“STRUGGLE AND SACRIFICE: CONTRIBUTION OF CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI IN THE CONSERVATION OF HINDAVI SWARAJYA”

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Shivaji’s call for Hindavi Swarajya gave concrete shape to the social urges in Maharashtra. Foreign historians have often written about the apathy and disinterest of the ordinary people in the ongoing military struggles. They were amazed that Indian peasants continued to till their land while battle raged less than a mile away. Though many Hindu kings are known to have resisted and fought against Muslim rulers, the first rulers who did it in the name of Hinduism are the Marathas under Chattrapathi Shivaji. Hinduism till then, had no concept of a common brotherhood unlike Islam and Christianity. But a steady attack on Hindu temples and Hindu religion made the Hindus fearful of the future of their beliefs. Hindavi Swarajya (“self-rule of Indian people”, meaning independence from foreign rule) is a term for socio-political movements seeking to remove foreign military and political influences from the Indian subcontinent. The term was first used in a 1645 CE letter by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire. The term Swarajya was later adopted by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, one of the early leaders of the Indian independence movement against the British. During the freedom struggle, the Town Hall was a major meeting point for freedom fighters and social activists. The local leaders held regular meetings here to disseminate information on the Civil Disobedience and Salt Satyagraha movements. History buff Edward Paul recounts In later years, MS Subbulakshmi and Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu performed here when they were still young. C Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, CV Raman and Rabindranath Tagore delivered lectures here. Currently, Town Hall is being restored under the Smart City project by the Mumbai-based Savani Heritage Conservation Private Limited at the cost of Rs 3 crore. The renovation has started work on the first floor of the building. Chhatrapati Shivaji’s greatest test came a decade after his death. It came the moment his illustrious son Chhatrapati Sambhaji was killed. All problems which had sent powerful Indian kings and their kingdoms to their deaths were now facing the Marathas. They prevailed; Chhatrapati Shivaji prevailed. How and why is important not just from the point of view of history, but in current scenario also. While the Marathas fought valiantly for Swarajya in the absence of a king personally leading them, the survival of Rajaram and Tarabai also proved to be crucial for the Marathas. Establishment of the Navy is. For a country associated with rich maritime traditions, the lack of a strong navy under many regional and national powers is perplexing. Shivaji was one of the greatest warriors and rulers in the annals of Indian history. There are many interesting facts associated with his life that you may have not known. Under the leadership of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Marathas, who gradually rose to prominence and became well-known for their swift movements, succeeded in stabilising and strengthening their territory while combating the Mughals and thereafter triumphed in taking control of a substantial part of Western India. There are many interesting facts associated with this legendary hero and his legacy, revered as one of the greatest icons in the history of India.