

મહારાજા શ્રી ૭ શ્રીશિવ સ્વપતિ પ્રતિષ્ઠાન





The Maharaja Shivachhatrapati Pratishthan (Trust) formally founded on 7th April 1967 under the able leadership of Late Her Highness Shrimant Chhatrapati Rajmata Sumitra Raje Bhosle and fired by the single-minded drive of Shri Babasaheb Purandare had a one-point objective: to propogate knowledge on the life and history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj amongst all stratas of society. Today, Masaheb Maharaj is no longer with us but her blessings remain our guiding light and inspire us to move on in our mission. In the past 50 years Babasaheb has given over 10,000 lectures. The funds generated through these lectures formed the main source of income for the Trust. Books, articles, lecture series, conducted tours to forts etc. formed the various mediums of consistantly propogating Shivacharitra. It was a period when Babasaheb's lecture series attracted huge audiences within the country and abroad but a craving to do something more substantial led Babasaheb to create the huge exhibition - Shivasrushti.



USA: Janata Raja being presented in its full glory



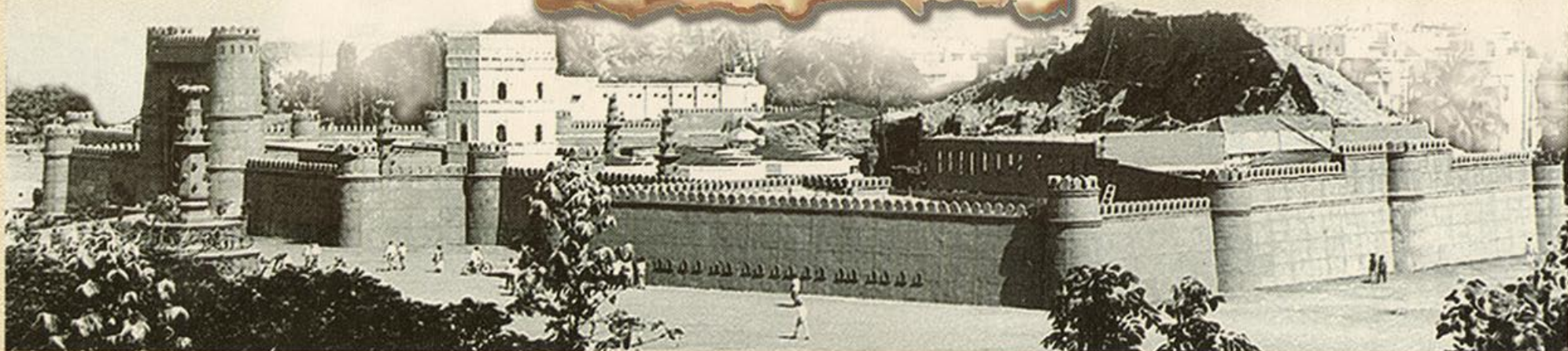
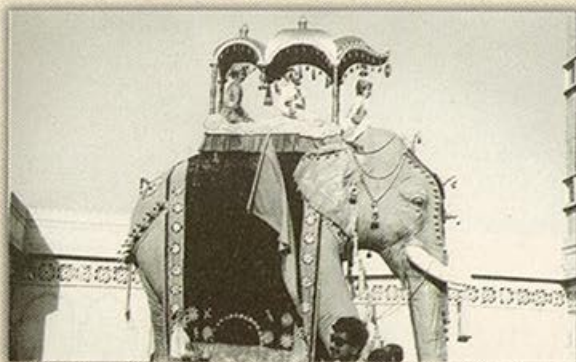
Our artistes in Janata Raja, USA with the dignitaries of the Trust



Our pillar of strength, Masaheb Maharaj, Mukundrao & Babasaheb



HH Chhatrapati Rajmata Sumitraraje Bhosle being welcomed by Babasaheb



A glimpse into the grandeur of Shivarushti, 1974



Shivarushti - 1974

Shivarushti 1974, Shivaji Park, Mumbai: The grand exhibition conceived and created by the Trust left a deep impact in the minds of the people and is fondly remembered even today. The long railway strike which coincided with the exhibition turned the exhibition into a commercial failure. The die-hard optimist that he has always been, Babasaheb perceived this loss as purely financial and believed that he gained far more from the bitter sweet experiences, than he lost - new associations, renewed friendships and the enviable experience of a wide canvas... People driven by a common goal rallied around him and have remained with him ever since, enriching the Trust as also Babasaheb himself. The Rs.6 lac loss incurred at that time was repaid personally by Babasaheb as he readied himself for his second mega project - JANATA RAJA.



Shri Yashwantrao Chavhan and Shri Vasantnao Naik



Coronation Ceremony, Shivarushti -The Origin of Janata Raja



JANATA RAJA (OPERA) 1985

Encouraged by the tremendous public response generated by the 22-minute coronation ceremony presented at the Shivasrushti, Babasaheb produced Janata Raja, after intense hard work of over a decade. A full length historical play depicting the life and history of Shivaji Maharaj presented on a 5-tiered stage, with digitally recorded four-track sound, and over 150 artistes, have horses, elephants, camels and bullock carts for added attraction. Janata Raja has set new standards for stage presentations. In the past 15 years the play has been performed in 22 districts in Maharashtra along with Belgaum, and Indore, New Delhi as well as in the U.S. and has been seen by 35 lac people to date. About 62 series totaling 490 shows have been presented so far. Janata Raja, while presenting history has itself created history when on 4th of July 97 the show was successfully presented in Boston, with the active participation of the nonresident Maharashtrian community in the USA who were intensively trained to perform in the show. Through the medium of Janata Raja, several educational and social organizations have successfully raised funds to a staggering figure totaling to Rs.5 crores. Other productions of the trust have also been well received - the Khanderi-Underi naval war, the light and sound show at INS Shivaji, and special programmes conceived and presented for the inauguration of Lal Mahal, Pune. While pursuing its objectives under the guidance of Babasaheb and with the wholehearted support of our innumerable artistes, the trust has gained recognition among masses as well as with the statesmen.



Janata Raja - landmarks of the decade

1985

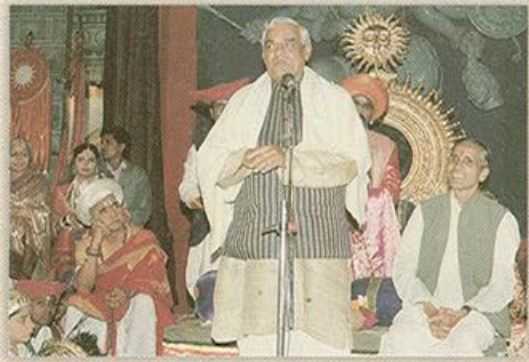


1993



1998





Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atalbihari Vajpayee



Shivasenapramukh, Shri Balasaheb Thakeray



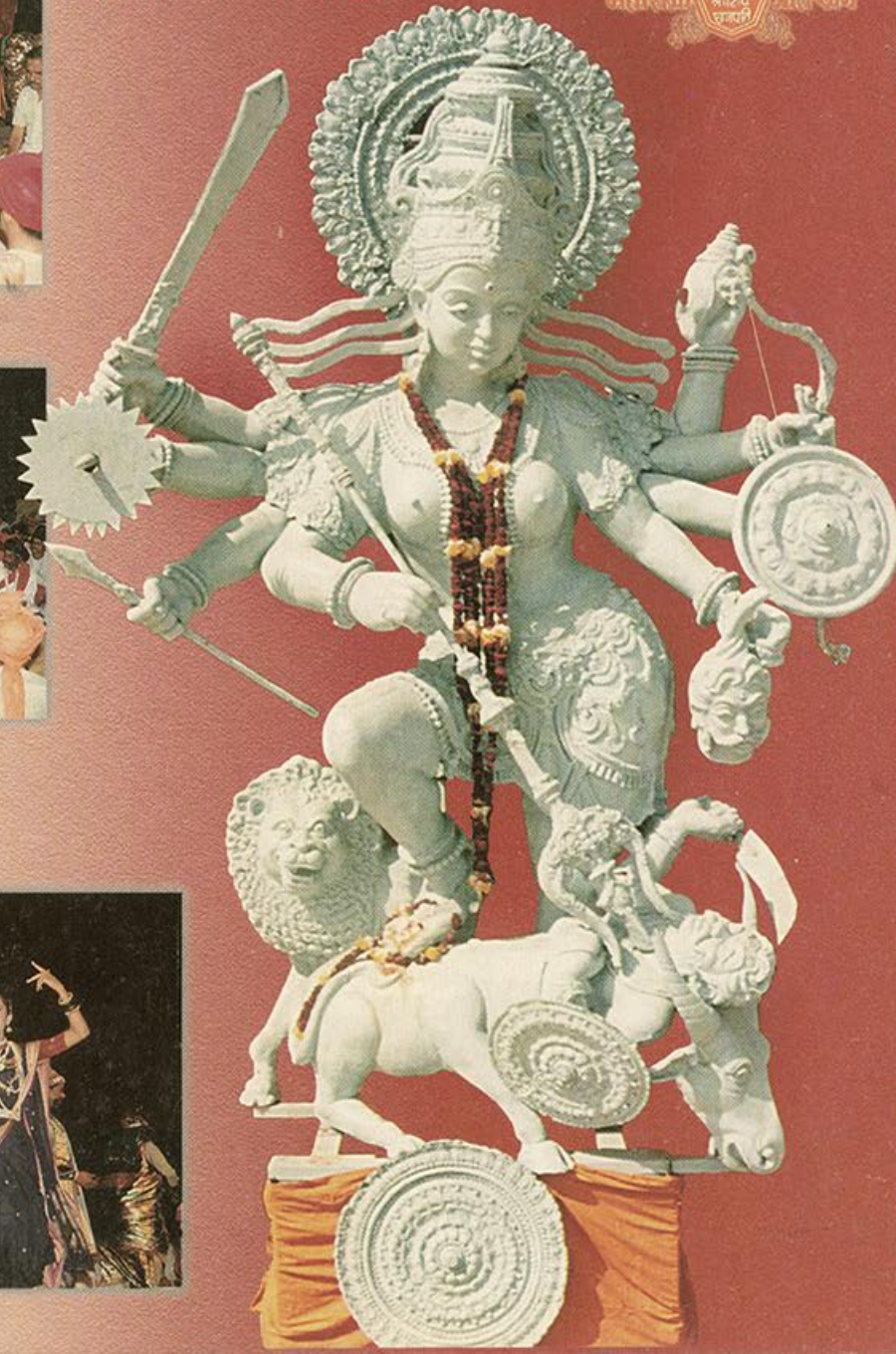
Asha Bhosle, a star guest



Sulochanadidi and Sachin



Janata Raja -
important milestones



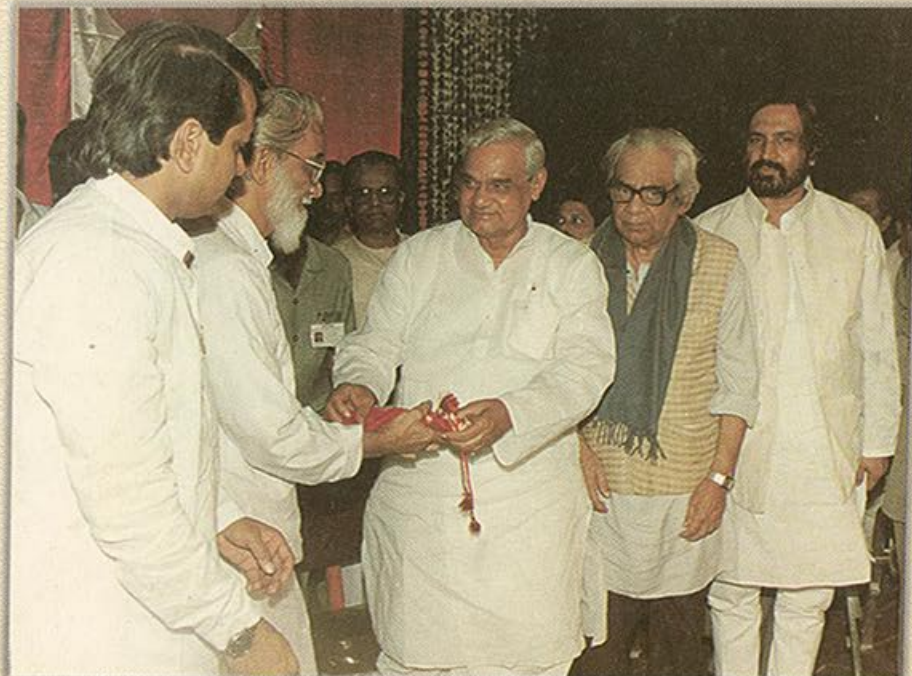


STATE RECOGNITION

● The first recognition for the Trust's work came from the Municipal Corporation of Pune when they handed over the first floor of the centrally located Vishrambaugwada on long lease to the Trust. Under the guidance of Babasaheb, the Trust has decorated the Bhavani Mahal in period ambience. On display is a rich collection of weapons along with Babasaheb's personal collection of rare books on Shivaji Maharaj and Maratha History. This entire material is available at the Trust's library for the benefit of students and scholars for their study and research.

● The second Government recognition came in the year 1996 when the Government of Maharashtra allotted twenty-one acres of land near Pune to the Trust at a grand ceremony held in the honour of Babasaheb when he completed 75 years. The land was allotted for the purpose of constructing the Shivasrushti.

● The third recognition came from the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee himself when he gave his patronage to JANATA RAJA and with his blessings, the show was presented in New Delhi, the capital of India.



*Punyabhushan Award Ceremony
Hon. Prime Minister,
Shri Atalbihari Vajpayee,
P. L. Deshpande
and Suresh Kalmadi*



*Latadidi and
Acharya Dharmendrajji:
on the occasion of
the 75th birthday of Babasaheb*



*Hon. Ex-Chief Minister of
Maharashtra, Shri Manohar Joshi,
Gajanan Kirtikar, and
Subhash Desai
formally allotting
land for Shivasrushti*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & PRATISHTHAN

Babasaheb has always presented ancient history using the very latest technology available in the various mediums, one of the finest example of this being the 3-hour period opera, JANATA RAJA which is enacted with clocklike precision with the help of a digitally recorded 4-track sound.

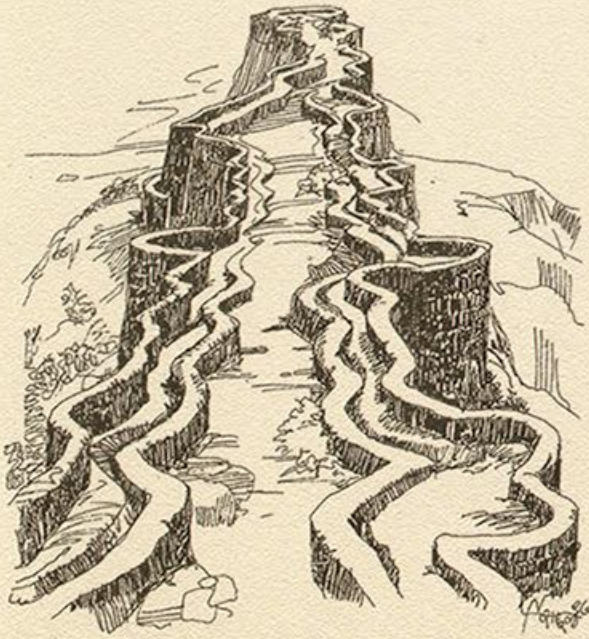
SHIVAKALYAN RAJA, the programme in which some of the finest poetry on Shivaji Maharaj is set to music by the legendary composer Pt. Hridaynath Mangeshkar with commentary by Babasaheb in his inimitable style, has been recorded live on video.

The 86-hour video recording of the complete SHIVACHARITRA, a lecture series on Shivaji Maharaj, has now been completed.

The audio recordings of SHIVACHARITRA, JANATA RAJA and short stories of Babasaheb have also been completed. All these recordings have a high archival value and the trust has plans to record many such programmes of Babasaheb in the near future. These programmes will continue to inspire and guide our future generations.

Under the able leadership of Babasaheb, the team of able trustees Mukundrao Dabke, Arvind Khaladkar, Anand Kangralkar, Shrinivas Virkar, Jagdish Kadam, and Amrut Purandare are taking the trust towards its ambitious goals.

We are aware that we have still a long way to go and with renewed vigour we dedicate ourselves to work on our future projects....



.. OUR FUTURE PROJECTS

1. The Television serial based on the life and history of Shivaji Maharaj.
2. JANATA RAJA play to be translated, recorded and performed in Hindi and English.
3. Plans have been drawn up for recording and production of Phulwanti and six other full length musical ballets and operas .
4. Shivasrushti: The construction of a live museum on the 21- acre land and would generate considerable interest among tourists...

The preliminary work on all these ambitious projects has been completed for which we would require funds to the tune of Rs.90 crores. We have already begun pooling in our resources in manpower and material and efforts to raise funds are under way. The Trust is hopeful of your support and looks forward to your participation in fulfilling these dream projects as these would greatly benefit our future generations in the years to come.

