



GRANTS AND CHARTERS RECEIVED BY MORYA GOSAVI-A HISTORICAL STUDY**Supriya Sudhir Belsare****M.Phil Student , Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth,Pune.
Nehru Institute of Social Science.****Morya Gosavi**

Morya Gosavi was ardent devotee of Lord Ganesha.His father Waman Bhatji Shaligram came from Karnataka to Morgaon and was engaged in ardent penance of Ganesha. (1) Waman Bhatji and his wife Parvatibai were not having child for long time, but after penance they got baby boy in form of Morya Gosavi.Many people think that Morya Goasvi was an incarnation of Morya of Morgaon.Many devotees have seen a vision in the dreams and have been relieved of their sufferings after the prayers. A great Ganesh devotee , great sage, Morya Gosavi went for a self - immolation by burying himself alive in Chinchwad. The region is religious and cultural centre and Morya Gosavi's residence there has made the place very pious, holy.



Morya Gosavi's ancestors are from Karnatka state's "Shali" village of Bidar District.His surname was 'Shaligram'. (2) Morya's father was Vaman Bhat Shaligram and mother Parvatibai had come to Morgaon village on the bank of river Karha. It was in Morgaon that they worshiped Mayureshwar and as a blessing ,a son was born.They named him Morya.As a child he loved to pray. Later he accepted initiation at the hands of Guru Nayanbharti (3) .He won control and victory over all his sensory organs.His fame spread and people came to see him. He disliked crowd so far solitude he came to Chinchwad on the river banks of Pavana.He immoluted himself there in 1531 A.D.Because of his meditation and deep austerity, Morya Gosavi lived for 186 years. He spent most of his time in Chinchwad. (4) He offered divine services, prayed and walked to Morgaon every fortnight. The people in this region must have surely been benefited by all these things. They must have learned good conduct along with devotion for Lord Ganesha.

Morya Gosavi and his descendants received 344 letters from 1610 to 1852, a period of 256 years. These letters throw light on the social problems of those times. These temples were the centres of distributing affordable food. The grants received were used mainly to run suchcharitable homes. The land gifted was used as pastures, or to grow fruits and flower beds. The cash was used for daily expenses and to buy oil for the lamps kept burning day and night before an idol. Licence were given for transporting grains. The Maratha politicians had donated generously .these charters were donated in Pune and Supe Parganas. These letters also gifts from Kharnarangi Bhiwandi and Chol villages on the western banks.

Shahaji raje had donated 15 grants to Morya Gosavi in 1625 and 1651. 260 letters of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj are available of which 42 letters are directly addressed to Morya Gosavi these letters are of during the period of 30 years. These letters throw light on the Tax System and matters related to the land and farms during the Shivaji's era .we also learn about an important stage , the treaty of Vasai of the economic system of Shivaji , we come to know about the revenue system , licence, transport system , the passages in the ghats and its relation to the state administration .The grants given by Shivaji Raje to Morya Gosavi were permanently maintained. The grants given by Dadoji Konddev also exists till date. Every village of Paund Tapyas each and every Deshmukh and Deshkulkarni, every Khot ,Patil used to donate half a Mann rice . maharaja said, " The Rayat (subjects) donate willingly . why do you object ? Morya Gosavi had used these revenue licence of Konkan and Ghat from Shivaji Maharaj himself .some letters reveal that some 50,000 bundles of grass were given to Chinchwad Devasthan each year.

There were 8 letters from Chattrapati Sambhaji Maharaj addressed to Morya Gosavi. A letter by Sambhaji Maharaj dated 4th August 1687 orders the army not to harm Chinchwad and the grants to Shri Moreshwar .there was a strict warning that 'Swami', Sambhaji raje will hang the guilty. There were 15 Charters handed over by Chattrapati rajaram maharaj between 1691 and 1699. in one of the conveyance of gift , Rajaram Maharaj had donated land in Kelvade, Hingwadi, Jamb and Pune . Vinayak Dev was the grandson of Chitamani Dev.

Chattrapati Sambhaji Maharaj's son,Chattrapati Shahu Maharaj had gifted 41 charters between 1701 and 1741. In addition to this Shivaji Maharaj II and Shambhu Maharaj II had also gifted the charters . Even Balaji Vishwanath Peshwe, Thorale Bajirao Peshwe, Madhavrao Peshwe, Sawai Madhavrao Peshwe had gifted grants and charters to Shri Devswami Chinchwad and had also given strict warning to harm no one. There are also royal orders from Nizamshahi and Adilshahi , Haibat Khan , Yakut Khan , Samsheer Khan , Saifer Khan , Rustum Jaman , Siddhi Malal , Mankoji Ballal , Mirjaraje Jaisingh and other Mughal officers .There are also documents on a judgement passed , a land survey of temple and a record of the temple's construction.The study of the documents of 350 ranging from a period before the reign of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj to the British rule reveals the historical importance of Chinchwad's Morya Gosavi.They also throw light on the language , customs and traditions and economy of those times .

Grants and title deeds of grants received by Morya Gosavi Devasthan

- 1.Title Deeds of Grants given by Shahaji Raje to the Morya Gosavi's temple.
- 2.Grants and Charters gifted by Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
3. Title of deeds of grants from Chattrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.
- 4.Letters from Maharani Yesubai.
5. Title of Deeds of Chattrapati Rajaram.
6. Donation letters of Chattrapati Shahu Maharaj.
7. Donation Letters of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj II.
8. Donation letters of Chattrapati Raja Shambhu II.
9. Donation letter written by Nanasahib Peshwe .
- 10.Donation Letteres of Swai Madhavrao Peshwe.
- 11.Miscellaneous Letters for Donations
- 12.Charter Received by Shri Dev From Mavad Village.

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Title Deeds of Grants given by Shahaji Raje to the Morya Gosavi's temple

Letter- 28TH August, 1628

This letter by Shahaji Raje is from Maratha Daptar (office) Rimal No. 1 Draft No. It is about the grant of land in Akurdi and Aundh to Morya Gosavi. It shows a Shahaji Raje's generous religious policies. (7)

Letter - 24TH May, 1650

This letter from Shahaji Raje written to clerks and Deshmukh in Pune clarifies that no tax should be levied on the grants of Morya Gosavi. This letter also has a clear account / details of the grants of 12 villages.

Grants and Charters gifted by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**Letter - July - August 1646**

42 letters of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj are available. They show Shivaji Maharaj's tolerant attitude. In this letter Morya Gosavi had requested Shivaji Maharaj to reissue a document of use of land in Loni which was misplaced. As a response to this request Shivaji Maharaj had ordered the subedar and Patil of Loni to issue a new document (Khurdkhat) without any objection. (8)

Letter -16th December 1646

Two letters were issued by Shivaji Maharaj to Morya Gosavi. As per these letters Shivaji Maharaj had granted one Ranka land in Morgaon and half a chavar in Mayewadi and Nayegaon. He had also ordered not to obstruct the work.

Letter - 1650

This letter from Vedmurti Raghunath Bhat Navurkar is a request to Shivaji Maharaj to gift a little deed of a grant of land in Chinchwad, and other 13 villages and the grains to Morya Gosavi. In response Shivaji Maharaj had issued the same. The letter bears a hexagonal seal of Pratipachandra. (9)

Title of deeds of grants from Chhtrapati Sambhaji Maharaj**Letter - 4th November 1680**

This letter was an order from Nagoji Ballal to the Havaladar of Supe Pargana to continue the grant offered to Morya Gosavi in Supe Pargana by late Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. (10)

Letter - 4th August 1687

This letter from Chatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj was a strict warning to Subedar, Clerk, Bargir, Havaladar and Jumledar of the army that Chinchwad village was gifted to Shri Dev and if the villagers are ill-treated and if the village is disturbed then the life sentence will be given by Sambhaji Maharaj to the guilty. (11)

Letters from Maharani Yesubai**Letter- 16th April 1685**

This letter is written by Queen (Maharani) Yesubai while to Shri Dev Swami after the death of Sambhaji Maharaj. While the queen was in Ahmednagar fort, she was running short of money and owed 5000 to 7000 Rs. She requested to free the family from indebtedness and promised that after rainfall when there will be enough money. Rayaji Jadhav will himself tell you the reality / truth. She requested to save them from this natural calamity. (12)

Title of deeds of Chhtrapati Rajaram Maharaj**Letter- 2nd June 1691**

This letter of deed Page No. 2/4/216 is in Sanskrit and is regarding the donation issued to Vinayak Gosavi ,Chinchwadkar. Chattrapati Rajaram Maharaj has donated a land in Mauje Kelewadi , Khedeware,Chahur,Mauje,Jambe, Tarfe Haveli,Pune.(13)

Donation letters of Chattrapati Shahu Maharaj**Letter -29th August 1709**

This letter is written by Chattrapati Shahu Maharaj to Dhanaji Jadhav Rao. In this letter it is mentioned that not to ask for any type of revenue from the Chinchwad village under Surdeshmukhi revenue system. (14)

Donation Letters of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj II**Letter -18th October, 1702**

This letter is the reference of the letter addressed by Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj to Shri Dev Chinchwad mentioning that though the price of commodities increases or decreases, 675 takas should be taken from the Chinchwad Morya Gosavi and Nanemawal and Poonmawal should be given to Shri Dev, means after 26 years in the year 1702 it is continued by Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj II, Chattrapati Rajaram and Tararani.(15)

Donation letters of Chattrapati Raja Shambhu II**Letter -29th February 1728**

This letter is written by Chattrapati Shambhu II to the Patils of Bhosari village mentioning that what all gifts are given to Shri Dev Chinchwad should be continued. (16)

Donation letters of Peshawe Balaji Vishwanath**Letter - 9th November 1709**

This letter is from Balaji Vishwanath Peshwe addressed to Chinchwad Dev mentioning about the village, Chincholi donated to Him.(17)

Shrimant Bajirao Peshwe**Letter -27th June 1725**

This letter is addressed by Bajirao Peshwe mentioning that the land of Bhosari village is given the Shri Dev Chinchwad.(18)

Donation letter written by Nanasahib Peshwe**Letter-10 th April 1742**

This letter is written by the Nanasahib Peshwe to the Mukadams of the Chincholi, Bhosari, Chinchwad, Ravet, Theur and Morgaon mentions that these seven villages are given to the Shri Dev and the amount collected under the Miraspati is to be given to Shri Dev Chinchwad. (19)

Donation Letteres Of Sawai Madhavrao Peshwe Letter -17th September, 1795

This letter mentions that the expenses for the holy lamp (Nandadeep) of Siddhivinayak temple will be bear by the priest of Madhavrao Peshwe, Appaji Joshi Kulkarni. (20)

Miscellaneous Letters for Donations Letter - 30th September, 1618

This letter is addressed to Morya Gosavi from Nizamshahi bearing two Persian seals . (21)

Charter Received by Shri Dev From Mavad Village Letter -29th February 1711

This letter is about the donation of food grains by Pantaji Shivdev to Shri Dev Chinchwad. (22)

Contribution of Morya Gosavi Devsthan Trust

The contriution of the Morya Gosavi Devasthan Trust in the social field is also remarkable. Some students are taught the Vedas , in the mangal Murti Wada. The establishment has made arrangements of their lodging and boarding. A Ved- Pathshala is run by the trust where not only Vedas but also Pious and righteous way of life is taught. The students come from poor as well as rich families. Moulding good and worthy students is the main contribution of the establishment. Scholarly Brahmins, Kirtankars, Pravachankar (people delivering religious narration and sermons) are provided with food and monetary gifts (Dakshina) for a day .

On the day of death anniversary of Morya Gosavi there is a 'Paksiddhi' ceremony carried out in Morya Gosavi's Samadhi Mandir.

"Annachatra" or place where charitable food is distributed. Morya Gosavi's starting annachatras at Chinchwad for the devotees was a revolutionary act in those times because in annachatra people belonging to different religions, caste, creed , sex, etc. sat together to eat. In those days the caste system was strictly followed and such an act was definitely inspiring. Initially only Brahmins used to take food there but later it became public. This tradition is continued even today. The ruler then had given grants which throws light on their policies. More over, these annachatra achieved national integration.

Ganesh Granthalya (Library), Chinchwad -

This is also one of the ventures of the establishment. There are religious as well as general books in this library.

Morya Hospital -

The Morya Gosavi temple runs this hospital. The medical service provided is free of charge. Health camps are arranged and guidance and treatment on a variety of diseases is given to the patients. People from all the classes of the communities come to this hospital.

Dharamshala Chinchwad or Charitable Rest House for Devotees-

There is a dharamshala run by the Morya Gosavi Devasthan Trust in Chinchwad. Lodging arrangements are made of the devotees especially on Ganeshotsavs, during Bhadrapad and Maghi Yatras, on the Death Anniversary day and at various other celebrations.

It is clear that there was a strong bond between Shiv Chatrapatis Samrajya and th Devs from Chinchwad and the temple in Chinchwad held a very significant place.

The Devasthan manages the temples in Morgaon, Theur and Siddhatek. A, Vedshala is run in Chinchwad's Mangalmurti wada for the past 150 years as per the Gurukul system. Free services and education is provided to twenty students. Religious functions are held at all the three places throughout the year. Parayana (Repeated and thorough reading) of the Gita, the Dyaneshwari Devi Bhagwat, Tukaram Maharaj Gatha, Bhagwat Puran, etc. is doe throughout the year.

Many social projects are also undertaken by the trust. Grants are given to many educational institutions. The Trust has also donated computers to schools in Siddhatek, Morgaon and Theur. Land for hospitals and parks is given to The Nagar palikas at at these three places. Famine Relief fund of 10 lakhs was handed over to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra two years back.

Thus the contribution of the Morya Gosavi Trust in the social and cultural field is praiseworthy.

FOOT NOTES:

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3. Ibid, Page, 7.
4. Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi, Charitra ani Parampara, K.D. Bhingarkar, Prakashak, Vishwastha, Chiwad Devasthan Trust, Chinchwad, Pune. 1986, Page, 173.
5. Rajwade Khand, 20, Lekhank 230, 8th March, 1628.
6. Shivchatritra Sathiya 3, Lekhanka 523, August 1646 che patra.
7. Rajwade Khand 20, lekhanka 241, 2nd July, 1649 che patra.
8. Chinchwad Sanad, 1650 cha patra.
9. ShivChattrapatinche patre, Khand 2, Patra no. 17, 11th May, 1664.
10. Shriman Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi Yancha Sanadapatre, Anuradha Kulkarni, Ajit Patwardhan, Chinchwad Devasthan Trust, Chinchwad, 2014 page no, 55.
11. Ibid, Page, 59.
12. Bharat Ithihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Itivrutt, 1837, 19th April 1705 che patra, Page 298.
13. Sanada Patre, 2nd June 1691, Page, 217.
14. Chinchwad Sanad, 29th August 1709.
15. sShriman Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi Yancha Sanadapatre, Anuradha Kulkarni, Ajit Patwardhan, Chinchwad Devasthan Trust, Chinchwad, 2014 page no 107.
16. Ibid, 119.
17. Chinchwad Sanad, 9th November 1709.
18. Chinchwad Sanad, 27th June, 1725.
19. Bharat Ithihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Traimasik 2, ank 1-4, Lekhanka 1.
20. Bharat Ithihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Traimasik 2, ank 1-4, Lekhanka 3.

21. Shriman Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi Yancha Sanadapatre, Anuradha Kulkarni, Ajit Patwardhan , Chinchwad Devasthan Trust , Chinchwad, 2014,Page,154.

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4. Shivkalin Patrasar Sangraha, Khanda-3 (Shak1348-1602) Sampadak, Shankar Joshi, D.V. Potdar, G.N. Mujumdar, Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Pune-1937.
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6. Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Tremasik year-11, Ank-3
7. Marathanchya Itihasachi Sadhane, Rajwade Khand-6
8. Peshwa Daftar, Bhag-22,23,31,32.
9. Purandare Daftar, Bhag-3, Rumal.
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