

P R E F A C E

One of the fascinating studies in the annals of Maratha history is the relation between the House of Shivaji and the Kannada country, though comparatively neglected. Much material has surfaced since the *History of the Marathas*, by *Grant Duff* was published. Many learned men of letters and academicians have contributed towards the better understanding of the subject. *Bakhars* (Marathi Biographies), new records at Goa and Jaipur, works in English, French and Portuguese all provided new material & bridged gaps. **M.G.Ranade** brought out the true Shivaji as a person with a National outlook. **Rajwade**, **Prof. Sardesai** and several other researchers have made valuable contributions and have made valuable contribution and have explored original sources for the study of Maratha History.

The History of the Marathas from the time of Shahaji, as a powerful member of the Adil Shahi, to the fall of the Maratha empire, compiled with all the available sources in different parts of the Country, in different languages makes an organic whole. But the period is vast. The time at my disposal is limited and the material is too scattered, that I was constrained to attempt a part of the story rather than the whole.

The importance the period carried in the emergence of “*Swarajya*” resulted in continuous research and loose ends have remained. Shivaji got all his inspiration from his father whose domicile in Karnataka under Adilshahis provided political background. Hence I have explored the influence of Karnataka on the House of Shivaji and in various dimensions through Kannada literary sources, inscriptions and Maratha monuments in Karnataka revealed information hitherto not known.

My topic "The House of Shivaji and Karnataka 1636-1707 A.D" brings out this aspect. The period 1636 signifies the entry of Shahaji in Karnataka under Adilshahi of Bijapur and the narrative continues with the activities of Shahaji, Shivaji, Sambhaji and Rajaram till 1707 A.D, when Shahu, the legitimate heir to the House of Shivaji was released following the death of Aurangzeb.

The regular movement of people from Maratha country to Karnataka after the downfall of the Yadavas is revealed from epigraphical and literary sources. Since then the Marathas penetrated into Northern Karnataka, comprising of *Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwad* and *North Kanara* district of the present Karnataka state. The Marathas spread into *Carnatic* too. 'Carnatic' has been the geographical area referred to in most of the seventeenth century documents, which includes the Eastern part of Karnataka state and parts of Tamilnad too, (Districts of Arcot, Jingi, Tanjore, and Madurai). However I have restricted my area of research to the present political state of Karnataka. In order to maintain continuity of events I have dealt with Maratha activities outside Karnataka purely as reference points.

My thesis is mainly based on inscriptions and monuments, which are found in the form of palaces, temples and sculptures to reconstruct the history of the Marathas in Karnataka. Important inscriptions relating to Mysore - Maratha relations have been published in *Epigraphia Carnatica* Vol I to XII edited by B.L. Rice, Mysore. There are a good number of inscriptions of Shahaji and his sons (Sambhaji I and Vyankoji) and grandson (Sambhaji II, son of Shivaji) scattered in Kolar, Doddaballapur, Bangalore districts of Karnataka. These various inscriptions tell us about the administration of the Marathas in their *jagir* in Karnataka. Some of the inscriptions throw light on the help rendered by the people of Chitradurga for the Maratha cause and their suffering at the hands of Aurangzeb. *Karnataka Inscriptions* Volume VI, edited by B.R. Gopal

speaks about the appointment of administrative officers by Shivaji, in North Karnataka, which was one of his Mahal - an administrative division. Annual reports of the Archaeological survey of Mysore, *Historical inscriptions of Southern India* edited by Robert Sewell and S.K. Aiyangar, *Bombay Karnataka inscriptions* Vol IV edited by G.S. Gai inform us about the death of Shahaji and give us details of his administration. They also describe the course of Maratha, expansion in northern Karnataka and in Tamilnad.

The Maratha monuments which are found in Karnataka throw a flood of light on the relations between the Maratha rulers and their counterparts in Karnataka. The *Samadhi (Tomb) of Shahaji* in *Hodiegere*, Shimoga district, the sculptural panels of *Shivaji* and *Mallamma of Belavadi*, found at *Yadwad* near *Dharwar*, the *Parvati* and *Subramanya* temple of *Bidnur*, Shimoga district, supposed to be built by *Rajaram*, the *Aramanekoppa*, the hiding place of *Rajaram*, on his escape journey and the sculpture of *Rajaram* with *Keladi Chennamma* at *Keladi* and the several sculptures of Maratha soldiers and officers on horse back, on the *Nandipavilion*, in the outskirts of *Bidnur* fort. All this evidences goes to suggest not only the good accord of the Maratha and Karnataka rulers, but their activities in Karnataka. These sources primary in nature have been supplemented by literary sources of the contemporary period.

The Kannada sources like "*Kanthirava Narasaraja Vijayam*" authored by **Govinda Vaidya**, "*Chikkadevaraja Binnapam*" stated to have written by **Chikkadevaraja**, the Mysore ruler (1683-1707) '*Apratimavira Charite*' written by **Tirumalraya** Minister of *Chikkadevaraja*, '*Keladinripa Vijaya*' by **Linganna**, '*Mysuru Doregala Purvottar*', '*Sriram Maharajar Vamshavali*' or the Annals help us in knowing the Maratha activities in Karnataka.

The later and less used literary source materials is '*Shivaji Mallammaji*

Samarotsava' written by *Shesho Srinivasa*, an officer in *Belavadi* kingdom and *Muriga Taravali* written by **Muriga Gurusidda II** in his '*Guru Muriga Shantavira Desikendra*'. Both these works are contemporary as they refer to Shivaji's expeditions in Karnataka. The other important works are '*Turukar Panchamara Itihasavu*' by **Siddhant Sivabasava Sastri** and *Chitradurgada Paleyagararu* by **M.S. Puttanna**. The former deals with the post altercation and the reconciliation between Shivaji and *Mallamma of Belavadi*, while the latter helps in knowing the relations between Maratha rulers and *Chitradurga Palegars* during Maratha war of independence in Karnataka.

I have also extensively used the old Gazetteers of Bombay, Presidency, Mysore & then Karnataka State Gazetteer and also Dharwad, Belgaum, Bangalore rural, Shimoga, North and South Kanara districts and Mysore to corroborate the secondary sources. I have also made use of the maps and illustrations to illustrate the Maratha campaigns and also the route taken by Shivaji and Rajaram for their sojourn in Karnataka and have tried to identify and locate some of the places mentioned in literature and inscriptions.

Apart from these, I have used Marathi, English, Dutch and to a certain extent Portuguese sources as well. What is more, a few research articles on relations between Marathas with Mysore, Keladi and *Sondha* Kingdoms, during Shivaji and his successors have been published by scholars like **M.H. Krishna**, **Shejwalkar**, **G.H. Khare**, **G.S. Dixit**, **A.R. Kulkarni** and **Suryakanth Kamat**. These articles clearly bring out the historic relations between Karnataka and Maharashtra from the time of Bhosle period. **Dr. Muddacharis** '*Mysore Maratha Relations*' in the 17th century provides valuable information in the activities of the Marathas in *Carnatic* and their relations with the *Wodeyars of Mysore*. But in the Northern and Western Karnataka Maratha influence was felt more. The works on *History of Keladi*, *Sondha*, *Chitradurga* deal with the

Marathas and their relations with these rulers. The importance of the work of **Dr. Muddachari** lies in the fact that he was the earliest person to tread the virgin field of Mysore Maratha relations. **Dr. Vidya Karve's** Ph D thesis (unpublished) on '*The Marathas in South India*' 1600-1707, submitted in 1982 has a sketchy report on Shahaji in Karnataka. However she has not dealt with Shivaji's relations with some of the Kannada rulers, such as Keladi and Belavadi Mallamma. In addition since her submission, considerable new material has come to light, which I have used in my thesis.

During the course of my research, I visited *Shimoga, Keladi and Bidnur* together new information which revealed the ties of Shivaji and Rajaram with Karnataka.

Much information is collected and scrutinised chiefly from Kannada epigraphical sources. As it happens inscriptions and monuments were engraved to eulogise or glorify a person or an event. To separate the friction from the historical facts had been a challenging task. An honest attempt is sought to be made in this direction. How far one has succeeded is for the discerning reader to judge.