Day 2

Date: 25th February 2022

Venue: Online (YouTube)

Link: https://youtu.be/PoTRWTp5PLM

The second day of the event was on 24th February 2022. The topic of the event was 'Historical places'. The speaker of the day was **C S Lakshmi (D8)** who talked about the fort- Pratapgad.

Pratapgad, also known as 'Valor fort' is situated in the Solapur district of Maharashtra. It was one of the most important forts of the Maratha empire. It was built in 1656 under the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and soon played a pivotal role in the 'Battle of Pratapgad' between the Maratha army and the Adilshahi that took place in 1659. Pratapgad gave the Maratha army a tactical advantage of thick forests and steep hills. Hence, it was one of The strongholds of The empire.
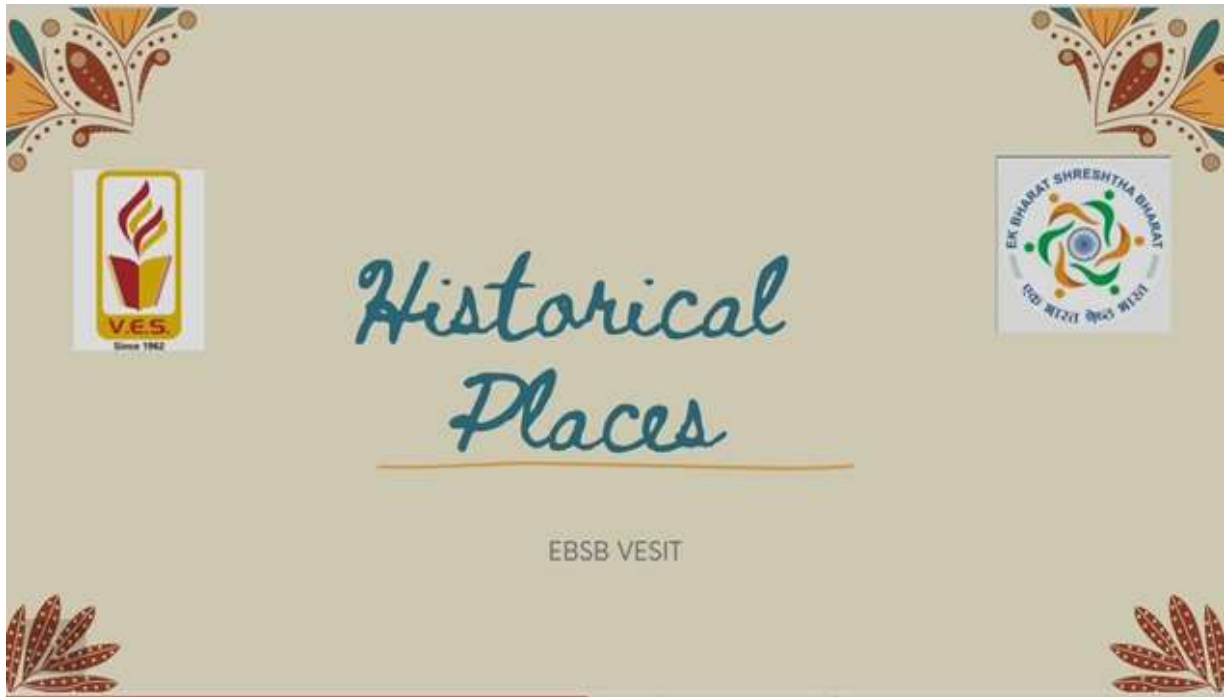
The Battle of Pratapgad was one of the most significant events that were a turning point in the history of Marathas. In 1659, the Adilshahi leader Afzal Khan attacked the Maratha territory with vigor. Backed up by a more than impressive military power, he planned on attacking Pratapgad but was unable to do so because of its geographical position. As a part of the tradition, leaders of both sides met for a peaceful discussion. Afzal Khan however had planned to treacherously attack Shivaji Maharaj during the discussion. Shivaji Maharaj saw through his plans and strategically killed Afzal Khan. Following this, the Maratha army launched a surprise attack on the Adilshahi. This was the beginning of the establishment of the Maratha empire.

Currently, the fort is a popular location that attracts thousands of tourists every year. The fort is a home to the 17 feet tall equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in his glory erected by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1957.
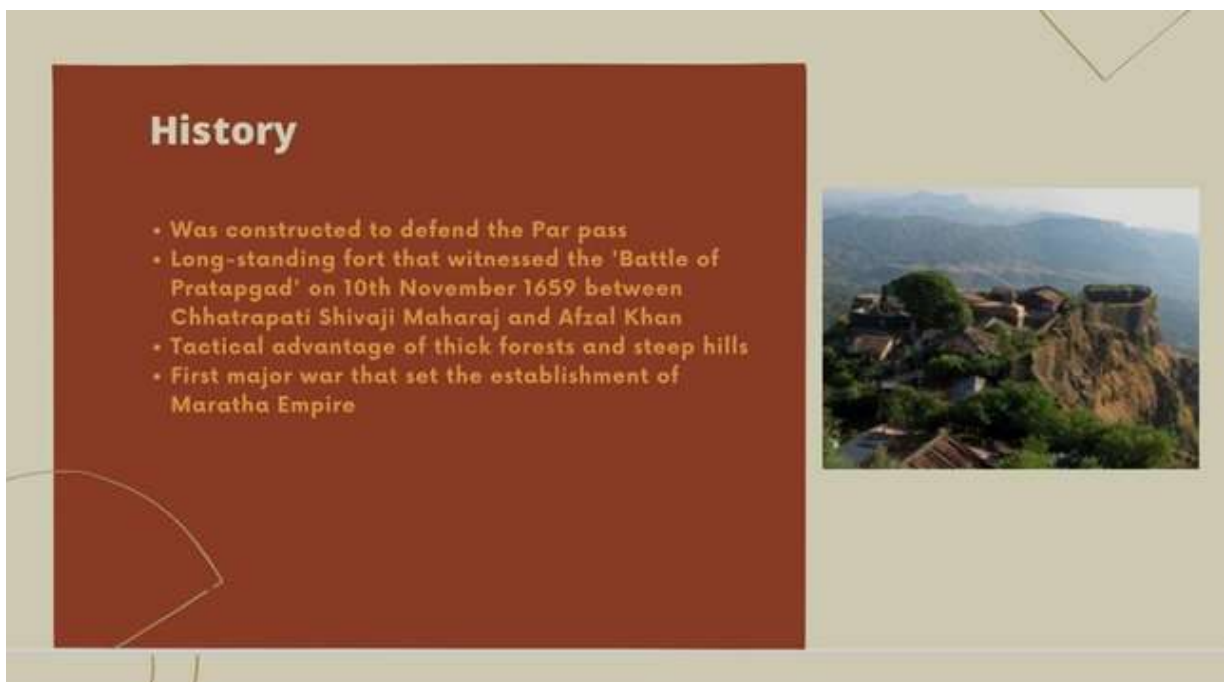
Overall, the session covered the topics of history associated with the fort of Pratapgad and the battle in detail.

Speaker- **C S Lakshmi (D8)**

Introductory slide

Slide explaining the history of the fort