after his dazzling victory in North. Peshwa knew that, the every step that Mahadji takes, is for the benefit of Maratha Empire. Therefor, he gave him the permission to do what he seems right.

In late 1772, Mahadji Scindia went to Najibabad, the capital of Rohillas, to punish them for their involvement in Panipat war. Moreover, Mahadji had a personal enmity with Rohillas, as they were the one who killed his brother Dattaji Scindia. Mahhadji Scindia wanted to take revenge from them and it was a golden opportunity for him.

During late 1772, Maratha army completely destroyed Najibabad by defeating Zabita khan. The whole city was sacked. Marathas captured Pathargarh fort and plundered the resources and treasures of Rohillas. Zabita khan fled to Punjab to save his life. Later he signed a treaty with Suja-ud-daula to provide him protection from Marathas.

With the destruction of Najibabad, Maratha supremacy in North India was completely re-installed. Maratha Empire

under the reign of Peshwa Madhavrao once again reached its peak. From Delhi to the borders of Seringapatnam in Karnataka, Marathas established their authority. This time period in history is called Maratha resurrection. The three figures who played the major role in Maratha resurrection were Peshwa Madhavrao, Mahadji Scindia and Nana Fadnavis. These three were often called the three pillars of Maratha Empire during that particular time. It was a golden time for Maratha Empire. But every good thing as an end. Bad fortune once again struck the Maratha Empire, and this time it was the death of Peshwa Madhavrao.



# DEATH OF PESHWA MADHAV RAO



On 18 November 1772, Great Peshwa Madhavrao passed away at a very young age of 29. Madhavrao was a great administrator as well as a great warrior. He was a man of Justice. He insured that every citizen in his kingdom should get justice. He was also a man of moral ethics. He was a great ruler with kind heart and humble nature. His 11 years in power witnessed the rise of Maratha Empire. Madhavrao inherited a weak empire, but left behind a vast and powerful empire. During his tenure he re-established Maratha supremacy all across the country.

Madhavrao is considered as the greatest Peshwa of Maratha Empire, after Bajirao I. If Madhavrao had lived for some more years, Marathas had ejected British power from India and the history could have changed.

Death of Peshwa Madhavrao was a severe blow for the Maratha Empire. After his death Maratha Empire once again started to fall down. Vast Maratha Empire was disintegrated into small confederacy. Maratha was now mainly got divide into five major powers. (i) Peshwa of Pune, (ii) Scindia of Gwalior, (iii) Holkar of Indore, (iv) Bonsale of Nagpur, (v) Gaikwad of Baroda. These confederacies often were in conflicts with each others to show their superiority. This gave Britishers a chance to interfere in their political matters.

# PESHWA NARAYANRAO AND HIS REIGN



Madhavrao had no heir, therefore his younger brother Narayan Rao succeeded him, as the next Peshwa on 13 December 1772, at the age of 17. By this time, Raghunath Rao was also released from home arrest and was made the regent of Maratha Empire by late Peshwa Madhavrao. Narayanrao was Peshwa in name only, the real power was in Raghunathrao's hand.

Narayan Rao was not a efficient ruler like his brother Madhavrao. He lacked many qualities which Madhavrao had. He was a puppet in the hands of Raghunathrao. He wanted get rid of his uncle, So he made Nana Fadnavis his advisor. This decision made Raghunathrao very angry.

Meanwhile, taking the advantage of weakening Maratha Empire, Hyder Ali sent his son Tipu Sultan to recapture lost territories from Marathas. Nizam of Hyderabad also broke the treaty and went against Marathas. To suppress these powers, Narayanrao called back Visaji Krishna Baniwala from North. Maratha army was defeated in several occasions in Karnatak by Tipu Sultan. Tipu regained much of lost territories from Marathas.

On, the other hand Raghunathrao was planning to eliminate Narayanrao from his way, so that he can become the Peshwa.

# ASSASSINATION OF NARAYANRAO



Raghunathrao knew that in order to get the throne, he have to eliminated Narayanrao from his way. So, he planned to arrest and keep Narayan Rao in Captivity. But he did not want to directly involve in this conspiracy. So he asked his trusted man Tulaji Pawar to do so. Tulaji Pawar arranged Sumer Singh Gardi for this work. Raghunathrao send a letter to Sumer singh, in whjch it was written “Dharava” ( means to hold in marathi) but the message was intercepted by his wife Anandi Bai, who changed the word “Dharava” to “Marava” ( means to kill in Marathi).

Sumer Singh Gardi along with his guards marched to Shaniwarwada to kill Narayanrao. It was the last day of Ganesh festival. During night Gardi and his men reached Shaniwarwada and started creating disturbance. The said that they want to meet Peshwa, but when the soldiers tried to stop them, they started killing everyone who came on their way. They reached the chamber of Narayanrao to kill him. Out of fear, Narayanrao started running to his uncle’s chamber by crying “kaka mala wachava” means uncle save me. He reached Raghunathrao’s chamber and pleaded him to save him from the assassins, but no one saved him.

The young Peshwa was killed in the presence of his uncle. All the assassination happened in the duration of half an hour. His body was cut into pieces and carried out in a pot, through the back gate of Shaniwarwad and was cremated near a lake.

# RAGHUNATHRAO BECOME PESHWA



The murder of Peshwa Narayanrao created a political and social unrest not only in Pune, but all across the Maratha Empire. Everyone was stunned by this heinous act. Taking the advantage of this circumstance, Raghunath Rao ascended the throne. He managed to get all the courtiers on his side. He even managed to get Nana Fadnavis on his side. But without the knowledge of Raghunathrao, Nana Fadnavis asked Chief Justice Ramshastri Prabune to investigate the matter and find the culprit. In the meantime, Nana Fadnavis got the news that Ganga Bai, the wife of Late Peshwa Narayan Rao is pregnant. Nana Fadnavis kept this news secret because he fear that, if Raghunathrao get the news he will kill the child.

Nana Fadnavis tried to keep Raghunathrao away from Pune, So that he can get enough time to the control of Pune administration. Therefore, He played a trick by asking Raghunathrao to take action against Mysore army for breaking the treaty. Raghunathrao left for Karnataka with his army. In the meanwhile, Nana Fadnavis took the control of Pune and formed a council of twelve members. This council was named Barbhai Council. This council was created to look after the administration of Pune.

The twelve members of the Barbhai Council were:

1. Nana Fadnavis
2. Haripant Phadke
3. Sakaram Bapu

4. Govindrao Patwardhan
5. Trimbakrao Pete
6. Moroba Fadnavis
7. Anantrao Shivaji
8. Chinto Vittal
9. Babaji Naik
10. Maloji Gorphade
11. Sambhaji Bhonsale
12. Bhagwan Rao

Meanwhile Chief Justice Ramshastri Prabune, through a detailed investigation found out that the main culprit behind the assassination were Raghunathrao, Tulaji Pawar and Anandi Bai. He stated that it was the most heinous crime, he had seen in his career. He further added that, this crime requires the punishment not less than death penalty.

He therefore, passed the judgement of Death sentence to Raghunathrao. However, the judgement was never carried out, due to the high influence of Raghunathrao in Maratha Empire. On the way to Karnataka, Raghunathrao got the news of Ramshastri's judgement and also got the news that, a son is born to Ganga Bai and Nana Fadnavis is going to make him the Peshwa. Therefor, he cancelled his Karnataka campaign and went to Anandvalli. He never returned to Pune again.

In Pune, Nana Fadnavis along with other members of Barbhai Council installed Sawai Madhavrao, the infant baby of Late Narayan Rao on the throne. Ganga Bai was made the regent of the Empire. Nana Fadnavis become the Prime Minister and took the control of Maratha Empire in his hands.

# REVOLT OF RAGHUNATHRAO



Raghunathrao was not ready to give up, therefore he went against Pune government in 1774. Pune army under the command of Nana Fadnavis faced Raghunathrao and his army in Kasegaon near Pandharpur. In this battle Raghunathrao was defeated. He therefore, went to Surat to seek the help of Britishers.

On 6 March 1775, a treaty was signed between Raghunathrao and East India Company. In this treaty, Raghunathrao asked the company to help him to retain the throne, and in return he promised to give Thane, Salsette and Vasai to Britishers, once he become Peshwa. On 15 March 1775, Britishers marched to Pune under the command of Colonel Keating. But the army was checked by Haripant Phadke and his army at Ades. Haripant Phadke defeated the British army at Ades.

Following the defeat of British army, Governor General Warren Hastings condemned the treaty signed with Raghunathrao and stated that, direct action against Pune is dangerous. Therefore, he sent Colonel Upton to Pune, to do treaty with Barbhai Council.

# TREATY OF PURANDHAR



On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1776, East India Company signed a treaty with Barbhai Council at Purandhar. This treaty was called “the treaty of Purandhar”. In this treaty Britishers acknowledged Sawai Madhavrao as the Peshwa, and rejected the claim of Raghunathrao. They also agreed to pay a annual pension to Raghunathrao. In return Nana Fadnavis gave the control of Salsette to East India Company.

Through this treaty, Britishers got the hold on the east coast of India. This treaty was not lasted for a long time and was violated by Nana Fadnavis, when he signed a treaty with French and gave them some control on west Coast.

# FIRST ANGLO-MARATHA WAR



Following the violation of treaty by Barbhai Council, British East India company decided to wage war against Marathas and install Raghunathrao as the Peshwa. Bombay Government of East India Company sent Colonel Egerton to crush Pune. He was joined by Raghunathrao with his army.

Nana Fadnavis asked the help of Mahadji Scindia and Tukoji Holkar. On 12 January 1779, Colonel Egerton and Raghunathrao was heavily defeated by the combined army of Mahadji Scindia and Tukoji Holkar. Following the defeat, Bombay Government of East India Company was forced to sign a treaty with Marathas. This treaty was called the Treaty of Wadgaon.

However, Governor General Warren Hastings rejected this treaty by saying that, Bombay Government has no authority to sign a treaty. Therefore, he ordered Colonel Thomas Goddard to move to Pune with his army to defeat Marathas. Colonel Goddard along with his army moved to Pune. In route he captured Ahmadabad. To stop him, Mahadji Scindia moved to Gujarat. Battle took place between Col Goddard and Mahadji Scindia.

On the other hand, Governor General Hastings sent another force under Captain Popham to capture Gwalior. Actually it was a strategical move Hastings to make Mahadji retreat from Battle, so that Goddard can move to Pune. As expected Mahadji retreated and moved to Malwa to save Gwalior, while Goddard proceeded to Pune.



Mahadji Scindia had done much damage to Thomas Goddard force. So, General Hastings sent a reinforcement under Major Camac to help Col. Goddard. The combined army Colonel Goddard and Major Camac captured Basein on 11 December 1780. They further moved to Pune, but was stopped by Haripant Phadke and Tukoji Holkar at Bhore Ghat in Parshurambar. In April 1781, battle was fought between East India Company led by Colonel Thomas Goddard and Barabhai Council led by Haripant Phadke. In this battle Col. Goddard was defeated and had to retreat. On the other hand, Mahadji Scindia marched to Gwalior to recapture it. Governor General Warren Hastings knew that, Captain Popham cannot face Mahadji alone. So he sent a reinforcement under Colonel Murre to help Captain Popham.

On April 1781, battle was fought between East India Company and Mahadji Scindia at Gwalior. Mahadji Scindia defeated British army and recaptured Gwalior.

The defeat of British army, both at Pune and Gwalior forced Governor General Hastings to sign treaty with the Marathas.

# TREATY OF SALBAI



With the defeat of British army led by Colonel Goddard, Governor General Warren Hastings decided to do treaty with the Barbhai Council. Therefore, he sent his political diplomat and loyal friend David Anderson to do treaty with Barbhai Council.

A treaty was signed between David Anderson on behalf of East Indian Company and Nana Fadnavis on behalf of Barbhai Council of Maratha Empire on 17 May 1782.

In this treaty, Britishers once again acknowledged Madhavrao II as the Peshwa and decided to give annual pension to Raghunathrao. Company also assured Marathas, to help them against Mysore army, if required. In return Maratha Empire gave the control of Salsette and Broach to Company. It also ended its all treaty with French.

This treaty ended the conflict between British East India Company and Maratha Empire and established peace between the two parties for next 20 years, until the second Anglo-Maratha war broke out.

## SECOND MYSORE MARATHA-WAR



After the conflict with Britishers. Marathas now wanted to re-capture the lost from Mysore. Therefore, Marathas signed a treaty with Nizam Hyderabad and formed an alliance with him against Mysore. Marathas also asked the East India Company for their help, because as per the treaty of Salbai 1782, Britishers had assured Marathas to help them against Mysore when needed. This treaty was signed during the time of Governor General Warren Hastings. So, the new Governor General Charles Cornwallis said that, company is not in a position to help them and kept themselves aside from the war.

In January 1785, Maratha army of 30,000 soldiers and Nizam's army of 20,000 soldiers marched to Mysore. Haripant Phadke was made the commander-in-chief by Nana Fadnavis. At that time Tipu Sultan was ruling Mysore. He was a great General. Through his strategical skills and military power, he had captured many Maratha territories.

With the coming of Maratha army to Karnataka to crush Mysore army, Vyankatrao Bhave the maratha ruler of Nargund, who had earlier surrendered to Tipu Sultan, revolted against him. Tipu Sultan sent his commander Burhanuddin to defeat Vayankatrao Bhave. On February 1785, Mysore army laid siege in the fort of Nargund and trapped Vayankatrao and his soldiers inside the fort. Finally, Vyankatrao surrendered and once again accepted Tipu Sultan as his Nawab.

Following the defeat of Maratha army in Nurgand, Haripant Phadke moved to Badami with his army. On 20 May 1786, Haripant Phadke with his army of 50,000 soldiers stormed the city of Badami, defeated the small garrison of Mysore and took the control of Badami. Further, he moved to Adoni, but Tipu Sultan anticipated his move and took him surprisingly at Adoni. Haripant Phadke was defeated. He retreated from Adoni and stationed his army near Gajendragad. Following, the defeat of Marathas in Adoni, Nana Fadnavis asked Tukoji Holkar to help them. Tukoji Holkar with his army reached Gajendragad. In June 1786, Maratha army and Mysore army faced each other in Gajendragad. Maratha army under the command of Tukoji Holkar defeated Mysore army and emerged victorious.

Following the defeat, Tipu Sultan made an agreement with Marathas, in which he obliged to pay 12 lakh rupees per annum to Marathas. However, he violated this agreement and went against Marathas. By this time Tukoji Holkar had also returned to Malwa. Taking advantage of this, On October 10 1786, Tipu Sultan laid siege on the fort of Savanur, where Marathas were presiding. Tipu Sultan defeated Marathas and captured Savanur and further advanced to Bahadur Benda, where he was faced by Haripant Phadke and his army. Haripant Phadke tried to hold the fort but the superior artillery of Sultan, forced Haripant Phadke and his army to retreat. Tipu Sultan emerged victorious against the Marathas. However, he decided to do peace treaty with Marathas, because he knew that the real threat for his kingdom was Britishers, not Marathas.

Tipu Sultan was a ruler who thought ahead of his time. He knew that Britishers were taking the advantage of this war, and are seeking an opportunity to capture his kingdom.

Tipu wanted to give his complete focus on his main rivalry Britishers. Therefore, even after winning the battles against the Marathas, he decided to do peace agreement with them. On April 1787, A treaty was signed between Mysore and Maratha kingdom. It was the finalization of the treaty of Gajendragad. In this treaty, Tipu Sultan agreed to lay 40 lakh rupees to the Marathas as an arrear, which his father Hyder Ali had owed to pay. Apart from this, he also agreed to pay 12 lakh rupees annually to Maratha Empire. He also returned Nurgund, Adoni, Savanur and Gajendragad to Marathas, while retained Badami. He also formed alliance with Marathas and Nizam in a condition that, they will help each others against Britishers when needed, However neither Marathas nor Nizam helped Tipu against Britishers.

This treaty ended the Conflict of Marathas and Mysore Kingdom.

# CONFLICT IN DELHI



On July 1788, Gulam Qadir Khan, the son of Zabita Khan and the grandson of Najib khan, along with Mughal commander Ismail Beg attacked the Mughal capital Delhi. On 18 July 1788, he took the control of the city and on 30 July he captured Red Fort and kept Emperor Shah Allam in his captivity. He tortured the Emperor and gouged his both eyes. He also tortured and humiliated Queen, Princes and Princess. He plundered the fort and looted the Mughal treasury.

In the month of September, Mahadji Scindia got the news of the tragic incident of Delhi. At the time he was in conflict with Rajputs in Rajputana. So he was not able to come to Delhi for Emperor's help personally. Therefor, he sent a huge army under his commander Rane Khan. Rane khan with his army marched to Delhi and took the control of the city on 2 October 1788 and by 16 October he captured Red Fort by defeating Gulam Qadir. Gulam Qadir fled to Mathura to save his life. On 16 october 1788, Rane Khan re-installed Shah Allam on the throne and stabled the political and social condition of Delhi.

On 19 October 1788, Gulam Qadir was caught by Marathas army and was brought before Mahadji Scindia. Shah Allam II, requested Mahadji to gave harsh punishment to Qadir Khan for his heinous crime. On 4 March 1789, Gulam Qadir was tortured and killed by Mahadji Scindia as per the request of Emperor Shah Allam II.

# CONFLICTS WITH RAJPUTS



## **Battles of Patan and Merta**

During the mid 1770, there was high tension between Marathas and Rajputs. Rajputs were worried of the growing power of Mahadji Scindia in North India. Therefore, The Ruler of Jodhpur Raja Vijay Singh and the ruler of Jaipur sawai raja Pratap Singh joined together and declared war against Marathas. They were also joined by Ismail Beg with his army. The combined army of Jodhpur, Jaipur and Ismail Beg had around 50,000 soldiers

In response to the war, Mahadji Scindia also sent a huge army under the command of his Commanders Gopalrao Bhau and Ambaji Ingale to face Rajputs. On June 1790, a battle was fought between the combined forces of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Ismail beg and Scindia army of Maratha empire. In this battle Rajputs were heavily defeated and surrendered before Mahadji Scindia. The power of Rajputs were declined to a great extent. Rajputs agreed to pay tribute to Gwalior State. Some of their forts were also captured by Marathas.

Following the defeat of Rajputs, Mahadji Scindia asked Raja Vijay Singh of Jodhpur to submit Ajmer Fort to him. Raja Vijay Singh refused to surrender Ajmer fort, as it was a strategical and prestigious fort for him. Mahadji Scindia sent a huge army under the command of his French Commander Benoit De Boigne to suppress Vijay singh and to capture Ajmer. On 10 september 1790, Marathas defeated Jodhpur army in Merta and captured Ajmer. Following the defeat in

Patan and Merta, Rajput states of Jodhpur and Jaipur suffered a huge loss. They accepted Maratha suzerainty and remained as a tributary to Gwalior State till 1818.



# DEATH OF MAHADJI SCINDIA



On 10 November 1794, the great son of Mother India, Mahadji Scindia passed away at the age of 64, due to high fever in Pune.

Mahadji Scindia was a great warrior. He was considered as the kingmaker of North India during his time. Mahadji Scindia played a major role in re-installing Maratha supremacy in North India after the third battle of Panipat. Through his military skill he had fought and won a plenty of wars for Maratha Empire. During his tenure, He loyally and honestly served the Maratha Empire. Apart from Military and administrative skill, Mahadji possessed the qualities like kindness and humbleness. He was very kind toward his people and was very humble in nature. He was a great patriot and a man of moral ethics.

Death of Mahadji Scindia was a great loss, not only for Maratha Empire but also for the whole India. His contribution towards Maratha Empire is uncountable and invaluable. The death of Mahadji Scindia was an end of an era. After his death his nephew Daulatrao Scindia ascended him and become the ruler of Gwalior.

# BATTLE OF KHARDA



In 1994, a conflict arises between Marathas and Nizam on the issue of tax collection. Nana Fadnavis sent a letter through his diplomat Govindraoi Kalke to Nizam Ali khan of Hyderabad, asking him to pay the tax money. In response to the letter, Nizam told Gopalrai Kalke that, Marthas are having debt of Rupees 2 crore on Nizam and asked them to pay this debt. This created a conflict between both the Marathas and Nizam. The matter become more complicated. In early 1995 Nizam's minister sent a letter to Gopalrai kalke, in which he said that, in order to solve the issue Nana Fadnavis have to come to Hyderabad. If he will not come, we will take him forcibly to Hyderabad. This is was not only a insult of Nana Fadnavis but of the whole Marathas.

On February 1995, Nizam declared war against Marathas and marched to Pune with his huge army of 1 lakh soldiers. Nana Fadnavis asked all the Maratha confederacies to join together, as it the matter of Maratha prestige. This was for the final time, when all the Maratha confederacy came together to fight against their enemy, under a single flag. Daulatrao Scindia from Gwalior, Tukoji Holkar from Indore, Raghuji Bhonsale from Nagpur and Govindrao Gaikwad from Baroda joined with Peshwa Madhavrao and Nana Fadnavis against Nizam. Apart from this, the chieftains like Patil, Pawar, Ghatke, Nimbalkar also joined the war. The combined Maratha army were having more that 1 lakh soldiers. Maratha army went together to face Nizam.

On 11 March 1995, battle was fought between Marathas and Nizam in Kharda. In the battle Maratha army completely

overpower Nizam . Seeing the defeat, Nizam ran from the battlefield and took shelter in the fort of Kharda, to save his life. Maratha army seized the fort, cut off all the supplies and trapped him inside the fort. After 17 days, without getting food and water, Nizam surrendered before Marathas. He surrendered many of his forts and territories. Apart from that he also gave a huge amount of 3 crores to Marathas as tribute. Marathas also imprisoned the minister, who insulted Nana Fadnavis. It was a decisive victory for Marathas.

# DEATH OF PESHWA MADHAVRAO II



On 27 October 1995, Peshwa Sawai Madhav Rao committed suicide by jumping from the high walls of Shaniwarwada. There are rumors that, Nana Fadnavis was the reason behind the suicide of Peshwa. Peshwa was tired and depressed due to the interference of Nana Fadnavis in every matters. So he committed suicide. Some other rumors is that, Peshwa accidentally got slipped from the wall. Whatever, be the reason, the young Peshwa died at the very early age of 21.

Even though, Madahvrao II did not possessed much qualities, we can see that, it was during his tenure, All the Marathas joined together to fight against their enemy for the final time. It can be said that he was the last hope of Maratha Empire, that had the ability to join all the Marathas together. After his death Maratha Empire was completely disintegrated.

After his death, his cousin Bajirao II, the son of Raghunathrao ascended the throne. Raghunath rao had died much earlier in 1783.



Bajirao II, the last Peshwa of Maratha Empire

# DEATH OF NANA FADNAVIS



After the death of Madhavrao II, Bajirao II succeeded him and become the peshwa, but he was Peshwa only for name. The actual power was concentrated in the hands of Nana Fadnavis. Bajirao remained a puppet in the hands of Nana Fadnavis until 1800.

On 13<sup>th</sup> march 1800, Nana Fadnavis died at the age of 58 in Pune. Nana Fadnavis was a great statesman of Maratha Empire during Peshwa's rule. He entered the service of Maratha Empire during the reign on Peshwa Balaji Bajirao and during the reign of Peshwa Madhavrao he earned a great status in the Empire. He played a pivotal role in stabilizing the administration of declining Maratha Empire, after the battle of Panipat. After the assassination of Narayanrao, he formed Barabhai Council to look after the administration to protect Sawai Madhavrao from his uncle Raghunathrao. Through his intelligence skill he outstaged Raghunath from Pune. Through his diplomatic and administrative skill he effectively and efficiently managed the affairs of the state. He provided a stable administration to the Maratha Empire at difficult times. He also managed to keep away the external powers like Nizam, Britishers and Mysore from Maratha territories.

Even though, in the later times, he tried to take the complete control of Maratha Empire in his hands by keeping the Peshwas in his control, his contribution to Maratha Empire cannot be overlooked. His loyalty towards Peshwa Madhavrao and Maratha Empire is much appreciable.

# CONFLICT WITH HOLKAR AND THE TREATY OF BASSEIN



After the death of Nana Fadnavis, Daulatrao Scindia of Gwalior took the control of Maratha Empire in his hands. He started to eliminate his rivalries. The growing influence of Daulatrao Scindia in Pune, worried Peshwa Bajirao II. In the meantime, Yashwantrao Holkar of Indore marched to Pune with his army. Peshwa was frightened and worried due to the move made by Holkar. Yashwantrao Holkar assured Peshwa that, he is not coming harm him or Pune, but to free Pune from the control of Scindia. However Bajirao did not trust Holkar and sought the help of Scindia. Daulatrao Scindia sent an army to Pune for Peshwa's help. On 25 October 1802, in the battle of Hadaspur, Holkar defeated the combined army of Scindia and Peshwa. Following the defeat Bajirao fled to Vasai and sought the help of Britishers.

In Pune, Holkar installed Amritrao, the adopted son of Raghunatrao as the Peshwa and he went to Indore.

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 1802, Bajirao signed a treaty with British East India Company. He accepted the terms and conditions putted by the company. According to this treaty, Peshwa gave Britishers the permission to station 6000 British soldiers in Pune for his help and that also in his own expense. Through this treaty Britishers started to interfere in the political affairs of the Marathas.

On 13 May 1803, Company installed Bajirao on the throne and made him Peshwa, but the real powers rested with them. However, this treaty was not acceptable to other Maratha

chieftains. Holkar and Scindia condemned this act of Peshwa, for taking external help to solve the internal disputes. Holkar, Scindia and Bhonsale opposed the company's interference in political affairs of Maratha Empire, which resulted in the second Anglo-Maratha War.



# SECOND ANGLO MARATHA WAR



Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-1805) was the result of the opposition of treaty of Bassein 1802, by the Maratha confederacies. The war started, when the Maratha Confederacies refused to surrender before British authority.

Therefor, Britishers started attacking Maratha territories. British commander-in-chief General Gerard Lake started his attack from North, while Major General Arthur Wellesley attacked from South. Seeing their territories in danger, Maratha chiefs decided to join together against Britishers. Daulatrao Scindia of Gwalior and Raghuji Bhonsale of Nagpur joined together, but Yashwantrao Holkar declined to join with them due to the differences with Scindia. He decided to fight alone. Gaikwad of Baroda did not participated in the war, as he had already accepted British authority. By this time Peshwa of Pune, had also understood that, by signing the treaty he had done a great destruction to his Empire. He regret the decision, however he was not in a position to oppose Britishers openly

General Lake attacked Scindia Camps in Cawnpore, Agra and Delhi. He defeated Scindia army and captured Aligarh on 1<sup>st</sup> Spetember 1803 and Delhi on 11 September 1803. In south Major General Wellesley defeated the combined army of Scindia and Bhonsale in the battle of Assaye on 23 September 1803. It was a major victory for Britishers in South against Marathas. On 10 October, General Lake captured Agra from Scindia.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1803, General Lake defeated the combined army of Scindia and Bhonsale in the battle of Laswari. Both the sides suffered a huge casualties. It was a major victory for General Lake in North. Following the defeat of Laswari, on 27 November Major General Wellesley defeated the armies of Scindia and Bhonsale in the battle of Argaon.

The defeat of Laswari and Argaon completely destroyed the power of Scindia and Bhonsale and forced them to sign treaty with Britishers. On 17 December 1803, Raghuji Bhonsale Signed the treaty of Deogaon with Britishers. In this treaty he accepted the British suzerainty and gave up the territories of Cuttack and Balasore to British East India Company. On 30 December 1803, Daulatrao Scindia of Gwalior signed the treaty of Surji-Anjangaon with Britishers. He accepted British suzerainty and gave up the regions of Agra and Delhi to Britishers.

After the surrender of both Scindia and Holkar, Britishers now concentrated their complete focus on Yashwantrao Holkar, who was not ready to give up. Holkar defeated the British army led by Colonel Fawcett at Kunch on 8 June 1804. On July 8 1804, he defeated the army of Colonel Manson at Kota. He defeated Britishers at several occasions till September 1804.

On 8 October 1804, He attacked Delhi to free Mughal Emperor Shah Allam from from British captivity. He attacked the force of Colonel Actonlioni, for one weak he successfully continued his attack on British army in Delhi. But finally, he withdrawn when General Lake reached with his reinforcement. He retreated to Mathura. Admiring the bravery of Yashwantrao Holkar, Mughal Emperor Shah Allam gave him the title of Raj Rajeshwar Alija Bahadur. In the meantime Major General Wellesley captured some his territories in Malwa.

On 16 November 1804, Yashwantrao Holkar reached Deeg and defeated the British army. Following the victory Holkar, Jat King Ranjit Singh joined him and welcome him to Bharatpur. On 13 December, General Lake attacked Bharatpur, but Holkar and Jats successfully resisted the attacks for three months. But in April 1805, Ranjit Singh signed treaty with Britishers accepting their authority. Holkar was against the decision of Ranjit Singh and therefore, he left Bhartapur.

In September 1805, Yashwantrao Holkar reached Ajmer. From Ajmer, he appealed to all the rulers to unite. Many rulers accepted his appeal, but did not come for his help.

On the other hand, British were worried due to the consecutive victories of Yashwantrao Holkar against them. Moreover, they knew that, If Yashwantrao succeed him joining all the rulers , it will be impossible for the company to resist their attacks. Therefor, Governor General George Barlow asked General Lake to make peace treaty with Holkar. Yashwantrao was the first king in India, to whom Britishers approached with peace treaty. When Holkar saw that, other rulers are not ready to join together, he decided to accept the treaty. On 24 December 1805, Yashwantrao Holkar signed treaty with Britishers in Rajpur Ghat. Through this treaty Britishers Acknowledged Yashwantrao Holkar as an Independent ruler. They also promised that, they will not interfere in any political matters of Indore. They also gave back all the territories which they had captured. Yashwantrao Holkar was the last ruler to sign the treaty with Britishers. This treaty ended the Marathas conflict with Britishers.

# THIRD ANGLO-MARATHA WAR (1817-18)



After the second Anglo-Maratha war in 1805, British East India Company established its rule in Maratha Empire. Peshwa Bajirao II become the puppet in the hands of Britishers. He did not had any freedom to take any independent decision. He had to follow all the rules set by the Company. The condition of the other Maratha chiefs were also same (except Holkar). They were unhappy due to the interfere of Britishers in their territories. They started to aid Phinadaris. Pindaris were a band of irregular troops, who use to loot and plunder nearby territories for wealth for them or for the rulers who provides them shelter. Mainly Holkar and Scindia aided Pindaris to plunder British territories. The consecutive raids of pindaris in British territories, made the Britishers frustrated. They decided to completely eliminated pindaris. In the meantime, Peshwa Bajirao tried to unite all the Maratha chiefs against the British. Anticipating his move, Britishers forced Bajirao to sign a treaty with them. On 13 June 1817 Bajirao signed a treaty with Britishers in Pune. Through this treaty, Britishers ended the lordship of Peshwa, over other Maratha chiefs. On 5 November 1817, Britishers compelled Daulatrao Scindia to do a treaty with them. Through this treaty, Britishers asked Scindia to help them in eliminating pindaris, to which he agreed.

Till 1817, Peshwa Bajirao II, endured the atrocities of the Britishers. But tolerance also has a limit. The treaty of Pune, followed by the treaty of Gwalior, exceeded his limit of

tolerance. On November 5 1817, the same day when British Compelled Scindia to sign the treaty, Peshwa Bajirao with his army attacked British Residency in Pune. Following the revolt of Peshwa against the British, other chieftains like Holkar and Bhonsale also revolted against the British and attacked their residencies. Gaikwad and Scindia remained neutral.

Peahwa's army was defeated by British army in the battle of Khadki on 5 November 1817, following the defeat, Peshwa retreated to Koregaon, where he faced another army of British East India Company. On 1 January 1818, Peshwa's huge army 28,000 soldiers were defeated by comparatively a small army of Britishers in the battle of Koregaon.

Holkar and Bhonsale were also defeated by British. Malharrao Holkar III of Indore signed the treaty of Mandasovar on 6 January 1818. Through this treaty, Indore become subsidiary state of British and no more remained Independent. Bhonsale of Nagpur also surrendered to the Britishers. Following the surrender of all the Maratha confederacies, Peshwa Bajirao II also surrendered before British East Company. On 3 June 1818, He surrendered before Major-General Sir John Malcolm. Peshwa Bajirao signed treaty with British East India Company. This treaty ended the Maratha Rule. Maratha Empire was completely taken over by British East India Company. All the powers of the Peshwa was stripped off. The title of Peshwa was also abolished. Bajirao II was exiled to Bithoor (place near Kanpur) on an annual pension of 8 Lakh Rupees by the company. Moreover, he was restricted to visit his homeland or to meet any other Maratha chiefs. Bajirao II spent rest of his life in Bithoor till his death in 1851.

Thus, the Legacy of Peshwas and the glorious Maratha Empire comes to an END.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY



1. Stewart Gordon, New Cambridge History of India: The Marathas 1600-1818 ( Cambridge University Press, 2007)
2. Pt. Neelesh Ishwarchandra, Shreenath Madhavji: Mahayoddha Mahadji ki Shourya Gatha. ( 1 June 2014)
3. Vishwas Patil, Panipat (1 April 2017)