BHIC-112 HISTORY OF INDIA-VII
(*c.* 1605-1750)
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

Course code: BHIC-112
Assignment Code: BHIC-112/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1	Critically examine the rise of Maratha power	20
2	Discuss the salient features of inland trade under the Mughals	20

Assignment - II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3	Examine Mughal-Rajput relations with special reference to the reign of Akbar.	10
4	Discuss the growth of Vaishnava Bhakti during sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.	10
5	Write a note on the architectural projects during Jahangir's time.	10

Assignment - III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6	Women in the Mughal Court	6
7	Robes and attires (during sixteenth and seventeenth centuries)	6
8	Jagirdari Crisis	6
9	Pahari paintings-Punjab Hills	6
10	Persian and Vernaculars	6

1 Critically examine the rise of Maratha power (20)

Answer

The emergence of the Marathas as a major political force was one of the most important developments in seventeenth-century India. Under Shivaji, scattered warrior groups and local chiefs came together to build a regional kingdom. In the eighteenth century, Maratha influence spread far beyond Maharashtra. This rise was neither the work of one heroic leader alone nor merely the result of Mughal decline. It involved geography, agrarian society, military organization, leadership and changing relations with neighbouring states.

Social and geographical background

Much of the western Deccan consisted of hills, forts, narrow passes and difficult routes. The Western Ghats provided natural protection and opportunities for sudden attacks. The region also contained a large number of hereditary village officials, deshmukhs, local chiefs and armed retainers. Cultivators, artisans and trading communities supplied men, revenue and resources. Marathi-speaking people shared certain cultural links, but they were not a politically unified community before Shivaji. The spread of devotional traditions associated with figures such as Tukaram and Ramdas contributed to the social atmosphere; it would be too simple, however, to treat Bhakti as the direct cause of a modern nationalist movement.

During the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, many Maratha families served the Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and other Deccan sultanates. They gained experience in cavalry warfare, revenue collection and administration. Shivaji's father Shahji held important positions under these regimes. Competition between Bijapur, the Mughals and regional chiefs created room for a new power to grow. Thus Maratha state-building developed partly within, and partly against, existing Deccan political institutions.

Shivaji's leadership and methods

Shivaji began consolidating control around Pune and the Maval region in the 1640s. His capture and occupation of forts gave him secure bases for troops and supplies. The encounter with Afzal Khan in 1659, the attack on Shaista Khan's camp in 1663 and the raid on Surat in 1664 demonstrated his ability to combine military surprise with political calculation. The Treaty of Purandar in 1665 and his escape from Agra in 1666 also show that his relationship with the Mughal Empire involved negotiation as well as confrontation. In 1674 he was formally crowned at Raigad, strengthening his claim to independent kingship.