Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Why in News?

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated annually on February 19 to mark the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

- Chhatrapati Shivaji was the ***founder of the Maratha Empire.***
- **Born on -** February 19, 1630, in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Parents -** Shahaji Bhonsle and Jijabai.
- **Teachers -** Dadoji Kondadev and Jijabai.
- He is a great military administrator and tactician, fought and won several wars against the Mughals.
- He was crowned as the ***"Chhatrapati (Emperor)" in 1674*** at Raigad Fort.
- He established Hindavi Swarajya, declaring independence from Mughal and Deccan Sultanates.
- He developed ***Guerrilla Warfare tactics.***
- He established a robust naval force, recognizing the importance of naval supremacy in safeguarding the coastlines.
- His administrative reforms included the creation of a disciplined military structure, the introduction of revenue reforms, and the promotion of trade.
- He also emphasized religious tolerance and supported a diverse society, ensuring justice for all his subjects.
- He introduced ***Ashta Pradhan Mandal***, a Council of 8 Ministers for governance.
- Established revenue policies such as ***Kathi & Chauth system*** to ensure stable economy.
- Shivaji was in constant conflict with the Mughal Empire and other neighboring states.
- His escape from Agra in 1666 after being imprisoned by Aurangzeb showcased his ingenuity and determination. This daring escape solidified his reputation as a cunning and resilient leader.
- Shivaji Maharaj passed away on April 3, 1680, at Raigad Fort.

Reference

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