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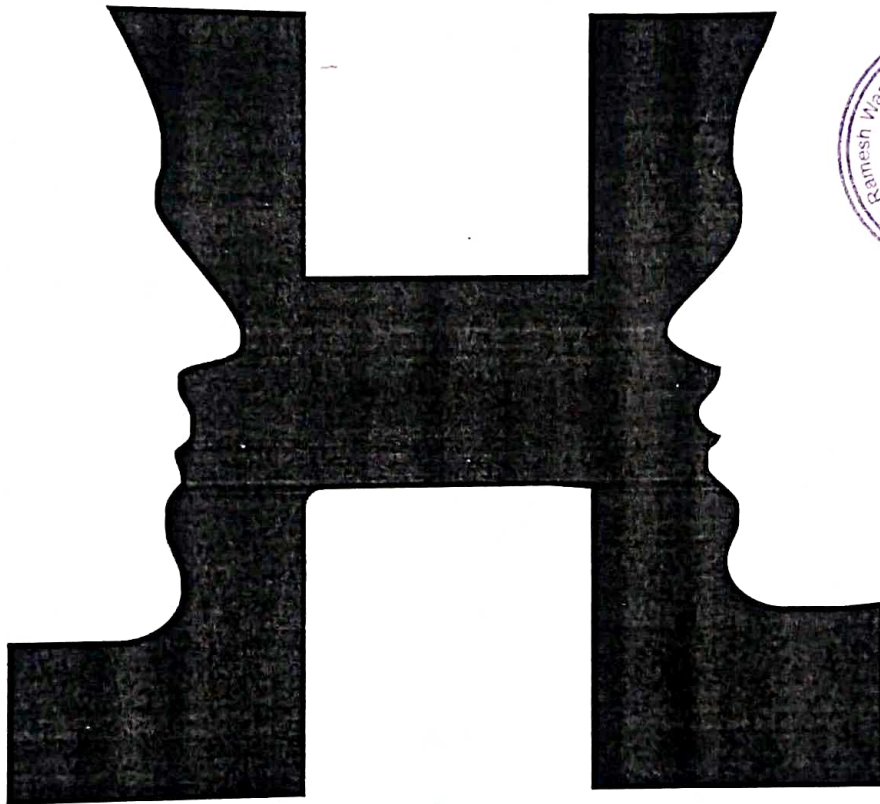
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# CHRONICLE OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

A Peer Reviewed Bimonthly International Journal

*Special Issue*

**INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**



*Chief Editor*

**Dr Kalyan Gangarde**

*Issue Editor* : **Dr Shyamsundar Waghmare**

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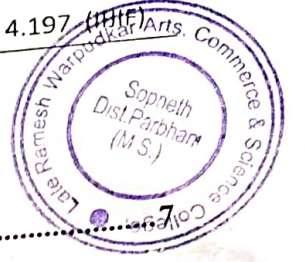
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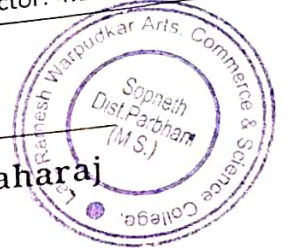
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## Administrative System During Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Period

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The folk life of the period was not entirely different. But the political system of the newly established Swarajya had an impact on the people's life here. Due to this, important changes took place in social, economic, religious and people's life. Through this, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj tried to stabilize the social, economic and religious life. Due to this, people's life itself got stability. It has been reviewed in the present research essay.

### Central Administration

The administrative system of the Shiva period was developed along with the expansion of Swarajya. Shivaji Maharaj himself was the head of the administration. All kinds of final authority was in the hands of Chhatrapati. In order to build a strong administration, Maharaja paid special attention to the seven main parts of the government. These organs are 1) King 2) Minister 3) Friend 4) Treasury 5) Nation 6) Fort fort 7) Army etc. Maharaja paid special attention to the seven parts that support these organs. Because he knew that if even one of these organs were disabled, the kingdom would be destroyed. For that he had established Ashtapradhan Mandal. Maharaja tried to make the administration system people-oriented by decentralizing the power and authority that he had to the Pradhan.

Chhatrapati himself was at the center of the central administration. Ashtapradhan and all the officers in his department, 18 factories, 12 Mahals, Sarsubedars, Chitnis, Kiledars, who keep accounts of all the officers of the three military forces namely infantry, cavalry and armour, were the administrative system Since the Chhatrapati himself was at the top of this system, the efficiency of the system was largely dependent on the performance of the Chhatrapati. Chhatrapati was considered as the backbone of the system of governance. Chhatrapati often consulted the Ashtapradhan Mandal. But it was not binding on them. Apart from this, Ashtapradhan officers were appointed by Chhatrapati himself. While appointing them, along with merit, tradition, intelligence and previous service were considered

8 Pradhans were appointed in this Mandal till the coronation ceremony hence this Rajmandal was called as Ashtapradhan Mandal. The Maharaja created a kind of new system of governance by creating his Ashtapradhan Mandal. Tried to make the central administration stable and people-oriented through Ashtapradhan Mandal. In the Raj Darbar, the chief secretaries and ministers used to sit on the right side of the Maharaja while the general Sumanta Judge used to sit on the left side. The annual salary of the head chiefs was 15,000 hon and that of the ministers 12 hon, while the six ministers were 10,000 hon each.

Administrative duties were divided as in the case of Pradhans.

Important decisions and documents were stamped by the Pradhans. Maharaj had adopted this method. The intention was to avoid making mistakes while making important decisions. Under Ashtapradhan there were 18 factories and 12 Mahals officers. Through this Maharaja strengthened the administration of Swarajya. This system was maintained till the time of Shahu Maharaj. The administration during Shiva's time was as follows

### Provincial Administration

Central administration during Shiva's time was run through Ashtapradhan. Also some provinces were given under Ashtapradhan for the administration of the province. He was mainly responsible for overseeing the administrative system of the assigned province. Hence the provincial administration was linked with the central administration. Two divisions of the state were created for the smooth running of the government. One was the contiguous part and the other was part of the scattered region in the south. The contiguous division of the region was divided into four sub-divisions 1) Northern Division 2) Central Division 3) Eastern Division 4) Karnataka

Sarsubheddar was appointed as administrative officer to supervise this department. Subheddar of the department is called Chief Officer. So the department was called as Sarsubha. Sarsubheddar was appointed to keep an eye on the work of Subha. Currently, the Revenue Department in Maharashtra is the Subhe created by the Maharaja.

### Subha

In Mughal administration, the division which was called Pargana was known as Subha. The two Mahals together had a meeting with a revenue of one lakh and a half lakhs. The work related to revenue collection, justice, political and administrative arrangements in Subha used to be done from Subha.

### Subheddar

The head of the Subha was called Subheddar. Maharaj used to make their appointments. An intelligent and efficient person working in the office was made Subheddar. Subheddar was responsible for the affairs of Subha. Subheddar was assisted by Mujumdar i.e. Clerk Chitnis. The Subheddar had an infantry force for the maintenance of Subha. There was a constable on it. Subheddar used to do the work of collection of government revenue in Subha by the traditional watani officer in the Mahal and village administration.

The Mahal



Two or more mahals used to join together to form a subha. The officer on the Mahal was called Havaladar. The accounting officer was Mujumdar. They were getting wages from three to five. A market is held in the village of some Mahals and the goods produced in different villages are found in it. The head of the Mahal had to go from village to village to the constable to collect the revenue. Deshmukh, Deshpande, Patil, Kulkarni used to help them.

#### Village administration

The smallest unit of Shiva administration was the gram. The village administration system was functioning in a traditional manner. In the village administration, the citizens of the village were at the center. Agriculture was the source of income for almost all the people in the village. The village was mentioned as Gram or Khede in the documents of the time. The village had some subdivisions. He was given different names. That is, there were small and big villages. The coastal villages were given different names. A settlement where the number of artisans was high was given the name Kasba. A weekly market was held in the town. A large amount of financial turnover took place in the market place. Then it was called pet or market. The administration of the village was run by the residents living in the village. He used to look after the system of the village. The status of these officers was very high. He was the owner of the village land. They used to get more income from the government. Patil, Kulkarni, Deshpande were different from village constables and mujumdars. These were the authorities of a long-standing tradition. He had special importance in village administration. It is as follows

#### Patil

The hereditary officer of the village was Patil. He was the chief officer of the village. It is mentioned in contemporary documents. Patil was associated with village settlement. The post of Patil emerged only when the land was colonized. Planting and growing of crops were the main activities of the Patil. Although the function of determining the village revenue was the responsibility of the king, the collecting officers could not take the final decision of collection without the consent of the Patil. Patil prepared the village income budget every year with the help of Kulkarni. He was conducting all the meetings in the village. He was responsible for creating peace and security in the village. Village Patil is mainly from Maratha community and in such rare places Patils of other communities are found

#### Kulkarni

Kulkarni was known as a secondary official in the village and an assistant to the Patil. In short, Kulkarni used to keep the details of how much land is in the village and how much government tax has been levied on it. The document said that Kulkarni should make efforts for agricultural development. After conquering part of Konkan in 1656, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj appointed Vatandar Kulkarni. Although their rights were similar to those of patil, their remuneration was less. Kulkarni used to play an important role in the book entry work in the village administration

#### Chaugule

Chaugule was another important watandar in Shiva period in village or village administration. It is called Gramini in the state dictionary. Chaugule must have worked as an assistant to Patil in the village works. Chaugule used to help Patil a lot in the work of tax collection. Chaugule's role was also important in the village meeting. This should be the pargana watandari officer and should be related to land survey.

#### Shete - Mahajan

Important officials at the village level include Shete-Mahajan. There were hereditary officials of village markets. Shete and Mahajan used to keep records of transactions where there was a market system. Also, Shete and Mahajan used to do moneylending business in the village. Scales were still his trademark. His name on government documents was preceded by the symbol of scales. Apart from this, they used to participate officially in the village government.

#### Deshmukh and Deshpande

Deshmukh and Deshpande were important in the administration of the pargana like the village administration. Deshmukh was the head of all the patils in the pargana and Deshpande was the head of all the Kulkarnis. Deshmukh used to visit his parish every year to know the condition of the people in the parish. Deshmukh was an important link between the government and the people. Deshmukh used to represent the government and the people. Apart from this, Deshmukh used to help the government whenever needed in a grand occasion. Deshpande and Deshmukh used to do the main work of keeping the organization and checking.

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