Great Indian Warriors 🇮🇳

The Great Maratha King: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

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Indian History Series

The Architect of Swarajya: Shivaji Maharaj

"Never bend your head, always hold it high!"
— Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

📖 Short Story: The Young Prince of Torna Fort

Young **Shivaji** grew up listening to heroic stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata told by his wise mother, **Jijabai**, and mentor, **Dadoji Konddeo**. From a very young age, Shivaji held a grand vision: *Swarajya*—self-rule and freedom for his people.

At just **16 years old**, when most kids were playing games, young Shivaji gathered a small group of loyal friends called the *Mavalas*. With clever strategy and fearless heart, he captured his very first fort—**Torna Fort**!

Shivaji Maharaj became famous for his sharp mind and guerrilla tactics (*Ganimi Kava*), using the Sahyadri mountains and forests to outsmart much larger armies. He founded the Maratha Empire, treated all citizens with dignity, and built sea forts to protect India's coastlines!

🌟 Quick Fun Facts About Shivaji Maharaj:

- **Father of Indian Navy:** He was one of the first Indian rulers to build a powerful naval fleet with sea forts like Sindhudurg.
- **Respect for Everyone:** He strictly ordered his soldiers never to harm women, children, or places of worship during battles.
- **Shiv Jayanti:** His birth anniversary is celebrated with grand joy and processions across India!

🏰 Wise Leader Challenge

Shivaji Maharaj built strong forts and trusted his friends to achieve big goals. Write down 1 big goal you want to work on with your friends or family this month:

Our Team Goal: _____