

Hello everyone. This is Dr. Varsha Kamat, Professor of History from P. E. S's Ravi S. Naik, College of Arts and Science, Farmagudi, Ponda, Goa. Today, I am dealing with the topic titled Military Administration of Shivaji. The outline of the topic is divided into 4 parts, Cavalry, Infantry, Fort Administration and Navy. The learning outcomes will be learning the hierarchy of Shivaji's army and navy, military Code, the functions of different wings of the military and discussion about the role of Shivaji's military in strengthening of Movement for building Swaraj.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OF CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI

INTRODUCTION Shivaji took great care and pains over the organization of the army, for the times in which he lived the stability of the State depended as much upon the army as upon civil institutions. His army was the standing army of the State and was a well-organized and disciplined force. At the time of his death, it consisted of 45,000 Paga or Bargirs under 29 colonels. Bargirs were those who were provided mounts by the Government. There were 60,000 Shiledars under 36 colonels. Shiledars were those who provided their own arms and mounts. He left 32,000 horses in his stables.

The core of his army was formed by 30 to 40 thousand Paga or State cavalry (soldiers on horse) which was permanently enlisted and about twice that number of infantry militia (foot Soldiers) under 36 officers. The infantry garrisoning his forts was permanently enlisted. The number of Shiledars, who hired themselves to him varied from year to year. Shivaji also maintained a Royal Guard of 2000 select soldiers which was splendidly dressed and equipped at the great expense of the State. He understood the importance of artillery and his important forts were provided with guns of various calibres. It does not appear however, that he had a mobile park of artillery as the Mughals did.

CAVALRY -Unlike the Mughals Shivaji had his army divided into smaller units as in modern times. A unit of Paga or state cavalry consisted of 25 troops or Bargirs.

Over 25 Bargirs was placed a Hawaldar. Over 5 Hawaldars was placed a Jumladar and over 10 Jumladars was placed a Hazare. It meant that over every 1250 Bargirs was an officer styled as Hazare. Still higher ranks were those of Panch Hazare. Over 5 Panch Hazare was the Sarnoubat or the Commander in Chief of the Cavalry. The importance that Shivaji gave to cavalry can be assumed from the fact that the commander-in-chief of cavalry occupied the position of Senapati in the Ashtapradhan Mandal whereas the c-in-c of the infantry did not. The Shiledars who furnished their own arms and horses were organized differently, but they acted under the orders of the Sarnoubat of Cavalry. Their rank was lower than that of the Paga.

INFANTRY -The infantry had its own grades of officers. In the infantry, whether in the fort garrisons or the Mavle militiamen, the unit was formed by 9 Paiks or privates. Over a unit was placed a Nayak. Over 5 Nayaks was placed a Hawaldar. Over 5 Hawaldars was placed a Jumladar and over 10 Jumladars was placed a Hazare. Infantry had only 7 Hazare ranks after 1 Hazare. Over the whole was placed the Sarnoubat of Infantry. Shivaji's famous Sarnoubat of infantry was Yesaji Kank.

FORT ADMINISTRATION- Shivaji's kingdom was well knit together by a chain of 280 forts out of which 111 were newly constructed by him. In fact, Shivaji built up his kingdom with the forts as his base. These forts were the saviours of his kingdom during the days of adversity which befell the Marathas shortly after his death. The important part played by the forts in defending the kingdom justified the care which Shivaji bestowed upon them. Every fort and outpost or thana were placed in charge of 3 officers of almost equal rank viz. Hawaldar, Sabnis and Karkhanis. The Hawaldar was a Maratha by caste, Sabnis, a Brahman and Karkhanis, a Kayastha. They were to act as a check on each other and were jointly responsible for the administration and defence of the fort. No fort was thus left in charge of one supreme officer, lest one traitor might deliver it to the enemy. The Hawaldar was the commander of the fort and was in charge of opening the gates of the fort at sunrise

and lock them at sunset. He was responsible for the security of the fort and had to move frequently to the different parts of the fort and pay surprise visits to the night guards. The Sabnis drew up the pay bills and the Karkhanis was the keeper of the stores. Written instructions were given by Shivaji about the quantity of ammunition, provisions and building materials to be kept in each fort.

SHIVAJI'S NAVY -To Shivaji goes the credit of being the first Indian ruler to have raised a navy. Perceiving the necessity of guarding his long coastal belt, he built up a fairly powerful naval fleet with the help of Portuguese sailors under the leadership of Rui Leita0, who was asked to seek permission from the Portuguese Government to sail into the sea but the Portuguese not only denied permission to sail but ordered all its nationals to leave Shivaji at once. Undaunted Shivaji laid the foundation of his navy in the year 1659 by building 20 gallivats in Kalyan, Bhivandi and Pen. By 1664, Shivaji was reported to have had 50 ships out of which 7 built at upper Chaul were about to be put to sea. The Maratha chronicler Sabhasad speaks of Shivaji's fleet as consisting of 700 vessels of various sizes and classes like gurabs, tarandes, tarus, galbats, sibads and pagars. But many of these appear to have been mercantile vessels and supply boats. Shivaji is known to have engaged in foreign trade for which he needed these vessels. The English factory records put the number of his fighting vessels at 160. Shivaji's navy was organized into two squadrons and commanded by two officers styled as Daria Sarang (Admiral of the Sea) and Mai Nayak. Shivaji's first admiral was a Muslim whose name was Daulat Khan.

CODE OF CONDUCT It is worth noting the code of conduct prescribed by Shivaji for his army. The army was to be on expedition in foreign lands for eight months of the year for drawing Supplies. It was to come to the cantonments in the home dominions for the four months of the rainy season. The cantonments were to be well stocked with provisions for men and fodder for animals and medicines. Unlike the Mughals no women, female slaves or dancing girls were to accompany the army.

Anyone found to be keeping them was promptly beheaded. No women, children and cows were to be taken captives. Brahmans were not to be molested or held hostages for ransom.

CONCLUSION- All soldiers whether musketeers or spearmen, archers or swordsmen were recruited only after a careful scrutiny by Shivaji. He took security for every new soldier enlisted from the men already in service. Reporters and spies were posted at every high commander down to a Hazare. Spies were to report directly to the king. Bahirji Jadhav was one of the most prominent spies of Shivaji. Shivaji never encouraged the giving of jagirs for the maintenance of troops even to the most successful of his military commander. Everyone from the Peshwa and the Senapati to the last sepoy or karkun (Clerk) was directed to draw his salary in kind or cash from the Government granaries or treasury. Salaries were paid for the full year.