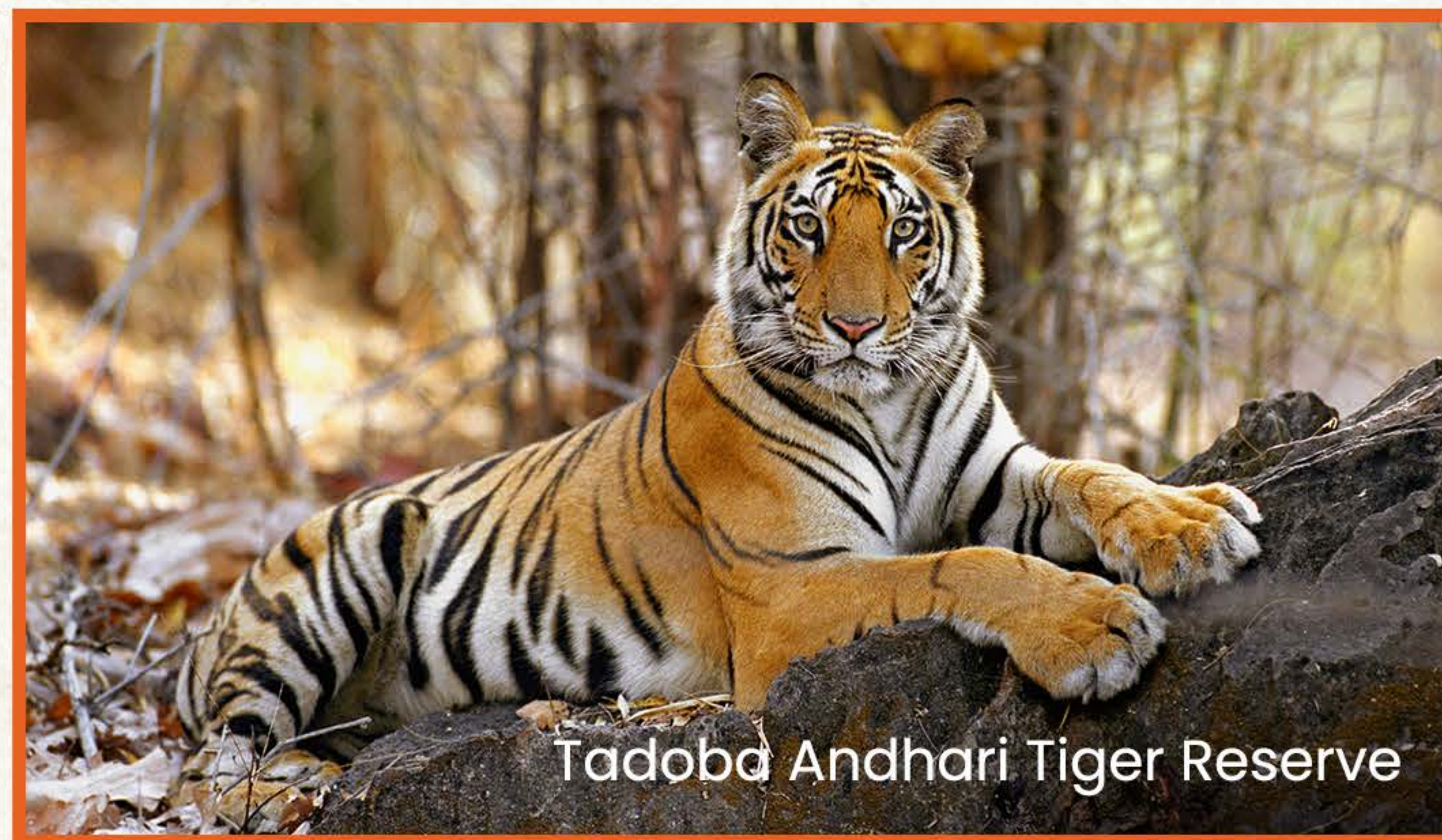




MAHARASHTRA THE UNLIMITED JOURNEY!

Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, GoM
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Events You Can't Miss in Maharashtra

December was a vibrant month at the tail of the year in Maharashtra, with festivals, cultural events, and good tourist participation across the state. Year-end holidays and New Year festivals, too, added to the vibrancy, making December an engaging month in terms of travel and tourism.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Tour Circuit

To mark the occasion of Mahaparinirvan Din of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Directorate of Tourism, Department of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, organised the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Tour Circuit successfully on 3rd, 4th, and 5th December 2025. The inaugural event took place on Wednesday, the 3rd December 2025, at Shivaji Park, Dadar (West), Mumbai. On this occasion, Mr Santosh Rokade, Deputy Secretary of the Tourism Department, Mr Siddharth Ramkumar (IAS), Mr Sushil Pawar, Assistant Director of the Directorate of Tourism, and other dignitaries from the department were present.



The tour plan included important points associated with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and of historical significance, such as Chaityabhoomi, Rajgruha, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Economics & Commerce (Wadala), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhavan, BIT Chawl (Parel), and Siddharth College (Fort). As part of the initiative, three buses ran daily, and the Directorate of Tourism provided free transportation, guides, refreshments, and necessary facilities. The tourist circuit offered a significant and enriching experience for visitors, providing an opportunity to pay their respects to one of India's greatest visionaries.

Flavours of Maharashtra 2025

New Delhi witnessed the vibrant celebration of Maharashtrian cuisine and culture with "Flavours of Maharashtra 2025" at Maharashtra Sadan from 12th to 14th December 2025. Maharashtra Sadan, one of the most important and popular cultural landmarks in the National Capital, showcased the richness and diversity of Maharashtra's culinary traditions on small plates over three days.



The Festival was inaugurated by Mrs R. Vimala, IAS, Resident Commissioner & Secretary, and Mr Sushil Gaikwad, IAS, Resident Commissioner (Investment). The Tourism Department of the Government of Maharashtra also participated with an exclusive pavilion, conceptualised to showcase the state's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and emerging tourist destinations. Along with the food, traditional art forms, handicrafts, and cultural performances were on display at the festival to give visitors a complete sense of Maharashtra's dynamic culture. Residents enthusiastically took part in the event and submerged themselves in this flavourful celebration of Maharashtra's culture and traditions.

Events to Look Forward to:

Witness the Republic Day Parade at Shivaji Park

Every year, on 26th January, the Republic Day celebrations bring life to the Shivaji Park area through drumbeats, marching, and daring feats by motorcyclists. As every year, the public is expected to gather in the park by 6.00 am to experience the joy of celebrations in all its glory.

The Maharashtra Tourism will also feature a tableau in the parade. Through this tableau, visitors will be introduced to the state's rich and diverse tourism destinations, offering a fresh perspective on Maharashtra's vibrant travel landscape.

The parade shall culminate at Narali Baug, offering another spectacular view. Situated along the seafacing side, this location offers the audience an opportunity to take a leisurely walk while witnessing the parade's culmination at the site near the Ashoka Pillar, which is close to Chaitya Bhoomi, the cremation place of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. This is an uplifting experience, and an apt way to commemorate the spirit of the Republic while exploring this iconic site in Mumbai.

Bharat Parva 2026

The "Bharat Parva 2026" event is scheduled to take place between the 26th and 31st of January, at The Lawns & Gyan Path, opposite the Red Fort, New Delhi. It will provide a fascinating experience for all visitors through a display of the cultural richness of the Indian states, showcasing their cuisine, attire, crafts, art, and music.

The Tourism Department of the Government of Maharashtra will also participate in the event through its own pavilion. The purpose of the pavilion will be to provide exposure to the major tourism attractions in Maharashtra's tourism hotspots and, most importantly, to promote Maharashtra as a favourable tourism destination on national and international platforms.

News in Focus:

Sindhudurg to Get Its First-Ever Five-Star Hotel

A special review meeting was held at Meghdoot, the government residence in Mumbai, under the chairmanship of Hon. Tourism Minister Mr Shambhuraj Desai, to fast-track the prestigious tourism project being developed by Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL - Taj Group) at Shiroda-Velaghar in Sindhudurg district.

The meeting deliberated on addressing land acquisition issues for the project, aligned with the 52.63 hectares identified for the purpose. While the State Government had already given In-Principle Approval for a special compensation package, the process of signing a supplementary agreement with the local landowners was started.



The Minister directed that compensation be disbursed at the earliest and announced that a tripartite agreement among local villagers, IHCL, and the Tourism Department would soon be signed to protect local interests and employment. Once completed, the project is expected to considerably increase tourism and create new jobs for the people of Sindhudurg.

Konkan Welcomes the New Year with a Surge in Tourist Arrivals

As the New Year draws near, tourism arrivals across the Konkan region have started to surge, entering its peak season. The growing appeal of the region is reflected in lodges, homestays, and MTDC properties already being fully booked. Accommodation across Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts has seen nearly 100 per cent occupancy, reflecting a strong tourist response this year.



Visitors usually make plans for holidays in the Konkan region a month in advance, as most of them like to usher in the New Year at the shores. Places like Ganpatipule, Velneshwar, Guhagar, Tarkarli, Kunkeshwar, Murud-Janjira and Alibaug are among the crowd favourites and are going to witness tourist inflow well into early January.

Maharashtra Emerges as the Favourite Destination for Foreign Tourists

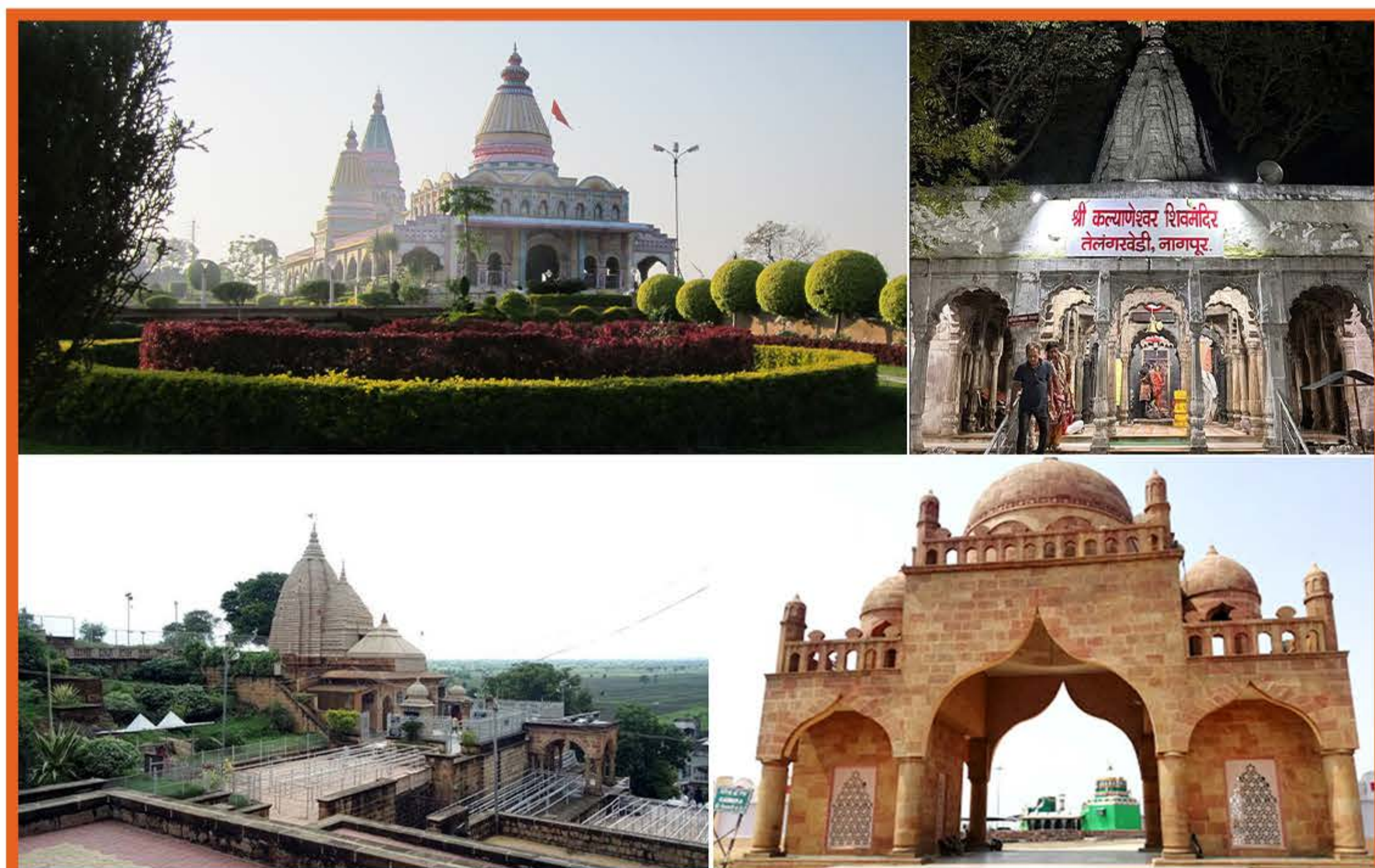
Maharashtra has reiterated its position as the most sought-after destination for foreign tourists coming to India, for the umpteenth time. This is clearly reflected in data published in the India Tourism Statistics 2025 report, released by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.



According to the report, around 3.7 million foreign tourists visited Maharashtra in the past year, the highest number among major states and Union Territories in India. Comparatively, international tourist arrivals in India during 2024 stood at around 20 million, underscoring Maharashtra's significant contribution to the country's inbound tourism. The numbers reflect the state's sustained attraction, a melting pot of diverse cultural heritage, urban experience, coastal destinations, and a well-developed tourism infrastructure.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme to Revamp Six Key Religious Sites in Nagpur

Six major religious tourist sites identified within Nagpur district: Waki, Adasa, Dhapewada, Paradsingha, Telankhandi, and Girad, are presently undergoing development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, which is a key scheme initiated by the Government of India to develop specific tourist places on thematic circuits. The total sanctioned amount from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, under the Spiritual Circuit is ₹45.47 crore, and the Government of Maharashtra has spent ₹43.19 crore under the Spiritual Circuit Scheme.



The project aims to upgrade visitor facilities, accessibility, and connectivity, including approach roads, beautification activities, and facilities for the differently-abled. This project will help increase spiritual tourism, which in turn will increase employment in the area as well as support the idea of sustainable tourism.

Winter Destinations

Tarkarli

Tarkarli, a coastal paradise in the Sindhudurg district, looks like it belongs in a postcard. The weather in winter is just perfect, neither too hot nor too cold, making it ideal for both relaxation and adventure. It's the kind of place where the sea is so clear that you can see right down to the ocean floor, making it a popular destination for snorkelling and scuba diving.



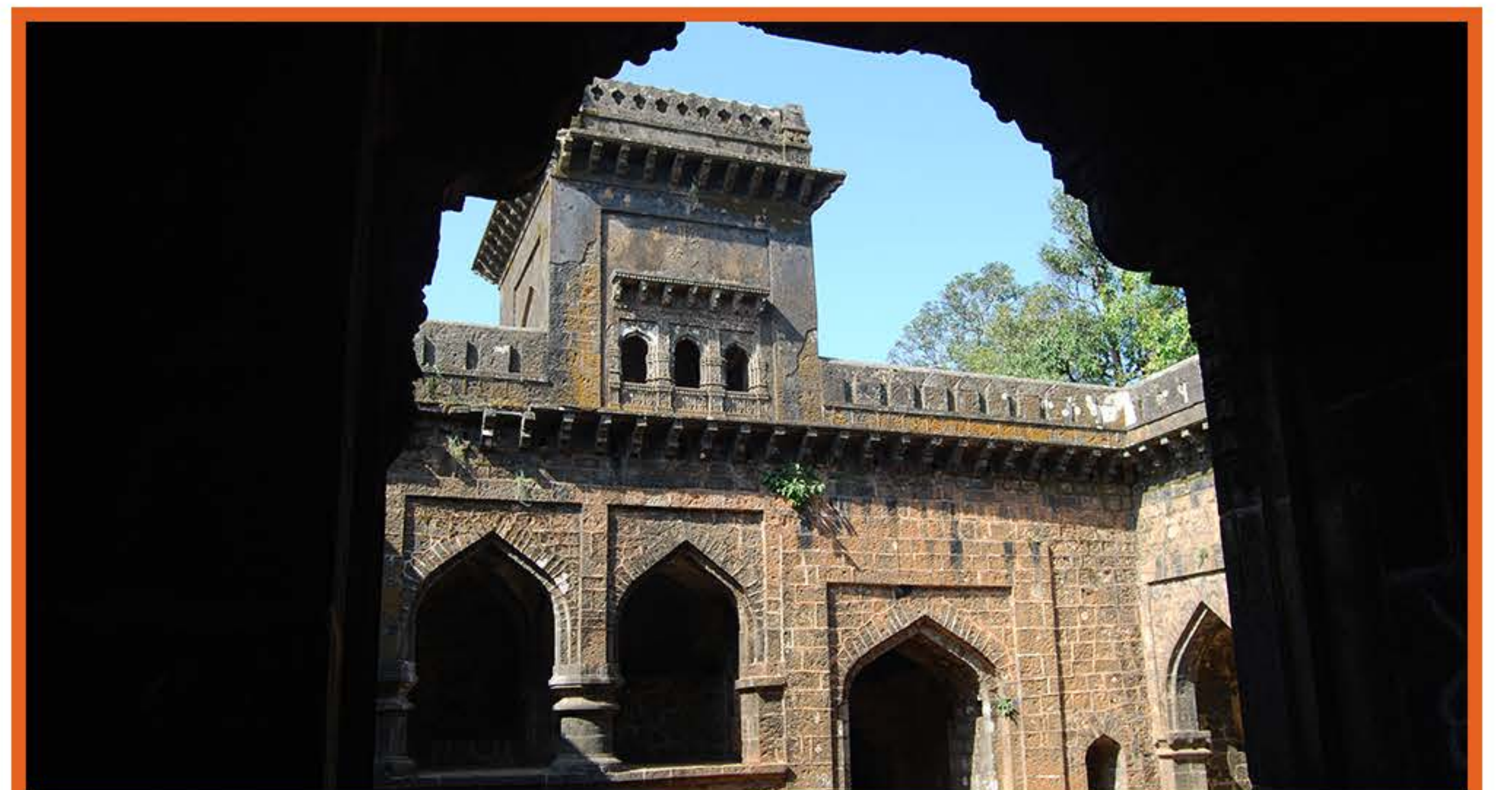
Ajanta Ellora Caves



When it comes to artistic grandeur, only a few places in the world can rival the Ajanta and Ellora caves of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district. The winter months are the best time to visit these UNESCO-recognised caves, as the cooler weather makes climbing and walking through the vast complex more comfortable. The Ajanta Caves are adorned with exquisite paintings that narrate the life of Buddha, while the Ellora Caves leave you awestruck with several monumental complexes, especially the Kailasa Temple, an entire mountain carved from a single rock.

Panhala

Panhala is a popular hill station in Maharashtra, situated high above the plains near the Kolhapur district. The hill station offers breathtaking views of the valley below and haunting echoes of Maratha legends. Once a stronghold of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Panhala fort is now recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site as part of the 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India.'











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