

The significance of Raigad fort in Maratha history

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Recently, the President of India has visited the Raigad Fort to pay tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.



[Ref: NDTV]

Raigad fort

- **Raigad Fort** is a hill fort situated in Mahad, Raigad district of Maharashtra.
- It is one of the strongest fortresses on the **Deccan Plateau**.
- Many constructions and structures on Raigad were built by **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.
- The fort was earlier called **Rairi**, and it was the seat of the **Maratha clan Shirke** in the 12th century.
- The fort was the location for an **armed campaign executed by the British East India Company** in 1765.
- The fort was **looted and subsequently destroyed by British forces**.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- **Born:** 19 February 1630
- **Reign:** 1674–1680 AD
- Shivaji was an Indian ruler and a member of the **Bhonsle Maratha clan**.
- He established the Maratha kingdom, with **Raigarh** as its capital.
- Shivaji was crowned as the **Chhatrapati** on **6 June 1674**.
- **Died:** 3 April 1680
- **Administration during Shivaji Regim:**

- The administration style under the reign of Shiva ji was influenced by **Deccan administrative practices**.
- Shivaji has appointed a group of eight ministers who were called '**Astapradhan**'. Their prime task was to assist Shivaji in the administrative helm of affairs.
- These eight ministers can be classified as:
 - **Peshwa:**
 - The minister of finance and general administration.
 - **Senapati:**
 - The Maratha army chief and who were posted of honor.
 - **The Majumdar**
 - The accountant or the minister of accounts for the Maratha Empire.
 - **The Wakenavis**
 - The minister of intelligence, post, and internal affairs.
 - **The Surnavis or chitnis**
 - Minister responsible to assist the king with his correspondence.
 - **The Dabir**
 - The minister of foreign affairs and the master of ceremonies.
 - **The Nayayadish and Punditrao**
 - The minister of justice and charitable grants.
 - **Deshmukh**
 - The minister with the skills of an able general, a skillful tactician, and a shrewd diplomat.
- **Important Battles won by Shivaji:**
 - **Conquest of Torana:**
- The fort of Torana was the first fort captured by Shivaji which led to the foundation of his warrior skills at the age of 16.
 - **Conquest of Kondana fort**
- The battle of Kondana was fought between Tanaji Malusare, a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji and Udaybhan Rathod, fort keeper under Jai Singh I.
 - **Alliance with Qutub Shahi rulers Golconda:**
- Shivaji conquered the forts of Gingee and Vellore in Karnataka, under the influence of the alliance with Qutub Sahi
- **Achievements of Shiva Ji**
 - ???????? **India's first-ever navy in the modern era** was built by Shivaji to protect the coast of Maharashtra.
 - The Maratha Navy guarded the Jaigad, Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg, and other forts along the coast of Maharashtra.
 - Shivaji, a devout Hindu, **never compromised on his religion**.
 - But he was a secular king as he also believed in the peaceful co-existence of different religions. He never raided any religious place during his rule.
 - Shivaji **revived ancient Hindu political ideas and judicial practices**. He also actively encouraged Marathi's language usage.
 - He was **extremely caring towards the common people** and never allowed raids on households or religious places.
 - His goal was always to **establish a free kingdom in the country** and motivated his troops to fight for India and not any king in particular.
 - He **stood for the honour of women** and made sure none were taken, prisoners.