

TITLE: THE BATTLE OF PAWAN KHIND



Battle of Pavan Khind: Historical Background

- Adilshahi generals were defeated by the [Maratha Empire](#) led by Shivaji Maharaj. As a result, Adilshah used all of his resources as a last resort and dispatched Siddi Jauhar on the Marathas' expedition. To fight Shivaji Maharaj, he corresponded with the Mughals simultaneously. Shaista Khan consequently launched an attack from the north side toward Pune. The Panhala fort was under siege by Siddi Jauhar. The attempts to raise the siege failed. Senapati (Commander) Netaji Palkar of Shivaji Maharaj could not breach the siege from the outside. So Shivaji decided to fight one last time. But he chose a different course of action than a suicide attack. To present a battle from Fort Vishalgad, a spectacular escape was planned.

Shivaji's maharaj escape from Panhala

Shivaji, facing a siege at Panhala Fort, first scouted an escape route through the besiegers' lines. On July 13, 1660, under the cover of darkness and aided by rain, Shivaji slipped out of the fort with 600 infantry and headed to Vishalgad. He was pursued by Siddi Jauhar's forces led by his son-in-law, Siddi Masud, resulting in a fierce battle at the Gajapur pass. Baji Prabhu, Shivaji's ally, fought valiantly but was killed. Shivaji successfully reached Vishalgad, covering 64 km in 21 hours, and then proceeded to Rajgad. The Bandals were honored for their bravery in delaying the enemy's pursuit. Shivaji punished Khandoji Khopade for his betrayal by amputating one hand and one leg, while Kanhoji Jedhe, Shivaji's trusted servant, died around September 1660.

Composition of Adilshahi Forces

The Adilshahi forces were led by Siddi Jauhar, and he was assisted by Siddi Masud and Fazal Khan. Vishalgarh was under siege by Jasvantrao Dalvi of Palavani and Surve of Sringarpur. There were about 10000 army troops

Composition of Maratha Forces

Chhatrapati Shivaji served as the commander of the Maratha armies, with help from Bandal, Jadhavrao, and many others, as well as his Sardar Bajiprabhu. However, there were only about 600 light infantry troops available. They were composed of seasoned mountaineers from the naval zone who had previously remained unconquered.

Series of Events of Battle of Pavan Khind

- Siddi Jauhar had carefully and skillfully constructed the siege around Panhala. First, Siddi Jauhar received a wakil from Shivaji, declaring he was willing to form a pact with him.
- As a result, Siddi Jauhar and his army began to because they knew their lengthy siege would soon end. Even still, it seemed impossible to escape the approximately 10,000 Adilshahi forces laying siege.
- According to the plan, Shivaji and 600 warriors under the command of Bajiprabhou Deshpande broke through the siege on the death of the full moon night. Surprisingly, they were successful, and they were now racing toward Vishalgad.
- The enemy pursued and captured a portion of Shivaji's army after learning of his escape from Panhala.
- The monarch who was taken prisoner turned out to be a Shivaji impostor. His name was Shiva Kashid.
- Adil Shah's forces recommenced the attack, this time commanded by Siddi Masood, Siddi Johar's son-in-law.

ROLE OF SHIVA KASHID

- Chatrapati Shivaji maharaj gave order to [Bahirji Naik](#) (Harish Dudhade) to search a secret road of [Vishalgad](#) in order to escape. [Bahirji](#) found the road and Shivaji maharaj escaped from Panhala by cover of night but here they create a Shivaji's look alike Shiva Kashid (Ajinkya Nanaware), a barber by profession sending him for the meeting with Siddi Johar. Shiva Kashid went to Siddi Johar but when Fazal Khan recognized him, Siddi killed Shiva Kashid



Battle of Pavan Khind: Aftermath

- In recognition of the 300 Maratha soldiers who gave their lives, the route previously known as Ghod Khind, also known as Horse Pass, was renamed Pavan Khind (Sacred Pass). The remainder of Shivaji's army was able to escape. The Marathas and Adilshahi armies engaged in their final significant conflict here. Marathas were afterward acknowledged as an autonomous power. This battle proved a legendary sacrifice of Baji Prabhu Deshpande and Shiva Kashid.

- Shivaji had already arrived at the gorge known as Ghod Khind (Horse Pass), which was a key spot of the battle. Only a few soldiers could travel through at once due to its narrow infrastructure.
- With 300 members of his army, brave general Baji Prabhu Deshpande took up the position to guard the pass till Shivaji arrived at Vishalgad Fort.
- Shivaji Maharaj broke another siege at the foot of Fort Vishalgad. With the help of 300 men, Baji Prabhu, his brother Fulaji, and Sambhaji Jadhav successfully guarded the pass.
- They were wounded, and Siddi Masood's warriors were shocked to see 300 soldiers fighting savagely with swords in both hands.
- They didn't give up until they heard Shivaji's cannons firing from the fort, which signaled that he had arrived safely. It is today referred to as Pävan Khind or The Sacred Pass.
- The enemy attacked Shivaji at Fort Vishalgad after passing through the pass. However, Rango Narayan Sarpotdar, Shivaji's officer at the Fort, brutally thrashed them again.

ROLE OF BAJIPRABHU DESHPANDE

- Adilshah's army was in pursuit with an army of 10,000. Then, Shivaji decided to split his forces. [Baji Prabhu Deshpande](#) ([Ajay Purkar](#)) agreed to face Adilshah's troops with 300 soldiers. Shivaji maharaj told him that he would hear cannons being fired 5 times, signaling Shivaji's safety.
- Baji Prabhu occupied Ghodkhind, blocking the path of Adilshah troops. His brother, Fulaji, Rayaji Bandal, Shambusingh Jadhav, Aginya were present with him. Fulaji, Aginya, Rayaji and Shambusingh were killed after fierce fight. Baji Prabhu were wounded but carried on fighting at Ghodkhind. Five hours after starting the battle, the cannons were fired announcing that Shivaji safely returned to Vishalgad. Then bajiprabhu took his last breath. After winning the battle Shivaji renamed Ghodkhind to Pawankind in honour of the sacrifices of the bajiprabhu & 300 troops