

A SLICE OF MARATHA HISTORY – SETHU MADHAV RAO PAGADI

Prof. Vijay Devidas Wakode

Assistant Professor

Head of History Department

Shri Dnyanesh Mahavidyalaya, Navargaon

Tah. Sindewahi, Dist. Chandrapur

ABSTRACT :

Setu Madhav Rao Pagadi a manuscript digging historian, a polyglot, a prolific writer, and an able administrator was known as much for his research on Kolami and Gond aboriginals as for his magnum opus on Chhatrapati Shivaji. Pagadis works stand testimony on his meticulous and untiring research as evidenced by the wide ranging references to hitherto unexplored Sanskrit, Marathi and Persian Manuscripts, not to speak of English Portuguese and French records. It is not surprising therefore that he could provide the exact dates for most of the momentous event in the Maratha Mughal Conflict. In these two rather bulky volumes the works of the intrepid Marathi scholar representing his four decade long painstaking efforts have been put together efforts have been put together and republished to commemorate his birth centenary. A thoughtful and a befitting tribute indeed.

Shivaji Maharaj Works :

A major part Pagadi's exhaustive study on the life and times of Shivaji Pagadi's fighter who took on the mighty Mughal Empire but as a genius, a bold leader a great organizer and avisionary who sowed the seeds of national unity. When the Mughal Empire was at the peak of its glory Shivaji dared to challenge it and exploited its weaknesses to the hilt ultimately he built a nation out of a people who were scattered and riven by petty feuds.

Phalysing the circumstances in which Shivaji chose to "strike a decisive blow" to the Mughal regime Pagadi notes that the bigoted Aurangzeb reversed the liberal secular policies of his predecessors who had realized that the best way of running the state was to appreciate the plurality of religions and promote better understanding among communities of different faiths.

Mughal and Orthodox Writing Padadi

Aurangzeb took the support of Mullans and Moulvis and declared a 'ceaseless war agains infidels' Pagadi records and goes on the say tha Aurangzeb looked upon the empite as an

Islamic state fashioning his policies to comply with the dictates of orthodox religion Jaziya the tax on Hindus was a Manifestation. It was this total alienation of the natives and the intolerance and fanaticism of the emperor that Shivaji strove to bring to an end sans [agado quoting extensively from a letter Shivaji wrote in Persian to Aurangzeb on Jaziya. The Author's Multilingual Scholarship and command over Persian revealed in his translation of Insha Madhoram, which throws light on the Mughal-Maratja conflict during 1690-1700 the work is composed of letter written by Madhoram Munshi a secretary of sorts to Mughal General Lutfullan Khan fought with Maratha generals Santaji and Dhanaji.

These letters serve as a rich source of material on the conflict the translation wonderfully captures the beauty of the original in its description of the Mughal siege of the Panhala Fort the conquest of the Gond of Devgarh near Nagpur in 1699 and the movement of the Mughal generals.

Freedom Struggle State of Hyderabad :

Pagadi wrote three phases described graphically and with a touch of poignancy the trials and tribulations of the epoch making struggle and in the process shatters. The myth that the Mutinies witnessed in north India had little impact on the south. Till 1857 led notably by Raja Mahipat Ram Mubarzed Dowlah, Moulvi Allauddin and Turrcbaz Khan Among the noteworthy places of such uprising were Aurangabad, udgir, Nizamabad, Raichur and Karimnagar behind some of these rebellions were communities such as Bhils, Hutkers and Marathas.

Concluding :

Sethu Madhav Rao Pagadi was a civil servant a polyglot an accomplished historian and a distinguished man of letters specialized in modern Maratha history, especially the history of Shivaji. He also worked as the secretary of Government of Maharashtra. Sethu Madhavrao wrote Shivaji 's biography in Marathi and English and the theory enkindled the spirit of nationalism in his readers he wrote Masratha mughal relations 1680-1707 studies in Maratha History Vol-2 1971. Mughals Maratha Sangharsh Pagaddis enduring interest in the language of Kolami tribes and tries to establish its close kinship with the Dravidian group of languages it also includes a study of another fascinating tribal the Gonds its social origination customs tradition and history.

References:

1. Deglarkar G. B. Samagra Sethu Madhavrao Pagadi Val-01, Marathi Sahitya Parishad, Hydrabad, 2011
2. Bennett, coleman – The illustrated weekly of India Val-95 Times of India, 1974
3. Jaquir Iqbal (Oct. 2009) Encyclopedic dictionary of Marathi, 2009
4. Deshpande El. (2005) Narhar Kurundkar, Sahitaya Akadaemi, 2003, Pune
5. Pagadi S. M. – Jeevah Setu (Autobiography-1969)
6. Pagadi S. M. – Eighteenth Century Deccan - 1963