Memorial for Maratha Warriors | Maharashtra | 11 Mar 2025

Why in News?

On 10th March 2025, **Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister** announced that the state government will build a **memorial in Haryana and Agra to honor the Maratha warriors** who fought and were martyred in **the third battle of Panipat.**

Key Points

- **Memorial for Chhatrapati Shivaji:**
    - The Maharashtra government will **build a memorial in Agra** to commemorate **Chhatrapati Shivaji's escape from Mughal custody.**
    - The state will coordinate with the Uttar Pradesh government to establish the memorial.
- **Memorial and Statue at Panipat:**
    - In January, the state Chief Minister announced plans to erect a **statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at Panipat.**
    - A grand memorial will also be built at the **historic battlefield where the third battle of Panipat took place.**
- **Historic Significance of the Battle of Panipat:**
    - The **battle, fought on January 14, 1761**, saw **Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali's forces defeat the Marathas.**
    - Thousands of soldiers died on both sides, and the Afghans secured victory with the support of Mughal forces.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- **About:**
    - Born on **19th 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 **Wagh nakh**, 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.**