

b. Rajaram	ii. Captured and executed by Aurangzeb
c. Mahadji Shinde	iii. Fled to Gingee during Mughal attacks
d. Nana Phadnavis	iv. Organised an anti-British alliance

a) a-iv, b-i, c-iii, d-ii

b) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i

c) a-i, b-ii, c-iv, d-iii

d) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv

15. Match the following:

[1]

Column A	Column B
a. Afzal Khan	i. Strong mountain fortress for Shivaji's coronation
b. Raigad	ii. Mughal general defeated through a night raid
c. Shaista Khan	iii. Bijapur general killed by Shivaji
d. Wāgh nakh	iv. Weapon shaped like a tiger's claw

a) a-i, b-iv, c-ii, d-iii

b) a-iii, b-i, c-ii, d-iv

c) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv

d) a-iv, b-ii, c-iii, d-i

16. Match the following:

[1]

Column A	Column B
a. Marathas	i. Capital of the Yadava dynasty
b. Marathi	ii. Powerful ruler who united the Marathas
c. Devagiri	iii. Language associated with the Marathas
d. Shivaji	iv. Native people of the Deccan plateau

a) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii

b) a-i, b-iv, c-ii, d-iii

c) a-ii, b-i, c-iv, d-iii

d) a-iii, b-ii, c-i, d-iv

17. **Assertion (A):** The Marathas built many forts on hills.

[1]

Reason (R): To showcase a remarkable example of Maratha architecture.

a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

c) A is true but R is false.

d) A is false but R is true.

18. **Assertion (A):** Ahilyabai Holkar built many temples across India.

[1]

Reason (R): She was a devotee to Lord Shiva and wanted to worship him.

a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

c) A is true but R is false.

d) A is false but R is true.

19. **Assertion (A):** The Marathas emerged as a strong contender to the Mughals after Aurangzeb's invasion.

[1]

Reason (R): The Mughals faced strong defense from the Marathas, preventing Aurangzeb from fully conquering the Deccan.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
20. **Assertion (A):** Sant Tukaram is associated with Maharashtra's Maratha culture. **[1]**
Reason (R): Sant Tukaram was one of the popular saints during the bhakti movement in India.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
21. **Assertion (A):** The Yadava dynasty ruled Maharashtra with Devagiri as its capital till the early 14th century. **[1]**
Reason (R): The Yadava dynasty was overcome by the Khilji Sultanate from Delhi.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
22. **Assertion (A):** Shivaji formed the Ashta Pradhana Mandal. **[1]**
Reason (R): It was a group of warriors trained in guerrilla warfare.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
23. **Assertion (A):** Shivaji ordered his officials not to enforceably take resources from the people. **[1]**
Reason (R): Misusing power against the people would ultimately harm the kingdom's sustainability.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
24. Name two Maratha women noted for their significant contributions during the Maratha era. **[1]**
25. What significant societal contribution did saints like Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram make in Maharashtra? **[1]**
26. Identify the key figures who played a significant role in the Marathan defense and expansion after Shivaji's era. **[1]**
27. Which regions did the Marathas briefly control during their northward expansion? **[1]**
28. How did the political landscape in Maharashtra change in the early 14th century? **[1]**
29. State the role of Modi script in Maratha administration during their rule. **[1]**
30. What caused the demise of Maratha power against the British? **[1]**
31. Explain the transformation in the Maratha state structure post-Shivaji's era. **[1]**
32. At what age did Shivaji begin his military campaigns, and how did he consolidate his hold over the Pune region? **[1]**
33. List the primary forces with which the Marathas engaged during their conflicts in the 18th century. **[1]**

34. What role did the event in Agra play in shaping Shivaji's later strategies? [2]
35. Describe the literary contributions of the Marathas from the 12th century onwards. [2]
36. List significant cultural and economic contributions made by Ahilyabai Holkar. [2]
37. Describe how Shivaji's instructions to his officials regarding natural resources reflect a sustainable approach to governance. [2]
38. What were the cultural and political implications of Shivaji's coronation in 1674 at Raigad? [2]
39. What changes occurred in the Maratha polity during their expansion after Shivaji? [2]
40. What were the effects of the Modi script on Maratha correspondence? [2]
41. Describe the role of Tarabai in the Maratha resistance against the Mughals. [2]
42. How did Shivaji's conquest in the South influence the Maratha Kingdom's strategic depth? [2]
43. Why is Shivaji's raid on Shaista Khan considered remarkable? [2]
44. Discuss the strategic importance and outcomes of the Maratha Navy under Shivaji's leadership. [3]
45. What were the two types of cavalry soldiers in the Maratha armies and how were they equipped? [3]
46. Explain the significance of Shivaji's decision to establish a navy and how it contrasted with other regional powers at the time. [3]
47. What strategic elements allowed the Marathas to become a significant force against the Mughal Empire? [3]
48. Describe the role of the Maratha Navy established by Shivaji and assess its influence on the region. [3]
49. What changes occurred in the administrative structure of the Marathas post-Shivaji and how did it affect their political strategies? [3]
50. Discuss the impact of Shivaji's governance and military tactics on subsequent Indian leaders and their strategies. [3]
51. Discuss the significance of Shivaji's strategy and methods in escaping house arrest in Mughal territory and how it exemplifies his tactical brilliance. [3]
52. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]
 The Marathas significantly contributed to India's cultural revival. Shivaji promoted Marathi language, rebuilt temples, and respected diverse religions. Women rulers like Tarabai and Ahilyabai Holkar strengthened Maratha power and restored religious sites. The Thanjavur Marathas, including Serfoji II, patronised arts, music, dance, and medicine, establishing printing presses and recording history. Maratha governance preserved traditions, inspired cultural confidence, resisted Mughal dominance, and laid foundations for a unified Indian identity before British expansion.
- Questions:**
- How did Shivaji contribute to the revival of Marathi language and culture? (1)
 - What were Ahilyabai Holkar's major contributions during her rule? (1)
 - Explain how the Thanjavur Marathas influenced arts, culture, and science. (2)
53. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]
 After Shivaji, his sons Sambhaji and Rajaram led the Marathas. Despite Mughal invasions under Aurangzeb and Sambhaji's execution, the Marathas defended their forts and expanded under Tarabai, Bajirao I, and Nansahab Peshwa. They brought large parts of India under control, though regional chiefs gained autonomy. Under Mahadji Shinde, they recaptured Delhi in 1771.

Internal disunity later enabled the British to defeat the Marathas after three Anglo-Maratha wars, ending their power in India.

Questions:

- a. How did the Marathas respond to Mughal invasions after Shivaji's death? (1)
- b. Who were the key Maratha leaders responsible for pan-Indian expansion after Shivaji? (1)
- c. Explain the role of Mahadji Shinde and Nana Phadnavis in the later Maratha Empire. (2)

54. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]

The Marathas, native to the Deccan plateau in present-day Maharashtra, are identified by the Marathi language, with a literary history since the 12th century. During the 13th–17th centuries, saints like Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Tukaram, and Ramdas promoted bhakti, translating sacred texts into Marathi and inspiring social and political awareness. Early Maratha chiefs attempted sovereignty, but it was Shivaji who united them and established the Marathas as a powerful political force in India.

Questions:

- a. Who were the important saints in Maharashtra that promoted bhakti during the 13th-17th centuries? (1)
- b. How did bhakti movements influence the Marathas' rise as a political power? (1)
- c. Explain the role of Marathi literature and saints in shaping Maratha society. (2)

55. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]

Shivaji, born in 1630 to Shahji and Jijabai, grew up in Pune and received values and education under Jijabai's guidance. He began military campaigns at 16, capturing forts and using guerrilla tactics. Shivaji established a navy, conducted daring raids on Shaista Khan and Surat, and escaped Mughal captivity at Agra. Coronated in 1674 as 'Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati', he expanded south, opposed slave trade, and became a legendary strategist admired across India.

Questions:

- a. How did Shivaji escape from Mughal captivity at Agra? (1)
- b. What was the significance of Shivaji establishing a navy? (1)
- c. Describe Shivaji's military strategies and their impact on the Maratha Empire. (2)

56. **State whether the given statement is True or False:** [5]

- (a) The Marathas are an ethnic group from the Deccan plateau mainly associated with the modern Indian state of Maharashtra. [1]
- (b) Shivaji rebuilt many traditional arts institutions, focusing only on Hindi literature. [1]
- (c) The Marathas are primarily identified with their native language, Marathi, which has an unbroken literary history since the 12th century. [1]
- (d) The guerrilla warfare resembles the modern-day surgical strike. [1]
- (e) Guerrilla warfare tactics were effectively used by Shivaji's forces against Bijapur's general, Afzal Khan. [1]

57. **Fill in the blanks:** [5]

- (a) The Marathas are native to the _____ plateau, mainly present-day Maharashtra. [1]
- (b) Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt the _____ temple in Varanasi and the Somnath temple in Gujarat. [1]
- (c) The Maratha navy was established to protect the _____ coast. [1]

(d) Tarabai was the wife of _____. [1]

(e) Shivaji's formal title after coronation was _____. [1]

58. Describe the impact of Peshwa Bajirao I's leadership on the expansion and consolidation of the Maratha Empire. [5]

59. Identify the primary social and religious transformations associated with the bhakti movement within Maharashtra and its effects on the Maratha identity. [5]

60. What were the consequences of the Maratha expansion on their internal governance and relationship with regional chiefs? [5]

61. Explain the role of Maratha saints in translating sacred texts and their impact on the spread of Maratha cultural influence. [5]

62. Explain how the Modī script was utilized by the Marathas and the impact on their communication. [5]

63. Discuss the historical significance of Shivaji's contribution to the unification and rise of the Marathas. [5]

64. I. Two places A and B have been marked on the given outline map of India. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them. [5]

A. The mountain fort where Shivaji defeated Afzal Khan using guerrilla tactics.

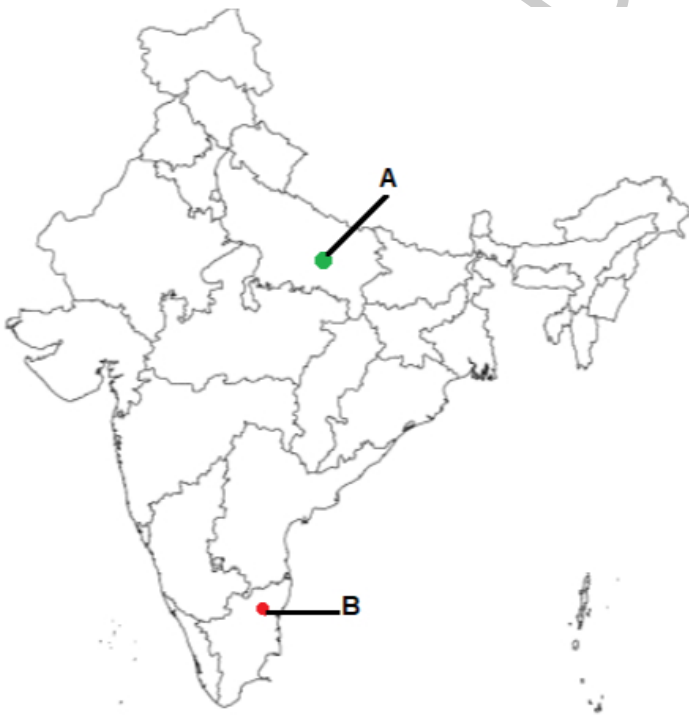
B. The southern fort city in present-day Tamil Nadu where Rajaram took refuge during the Mughal-Maratha war.

II. On the same outline map of India, locate and label the following with suitable symbols:

i. Raigad (Capital of the Maratha Empire where Shivaji was coronated)

ii. Pune (Shivaji's early jagir and administrative centre)

iii. Surat (Port city sacked twice by Shivaji)



65. I. Two places A and B have been marked on the given outline map of India. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them. [5]

A. The northern region briefly controlled by the Marathas under Mahadji Shinde.

B. The coastal fort built by Shivaji to strengthen the Maratha Navy.

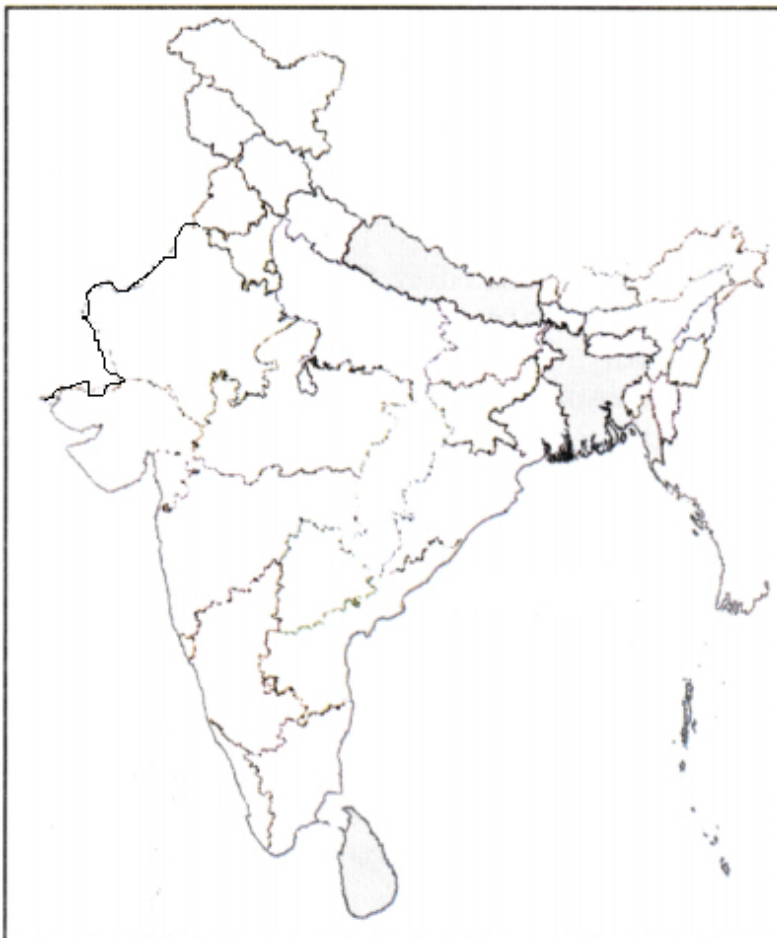
II. On the same outline map of India, locate and label the following with suitable symbols:

- i. Surat (Port city sacked twice by Shivaji)
- ii. Thanjavur (Region conquered by Ekoji Bhonsle, known for Maratha cultural contributions)
- iii. Indore (Capital ruled by Ahilyabai Holkar)



66. Shade the regions that were part of Shivaji's empire in Western India.

[5]

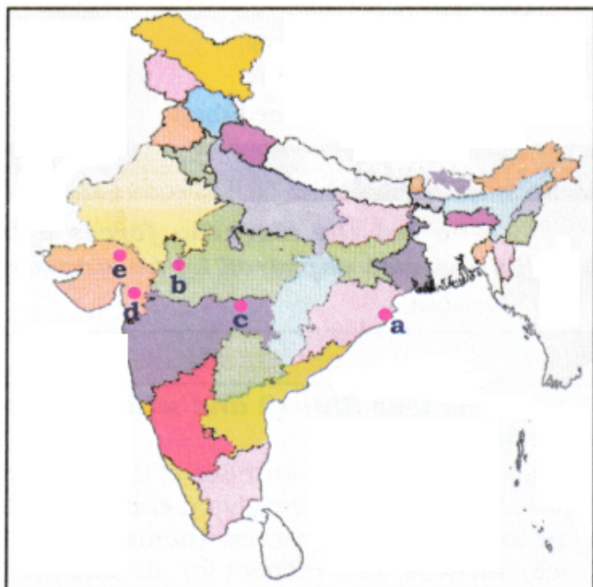


67. On the given outline political map of India, locate the cities that were under the rule of the

[5]

Marathas and their allies.

- Nagpur
- Ahmedabad
- Surat
- Indore
- Cuttack



USP

Solution
THE RISE OF THE MARATHAS
Class 08 - Social Science (Exploring Society)

1.
(d) Wāgh nakh
Explanation:
Shivaji used the wāgh nakh, a claw-like weapon, to defeat Afzal Khan.

2.
(d) Serfoji II
Explanation:
Serfoji II was instrumental in nurturing the cultural scene in Thanjavur.

3.
(c) By conquering Bijapur and Golconda Sultanates
Explanation:
Aurangzeb invaded the Deccan and conquered both Bijapur and Golconda to attempt control.

4. **(a) Saffron**
Explanation:
Shivaji's flag was saffron-colored, adopted by all Marathas.

5.
(d) Navy
Explanation:
The British had a strong navy, which helped them control sea trade and coastal areas in India. The Marathas challenged British expansion, but the British naval strength gave them a major advantage.

6. **(a) They promoted spiritual and cultural upliftment through bhakti.**
Explanation:
Saints focused on bhakti and composed devotional songs.

7.
(b) Shivaji
Explanation:
The founder of the Maratha Empire was Shivaji. He established an independent Maratha state in the 17th century, built a strong army, and used guerrilla warfare to challenge Mughal rule.

8.
(b) Jijabai
Explanation:
Jijabai was Shivaji's mother.

9.
(b) 1630
Explanation:
Shivaji was born in 1630.

10.
(c) Internal disunity
Explanation:

The main reason behind the decline of the Maratha Empire was internal disunity. Conflicts among Maratha leaders and lack of unity weakened the empire, making it easier for the British to expand their control.

11. (a) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv

Explanation:

- Bārgīrs were cavalry soldiers whose horses and equipment were provided by the state → ii
- Kanhoji Angre was the famous Maratha naval commander → iii
- Panchāyat acted as a local judicial body → i
- Chauth was the tax levied on provinces outside direct Maratha administration → iv

12.

(b) A-(iv), B-(i), C-(v), D-(ii), E-(iii)

Explanation:

Column A	Column B
A. Shivaji	(iv) Used Wagh nakh
B. Surat	(i) Attacked by Shivaji
C. Gingee	(v) Rajaram fled here
D. Serfoji	(ii) Printing press and hospitals
E. Ahilyabai Holkar	(iii) Maratha queen of Malwa

13.

(c) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv

Explanation:

- Rājya-Vyavahāra-Koṣha promoted Marathi and Sanskrit terminology in administration → ii
- Tarabai led and planned the northward Maratha expansion → iii
- Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt the Kashi Vishwanath temple → i
- Serfoji II established the Dhanwantari Mahal medical centre → iv

14.

(d) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv

Explanation:

- Sambhaji was captured and executed by Aurangzeb → ii
- Rajaram fled to Gingee during the Mughal-Maratha conflict → iii
- Mahadji Shinde recaptured Delhi in 1771 → i
- Nana Phadnavis organised a pan-Indian anti-British alliance → iv

15.

(b) a-iii, b-i, c-ii, d-iv

Explanation:

- Afzal Khan was the Bijapur general killed by Shivaji → iii
- Raigad was the site of Shivaji's coronation → i
- Shaista Khan was defeated in Shivaji's daring night raid → ii
- Wāgh nakh was the tiger-claw-shaped weapon used by Shivaji → iv

16. (a) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii

Explanation:

- Marathas are native to the Deccan plateau → iv
- Marathi is the language associated with the Marathas → iii
- Devagiri was the capital of the Yadava dynasty → i

- Shivaji united the Marathas into a political power → ii

17. **(c)** A is true but R is false.
Explanation:
To guard their territory from external invasions, the Marathas erected numerous forts on hilltops. These forts enabled them to monitor enemy movements, plan their next actions strategically, and use secret attack (Guerrilla warfare) tactics in wartime. During assaults, the Marathas relied on these forts for shelter and protection.
18. **(b)** Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
Explanation:
Ahilyabai Holkar erected numerous temples throughout India and carried out widespread restorations, motivated by her aim to protect the roots of Hindu Dharma from the Mughal invaders.
19. **(a)** Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Explanation:
The Marathas' competent defense played a crucial role in their emergence as a contender.
20. **(b)** Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
Explanation:
Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
21. **(a)** Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Explanation:
The takeover by the Khilji Sultanate marked the end of Yadava rule.
22. **(c)** A is true but R is false.
Explanation:
The Ashta Pradhana Mandal was a council established by Shivaji. It comprised eight ministers, each charged with specific responsibilities, who aided the Maratha rulers in setting up an effective administrative system and in handling public affairs efficiently and impartially.
23. **(a)** Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Explanation:
Shivaji valued the wellbeing of his subjects and long-term sustainability.
24. Two notable Maratha women are Tarabai and Ahilyabai Holkar. Tarabai was known for her military strategies and expansions, while Ahilyabai was celebrated for her contributions to architecture and governance.
25. Saints like Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram translated important texts such as the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gītā into Marathi. This made religious philosophies more accessible, contributing significantly to cultural awareness and social organization within the Maharashtra region.
26. Sambhaji, Rajaram, Tarabai, Peshwa Bajirao I, Nansahab Peshwa, Peshwa Madhavrao I, Mahadji Shinde, and Nana Phadnavis were key figures in defending and expanding the Maratha empire post-Shivaji.
27. During their northward expansion, the Marathas briefly controlled territories including Lahore, Attock, and Peshawar, which are now part of modern-day Pakistan.
28. In the early 14th century, the political landscape in Maharashtra changed when the Yadava dynasty, which ruled most of Maharashtra, was overtaken by the Khilji Sultanate from Delhi, affecting regional governance and power dynamics.
29. The Modi script served as the primary script for correspondence within the Maratha administration, facilitating effective communication and documentation through its cursive form of the Devanagari

- script.
30. The demise of Maratha power was caused by their increased internal disunity and the superior organizational and technological abilities of the British, leading to their eventual defeat in the Anglo-Maratha wars.
 31. After Shivaji, the Maratha empire transformed from a centralized state to a more decentralized structure. While the Chhatrapati remained the nominal head, regional chiefs wielded increased power, notably the Peshwa, who became influential in state affairs.
 32. Shivaji launched his military campaigns at the age of 16 by capturing neglected and unoccupied forts in the Pune region and strengthening their defenses.
 33. The Marathas engaged with the Mughal Empire, the British, the Afghans, and regional rulers like Hyder Ali of Mysore and the Nizam of Hyderabad during their conflicts in the 18th century.
 34. The incident at Agra, where Shivaji devised an ingenious escape from house arrest, demonstrated his resourcefulness and strategic thinking. The event highlighted the importance of agility, adaptability, and subterfuge in navigating adversities. Lessons from this experience likely informed Shivaji's later military campaigns, diplomatic maneuvers, and tactics, reinforcing his reputation as a master strategist.
 35. The Marathas have had a rich literary tradition in the Marathi language since the 12th century. This tradition includes translating important texts, such as the Upaniṣhads and the Bhagavad Gītā, into Marathi, enabling the dissemination of significant philosophical and spiritual ideas across the region.
 36. Ahilyabai Holkar made noteworthy cultural contributions by rebuilding the Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath temples and promoting traditional handloom crafts through the Maheshwar weaving industry. Economically, her governance stabilised central India, creating a prosperous environment that supported cultural pursuits and infrastructure development, enhancing socio-economic conditions and cultural preservation in her territory.
 37. Shivaji's directives to preserve trees, like mangoes and jackfruit, from being cut exemplify his forward-thinking stance on sustainability. Recognizing the economic and personal value communities attached to such resources, he advocated for their conservation, highlighting their irreplaceable nature and multifaceted utility. His approach integrated environmental stewardship into governance, emphasizing responsible use and foreseeing the long-term benefits of a balanced human-nature relationship on the kingdom's sustainability.
 38. Shivaji's coronation as 'Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati' in 1674, conducted with full Vedic rites, signified the formal establishment of his sovereignty. Politically, it marked the Maratha Kingdom's independence. Culturally, initiating the Rājyābhiṣheka shaka era reinforced Shivaji's status as a significant Hindu ruler, fostering a distinct Maratha identity and inspiring others to resist Mughal domination.
 39. During the expansion after Shivaji, the Maratha polity transitioned from a centralized structure to a more decentralized system. Though the Chhatrapati remained the nominal head, actual power was increasingly wielded by powerful chiefs and the Peshwa. This change allowed them to conquer vast territories but also led to issues like internal disunity and indiscipline.
 40. The Modi script, a cursive form of Devanagari, facilitated concise and efficient correspondence among the Marathas. It streamlined communications within the administration, aiding in the effective governance of vast territories. Its use underscored the Maratha aim to enhance indigenous language growth and technical proficiency, facilitating clearer, consistent intra-regional communication.
 41. Tarabai was instrumental in the Maratha resistance following Aurangzeb's invasions. As Rajaram's queen, she took command after her husband's death and led large-scale military expeditions against the Mughals. Her leadership allowed the Marathas to make significant inroads into Mughal territories, cementing their status as a significant power in India.
 42. By extending his conquests to the South, incorporating regions like northern Tamil Nadu and parts of Karnataka, Shivaji's expansions were strategic. This southern expansion not only increased territory but also provided a buffer zone, enhancing the Marathas' ability to withstand invasions. It also allowed Shivaji to impact trade networks and challenge European colonial activities.
 43. In 1663, Shivaji led a daring night raid on Mughal general Shaista Khan's camp in Pune with a small force. He attacked Khan, injuring him and forcing him to flee. This bold guerrilla strike stunned the Mughals, boosted Maratha morale, and cemented Shivaji's fame as a skilled and fearless leader.

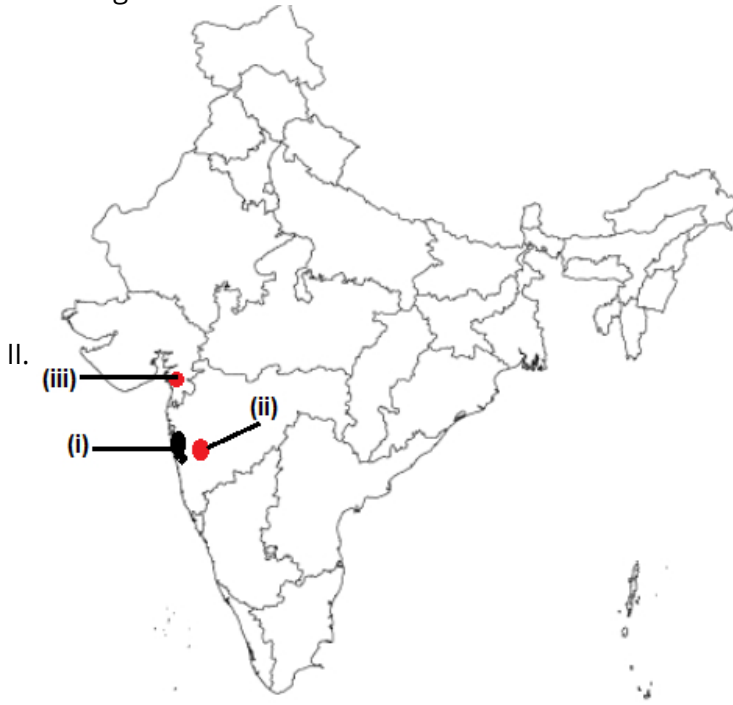
44. Under Shivaji's rule, setting up a strong navy was a bold and new step for the Marathas. Unlike the Mughals and Bijapur rulers, who had weak naval forces, Shivaji built a powerful fleet to protect the western coastline. His navy controlled sea trade routes, which increased the kingdom's wealth and resources. This also helped safeguard freedom from foreign threats. By expanding power on both land and sea, Shivaji proved his smart leadership and became one of India's strongest rulers.
45. In the Maratha army, cavalry soldiers were divided into two groups: **bārgīrs** and **shiledārs**. The bārgīrs were soldiers whose horses and weapons were given by the state, which kept the army well-organized and uniform. On the other hand, the shiledārs brought their own horses and equipment, showing independence and personal effort. This system gave the Marathas both state-supported soldiers and those with individual contributions. Together, it made their cavalry strong, flexible, and effective in many battles and campaigns against powerful enemies.
46. Shivaji's decision to build a navy was a groundbreaking step that strengthened the Maratha kingdom. It gave access to coastal resources and provided strong defense against sea threats. Unlike the Bijapur Sultanate, which only had merchant ships, Shivaji's navy was built for protection and control of the coastline. Even the Mughals lacked such naval power, making his move unique. His foresight in naval warfare ensured maritime security, expanded territorial control, and showed that his vision of sovereignty went beyond land battles.
47. The Marathas rose as a strong force against the Mughals through smart strategies. They used guerrilla warfare, taking advantage of the hills and rugged land for surprise attacks and defense. Leaders like Tarabai, Bajirao I, and Rajaram showed great skill in planning battles and handling diplomacy. Their flexible system of governance allowed better military organization and regional control. Strong networks and alliances also gave them more support and resources. These factors together helped the Marathas successfully challenge the Mughal Empire.
48. Shivaji's establishment of the Maratha Navy was a groundbreaking step that set him apart from regional powers like Bijapur and the Mughals. His navy not only defended the coast but also safeguarded trade, boosted economic resources, and controlled vital maritime routes. This shifted regional power dynamics, enabling the Marathas to challenge stronger authorities and protect their territories from sea-based threats. The navy's exploits strengthened Maratha influence along India's west coast, proving Shivaji's foresight in linking maritime security with prosperity and territorial expansion.
49. After Shivaji, the Marathas changed from a centralized rule to a more decentralized system. The Chhatrapati, or king, became more symbolic, while the Peshwa, the prime minister, gained real power. Regional chiefs also became stronger, which gave them flexibility and helped in expanding territory and running military campaigns. However, this freedom sometimes caused problems like indiscipline and misuse of power. These issues were very different from Shivaji's fair rule and created challenges in keeping unity and proper governance within the Maratha Empire.
50. Shivaji's governance and military strategies greatly inspired later Indian leaders. His guerrilla tactics, based on speed, surprise, and knowledge of terrain, became a model for adaptive warfare. Leaders like Bundela prince Chhatrasal used similar methods to resist the Mughals and establish independence. Shivaji also showed cultural respect in governance, promoting harmony among communities. His vision of balancing power with people's welfare made him a role model for future rulers and revolutionaries. His timeless leadership left a lasting impact on India's socio-political history.
51. Shivaji's escape from house arrest at the Mughal court demonstrated his tact and sharp strategic thinking. Exploiting the complacency of Aurangzeb's guards, he crafted a secret plan using baskets of fruits and religious gifts, gradually lowering suspicion. When vigilance weakened, he and his son slipped away unnoticed. This daring act not only highlighted his foresight and courage but also exposed the Mughal misjudgment of his abilities. By regaining his freedom, Shivaji secured his authority and delayed Mughal retaliation against his empire.
52. a. Shivaji commissioned the Rājya-VyavahāraKoṣha, giving Sanskrit equivalents for Persian words, reducing foreign loanwords in diplomacy. He promoted Marathi literature, rebuilt temples, and encouraged religious and traditional arts, strengthening local culture and identity.
- b. Ahilyabai Holkar governed wisely, cared for her people, rebuilt temples like Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath, constructed wells, ghats, and roads, and promoted traditional crafts like Maheshwar weaving, preserving culture across India.

- c. The Thanjavur Marathas, especially Serfoji II, patronised arts, music, and dance, wrote literary works, established Dhanwantari Mahal for medicine, and started a printing press. They recorded history on temple walls, promoted multilingual culture, and fostered innovation, blending local Tamil, Telugu, and Marathi traditions to create a rich, syncretic cultural environment.
53. a. After Shivaji's death, Sambhaji and Rajaram defended Maratha forts and resisted Aurangzeb's invasions. Even when Rajaram fled to Gingee, Marathas continued guerrilla warfare, maintaining their independence and eventually expanding into Mughal territories under Tarabai and later Peshwas.
 b. Key leaders included Tarabai, Bajirao I, and Nana Saheb Peshwa. Under their leadership, the Marathas expanded across India, bringing large territories under control and strengthening the political influence of the Peshwa in the decentralised Maratha state.
 c. Mahadji Shinde recaptured Delhi in 1771, strengthening Maratha control in northern India. Nana Phadnavis, a powerful official under the Peshwas, organised the first pan-Indian anti-British alliance, uniting former rivals like Hyder Ali and the Nizam of Hyderabad. Their efforts delayed British dominance and maintained Maratha power during the 18th century.
54. a. Saints like Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Tukaram, and Ramdas promoted bhakti, composing devotional songs, translating sacred texts like the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gītā into Marathi, and inspiring spiritual, social, and political awareness among the masses.
 b. Bhakti movements provided a solid cultural foundation through devotional literature, translation of sacred texts, and social-political awareness. This unity and awareness later helped Maratha chiefs, especially Shivaji, to organise the community into a strong political force.
 c. Marathi literature and saints played a key role in uniting Maratha society. Saints like Tukaram and Ramdas translated sacred texts, composed devotional poetry, and promoted bhakti. Their teachings encouraged spiritual upliftment, social awareness, and political consciousness, creating a cultural foundation that helped the Marathas consolidate power and resist external rulers.
55. a. Shivaji escaped by hiding himself and his son Sambhaji in large baskets of gifts for holy men and Mughal generals. Guards stopped checking the baskets, allowing them to slip out undetected.
 b. Establishing a navy allowed Shivaji to secure coastal regions, protect his people, control trade routes, and assert Maratha power. It was revolutionary as other contemporary powers had limited naval forces.
 c. Shivaji used guerrilla warfare, exploiting knowledge of terrain, speed, and surprise to defeat larger armies. He captured forts, raided enemy camps, and avoided attacking religious sites. His strategies secured his kingdom, expanded Maratha power southwards, and enabled him to escape Mughal captivity, laying the foundation of a strong, independent Maratha Empire.
56. State whether the given statement is True or False:
- (a) **(a)** True
Explanation:
 True
- (b) **(b)** False
Explanation:
 False
- (c) **(a)** True
Explanation:
 True
- (d) **(a)** True
Explanation:
 Guerrilla warfare consists of clandestine attacks comparable to modern surgical strikes.
- (e) **(b)** True
Explanation:
 Shivaji's guerrilla tactics were pivotal during his confrontation with Afzal Khan.
57. Fill in the blanks:
 (a) Deccan

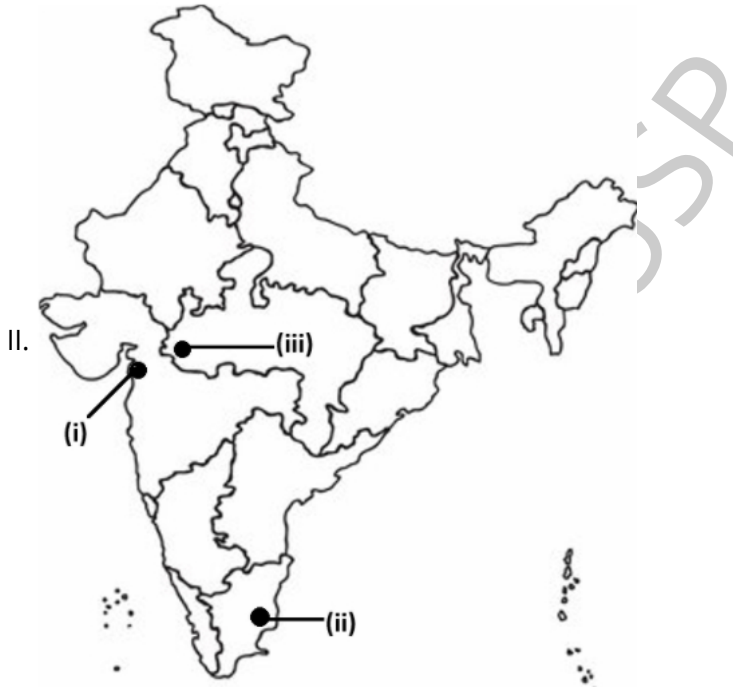
- (b) Kashi Vishwanath
- (c) west
- (d) Rajaram
- (e) Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati

58. Peshwa Bajirao I's tenure marked a transformative era for the Maratha Empire. Known for his strategic acumen, Bajirao I leveraged military prowess to expand and consolidate Maratha dominance across substantial Indian territories. His campaigns extended Maratha influence into Malwa, Gujarat, and the North, significantly destabilizing Mughal grip over these regions. Bajirao's strategic use of cavalry for rapid deployments allowed effective military engagements, capturing key forts and cities. His policies favored a decentralized governance model, empowering regional chiefs and facilitating rapid adaptability across disparate regions. Yet, his legacy remained intertwined with not just territorial gains but the consolidation of Maratha national identity, providing a formidable challenge to contemporary imperial powers.
59. The bhakti movement marked significant religious and social transformations within Maharashtra. By prioritizing devotion and personal connection with the divine over traditional rituals, saints like Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, and Tukaram revolutionized spiritual practice. These transformations democratized access to religious content by employing the vernacular, Marathi, for dissemination. The saints' compositions infused new cultural vigor into society, nurturing a sense of shared identity. Their influence extended to social organization and political consciousness, prelude to the emergence of the Marathas as a unified socio-political force. Consequently, the bhakti movement's impacts were instrumental in crafting a solidified Maratha identity and shaping their evolution into a dominant political entity.
60. As the Marathas expanded into many parts of India, their style of rule also changed. In the beginning, the Chhatrapati (king) had strong central control. But as the empire grew, power shifted to local chiefs and the Peshwas. These chiefs were given more freedom to manage new lands, which helped in quick expansion and local administration. However, this also led to problems like misuse of power and lack of discipline. Slowly, the central authority became weaker, and unity in the empire declined. This internal weakness made it difficult for the Marathas to face strong enemies like the British.
61. Maratha saints played a very important role in preserving and spreading Indian culture. Saints like Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram translated sacred texts such as the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Upanishads* into Marathi. This made spiritual knowledge easier for common people to understand, instead of being limited to scholars. Their teachings spread ideas of devotion, equality, and moral living among all sections of society. By using Marathi, they also enriched and strengthened the language. This cultural unity helped inspire the Marathas to grow stronger as a community and later as a political power, leaving a lasting influence on Indian society.
62. The Moḍī script, a cursive derivative of the Devanagari script, was extensively employed by the Marathas for official and commercial correspondence. Its adoption streamlined administrative communication due to its simplicity and speed of writing, making it exceptionally suitable for documentation amidst the hustle of governance. This script enabled efficient record-keeping and facilitated streamlined communication, impacting the dynamism of the Maratha administration. Beyond functional utility, using Moḍī symbolized a cultural renaissance, asserting Marathi linguistic identity against the Persian hegemony in contemporary bureaucracies. It reinforced a distinct cultural identity pivotal to the cohesion and operation across the vast Maratha territories, leaving an enduring legacy in Marathi cultural heritage.
63. Shivaji Maharaj's contribution to the Marathas holds monumental historical significance. Before Shivaji's rise, scattered Maratha chiefs made unsuccessful attempts at sovereignty. Shivaji, however, demonstrated exceptional leadership in rallying the Marathas into a cohesive political force. Through innovative military strategies, administrative reforms, and fostering a unified cultural identity, he orchestrated a powerful state that asserted its sovereignty amidst pervasive Mughal influence. Significantly, Shivaji's efforts emancipated the Marathas from scattered regionalism, inspiring national sentiment and a cohesive socio-political order. His governance laid a framework for subsequent expansion under his successors, establishing a notable chapter in Indian history and earning Shivaji an enduring legacy.

64. I. A. Pratapgarh Fort
B. Gingee Fort



65. I. A. Delhi region
B. Sindhudurg Fort



66.

