

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 <u>the third battle of Panipat</u>.

Key Points

- Memorial for Chhatrapati Shivaji:
 - The Maharashtra government will build a memorial in Agra to commemorate <u>Chhatrapati Shivaji's</u> 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 <u>Ahmad Shah Abdali</u>'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 <u>Ryotwari System</u>, and built a strong naval force for coastal defense.
 - Shivaji is renowned for his innovative guerrilla warfare tactics, which influenced subsequent rulers and shaped <u>the Maratha Military Landscapes.</u>