

Father of Indian Navy - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

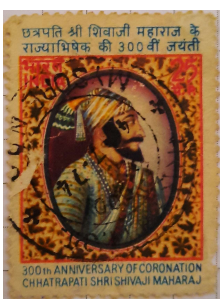
Rohith V Kamath, Bangalore, India – rohithkamath@gmail.com



Chhatrapati Shivaji was the founder of Maratha Kingdom. He was born on 19th Feb 1630 in the famous Shivneri Fort to Jijabai and Shahji Bhonsle. He was born a natural leader & fighter. This year we celebrate his **392nd birthday**. Till date, the day is celebrated as Shiv Jayanti with great rigor and traditional style by Maharashtrians.

Shivaji was not named after Lord Shiva. In fact, he was named after a regional Goddess Shivai. His mother prayed to the goddess for a son and was blessed with one. The god-like stature was given to him for his deeds, and not his name

Shivaji realized the importance of naval force in its early stages and built a powerful navy. He believed that it would help him keep foreign invaders-- Dutch, Portuguese and British-- and pirates at bay. Shivaji Maharaj built naval forts at Jaigarh, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg and many other places and even had four different types of warships. Shivaji carved out an enclave from the declining Adil Shahi sultanate of Bijapur that formed the genesis of the Maratha Empire



On the Auspicious day of 2nd June 1674 Shivaji had his coronation at Raigad. A Commemorative Stamp was released on the Tricentenary of his coronation

Commemorative Stamp released on the 300th Death Anniversary in 1980 shows Shivaji against the background of Raigad fort



Chhatrapati Shivaji was called as the 'Mountain Rat' and was widely known for his guerrilla warfare tactics. He was called so because of his awareness in geography of his land, and guerrilla tactics like raiding, ambushing and surprise attacks on his enemies. He knew the importance of a good army, and with his skills, expanded his father's 2000 soldier army to 10,000 soldiers.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, passed away on 3 April 1680

In 1990 the Mumbai International airport was renamed to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSIA). A set of 2 commemorative stamps were released to mark the completion of 75 years of the Airport on 15th October 2017

