

Shivaji Maharaj

Going ahead with our stories on some acts of bravery of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the great Maratha King... At the age of 17, Shivaji captured the Torna fort; but it was the battle of Pratapgad which is most famous in Maratha history...

Afzal Khan, the Mughal commander was sent to defeat Shivaji. Shivaji knew that the giant-sized Afzal Khan was dangerous but still he agreed to meet him at the foothills of the Pratapgad fort. Afzal Khan plotted to kill Shivaji during this meeting. Though it was decided that both of them will have no weapons, Afzal Khan hid a dagger and Shivaji wore the chilkhat (chain-mail armor) under his clothes. Even Shivaji hid a dagger and wore the wagh nakh (tiger claws) in his hands.

Shivaji entered the tent where Afzal Khan was waiting. "Shivaji" so saying Afzal Khan embraced Shivaji. He then gripped Shivaji's neck under his left arm and struck him in the back with a dagger. Immediately Shivaji cut open Afzal Khan's stomach with his tiger claws and the dagger. As Afzal Khan was bleeding to his death, Shivaji's brave army fought the Mughal soldiers to save Pratapgad.



Political Guru

Ramdas Swami was the spiritual and political guru of Shivaji Maharaj, guiding him towards achieving his goals. The birth name of Samarth Ramdas Swami was Narayan Suryaji Thosar. He was born on the day of Ram Navmi. An ardent devotee of Lord Rama and Hanuman, he was well built and very intelligent.

Ramdas Swami believed a healthy mind and a healthy body are essential for a good life. He preached the need to do Surya Namaskar on a daily basis. His books like 'Dasbodh' and 'Manashe Shlok' are well-known across the world.



The Mysore Palace

The Mysore Palace in Karnataka is popularly known as the Maharaja's Palace. One of the largest palaces in India, it is also known as Amba Vilas and was home to the Wodeyar Maharajas.

The Palace is a three-storied structure with a length of 245 feet and breadth of 156 feet. The Mysore Palace comprises a line of arched square towers enclosed by domes. The original palace of Mysore was carved out of wood which was accidentally burnt in 1897. It was then rebuilt by the 24th Wodeyar Raja in 1912.

ANSWER IN ONE WORD

1. The first fort captured by Shivaji _____.
2. The Mughal commander who was killed in the battle of Pratapgad _____.
3. The form of exercise Ramdas Swami believed in _____.
4. The rulers who lived in the Mysore Palace _____.
5. Another name for Mysore Palace _____.