



AISSMS
ALL INDIA SHRI SHIVAJI MEMORIAL SOCIETY
PREMIER HERITAGE GROUP OF INSTITUTES



Breaking Barriers:

CHHATRAPATI SHAHU MAHARAJ

and His Enduring Impact on
Progress and Modernity



Time has witnessed numerous revolutions and revolutionary figures that have brought about significant changes in the world. Maharashtra, in the nineteenth century, experienced one such revolution that led to the radical transformation of society. At the forefront of this transformation was Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of the princely state of Kolhapur, who emerged as one of the most significant and influential social reformers of his time. His contributions towards the progress and development of his kingdom and the country as a whole were unparalleled, making him a revered figure even today.

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj was a true visionary leader who recognized the unjust caste system that plagued India during pre-British rule. To combat this, he made primary education free and compulsory, breaking down the barriers that confined the oppressed, backward, and farmer classes.

But his vision extended beyond education. He empathized with the struggles of farmers during the drought of 1902 and implemented the "Mass Irrigation Policy" to provide irrigation funds to villages in need. The construction of the Radhanagari Dam was also initiated, ultimately making Kolhapur self-sufficient in water.

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's contribution to women's empowerment is yet another shining example of his visionary leadership. He recognized the plight of women living in the shadows of social, economic, and political oppression and took decisive action to break the shackles that bound them. Through his initiatives, he ensured that women had access to education, which was a critical step in enabling them to gain independence and self-reliance. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's progressive measures not only empowered women but also ensured the protection of their fundamental rights and dignity, setting a remarkable example of visionary leadership.

For his numerous selfless efforts for the upliftment of his subjects, he was awarded the honorary LLD degree from Cambridge University. He was also honored with the titles of Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India (G.C.S.I.) from Queen Victoria, Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (G.C.V.O.) from the Duke of Connaught, and Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (G.C.I.E.) from the Imperial Darbar. He also received the King Edward Coronation Medal in 1902.

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's legacy lives on through the All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society, which he founded in 1917. Today, the AISSMS Society provides education KG to PG through its wide array of educational institutions AISSM Society's College of Engineering, College of H.M.C.T, College of Pharmacy, Institute of Information Technology, Institute of Management, College of Business Administration (CBA), Polytechnic, Private Industrial Training Institute, Shri Shivaji Preparatory Military School, Shri Shivaji Preparatory Military Primary Boarding School, Shri Shivaji Preparatory Military Day School & Junior College, and Shri Shivaji Preparatory Military Nursery School. AISSMS takes pride in providing an integrated education that caters to an individual's educational, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Society's comprehensive approach reflects its pursuit to balance the essentials of the industry along with progression in studious learning. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's unwavering commitment to social justice and equality continues to inspire us, and we strive to build a more just and equitable society, following in his footsteps.

Today, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj's legacy lives on, and his contributions continue to inspire generations of Indians. His life and work serve as a reminder of the importance of progressive thinking, social justice, and the power of education. He was a true visionary who saw beyond the constraints of his time and worked towards building a better future for all.

