

# SHIVAJI – FOUNDER OF INDIAN NAVY

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is also known as Shivaji or Shivaji Raje Bhosle. He was born on February 19, 1630, in Shivneri Durg, Pune, to Jijabai and Shahji Bhonsle. His father Shahaji Raje Bhosale was a high official in the court of Bijapur. At an early age, Shivaji was trained for war. Shivaji was a great warrior and strategist of India. In 1674, he laid the foundation of the Maratha Empire in Western India. He is also known as the Father of Indian Navy.

Shivaji demonstrated great skill in creating his military organisation. He built a strong naval presence across the coast of Konkan and Goa to protect sea trade. The navy under Shivaji was so strong that the Marathas could hold their own against the British, Portuguese and Dutch. Shivaji realised the importance of having a secure coastline and protecting the western Konkan coastline from the attacks of Siddi's fleet. His strategy was to build a strong navy to protect and bolster his kingdom. Shivaji built ships in towns such as Kalyan, Bhivandi, and Goa for building fighting navy as well as trade. He also built a number of sea forts and bases for repair, storage and shelter. Shivaji fought many lengthy battles with Siddis of Janjira on coastline. The fleet grew to reportedly 160 to 700 merchant, support and fighting vessels. He started trading with foreigners on his own after possession of eight or nine ports in the Deccan.

Kanhoji Angre became Maharaj's support it is known that Kanhoji Angre with the help of a Portuguese craftsman who built ship learned the technique of building ship and laid the foundation for the mightiest navy of medieval India even an Indian Naval Ship being named after him

India still fights its battles largely depending on the navy and thus practices the lessons we have learned from the great Maratha ruler. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, thus, still lives and will continue to live in the soul of India because he was not only a ruler but was also an idea. And ideas never die.