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| **SHIVAJI MAHARAJA** |





**SHIVAJI MAHARAJ** was a 17th-century Indian warrior and founder of the Maratha Empire, known for his military prowess, innovative guerrilla warfare tactics, and progressive administrative policies that challenged the [Mughal Empire](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Mughal+Empire&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegQIKhAC&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3). Born in 1630, he captured his first fort, Torna, at age 16, leading to his coronation as [Chhatrapati](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Chhatrapati&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegQIKxAB&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3) (sovereign) in 1674 and the formal establishment of an independent Maratha kingdom. Shivaji Maharaj is celebrated for creating a unified Hindu kingdom, fostering self-reliance, and uniting people under his vision of Hindavi Swarajya (self-rule).

**EARLY LIFE AND RISE TO POWER**

Shivaji was born in 1630 to Shahaji Bhosale and Jijabai at [Shivneri Fort](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Shivneri+Fort&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegQINBAB&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3" \t "_blank) in Maharashtra. His mother instilled in him a strong sense of justice and responsibility.

* **Formation of a Movement:**

**By age 16, Shivaji gathered a loyal band of followers, known as Maavalas, to fight for** a Maratha kingdom, and in 1645, he captured the [Torna Fort](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Torna+Fort&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegQIQBAB&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3), marking the beginning of his expansionist campaign.

* **CONFRONTATIONS:**

He strategically acquired forts and territories from the [Bijapur Sultanate](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Bijapur+Sultanate&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegUInQEQAQ&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3) and engaged in guerrilla warfare against the [Mughal Empire](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Mughal+Empire&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegUInQEQAg&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3), eventually defeating notable Mughal generals like [Shaista Khan](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Shaista+Khan&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegUInQEQAw&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3) and Bijapur's [Afzal Khan](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Afzal+Khan&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegUInQEQBA&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3).

Establishing the Maratha Empire

* **ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS:**

He established a progressive civil administration based on a council of eight ministers, known as the [Astapradhan](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=53f892ddff1617d9&q=Astapradhan&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiQh-3z4NyPAxXxXmwGHSCxBX8QxccNegUIvQIQAQ&mstk=AUtExfC8XKHxQ49aHzoPaAHAdJG0YSTcWLDBY7jCRC0xiJeeRYOn9zQQqGZzLyR14KOKsNa-SCuuI5Oq2uZMgtgFAeCbSA-X9gH0LVjW4ELLdRSRW_eowsh020XmWMozktHi43g&csui=3" \t "_blank). He also created a competent navy to protect the coastline.

* **CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC REVIVAL:**

Shivaji promoted the use of Marathi and Sanskrit languages, replacing Persian in his court and administration, and resurrected ancient Hindu political traditions.

Legacy and Impact

* **INSPIRATION FOR SELF-RULE:**

His leadership united the people and instilled pride in the concept of independent rule (Hindavi Swarajya), inspiring future generations to fight for self-reliance.

* **RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE:**

Despite his devout Hindu beliefs, Shivaji was known for his respect for other faiths, welcoming Muslims into his service and safeguarding their religious sites.

* **MILITARY STRATEGY:**

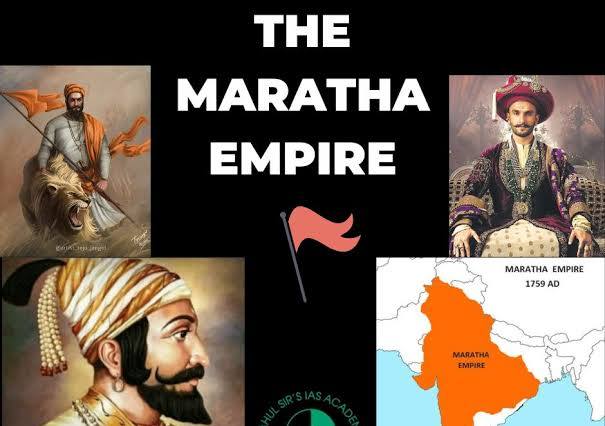
His innovative use of guerrilla warfare, combined with a strong naval force and a network of strategically built and captured forts, laid the foundation for the Maratha Empire's future expansion.

* Shivaji | Biography, Reign, & Facts - Britannica

Collecting a band of followers, he began about 1655 to seize the weaker Bijapur outposts. In the process, he destroyed a few of hi...

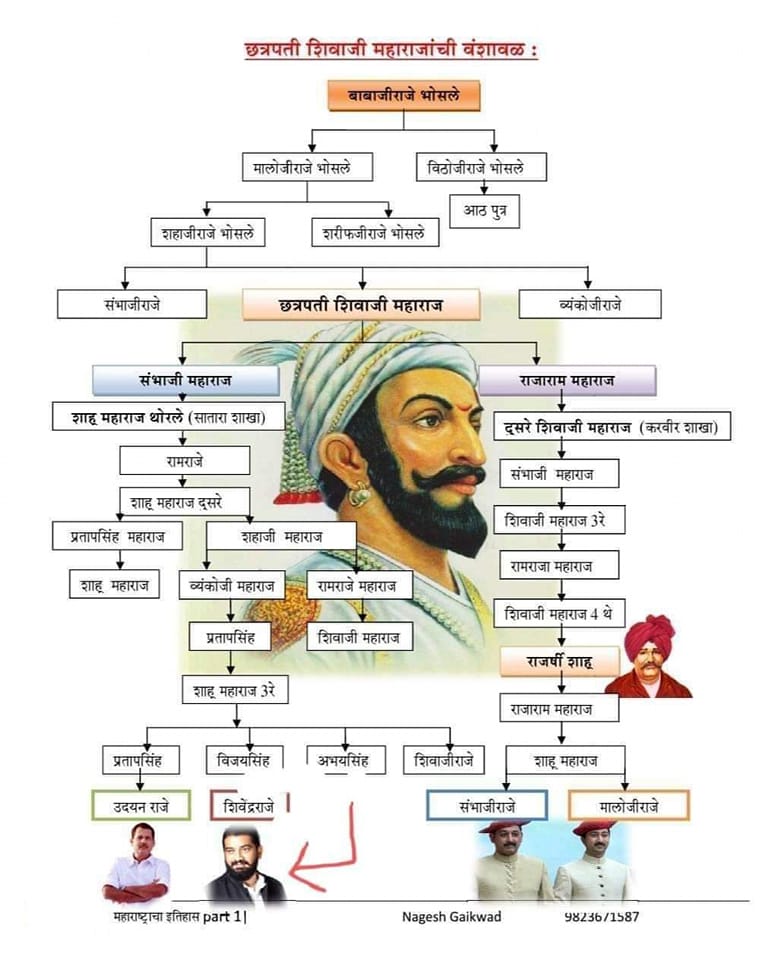
Britannica

* About Chhatrapati Shivajhi Maharaj - Shivaji College - University of Delhi



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| **Shivaji Maharaj Family Tree** |
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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  | | Ancestor | Maloji Bhosale | Grandfather | Military commander under Ahmadnagar Sultanate | | Parent | Shahaji Bhosale | Father | Maratha general under Bijapur Sultanate | | Parent | Jijabai | Mother | Spiritual guide and mentor to Shivaji | | Shivaji Maharaj | Chhatrapati Shivaji | — | Founder of Maratha Empire | | Wife | Saibai | First wife | Mother of Sambhaji | | Wife | Soyarabai | Second wife | Mother of Rajaram | | Other Wives | Putalabai, Sagunabai, Kashibai, Lakshmibai, Gunwantabai | — | Mostly ceremonial or political alliances | | Son | Sambhaji Maharaj | Eldest son | 2nd Chhatrapati; executed by Mughals in 1689 | | Son | Rajaram Maharaj | Younger son | 3rd Chhatrapati; led resistance from Gingee Fort | | Grandson | Shahu Maharaj | Son of Sambhaji | 5th Chhatrapati; expanded Maratha power | | Grandson | Shivaji II | Son of Rajaram & Tarabai | Claimed throne; faced succession disputes | |



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