CHAPTER VI

JIJABAI–PESHWA RELATIONS
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INTRODUCTION

Kolhapur-Satara relations turned into Jijabai-Peshwa relations during the period between 1760 and 1772. Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur passed away in 1760 and since then dowager queen Jijabai was all in all in Kolhapur State till her death in 1772 Ramraja, the Chhatrapati of Satara was reduced to the nominal position much earlier. Real power of Satara State was gradually transferred from Chhatrapati to Peshwa since 1750. Peshwa virtually controlled and conducted affairs of Satara during the phase under review. Peshwa ruler once again tried to implement his idea of unification of Kolhapur and Satara States during this phase but did not succeed in his endeavours. The issue of succession in Kolhapur strained Jijabai-Peshwa relation for sometime. Similarly Chikodi-Manoli talukas proved to be a bone of contention between the two parties for quite some time. Discord in Jijabai-Peshwa relations eventually facilitated entry of English East India Company in Kolhapur politics even before the first Anglo-Maratha war. Relationship between the two Maratha States in the critical phase (1760-1772) has been examined in this chapter.

After the death of Sambhaji Chhatrapati in 1760 the most important problem was who would be the new Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Peshwa Nanasaheb was in favour of unification of the two Maratha Gadis since long. He had made a treaty with Sambhaji in 1740 but he could not implement it after the death of Chhatrapati Shahu of Satara. Again after the death of
Shahu, Peshwa Nanasaheb reiterated his promise to put Sambhaji on Satara throne when Tarabai was declared Ramraja an imposter. At that time again Peshwa again had a chance to bring about unification. But actually Peshwa did not take any action. He thought Sambhaji at that time had become old and had neither any male child nor any adopted son. In this situation putting Sambhaji on Satara throne meant giving birth to the issue of succession once again. And this could be one cause, why Peshwa did not implement the secret treaty. After the death of Sambhaji, Peshwa had a new chance for the unification of the two Maratha Gadis. Now he wanted to appoint a new heir of his own choice for Kolhapur and thus run the administration of Kolhapur. But Jijabai, wife of Sambhaji, did not accept Nanasaheb Peshwa’s views. She wanted that her dominion should be free from Peshwa’s interference. She was suspicious about Peshwa’s motives for a long time. However, she herself knew that without the help of Peshwa it would not be easy for her to run the administration. So she tried to keep amicable relations with Peshwa Nanasaheb. But when Peshwa tried to put his own nominee on Kolhapur Gadi she decided to oppose him and thus their relations turned hostile. So, naturally clashes between these two became inevitable.

At the time of Sambhaji’s death almost all Maratha troops were engaged in the north. Peshwa had no more troops to take over Kolhapur Gadi. So Peshwa ordered his two Ichalkaranjikar officers – Visaji Narayan and Sadashiv Avdhut to go to Kolhapur with their troops. Vasaji Narayan and Sadashiv Avdhut were accompanied by Umaji, the younger brother of Mahadji Bhosale Mungikar who was the choice of Peshwa for Kolhapur gadi.
This situation was correctly described in Marathi Riyasat. According to that when news of the death of Sambhaji came, he despatched Visaji Narayan and Sadashiv Avdhut to Jijabai. They were instructed that with them they should take Umaji, the younger brother of Mahadji Bhosale Mungikar, and install him as a king. The affairs of the kingdom were to remain in the hands of Jijabai who was to be given charge of Panhala, Rangana and some other forts. The other arrangements were to be carried out jointly. Jijabai like Tarabai was to be given a fixed sum for expenses and asked to manage within that. If she agreed, well and good, but if she did not, they were to resort to confiscation. The fort that Jijabai might be residing in at that time was to be surrounded. Thus this letter clearly shows that Peshwa wanted to appoint a person of his choice as Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and the internal administration was to be carried out by Jijabai and other affairs were to be carried out jointly by Jijabai and Peshwa. Jointly meant that Satara and Kolhapur relations would be looked after by Peshwa himself. Peshwa expected that most of the foreign relations would be conducted and supervised by Peshwa himself as in the case of Satara Gadi. He only wanted to take important matters of Kolhapur in his hands. But Jijabai was not ready for it. According to Manohar Malgaonkar, "...Confiscate is an unfortunate word to describe the Peshwa's lifelong objective of reunifying the Maratha Kingdom."

When Peshwa sent his troops towards Kolhapur he did not think it necessary to visit Kolhapur himself to pay condolences to Jijabai.
When Sambhaji died, his younger Rani, Kusabai was pregnant. Jijabai wanted to put off the succession issue till the delivery of Kusabai. Actually for a long time Nanasaheb had the idea of unification of Kolhapur and Satara States. But now the circumstances changed. By treaty of 1758 Peshwa accepted that Safara Chhatrapati was not of the real blood of Bhosale clan. It might have been his plan to put his own nominee as Chhatrapati on the Kolhapur throne and depose Ramraja from Satara throne and to bring about the unification of two Maratha States and run the administration himself as Peshwa of the united Maratha kingdom.

To fulfill this plan he also employed tricks to neutralise Jijabai like Tarabai. In the last phase of Tarabai’s life she had many powers in her hands but could not exercise them effectively because of Peshwa’s control and policy. Actually all powers were exercised by Peshwa. Similarly Peshwa wanted that Jijabai should remain dejure head of state and that she would be provided funds for her personal expenses. Peshwa thought of giving Rangana, Samangad and one or two other forts to her. As per this plan territory worth two or two and half would be given to Jijabai and the remaining Kolhapur territory would pass under control of Peshwa.

Nanasaheb Peshwa was a very shrewd man so he decided to put his nominee on Kolhapur throne as this would put him in a strong position. After that no one could oppose him. But on the other hand Jijabai was a very shrewd woman too. She easily understood Peshwa’s plan. She was expecting the result of Kusabai’s delivery. Peshwa argued that he was planning the
unification of two states. This was the last chance for the Peshwa to fulfill his dream cherished for the last 20 years.

Jijabai was very angry when she heard about the arrival of Peshwa’s troops. In the letter dated 20-1-1761 to Narayanrao Venkatesh she complained against Peshwa. She complained about the high-handedness of Peshwa in settling the Kolhapur succession issue quite contrary to the pledges that he had made to late Sambhaji.³

Manohar Mulgoankar has provided English translation of this letter. In that letter she (Jijabai) wrote, “...That Rajashri Pradhan Pant should not even send conventional letter of condolence but instead send troops, shows that there are limits to his friendship..... the younger Rani Kusabai is with child..... It is under the orders of Rajashri Swami that we all four queens are still living. ....Even at this stage, you should intercede with Rajashri Raghunathpant and do what will preserve us from infamy.”⁶

It was Peshwa’s duty to personally visit Kolhapur or to depute any other person to offer his condolences. It was true that Peshwa was not in a position to pay a visit. But Peshwa did not send any condolence message or person even for paying condolences. Jijabai strongly protested against this. She wrote a letter to Baburao Phadanis, Karbhari of Gopikabai, wife of Nanasaheb Peshwa, on January 22, 1761. Jijabai put in strong words her protest against Peshwa asserting that instead of personally offering his condolences to Jijabai, he merely sent a stranger for adoption. She asked the Peshwa to recall him at once.⁷ She also complained that without making any inquiries about Kusabai’s pregnancy Peshwa imposed an unreasonable
solution. She further wrote, “It is Pant Pradhan who is responsible for our prosperity, and I have even regarded him as brother. Then what cause have I to worry?” In her letter she also remarked that late Sambhaji had accepted that Ramraja was an imposter. Peshwa also had accepted Ramraja as an imposter. Then at least for the Kolhapur throne or gadi a true claimant should be considered. Jijabai did not know why Peshwa had selected an heir from Mungikar Bhosale, which were not truly close to Chhatrapati’s clan? She was not ready to accept such heir. Sambhaji Chhatrapati had also expressed his desire to adopt an heir from Khanwatkar Bhosale family. Thus after a long time since 1740 for the first time relations between Kolhapurkar and Peshwa were strained.

Every time Peshwa had given a promise of friendship to Jijabai and Sambhaji. But he had broken it. Jijabai wanted to pass the time till the delivery of Kusabai. Jijabai tried for withdrawal of Peshwa’s troops through Shesho Narayan. She asked him to approach the Peshwa with request to recall Hariram and others whom she was not prepared to receive even if the Peshwa persisted, she would be prepared to go to any length in order to achieve her end. She decided to take help from Murarrao Ghorpade Guttikar. He was offered by Jijabai one fort and some territory in Karveer kingdom. Murarro was also ready to give help because he wanted settlement for his family in his own territory. Murarrao left Madkshira and stayed at Sodur so that he could come at any time to help Jijabai. Jijabai not only tried to get help from Ghorpade but from the Nizam too. She had sent a message for help against Peshwa.
But in the meantime tragedy took place at Panipat in January 1761. Peshwa had already begun to march towards the North. But the debacle of Panipat changed the whole situation. Jijabai made arrangements to face Peshwa’s troops by seeking help from others. She wrote letters to Peshwa’s close advisers asking for withdrawal of Peshwa’s troops. Jijabai does not accept Umaji as the heir to the throne and was not ready to surrender the territory of Kolhapur, the kingdom should be confiscated. Besides, Peshwa gave orders to Shesho Narayan to confiscate Kolhapur. Jijabai then played a diplomatic game. She wanted the Peshwa to withdraw his orders. On one hand she started discussion for surrender of territory to Peshwa. And then one day she made a sudden attack on Peshwa’s troops, which were then on the banks of Warna and defeated them.

Peshwa did not believe the news of Kusabai’s pregnancy. He has sent a message on 26.4.1761 to Anubai to confirm the news of Kusabai’s pregnancy. Dwarakabai Ghorpade from Ichalkaranji gave the confirmation that Kusabai was really carrying a baby. On 25 May, 1761 Kusabai gave birth to a baby girl. But Jijabai announced that Kusabai had given birth to a male child. She also sent a message to Nanasaheb Peshwa about the birth of new heir. She also wrote a letter and sent sweets on 26.5.1761 to Anubai Ghorpade. Jijabai also wrote a letter to Gopikabai informing her that Kusabai had given birth to a male child. She also informed about this to Vithal Sundar – Nizam’s Pradhan. Thus Jijabai informed everybody about the arrival of the new heir for Kolhapur Gadi. Jijabai’s purpose behind giving this false news to everybody was to avoid the danger of adoption of the heir of Peshwa’s choice. She thought now Peshwa could not force her to adopt a
child as the new heir. And now she could convince the Peshwa that there was no need of adoption. But before the news of Kusabai's child being a girl leaked out, Peshwa Nanasaheb died on 23 June 1761. And this gave her time to perfect her plan for adoption.

Thus the death of Nanasaheb Peshwa gave a new turn to the problem of succession in Kolhapur State. Peshwa's lifelong aim had been the reunification of Maratha kingdom. For achieving this Peshwa had tried to put an heir of his choice on Kolhapur gadi because he could not achieve this in case of Satara. Developments in Satara had far-reaching effects. A golden opportunity to wipe out Nizam in 1751 had slipped away only because of succession issue in Satara in 1750. So this time Peshwa had taken quick steps about the succession of Kolhapur. But finally because of the debacle of Panipat Peshwa again lost this opportunity. If death of Peshwa hadn't taken place, it might not have been possible for Jijabai to place the heir of her liking against Peshwa's wishes. For a long time Jijabai and Sambhaji had struggled for the unification of Satara and Kolhapur. And now, Peshwa wanted the unification of two states by installing the Chhatrapati of his own choice on Kolhapur gadi. The nature of this unification now was totally different. Now this unification was not of two Gadis, but unification of Peshwaship of two Gadis. Peshwa Nanasaheb thus wanted to take charge of Peshwaship of Kolhapur also. He wanted to concentrate all power of Maratha Empire in his hands. This prompted Jijabai to oppose Nanasaheb's idea of unification. She on her part wanted to be free from Peshwa's interference. She thought that Peshwa's choice of adopted king means all administration would be in the hands of Peshwa. Jijabai thus clearly understood Peshwa's
plan. Peshwa to fulfill his purpose, offered Jijabai, position of eminence at Kolhapur just like that of Tarabai at Satara. Jijabai who was ambitious and also a very clever lady was not ready to accept this offer. She had prepared herself for conflict with Peshwa and oppose the unification. Tarabai who was at Satara encouraged Jijabai to oppose Peshwa on the issue of adoption.14

JIJABAI'S PLAN OF ADOPTION

Death of Nanasaheb Peshwa gave Jijabai all the time she needed to perfect her plans for adoption. Nanasaheb's sixteen-year-old son - Madhavrao took charge of Peshwaship on July 20, 1761. Jijabai took all the necessary steps to adopt a boy of her own choice. She also recruited troops with the intention of putting up resistance if Peshwa tried to pressurise her to accept his solution. Now everyone knew that Kusabai had given birth to a girl child and not a male. So Jijabai thought to adopt a boy from Khanwatkar Bhosale family. She called her ministers and advisers and announced her intention of adopting Mankoji, the son of Shahaji Bhosale as per the wishes of late Chhatrapati Sambhaji. The boy was then five years old. Before the death of Sambhaji, he had expressed desire to adopt this boy as his heir.15 But the Peshwa was not respect last wish of the deceased Chhatrapati. When Madhavrao became the Peshwa, Jijabai announced the adoption of that boy. Shahaji Bhosale, father of Mankoji, did not agree to give the child in adoption till Peshwa gave his consent. He demanded that Peshwa should give his consent letter for the adoption. Shahaji Bhosale feared that so long as Jijabai was alive Peshwa would retain the Kolhapur Gadi and after her death Peshwa would take over the Kolhapur territory. Thus he was worried about
the future of Kolhapur Gadi and also his child. So the first attempt to bring the child failed. Now, Jijabai called a meeting of her ministers and with their consent she called Govindrao Parsnis and took his advice on the adoption. He advised that the child should be enticed away from his home, by getting him used to be tended to by nursemaids at Panhala. And only after having brought the child to Panhala should Jijabai seek Peshwa’s consent.

Thus Jijabai prepared the plan to bring the child to Panhala very carefully. She took the boy’s uncle Nawlojirao Mahadik into confidence. She sent a letter with Baburao Karkun to Nawaloji. Nawalojirao convinced his sister and the child’s mother Bayabai Kanwatkar, and asked to deliver the boy to the emissaries from Kolhapur without hesitation and anxiety. The woman sent by Baburao Karkun frequently visited the child’s house and played with the child and showered him with sweets and presents. After some days they began to take the child back with them to their home. After a few months the boy began to live with them in their house. Thereafter they made arrangements to bring the child with them to Panhala. They started their journey with the boy and reached Panhala on the fourth day. Thus Jijabai successfully brought the heir of her liking at Panhala. She made proper arrangement for his education and upbringing. Now the problem was of Peshwa’s consent for the adoption.

PLAN FOR CONSENT

Jijabai was trying to bring up the boy under her personal supervision as the future ruler of Kolhapur kingdom. In the meantime on December 10, 1761, Tarabai, the founder of Kolhapur State, died at Satara. After Jejuri pact...
she had obtained more power in her hands but Peshwa kept her isolated from politics. Her grandson and Chhatrapati of Satara Gadi, Ramraja was imprisoned because she called him an imposter. Jijabai decided to try herself to get the consent of Peshwa. All her ministers also advised her to go herself to remove the obstacle of Peshwa's consent. Jijabai decided to go to Poona and confront the Peshwa. But deliberately she told that she was proceeding on a pilgrimage. She made necessary arrangements at Kolhapur for the four months of her absence and appointed a caretaker for her kingdom. On the day of Akshaya Tritiya, 17th April, 1762, with an escort of 5000 troops Jijabai started her pilgrimage. She was accompanied by her important chieftains and noble men. She reached Jejuri. Peshwa got information of her arrival at Jejuri. Peshwa presented himself along with his uncle, Raghunathrao before Jijabai. When Peshwa made inquiry about her arrival, she told Peshwa Madhavrao that since Peshwa had no intention to finding a master for the Karveer throne. She had decided to proceed on a grand pilgrimage and then end her life. While Shahu Chhatrapati of Satara was alive he had given an assurance to Parasnis, who was their official and ordered that the master to the Gadi of Kolhapur should be adopted. Kolhapur and Satara should not be merged together. This was decided in presence of Chitnis and necessary orders were given to the Pradhan. This was all that Parsnis had told us. This was what she told the Peshwa. She said Peshwa could do as he wished after this.18

Jijabai had always maintained good relations with Peshwa. She tried to do so with the newly appointed Peshwa too. But Peshwa still wanted to follow his father's policy of installing his nominee as Kolhapur Chhatrapati.
Peshwa and his uncle Raghunathrao told Jijabai, “Satara and Panhala (Kolhapur) are not two separate kingdoms but parts of one whatever division was there it was owing to family dissension, which is now over.” So Jijabai was very angry when she understood that Peshwa was not ready to accept her choice. She decided to put pressure on him, and told him, “If this is your view, you take over the kingdom and make provision for my expenses and grand pilgrimage. You are like my son. So you can take over the kingdom left behind.”

But Madhavrao Peshwa was not ready to establish his control over Kolhapur. After the death of Tarabai, Peshwa released Ramraja and restored him on Satara Gadit. Ramraja episode was the tragic consequence of the policy adopted by Peshwa Nanasaheb and Tarabai. His own position was unguarded. Because of defeat in the third battle of Panipat, Maratha power had received setback. So it was not possible for Peshwa Madhavrao to take responsibility of Kolhapur Raj by imposing his own choice. He was then facing problems in his own household also. Raghobadada, his uncle, wanted to depose him and take charge of Peshwaship. In the south, because of discomfiture of the Marathas on the plains of Panipat, Nizam and Haider resumed their activities against the Peshwa. In this difficult situation it was not possible for Peshwa to face conflict with Jijabai or Kolhapurkar. So at last Peshwa was decided to give his consent to the adoption of Kolhapur.

Peshwa sought another meeting with Jijabai and invited her to Poona, promising her to give consent to her proposal. Peshwa accepted the Yadi (clauses) of proposed treaty between him and Jijabai. (See Appendix No.2).
Jijabai promptly cancelled her plan to go on pilgrimage. Peshwa took an oath on the Bhel-Bhandara and gave her a diamond ring as the token of friendship. After a week long stay at Jejuri, Jijabai went to Poona.

Peshwa accorded her grand welcome and provided her suitable accommodation. He also provided her rupees 1500 every day for her living expenses and also paid visits everyday. Thus Peshwa gave his formal approval for the adoption of Kolhapur heir. Peshwa signed a treaty with Jijabai. By this treaty he accepted Jijabai’s nominee as an heir to Kolhapur throne. After this, without taking any objection to the adoption of the child that Jijabai had brought up was carried out.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN PESHWA AND JJABAI**

The territory, which was accepted by Nanasaheb Peshwa under Kolhapurkar possession, would remain as same in period of Madhavrao Peshwa. Soundhe, Bedanur and Savnur remained under Peshwa’s possession. Peshwa granted some concessions to Jijabai. He gave income of Monali as Jijabai’s personal revenues. He also gave order to officials like Shinde, Nadguda and others to obey Jijabai’s order. Peshwa had offered his faith towards Jijabai. Accepting these clauses Peshwa tried to please Jijabai and tried to avoid conflict. Peshwa did not want to take any blame about Kolhapur heir just as what happened in Satara. Thus the main obstacle in adoption was removed. Peshwa called Shahaji Bhosale Kanwatkar at Pune and gave his consent. He said, “Since you belong to the clan of Sharfaji and since it was the last wish of late Maharaja Sambhaji to adopt your child, you should go back to Panhala with Jijabai and give away your son who will
make necessary provision for you." Peshwa gave ceremonial send-off to Jijabai. Peshwa also honoured Khanwatkar with robes and ornaments.

SHIVAJI-II THE NEW CHHATRAPATI OF KOLHAPUR

In Kolhapur the actual adoption ceremony took place in September 22, 1762. The child was named as Shivaji and on the day of Vijayadashmi, September 27, 1762 was coronated as Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Jijabai sent the announcement letters to Peshwa, Nizam and other important rulers. In return they sent congratulatory messages together with the customary gifts.

After Manchacarohan or coronation ceremony, Jijabai wrote letters to her sardars and gave them inams in return of their loyalty towards Kolhapur Chhatrapati. Because since past few years for their own selfish purpose the sardars left one side and joined the other side or Peshwa. So for future security she adopted this step. Thus Jijabai emerged victorious in her conflict with Peshwa over the issue of succession. Nanasaheb Peshwa was not ready to accept her candidate as an heir. But clever and wise Jijabai slowly but steadily tried to get consent from him. Battle of Panipat (1761) gave her chance to put pressure on Peshwa. Because soon after the debacle of Panipat, Nanasaheb Peshwa died, his newly appointed Peshwa Madhavrao’s position was not strong. So he decided not to raise new conflicts with Kolhapurkar. Jijabai could preserve the Kolhapur kingdom and retain all power in her hands. She took Peshwa’s military assistance but did not accept his interference in daily administration. Peshwa also till his end kept friendly relations with her and never interfered in her administration. He always showed respect to Chhatrapati and Jijabai too.
PROBLEM OF CHIKODI-MANOLI

Every time while going on Karnataka expedition Peshwa respectfully paid visit to Kolhapurkar, just like his father Peshwa Nanasaheb did. Peshwa had signed treaties with Kolhapur in 1762, 1763, 1764. These treaties were mainly for Chikodi and Manoli talukas, which caused a lot of trouble and annoyance for Kolhapur State in future.

In 1762 the Peshwa took the charge of talukas of Hukkeri, Raibag, Kagal and Manoli in return for seven lakhs of rupees. Actually at this time financial position of Kolhapur state was very precarious. Jijabai could not pay the money without borrowing from moneylenders. She could not pay the stipulated sum to Peshwa in 1762. So when in 1763 Jijabai agreed to the same terms Peshwa accepted Bagalkot and Badami to be under Jijabai’s private control. Peshwa wrote letter on 29.5.1763 to his administrator of these Paraganas about this transfer. Madhavrao Peshwa wrote to Anandrao Bhikaji stating that the Paraganas of Bagalkot and Badami were transferred to queen Jijabai to defray household expenses. He ordered him to communicate this order to the Kamvisdars of both places with instructions to pay the dues of these places to Jijabai. On the same date he wrote letters to Visaji Krishna. Peshwa informed Visaji that Manoli taluka was transferred to Jijabai in order to provide for her household expenses. The Mokasa collection of these talukas should, therefore, be diverted to Manoli. Soon Jijabai raised the seven lakhs rupees by borrowing from money-lenders and paid the amount to Peshwa.
During the year 1764 Peshwa's expedition in Karnataka raised the question of control of these talukas. Because the moneylenders from whom Jijabai had taken seven lakh rupees were demanding repayment again and again, Madhavrao decided to transfer Chikodi and Manoli talukas to Patwardhan from Kolhapurkar and Patwardhans were made responsible for settling debt from revenue of these talukas.

But Peshwa's solution became a cause of conflict between Patwardhan and Kolhapur. In this conflict Patwardhan was supported by Peshwa. Patwardhan was closely related to Peshwa's family for a long period. But Patwardhan was not awarded with any territory till 1761. Madhavrao Peshwa granted them a saranjam of twenty-five lakh rupees in 1762. This land was on the border of Kolhapur kingdom. Thus Peshwa created a new thana in south Maharashtra which was used for blocking sphere of expansion of Kolhapur. Patwardhan was specially brought over and given control of this territory to act as a counterweight to Kolhapur kingdom. S.M. Garge clearly stated that, "so that on one hand Peshwa made friendly treaty with Jijabai and on the other hand by giving saranjam to Patwardhan on Kolhapur border Peshwa was acting against his friendly relations with Kolhapurkar." In future there were always clashes between Patwardhan and Kolhapurkar and Patwardhans were always supported by Peshwa.

In 1764 Peshwa gave possession of Chikodi and Manoli to Patwardhans. Patwardhan would pay seven lakhs that Jijabai had raised to pay for Peshwa's police action. But Jijabai did not give the possession of Chikodi and Manoli to Patwardhan. Patwardhan protested to the Peshwa that
they were not being allowed to take over peaceful possession of these two talukas. Peshwa responded and sent five to six thousand troops under the leadership of Ramchandra Naik Paranjape. He was assisted by Narsingrao Dhaygude and Shahaji Bhosale, Akalkotkar. They captured Chikodi, Manoli and Aksambe, Bhōj and Kagal talukas and arrived near Kolhapur. But they did not fight a battle against Kolhapur because Kolhapurkar had signed a treaty and accepted all claims to these two talukas. Jijabai also paid additional sum of 1,10,100 as a compensation for expenses of this expedition.

These two talukas of Chikodi and Manoli still remained under the possession of Patwardhans even though the debt amount had already been recovered from their revenues. Jijabai constantly demanded Peshwa the return of these two talukas. Actually when Kolhapurkar had surrendered these two talukas, it was agreed that the arrangement will be effective till the debt was fully recovered. But Patwardhans were not willing to return these talukas. In fact, Madhavrao Peshwa himself wanted that these talukas should be returned to Kolhapur. Eighty years after transfer of talukas when this sum must have been recovered this matter was not finally settled.

Peshwa gave orders to hand over the station of Saundatti to Jijabai on 25th February 1767. On 8 December 1768 another order was issued by which Hukkeri and Manoli talukas were handed over to Chhatrapati (Jijabai). But these transfers were only on paper. It was difficult for Peshwa to hand over these talukas to Karveer because actual possession of these areas was with the Patwardhans. Madhavrao himself handed over Chikodi, Manoli to Jijabai. In January 1769 Jijabai informed this in a letter to Govind Hari Patwardhan.
She wrote that Peshwa had handed over the possession of Chikodi and Manoli to her. But still Patwardhan was not ready to hand over these territories to Kolhapur. So Jijabai sent Jiwaji Bhosale, Mahadev Shastri, Ataji Shamraj to Poona to discuss this matter. But Peshwa was seriously ill. When Jijabai heard the news of Peshwa’s illness she sent Babaji Parasnis to Poona to make inquiries about his health. Peshwa did not recover from this illness and died on 18 November 1772.

After his death his youngest brother took the charge of Peshwaship. And his first important order was to bring into effect the agreement made with Kolhapur. By this agreement Peshwa returned talukas of Chikodi and Manoli together with several additional villages to Kolhapurkar.

Thus this problem of Chikodi and Manoli talukas could not be solved by Peshwa Madhavrao. The next Peshwa, Narayanrao tried to give possession to Kolhapur, but actually because of Patwardhan these talukas caused trouble for Kolhapurkar for a long time.

**KOLHAPURKAR AND ENGLISH**

After the third battle of Panipat the English and the Portuguese thought that the Maratha power had totally vanished. They tried to take advantage of this opportunity. They thought Peshwa was not in a position to prevent them from launching attacks on Kolhapur territory. On June 1, 1763, Portuguese attacked on Mardangad and conquered it. They also wanted to attack Sindhudurga. Sindhudurga was Kolhapur’s naval station. But Peshwa Madhavrao understood the Portuguese plan. He wrote to Anand Dulap,
Peshwa's naval officer, "Sindhudurga was private property of Karveer Chhatrapati and to protect Sindhudurga was his duty."²⁹

Some days after this Portuguese attack, the English attacked Sindhudurga. On January 1764, English East India Company's ship surrounded the fort and began bombarding it. But unfortunately the main magazine of fort had been blown up accidentally. So the Karveerkar could not face the English attack. Finally English took the fort Sindhudurga under their control without much difficulties. They promptly attacked the fort of Reddi too which belonged to the Sawants of Wadi.

When English attacked on Sindhudurga Jijabai requested Peshwa Madhavrao for help. Madhavrao Peshwa gave order to Patwardhan to help Jijabai. But she could not get help in time and thus the fort of Sindhudurga was lost. This was the first entry of Englishmen in Kolhapur politics. Had the Peshwa sent timely help to Jijabai, it would not have been possible for the English to capture Sindhudurga. This fort was a very important military station on the west coast. So Jijabai after losing the fort tried to get back this fort from the English.

After taking Sindhudurga the English tried to secure new coastal territory. They took Yashwantgad under their control. Jijabai wrote letters to Jiwaji Vishram, the administrator of Sawantwadi on 12 March 1765 saying that he was not doing his duty properly. She added that he did not inform anything about Yashwantgad, which had been captured by the English. After the loss of Sindhudurga this was a new setback for the Marathas. The enemy had taken many places on coastal line. The remaining places must be
defended and if they were lost, they should be recaptured. Under the leadership of Shivram Parshuram 100 soldiers were sent by Patwardhan to assist Kolhapur troops at Malwan. Again on 19 January 1765, she condemned Jiwaji Vishram’s behaviour and his indifferent attitude towards recapturing the forts of Sindhudurga and Yashwantgad seized by the English, even when he had some force with him. She asked whether precautionary measures had been taken for some other places.

Actually the Sawants of Wadi were not in favour of taking arms against English on behalf of Jijabai of Kolhapur. The English, after taking Malwan or Sindhudurga, had taken Reddi also. But the English had returned Reddi to Sawant in return of fine of a lakh of rupees. Thus in the matters related to the English, Jijabai did not get any help from her own sardars or Peshwa. Actually Peshwa Madhavrao was seriously alarmed by the aggressive designs of the English Company. He considered this western power as his first enemy. But at the same time Madhavrao was deeply embroiled in a war with Haider Ali. After Madhavrao’s return to Poona in June 1765, he was engaged in his domestic problem so he could not send help at the proper time. Jijabai tried to get back Sindhudurga from the English. She sent letters to her agent about the return of Sindhudurga. However, Jijabai was helpless in those matters. To face aggressiveness of the English she decided to sign a treaty with them. Thus, the first treaty between Kolhapur and English was signed. The fourteen-point treaty was signed between Jijabai and the East India Company on 12 January 1766. The main clauses of that treaty were as follows:
(1) There shall be perpetual friendship between Kolhapur and the Company
(2) That Kolhapur should pay the Company seven and a half lakhs of rupees
    ‘as restitution for expense’ incurred.
(3) Sindhudurga, Surjecot and Padmadurga to be delivered to Kolhapur and
    Company renounce all further claim on these places.
(4) The weapons and equipment captured in these forts to be left as they
    were.
(5) The East India Company could build a factory at Rajkot or any other
    place of their choice and have power over their employees.
(6) The Company to have exclusive rights of importing European goods.
(7) The prisoners taken by the British during the capture of the forts and who
    were now in Bombay would be released.
(8) Kolhapur would assist the Company with “what troops they may want”, in
    case of attack and that the Company, in turn would “assist Kolhapur
    should it be convenient to them.”

Thus this was the first entry of English in Kolhapur. Actually Jijabai
and Peshwa had the same policy; that the Western power was their number
one enemy. But Jijabai could not face English aggressiveness on her own and
Peshwa, because of the southern expedition and domestic problems, was
helpless. So, by this treaty the west-coast territory became free for the
English. They could build a factory at any place of their choice and thus take
full advantage of this clause. The Company also got the right to import
European goods. But most important clause was the assistance to be given to
the Company with Maratha troops whenever they may want in case of attack. This was the entry of English into Kolhapur politics and the west coast which proved to be very costly for the Maratha in future.

RANOJI GHATGE

Actually from the period of Nanasaheb Peshwa, Ranoji Ghatge with the help of Ghorpade of Ichalkaranji had tried to challenge Karveerkar. In the year 1755, Peshwa had settled this matter. But again Ranoji Ghatge was aggressive. Ranoji Ghatge Sarjerao had lost the favour of Jijabai. She decided to punish him by withdrawing his saranjam. Ghatge complained to the Peshwa about this and requested the Peshwa to restore the saranjam. Madhavrao Peshwa wrote letters to Shesho Narayan and asked him to request Jijabai to restore Saranjam of Ghatge. Peshwa himself also wrote letter to Jijabai and requested her to restore the saranjams to Ranoji Ghatge.

GHORAPADE AND KOLHAPURKAR

Peshwa also made efforts to keep friendly relations with Karveerkar. When there was crisis between Ghorpade of Ichalkaranji and Kolhapurkar, Peshwa played the role of a mediator between these two and tried to maintain peace. Jijabai was always suspicious about Ghorpade. She thought that Anubai Ghorpade was supported by Peshwa and because of this, Anubai was always aggressive in the Kolhapur area and molested the territory of Kolhapur. Jijabai always encouraged her sardars to attack Ghorpade's territory.

Once Jijabai confiscated Anubai Ghorpade's saranjams. Peshwa requested Jijabai to release the Sardeshmukhi inam of Anubai. In fact
Peshwa Madhavrao could have solved this problem by sending his own troops. But he always showed his respect to the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and thus tried to keep amicable relations.

On 16 November 1772, Madhavrao Peshwa died. Still there was no agreement about Chikodi and Manoli. Narayanrao, the new Peshwa made an agreement about these talukas. But again implementation was not done. In the meantime, just three months after the death of Madhavrao Peshwa, on 17 February 1773, Jijabai the queen mother of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur died at Panhala.

Tarabai was the founder of Kolhapur Gadi. But Jijabai was the one who actually established the Kolhapur kingdom. When Peshwa made efforts to confiscate Kolhapur Gadi she strongly opposed his plans and showed her diplomacy. She had the quality of realism. She never under-estimated her opponents. She convinced Peshwa Madhavrao who suffered from a great setback of Paniapt, not to create a new crisis in Kolhapur. Eventually he accepted Jijabai's choice for the heir of Kolhapur Gadi. He always tried to keep friendly relations with Kolhapur. Only in this period there was not much crisis between these two. But, on the issue of Chikodi and Manoli territories their relations still remained strained. But Peshwa on his own side tried to keep these relations smooth.

But at the same time, the Peshwa rewarded Patwardhan and Ghorpade Saranjams on the boundary of Kolhapur to block the expansion of Kolhapur Raj. And Peshwa's this move proved very troublesome for the Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur. Peshwa and Jijabai both disliked the Western powers but Jijabai
could not fight with the English on her own. Peshwa too was not in a position to send help to Jijabai and thus the English took advantage of this situation and strengthened their position in coastal areas. Jijabai's death meant the end of a great history of Kolhapur State.

From the above discussion it is quite clear that Jijabai was a shrewd politician and she wisely preserved, protected and defended Kolhapur State. In 1772, both Jijabai and Peshwa Madhavrao passed away. After Madhavrao's death real power of Maratha empire was transferred from Peshwa to Karbhari Nana Phadnis. Maratha politics was in chaotic condition and Satara Chhatrapati was just a nonentity in Maratha State. Kolhapur Chhatrapati was also confined to the boundaries of his small state. Thus Kolhapur-Satara relations lost significance after the year 1772.
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