

Shahu Chatrapati, Maharaja of Kolhapur (1874 - 1922) was the Maratha ruler of largest princely state in Maharashtra. Adopted in 1884, vested with full ruling powers in 1894. He began policy of employing non-Brahmins in 1890s; conflict with brahmins intensified with Vedokta controversy in 1900 and nationalist terrorism in 1907-1909. Chatrapati sponsored hostels for many non-Brahmin communities in Kolhapur from 1901 to 1921. He patronized the Satyashodhak movement but finally joined Arya Samaj and set up Maratha high priest or Ksatrajagadgura in 1920. He patronized political non-Brahmin activities from 1917. Chatrapati also encouraged inter-caste marriages.