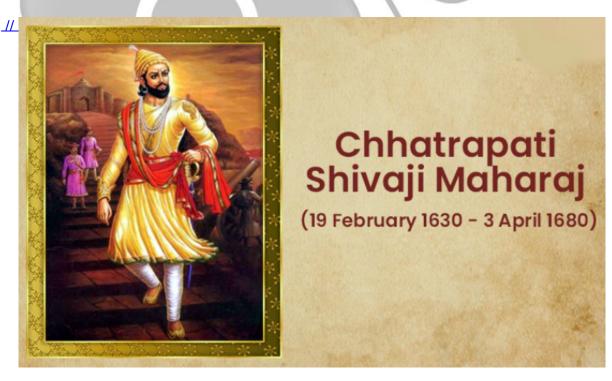


## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

## **Source: TH**

The birth anniversary of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** was commemorated globally on **19**<sup>th</sup> **February**, reflecting his enduring legacy and influence.

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj: Born on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1630, at Shivneri Fort, Pune was a visionary leader from the Bhonsle clan and the founder of the Maratha Empire, known for resisting the Mughal Empire and striving for self-rule.
  - Major Battles: Battle of Pratapgad, Battle of Pavan Khind, Sacking of Surat, Battle of Purandar, Battle of Sinhagad, and Battle of Sangamner.
    - The <u>Wagh nakh</u>, was used by Shivaji to kill Afzal Khan in the 1659 Battle of Pratapgad.
  - Titles: Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas, and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.
  - Administration: Centralized administration with the Ashtapradhan (Council of Eight Ministers), abolished the Jagirdari System, implemented the Ryotwari System, and built a strong naval force for coastal defense.
    - Shivaji is renowned for his innovative guerrilla warfare tactics, which influenced subsequent rulers and shaped the Maratha Military Landscapes.
- Other Prominent Maratha Kings: After Shivaji, Sambhaji (1681-1689), Rajaram (1689-1700), and Shahu (1707-1749) fought against the Mughals. Later, the Peshwa administration began with Balaji Vishwanath (1713-1720), who strengthened Maratha governance.
  - Peshwa Madhavrao I (1761-1772) revived Maratha power after the <u>Third Battle of</u> <u>Panipat (1761).</u>



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