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CLASS: VIII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: HISTORY	CH-3
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The Emergence of the Marathas

A. Multiple Choice Questions

- The idea of Swarajya under Shivaji meant:
 - (i) Rule under Mughal authority
 - (ii) Direct British administration
 - (iii) Self-rule and freedom from external control ✓**
 - (iv) A system with many foreign rulers
- Which movement united the Maratha people socially and emotionally?
 - (i) Renaissance
 - (ii) Bhakti Movement ✓**
 - (iii) Industrial Revolution
 - (iv) Swadeshi Movement
- Guerrilla warfare used by Shivaji involved:
 - (i) Long open-field battles
 - (ii) Surprise attacks and rapid movement ✓**
 - (iii) Naval warfare only
 - (iv) Expensive heavy artillery
- Raigad became important because:
 - (i) It was the birthplace of Shivaji
 - (ii) It was conquered by the British in 1818
 - (iii) Shivaji's coronation was held there ✓**
 - (iv) It was the capital of the Peshwas
- Which two taxes did the Marathas collect from neighbouring or enemy territories?
 - (i) Income tax and trade tax
 - (ii) Lagaan and revenue cess
 - (iii) Chauth and Sardeshmukhi ✓**
 - (iv) Octroi and customs duty
- Bajirao I was famous for:
 - (i) Painting and poetry
 - (ii) Slow and defensive warfare
 - (iii) Fast cavalry-based campaigns ✓**
 - (iv) Maritime supremacy
- The Third Anglo-Maratha War resulted in:
 - (i) Expansion of Maratha territories
 - (ii) British defeat
 - (iii) End of the post of the Peshwa ✓**
 - (iv) Establishment of Swarajya

B. Fill in the Blanks

- The Bhakti saints like Sant **Tukaram** and Ramdas united the Marathi-speaking people.

2. Forts such as Torna and Raigad served as centres of defence and **administration**.
3. The surprise attack strategy used by the Marathas is known as **guerrilla** warfare.
4. Shivaji was formally crowned **Chhatrapati** at Raigad in 1674 CE.
5. The Ashta Pradhana Mandala consisted of **eight** ministers.
6. Chauth means a tax equal to **25** per cent of land revenue.
7. In 1818, the Maratha power ended after the **Third** Anglo-Maratha War.

C. True/False – Answers

1. Guerrilla warfare helped the Marathas defeat much larger armies. — **True**
2. Chauth was collected only from Maratha-controlled land. — **False**
3. Ahilyabai Holkar promoted public welfare and rebuilt many temples. — **True**
4. The British won because the Marathas were fully united politically. — **False**
5. Bajirao I expanded Maratha power beyond the Deccan into North India. — **True**
6. Shivaji supported religious equality and justice for common people. — **True**
7. The Maratha navy was developed to protect trade and coastline security. — **True**

D. Answer the Following Questions in Brief

1. What is meant by Swarajya?

The concept of self-rule or absolute political independence is called Swarajya. It was championed by Shivaji.

2. Why did Shivaji use Guerrilla warfare?

Shivaji used Guerilla warfare as it was a military strategy using small, mobile forces to ambush, raid, and sabotage larger, less mobile conventional army.

3. What was the Ashta Pradhana Mandala?

Ashta Pradhana Mandala was Shivaji's council of eight ministers, each overseeing a specific administrative department.

4. Why were Chauth and Sardeshmukhi important for the Maratha state?

Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were important for the Maratha state because the income collected from these tax played a major role in strengthening the Maratha treasury. This money was used for maintaining the army, building forts and administering the state.

E. Answer the Following Questions in Detail

1. Explain the role of Bhakti saints in uniting the Maratha people.

Role of Bhakti saints in uniting the Maratha people-

- They spread the message of devotion (Bhakti) using the simple Marathi language, which everyone could understand.
- They taught that God is for everyone and that all people are equal, whether rich or poor, high caste or low caste.

- They rejected blind rituals and questioned the rigid caste system that divided the society.
- Through their poems, songs and teachings, they encouraged people to live with honesty, kindness and unity.

2. Describe how Shivaji established Swarajya using forts and military organisation.

Forts and military organisations served many important functions in establishing Swarajya.

1. Forts:

- **Defence:** The forts were built on high hills and had powerful stone walls. Because of their height and location they were almost impossible to capture even by the Mughal armies. They also acted as safe shelters during wars.
- **Administration:** The forts were used to store grain, treasure, weapons and other important supplies. Many important meetings and decisions were taken inside the forts. Raigad became the capital fort of the Maratha empire and from there Shivaji managed the affairs of the growing kingdom.

2. Military Strategy: Shivaji was a brilliant military planner. His greatest strength was his ability to defeat much larger and better equipped armies. Instead of following the traditional style of battle, he used quick movement, surprise attacks and a deep understanding of the land that helped the Marathas win many important victories and protect the dream of Swarajya.

3. Discuss Shivaji's administrative reforms, including taxation and justice.

Shivaji was not only a brave warrior but also an efficient administrator. He introduced several reforms to ensure good governance and the welfare of his people.

1. The Council of Eight (Ashta Pradhana): Shivaji Maharaj did not rule alone; he appointed a team of eight ministers called the Ashta Pradhana Mandala to help him run the government smoothly.

2. Fair Land Tax: He looked after his farmers by measuring the land carefully and fixing a fair tax based on how much crop was actually grown. During droughts or floods, he generously reduced or cancelled these taxes.

3. Neighbouring Taxes (Chauth and Sardeshmukhi): To protect and fund his kingdom, he collected two special taxes from neighbouring enemy territories: Chauth (one-fourth of their revenue) and Sardeshmukhi (an extra ten percent) in exchange for keeping them safe from raids.

4. Simple and Honest Justice: The justice system was simple and based on local traditions. Village panchayats solved everyday fights, and Shivaji Maharaj himself served as the highest court, making sure everyone be it rich or poor, got fair and equal treatment.

4. Trace the rise of the Peshwas and the transformation of the Maratha kingdom into an empire.

After the death of Shivaji, the Maratha kingdom faced several challenges. Gradually, the Peshwas (Prime Ministers) became the real rulers of the Maratha state.

1. Shift of Power : The 'Peshwas' were originally the chief Ministers, but they soon became the actual rulers of the Marathas and made Pune their capital.

2. Expansion into North India : A brave Peshwa named Bajirao I used fast horse riders to defeat the Mughals and take over large parts of North India.

3. The Maratha confederacy : To manage this huge land, the empire was shared among powerful Maratha families, like the Scindias and Holkars, who worked as a team.

4. The Peak and Setback : The empire grew to its biggest size under the third Peshwa, but it was stopped after they lost the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761.

5. Analyse the causes and results of the Anglo-Maratha Wars.

Causes of the Anglo-Maratha Wars :

- Fragmentation: The Maratha confederacy included many regional chiefs. They often disagreed with one another and competed for power. Because of this, the confederacy could not fight as united force.
- Military Technology: The British army had well trained soldiers, strong discipline, modern weapons and better artillery. The British had a single command structure while the Maratha army worked separately.
- Internal Conflicts: There were constant quarrels among the Peshwas and other chiefs. These internal fights reduced their strength and unity.

Result of the wars :

- The British won the war and the Marathas were defeated in the third Anglo Maratha war.
- The position of Peshwa officially ended.
- Most Maratha territories were taken under British control.
- This event marked the end of the Maratha power in India and it became an important turning point in Indian history.