Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

AD 1627-1680

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj issued coins in his own name in three metals, gold, silver and copper. The rarest of the three are the Hons in gold, followed by Rupees in silver. The copper Shivarai coins, however, are the most common and are found abundantly all over Maharashtra. However, all these coins are mintless and cannot be attributed to any particular mint.

Another interesting feature of the coins of Shivaji is their popularity even after his death. His gold and copper coins became so popular that similar coins were minted by later Maratha rulers and also by other chiefs in the name and style of Shivaji.

GOLD COINS

Shivaji Maharaj issued gold coins called *Hon* or *Hoan* or *Hun*, in the beginning from Raigad in AD 1664. These gold coins became so popular that they were minted even after the death of Shivaji, and remained in circulation till the early parts of the nineteenth century. Such later coins with names like *Sattari Hun*, *Dharvari Hun* and *Navalgundi Hun* are known. These names represent the place of issue of those coins. Many tiny coins, called *Fanam* are also known in the name of Shivaji but they were minted outside the Pune region in Tanjore region of southern India and came to Maharashtra by way of trade.

Hon
Gold, 2.7 g, 13 mm



RB#	Obv	Rev	Rarity
1	*Shri / raja / shiva* in Devanagari	*Chhatra / pati* in Devanagari	RRRRR

SILVER COINS

Rupee
Silver, 11.3 g, 21 mm



RB#	Obv	Rev	Rarity
2	*Raja / shiva chha / tra pati* in Devanagari	*Shri ja / gadamba pra /san* in Devanagari	RRR

Note: Some silver coins weighing around 3 g are also known and are exact copies of gold Hons. These are not included here as they were the issues of the Marathas of Tanjore.