Rich tributes were paid to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the great Maratha King on the occasion of its birth anniversary celebrated at the state level at a function organized by the Department of Information and Publicity in association with village panchayat Bandora and Zilla Panchayat Member Kavlem at Farmagudi Ponda today.

The annual day long event commenced by garlanding the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Farmagudi Fort premise by Minister for PWD Shri Ramkrishna alias Sudin Dhavalikar, Minister for Art and Culture Shri Govind Gaude, Smt. Chitra Phadte, Zilla Panchayat Member, Shri Ramchandra Naik, Sarpach Bandora and other dignitaries. This was followed by presentation of Mardani Khel by Lokmanya Group, Kolhapur and singing of Powadas by Bal Bhavan children.

Later addressing the gathering at the function held in the precincts of Shree Ganapati Devasthan at Farmagudi, Minister for PWD Shri Sudin Dhavalikar highlighted the virtues of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj which he pointed out needs to be imbibe in the minds of the individuals and particularly the student community. He said after attaining swaraj Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj laid thrust on delivering good governance to the people. He said he treated equally all those who were associated with Hindavi Swaraj and also worked for the welfare of the weaker section irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

Stating that the Government has plans to undertake the renovation and beautification of Shivaji Fort at Farmagudi Shri Dhavalikar stressed, the need to work for the betterment of the society. We should think of what I will do ahead and not of what already done.

Minister for Art and Culture Shri Govind Gaude felt the need to have the Farmagudi Fort on world map. Self respect is of utmost
importance he said and reminded the gathering about the Hindavi Swaraj established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. One should take the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj everyday in life to inculcate in the minds of the people about the principles and moral values of Shivaji.

Dr. Lahu Gaikwad historian from Pune in his keynote, address his views on the life and times of Shivaji Maharaj.

Shri T. S. Sawant, Director of Information and Publicity introduced the keynote speaker. Smt. Chitra Phadte, ZP Member welcomed the guests and Shri Ramchandra Naik, Sarpach Bandora proposed the vote of thanks.

To mark the day long celebration various programmes involving school and college students were held. These includes fancy dress with monologue in traditional attire and Quiz competition on the life and times of Shivaji Maharaj. Later in the evening display of fire works was held and thereafter a Marathi historical drama Raigadala Jenvha Jag Yete by Simant Natya Saunstha, Pune was staged.