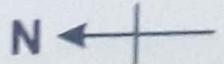


# DISCOVER AHMEDNAGAR CITY



## *Discover Ahmednagar...*

Most places have a story to tell, but only a few have an extraordinary saga to narrate. Ahmednagar is one such place. Ahmednagar is situated on the banks of the river Sina and is famous for its historical Fort. Ahmednagar was a capital of the Nizam Shahi dynasty (1490-1636 AD) founded by Malik Ahmed Bahiri. Ahmednagar has the imprint of history stamped all over it. There are some palaces, mosques which reveal the glorious history of Ahmednagar. Apart from historical monuments, there are few religious places such as Vishal Ganesh Temple, Meherabad, Anand Dham, Vedant Datta Devasthan which adds to the Glory of the City. Cavalry Tank Museum, which is unique in Asia, Snehalaya - a project of 'Antyodaya' and Saiban will also add pleasure to your Ahmednagar tour.

**Welcome to Ahmednagar....**





## *Ahmednagar Fort*

*A*hmednagar Fort was initially built by Malik Ahmed Nizam Shah in 1490 AD to commemorate victory over Bahamani General Jahangir Khan. It was the Royal residence (Kot Bagh Nizam) and administrative centre of Nizamshah Dynasty. Fort was rebuilt by Husain Nizam Shah during 1559-1562 AD. It was peculiarly well planned and well built 'Bhuikot Fort' as though lying on ground, it is not commanded by any spot with a large distance. Portuguese engineers are said to have helped to build a wall and bastions of this fort. The fort is oval in form and about 2 kms. in circumference. It has 22 bastions and a moat. Originally it had two entrances, one on the west side (Hatti Darwaza) for wheeled traffic and other on east side

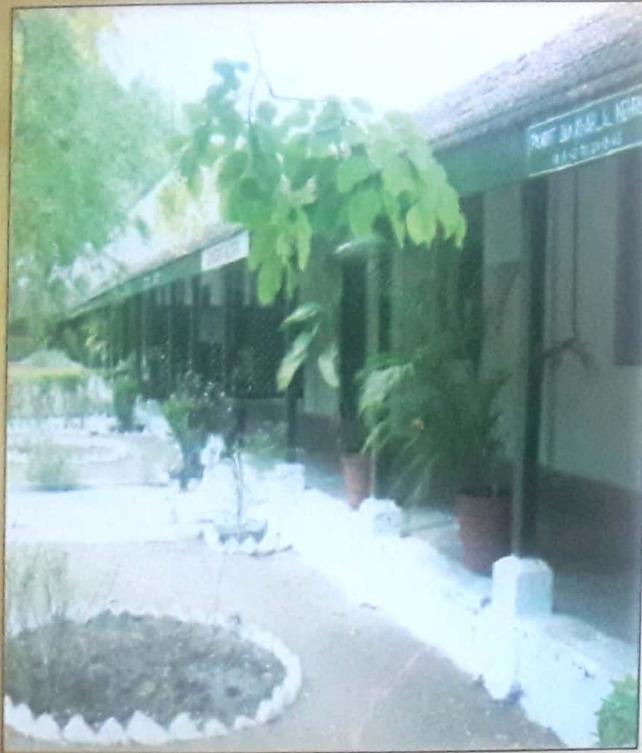
for the foot passengers, in the form of suspension bridge.

A victim of countless invasions, Ahmednagar fort has taken many blows and come out relatively unscathed. Prince Murad, son of Emperor Akbar, attacked the fort in 1595-96 AD. This attack was bravely repulsed by Sultana Chand Bibi. In 1600 AD Akbar despatched Prince Danyal who laid siege to the fort. Chand Bibi decided to negotiate terms with Danyal which were not liked by some of her nobbles and as such she was put to death. The fort remained with Mughals till 1759 and with Maratha till 1803, when it was captured by General Wellesly of British Army.

Though the fort is under military command, it is declared as a tourist place.

(Distance - 2.5 kms from Maliwada Bus Stand.)





## *Leader's Block*

The detailed history of the Ahmednagar fort reveals that it had been used as royal prison a number of times. Amongst the most important imprisonments were Maharani Yesubai, wife of Chatrapati Sambhaji, Fourth Shivaji Maharaj of Kolhapur, Nana Fadnis, Tulaji Angre etc. All India Congress working committee was detained at the fort during the 'Quit India' movement (1942-45 AD.) The following leaders were detained in the fort - (1) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, (2) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, (3) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, (4) Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant, (5) Pandit Harekrishna Mahtab, (6) Acharya J. B. Kriplani, (7) Acharya Narendra Dev, (8) Dr. Syed Mahmud, (9) Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramaya, (10) Asaf Ali, (11) Dr. P. C. Ghosh, (12) Shankarrao Dev.

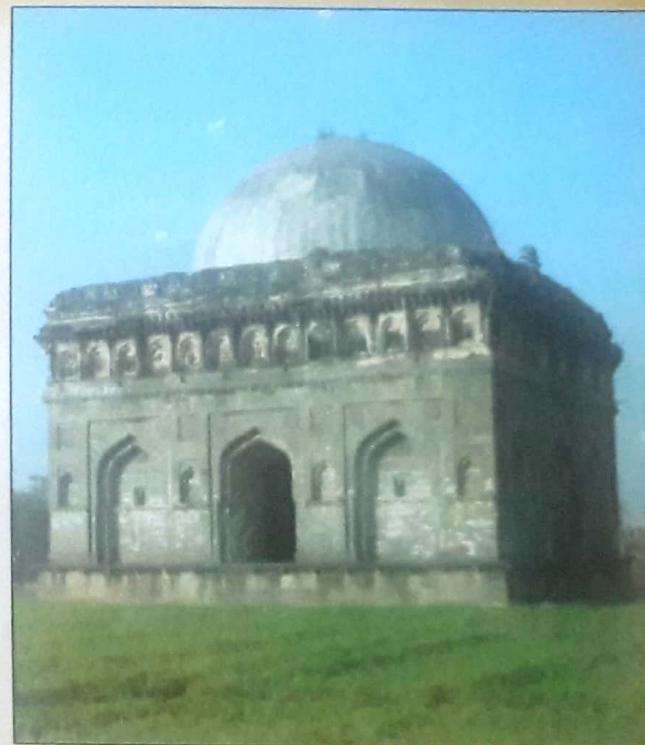
The World famous book 'The Discovery of India' was written by Pandit Nehru in this fort in a record period of 5 months from April to September 1944. The furniture used by Pandit Nehru is preserved in his room.

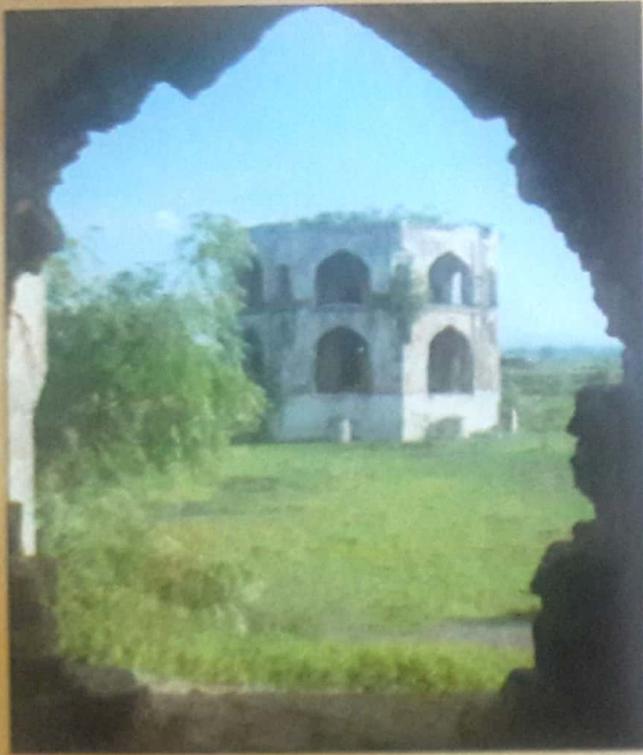
## *Bagh Rauza*

**B**agh Rauza is a tomb of Ahmed Nizam Shah, founder of Ahmednagar city. Bagh Rauza Means 'Garden of Shrine'. Ahmed Nizam Shah built this finest building on the banks of river Sina. The shrine is enclosed by a wall about 10 feet high. Ahmed Nizam Shah and his beloved begam's tomb was under a huge dome inside which the text from the Kuran is inscribed.

To the south of the main building there is a reservoir and small shrine having pyramid shaped roof, where the body of Shah Tahir, the Shia Minister of Nizam Shah was burried and then carried to Karbela. There are some inscriptions on the this building. Outside the wall there is a masonry platform having a beautiful canopy. It is said to be tomb of elephant Gulam Ali, which captured Ram Raja of Vijaynagar in the great battle of Talikot (1565 AD).

(2.5 kms from Maliwada Bus Stand)





## *Hasht Behist Bagh*

*A*hmednagar was famous for Baghs (Royal house hold) and Shahi Hamam Khana (Royal Bathing place). A ruined palace and garden called 'Hasht Behist Bagh' (Eighth Paradise) was built in 1506 AD by Ahmed Nizam Shah. Inside the garden in the middle of a large pond is a eight-sided two storeyed palace representing the eight gates of paradise. A large arch and Hamam Khana is built near the pond. Water was brought by a aquaduct from pimpalgaon and Shendi reservoir.

Murtaza Nizam Shah often used to come here to play chess with Delhi singer, whom he called Fatah Shah and also built a separate palace for him, called 'Lakkad Mahal' in his garden. There is another Hamam Khana having a wind tower, 'Badgir' situated on Bhistbagh road in Savedi.

(6 kms from Maliwada Bus stand)

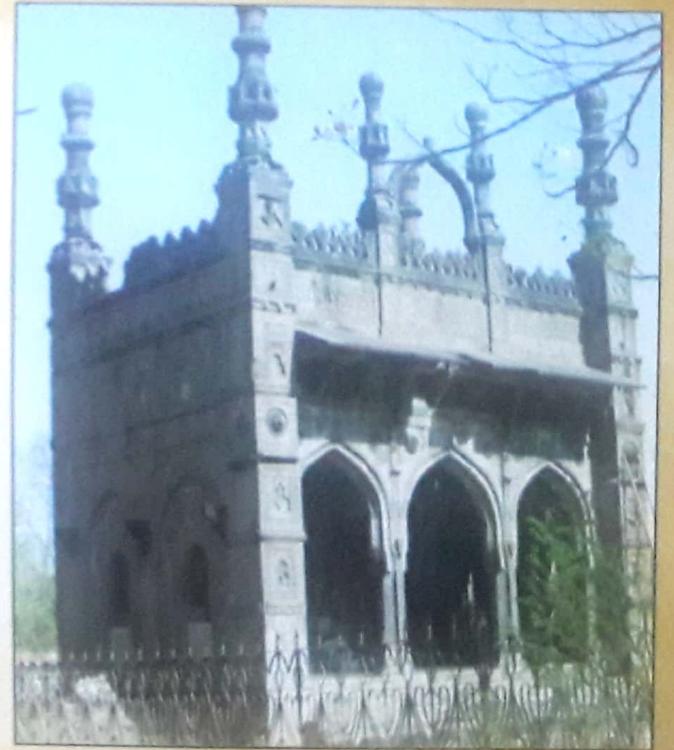
## *Damdi Mosque*

**D**amadi Mosque is situated on the way of Burahannagar, 1km away from the fort. This small masonry Mosque is famous for its elaborate carving and calligraphy. This mosque was built in 1567AD by a noble named Sahir Khan, at the cost of the workers employed on the fort who gave small daily contributions, a 'Damadi' from their wages.

The carving, especially on the arch and minars, is very attractive. The measurement of well dressed stones in which the ceiling is built coincide with those of the floor. In the centre of mosque, a white marble is placed on which some letters are engraved. Inscriptions and Lotus flowers are also found on various stones of the mosque.

Behind Damadi Mosque there is a graveyard, where there are tombs of Europeans and others who were staying in Ahmednagar in 18th and 19th century.

(3.5 km from Maliwada Bus stand)





## *Farah Baksh Palace*

*F*arah Baksh Palace is situated on Solapur road, close to the Cavalary Tank Museum was once a garden Pavillion of Nizam Shahi. This pink coloured two storeyed octagonal palace surrounded by the lake was constructed by Nyamat Khan Semmani and then rebuilt by Salabat Khan II in 1583 AD. This Persian style palace was famous for its huge arches, cooling, ventilation system and fountains. There was a beautiful garden and clumps of Mango, Tamarind and Wood Apple trees around the palace. The central hall with dome called 'Rang Mahal', which was used for dance and music programmes. Shah Jahan lived in Ahmednagar and saw the Farah Baksh Palace, when he rebelled against his father in the early 17th century, leading to the speculation that the structure was one of the inspirations for the design of the Taj Mahal.

(4.5 kms from Maliwada Bus stand)

## *Salabat Khan's Tomb*

*T*welve kms east of the Ahmednagar city, on the 'Shah Donger' hill, stand the tomb of Salabat Khan II, the great statesman and famous minister of Murtuza Nizam Shah I (1565-88 AD). This building is three storeyed and octagonal in shape. Sometimes mistakenly referred as a 'Chand Bibi Mahal' by local residents. Salabat Khan built this building in 1580 AD. This building is about 84 feet high and the galleries are about 20 feet broad. Underground vault which contains the tomb of Salabat Khan (Death 1589 AD) and his beloved wife. The ceiling of vault has angular holes so placed that the rising and setting sun-rays fall on the tomb. A narrow staircase runs round the tower hidden inside the wall. The top storey over the dome is unfinished. According to one account, Salabat Khan meant to carry up the tower, till from the top of it, he could see Daulatabad fort.





## *Alamgir*

*A*lamgir is a place where Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb took his last breath. He died here on 21st February 1707 at the age of 89. His body was given bath and then taken to Khultabad near Ellora and buried there as per his wish.

Alamgir is situated on Ahmednagar-Pathardi road near Bhingar. There is mosque, Baradari, Madarsa and Library. Some rare copies of handwritten Qurans are preserved in the Library of Alamgir.

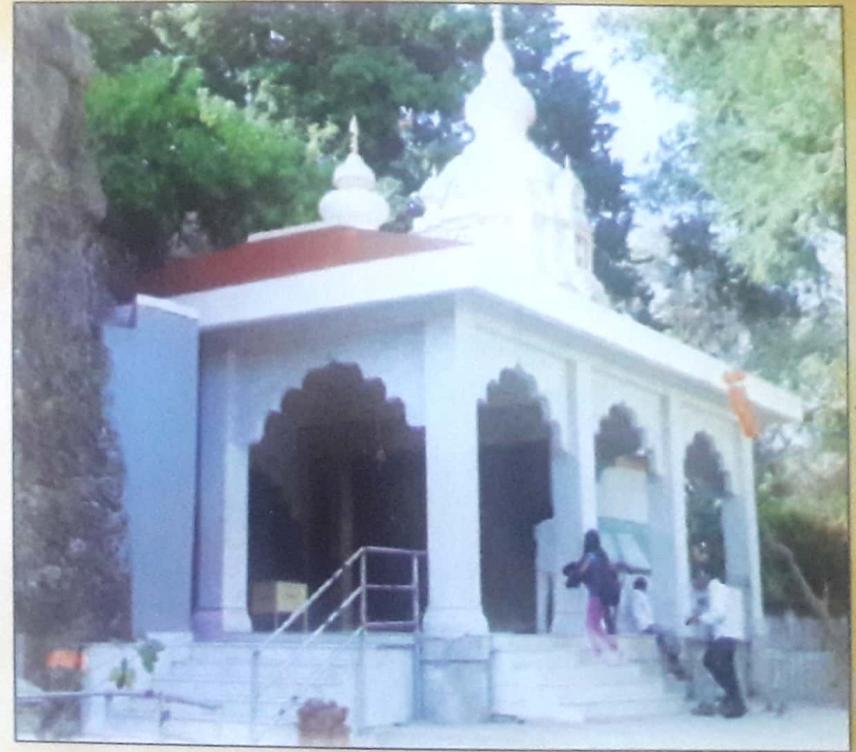
Aurangzeb built some mosques in Ahmednagar city during his regime. The 'Badshahi Mosque' which is about 100 yards south-east of Soneri Mosque is one of them.

(5 kms from Maliwada Bus stand)

## Dongergan

Dongergan is famous for Rameshwar (Mahadev) Temple, cisterns, dense forest and natural valley. It is 18 kms away from Ahmednagar City, situated on a way to Vambori. Dongergan has a romantic little revine called the 'Happy Valley'. It is said that the cisterns have been created by Prabhu Ramchandra while he has on a way to Lanka and Devi Sita bathed in these cistern. A fair is held at Dongergan in the honour of Rameshwar on the third Monday of the month of Shravan and on Shivaratri.

'Dyanesh Yog Ashram' is next to the temple. A beautiful old rest house is in front of temple. Manjre-e-subha (Nizam Shahi Palace) and Gorakashnath Gadh is 3 to 4 kms away from Dongergan. Pimpalgaon Malvi Lake and Avatar Meher Baba's Meherazad is on the way of Dongergan.





## *Hume Memorial Church*

Ahmednagar has held an important position for Christians. It is known as 'Yerusalem of Maharashtra'. Christian missionaries arrived Ahmednagar in early 19th century. Fr. Anthony D'cruz, a Portuguese Diocesan, Priest performed the first Baptism in 1831. A Chapel of St. Anne's was built by him.

Hume Memorial Church (Pahili Mandali, Congregational), which is situated in Khist Lane was constructed in 1902-06 AD. This is a architectural masterpiece which combines Gothic and Dakkani style. The tower of church is dome shaped. The furniture, Organ and bell was brought from America. Hume Church is also famous for its beautiful stained glass paintings.

(1km from Maliwada Bus stand)

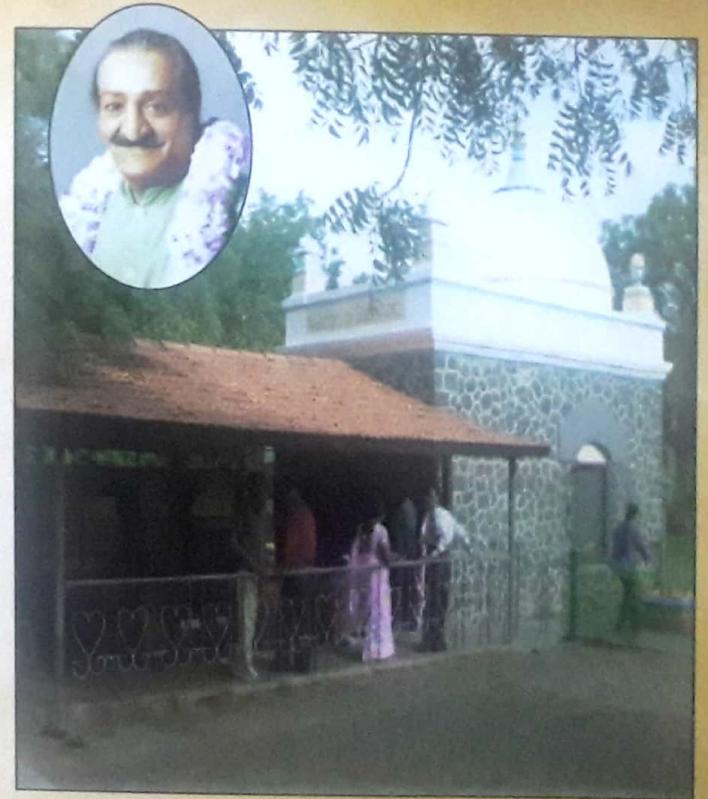
## Meherabad

*A*vatar Meher Baba's Shrine at Meherbad (Arangaon) is a site of pilgrimage. Thousands of visitors annually travel from all over the world to pay homage to one whom they regard as a Avatar of the age.

Meher Baba was born in Pune on 25th February 1894. He established Meherabad, an Ashram community. His work embraced a free school, a free dispensary and hospital with shelter and food for the poor. On 10th July 1925 Meher Baba began observing silence, which he maintained for a period of nearly 44 years. On 31st January 1969, he dropped his physical form to live eternally in the hearts of all who love him. Near the tomb, there is a 'Baba's Room' where the stretcher of his last journey is kept. There is a museum, photo gallery and library in a 'Meher Retreat'.

Amartithi (31 January) and Meher Janmotsav (25 February) is celebrated each year.

(6 kms from Maliwada Bus stand on Ahmednagar - Daund road)





## *Anand Dham*

Anand Dham is a shrine of Rastra Sant Acharya Anandrishiji Maharaj. He was born on 27th July 1900 at Shiral Chichondi (Taluka Pathardi). At the age of 13, he accepted initiation as per Jain tradition. He devoted his life for the teaching of Jain Principles.

Anandrishiji passed away on 28th March 1992. A Lotus shaped monument was erected on the place where his last rites had been performed. 'Anand Dham' is regarded as a holy place not only by Jains, but also by the devotees of almost all the religions.

Behind the monument there is Dharmik Pariksha Board, Library of rare books and museum where Anandrishiji's seat and other things have been preserved.

(1 Kms from Maliwada Bus stand)

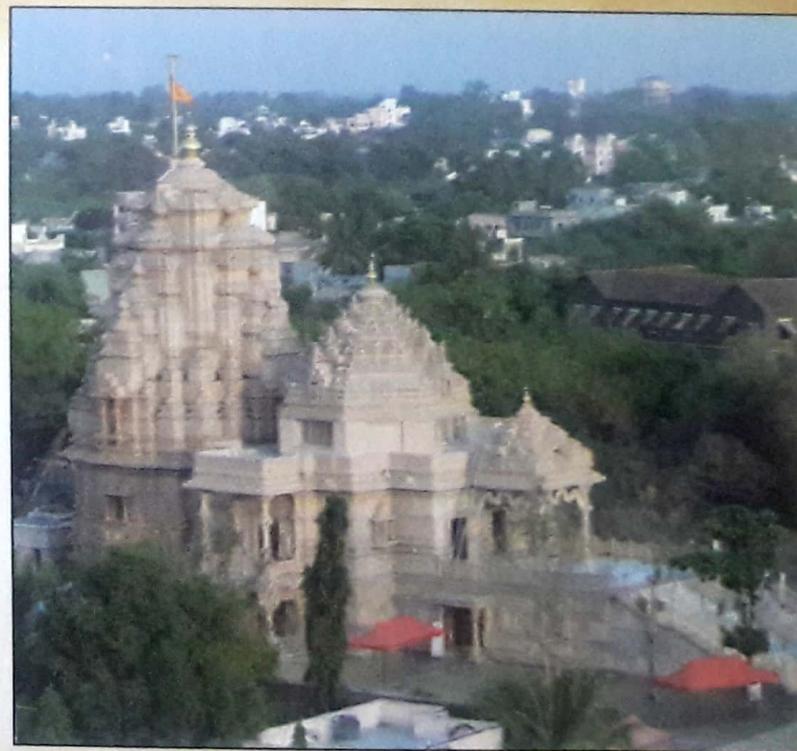
## *Vedanta Datta Devasthan*

Shri Datta Devasthan Trust was formed with a view to protect and preserved the Vedas by Shri Sadguru Ramkrishna Saraswati Swami in 1974. Vedant Vidyapeetham was started in 1988. The Vidyapeetham provides facilities to learn Vedas from eminent scholars as per the 'Gurukul' system of education.

To provide sanctuary, harmony and peace to the entire society, Shri Gurudev decided to construct a temple of Lord Dattatray. This Magnificent temples stands behind the Vedanta Vidyapeetham. Pink Bansi-Paharpur marble is used for this beautiful temple. This is the biggest Dattatraya Temple in the world.

The Gurupournima, Datta Jayanti, Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti and Shri Sadguru Jayanti are celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm at the Datta Devasthan, Savedi

(5 km from Maliwada Bus stand)





## *Cavalry Tank Museum*

Adjacent to the historical Farah Baksh Palace, you will find lethal fighting monsters set amongst pristine lawns. This Cavalry Tank Museum was established by the Armoured Corps Centre and School, Ahmednagar in February 1994. It is the only museum of its kind in Asia and houses about 50 exhibits of vintage armoured fighting vehicles.

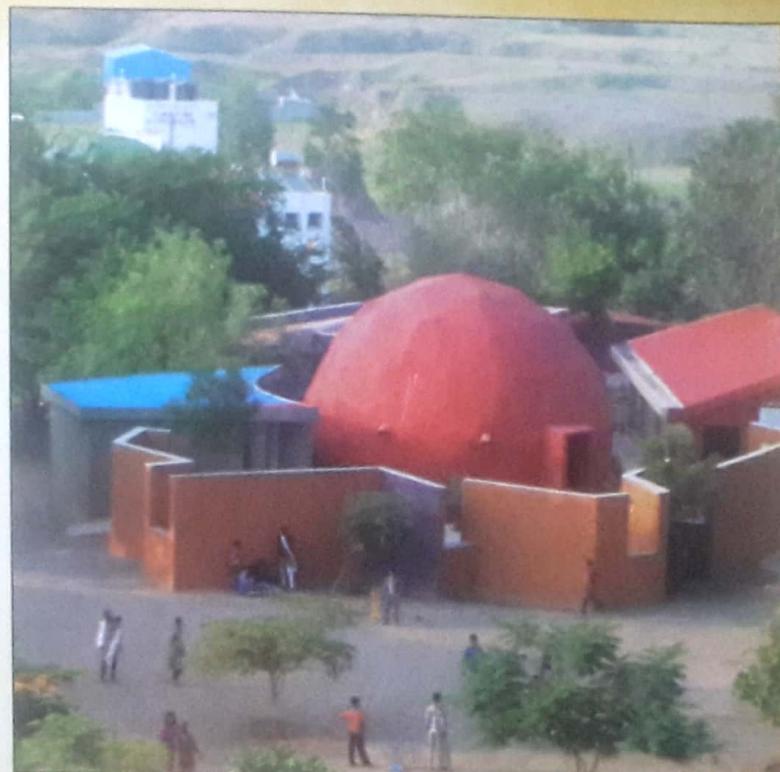
The oldest exhibit is the 'Silver Ghost' Rolls Royce Armoured Car. The older exhibits date to World War I vintage and saw service on the battlefields of Cambrai, Somme and Flanders. A large number of vehicles are from World War II period, included amongst the exhibits are British Valentine, Japanese type 95 HA-Go and Type-97 Chi-Ha, Sherman Crab flail tank, M-47 Patton, Centurion Mark II, German Panzer and Pride of India 'Vijayanta'. The memory halls house memorabilia of all regiments of the Armoured Corps. Museum remains open on all days from 9 to 5 pm.  
(4 kms from Maliwada Bus stand on Ahmednagar-Solapur road)

## *Snehalaya*

Snehalaya is a Home, Family and Future for Homeless, family less children and women in distress. Snehalaya was started by zealous band of youth volunteers in 1989. The welfare projects undertaken by Snehalaya include shelter home for destitute girls and boys as well as HIV infected children and women.

Snehalaya shelter home is situated near MIDC where health and education facilities are provided. Snehalaya runs Balbhavan Project for slum children, with the facility of library and reading hall.

'Snehjyot' runs a free medical and health care centre in the red light areas of Ahmednagar district. Ahmednagar childline renders 24 hrs. emergency helpline for children in need and care and protection. Snehalaya also runs an adoption centre, 'Snehankur' for the destitute children and community radio station 'Radio Nagar 90.4 FM. Snehalaya's contact No. 9011020173 (12 kms from bus stand)





## *Historical Museum*

*A*hmednagar historical museum was established in May 1960. Located near collector office, this museum has the unique collection of coins, miniature paintings, sculptures, weapons, turbans, manuscripts etc. There is a special section of Ganesh idols. The original painting of Chattrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, chainless bicycle of Germany, Tantrik Ganpati, Sanskrit-Marathi dictionary, 200 feet long Horoscope are some of the attractions of this museum. The revolving stage of the famous Marathi Drama 'To Mi Navhech' is donated to this museum.

Timing 9 am to 5 pm., Closed on Thursday.

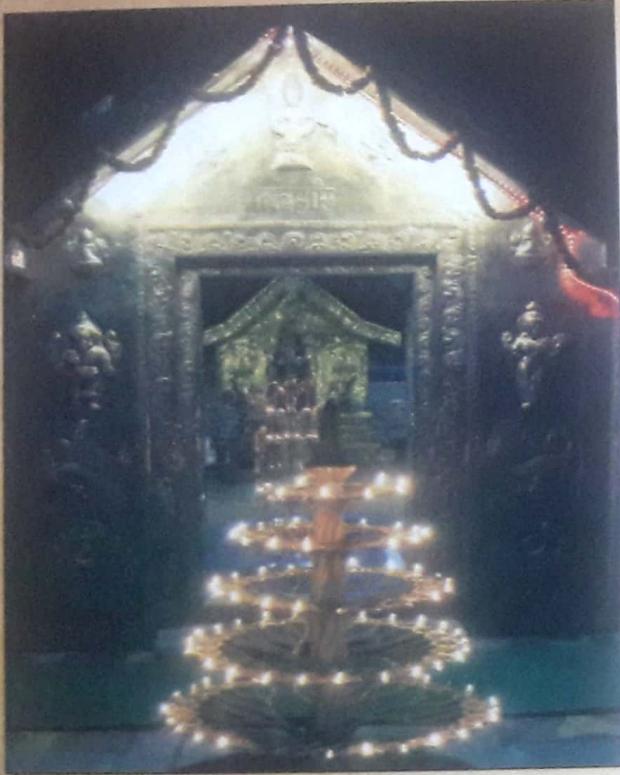
(2.5 kms from ST Bus stand)

## Saiban

Saiban is a green dream project of Dr. Prakash and Dr. Sudha Kankariya. This eco-tourism site created near MIDC is full of plants, green houses and watershed experiments.

There is a lake where you can enjoy boating and have a fun of horse riding. You can make friendship with birds and animals. There is a photogallery about snakes. Space Gallery, Seaworld and Nakshatra Udyan are the other attractions. You can have lunch here. Experience Hurda Party in winter season. Contact no. (0241) 2777402, 2777647; web : [www.saiban.com](http://www.saiban.com)  
(15 kms from Bus stand)





## *Shree Ayyappa Temple*

*M*anikantan, popularly recognised as Lord Ayyapa, emerged out of blended devine powers of 'Lord Shiva' and 'Lord Vishnu' as Mohini to end the menace of Mahishi, the wife of Mahishasura. At the age of twelve, Manikantan killed Mahishi and revealed his true identity. Lord Ayyappa selected the summit of Shabri hills next to river Pampa for his temple.

The devotees and the members of Shree Ayyappa Seva Samithi of Ahmednagar constructed temple of Ayyappa at Renavikar Nagar, Savedi in 1994. Various festivals are celebrated throughout the year.

## *Efforts Planetarium*

Efforts Planetarium is situated on Ahmednagar - Aurangabad highway, near Dhangarwadi just 10 km from Ahmednagar city. This is the first planetarium erected in rural India. The private digital planetarium constructed by a passionate secondary teacher for his hobby. Shows are available in Marathi, Hindi and English. Capacity of each show is 70 persons. Group of 4-5 person can also enjoy this as a special show. You can also enjoy tour of Science Park and Astral Garden. Lunch and dinner facility is also available. Contact: 0241 - 2424103, 9822095691





## *Shirdi*

The Sai Baba Temple located at Shirdi (Taluka Rahata) attracts huge number of visitors all through the year. The temple is a beautiful shrine that was built over the samadhi of Shri Sai Baba. Firm believers of Sai Baba come to pay homage and seek blessings. The 'Kakad Aarti' of Sai Baba is famous amongst devotees.

'Dwarkamai' is located on the right side of the entry point of Sai temple. This mosque was used as a residence by Sai Baba. In the mosque you will come across the 'Shila' (stone) once used by Baba to sit.

To the west of the samadhi is the 'Gurusthana', the place of the Guru. At this place has a grown a large tree of

kadulimba, the odd features of this particular tree being the leaves of one branch of the tree taste bitter, while the other branch taste sweet. There is a museum in the premises of temple where the things are displayed used by Sai Baba.

The main fair of Sai Baba is held on Chaitra Shud 8 and 9 every year, which is known as 'Ramnavami Utsav'. In addition to this main fair, there are other fairs during the year. Guru Pournima Utsav is celebrated on Ashadha shuddha 15 and Gokul Ashtami is celebrated on Shravan Vad 8. Punyatithi of the Sai Baba is observed on Ashvin Shuddha 10.

Contact : 02423-25800  
[www.shrisaibabasansthan.org](http://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org)





## *Shani Shingnapur*

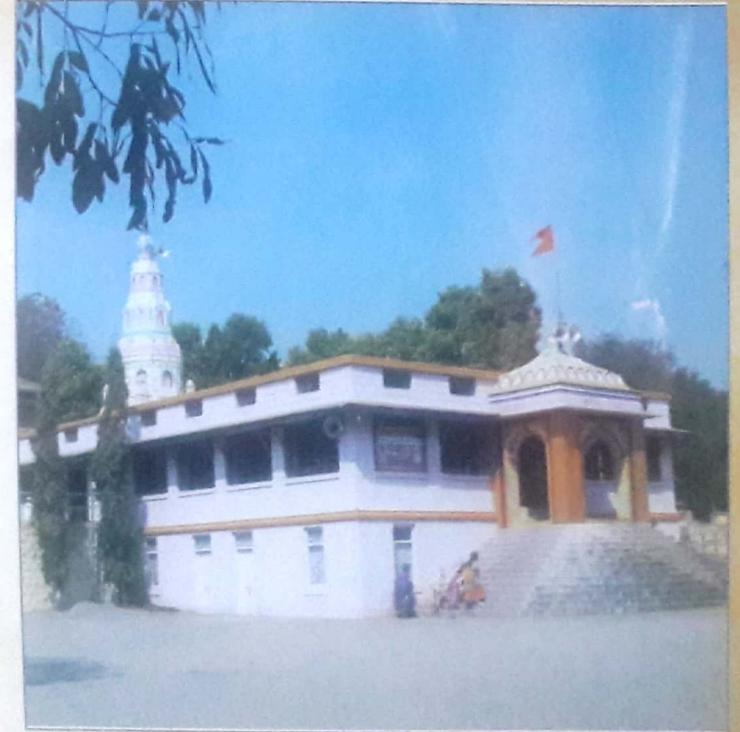
Shani-Saturn is one of the dreaded planets of astrology. The village Shani Shingapur is famous for Shanieswar. The legend says that about 300 hundred year ago the stream, Panas nalla alongside the village was in flood. A rock-slab was washed up. It amused some shepherd kids. One of them poked it with a stick and wonder of wonders ! The rock bled ! Then somebody received a divine message in the dream that this five and half feet rock was nothing but a Shani idol.

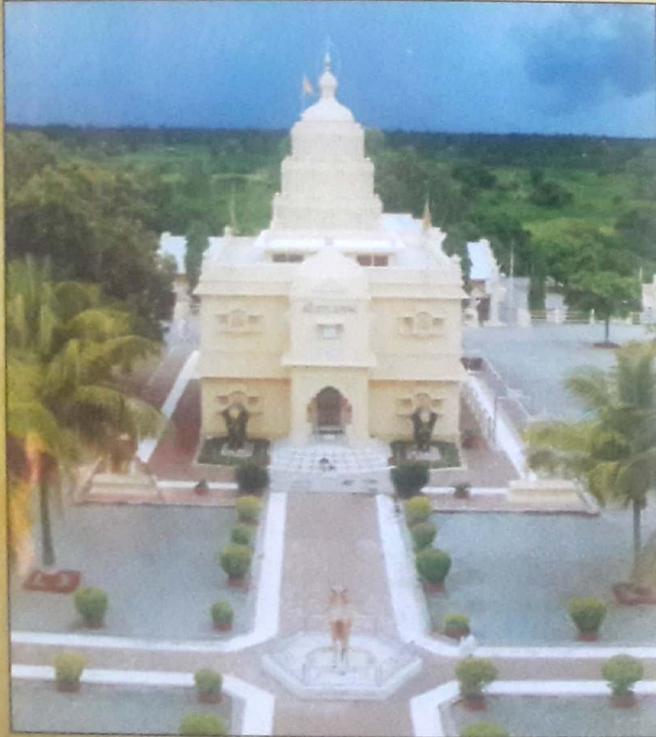
The shrine is in open air, without roof. In 1990, an east facing multi deity temple was built west of the Shani idol. The premises also contain a tomb of Saint Udasi Baba. The village has no doors. It is belevied that no theft occurs here, as a Lord Sani, the guardian deity of the village is always there to meteout punishment. Thousands of people including famous personalities gather here on Shani Amavasya and round the year. Shani Shingnapur (Taluka Nevasa) is 35 km from Ahmednagar city. Contact : 02427-238093

## *Nevasa*

In 1290 AD. Dnyaneshwar, the great Marathi saint poet, wrote his commentary on the Bhagvat Gita, 'Dnyaneshwari' at Nevasa. The prominent object of interest in the town is the temple dedicated to Dnyaneshwar. 'Pais' is a stone pillar which stands about four and a half feet out of the ground is square in the middle and round above and below. The front side of the square bears an inscription in seven lines and two Sanskrit Verses. Beside the idols of Vitthal and Rakhumai, the temple contains the images of Sant Dnyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram.

Another object of interest in the town is the temple dedicated to Mohiniraj. This temple was constructed in 1773 by Gangadhar Yashwant Chandrachud. The inner shrine contains an image of Mohiniraj or Vishnu.





## *Devgad*

Shri Dattatraya Mandir of Shrikshetra Devgad is located in Navasa Taluka. The great Saint of the modern times, Shri Samarth Sadguru Kisangiri Baba (1907-1983) founded the temple of Shri Datta as well as Devgad Sansthan. The entire temple built in carved stones and for flooring the polished marble stones are brought from Rajasthan. The ambiance of the temple is full with holiness and spiritual richness.

In the same premises there are temples of Panchmukhi Siddheshwar, Shri Kartik Swami and Goddess Parvati. A small temple is erected over the Samadhi of Kisangiri Baba. The Mahadwar is Majestic entrance which gives the idea of grand temples. Around the temples there is a park and river Pravara flows behind the temple, where you can enjoy boating, Bhakti Niwas and other facilities are also available.

Devgad is 14 kms away from Nevasa and 55 kms from Aurangabad.

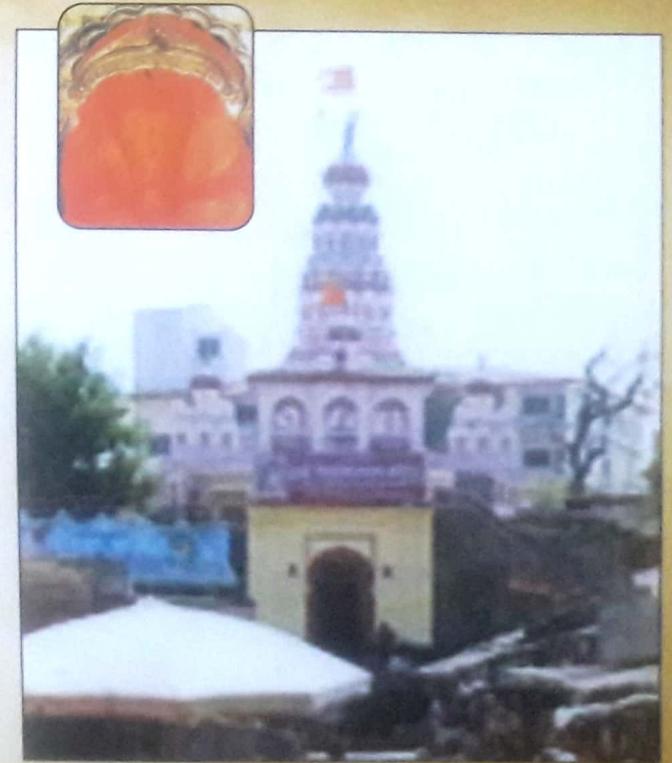
## *Siddhatek*

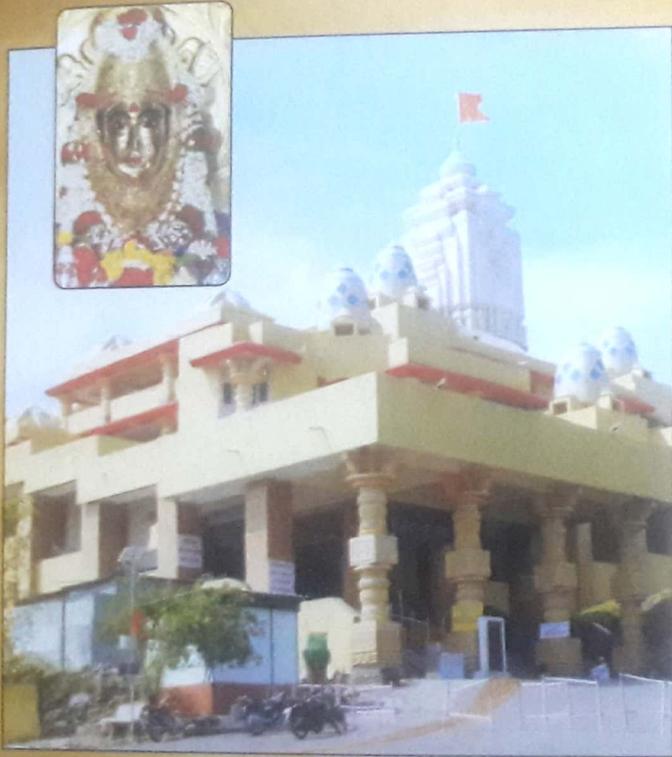
The Siddhivinayak temple of Siddhatek (Taluka Karjat) is the only Ashtavinayaka, where the deity has the trunk to the right. It is located on the northern banks of the river Bhima.

The original temple is believed to be built by Bhagwan Vishnu, however it was destroyed over time. Later a cowherd is believed to have had a vision of the ancient temple and found the icon of Siddhivinayaka.

The present temple was built in the late 18th century by Ahilyabai Holkar. Sardar Haripant Phadke, an official with the Peshwa rulers, built Nagarkhana and a pathway to the main door to the temple. The temple is under the administration of the Chinchwad Devasthan.

Siddhatek is accessible from the village of Shirapur in Pune district. Other routes are Daund-Kasti-Pedgaon, Shirur-Shrigonda-Siddhatek and Karjat-Rashin-Siddhatek.





## *Mohata Devi*

*M*ohata Devi is located at 70 kms east of Ahmednagar and 9 kms from Pathardi. Having very good surrounding of hills and water bodies, this place gives eternal pleasure to the devotees. Renuka Mata of Mahur is came for one of her devotee, who is unable to go Mahur, so people who can not go to Mahur, they can take Darshan of Mohata Devi.

Recently temple has been renovated. Apart from main idol of Renuka Mata, there are small idols of different goddesses. Navaratri is the major festival of Mohata Devi. You can visit Bhagawn Gadh and Vriddheshar also in a one day tour of Pathardi.

## *Krishi Vidyapeeth*

The Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (MPKV), Rahuri is the premier Agricultural University, that renders services to the farmers through education, research and extension education.

Maharashtra Agricultural University was established in March 1968, with its office at Mumbai. The office was shifted to college of Agriculture, Pune in 1969. Later on in 1972, four Agricultural Universities were established in Maharashtra. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is one of them established in 1969, for the western Maharashtra having jurisdiction over 10 districts viz. Ahmednagar, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Dhule, Nashik, Solapur, Pune, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur.





## *Pemgiri Fort*

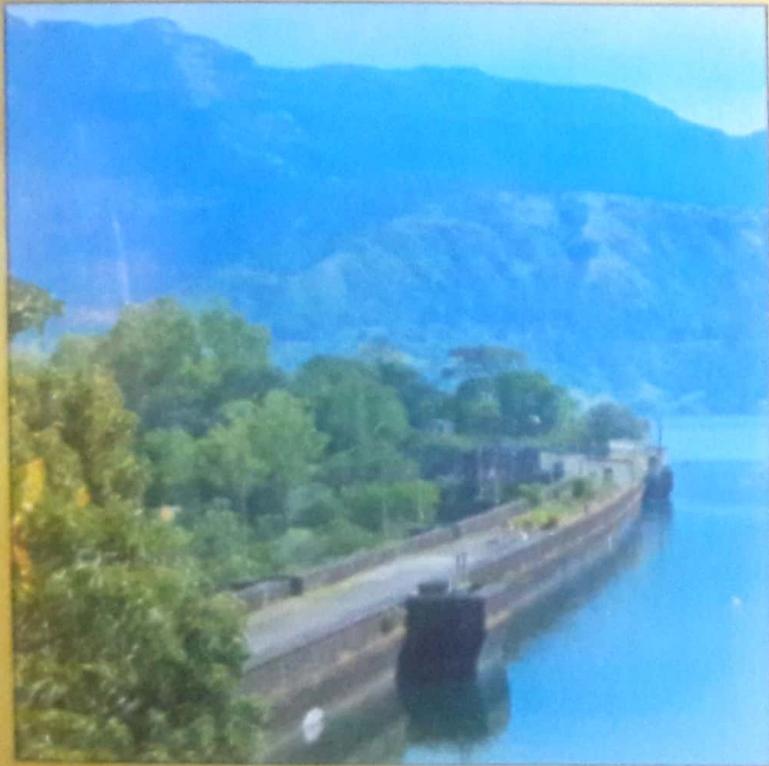
**P**emgiri Fort (Taluka Sangamner) is about 55 kms from Bhandardara and 15 kms from Sangamner city. The fort is also known as Pemgiri, Shahagad and Bhimgad. The fort once was the capital of the Nizam Shahi dynasty. Now we can found here only remains of the fort. Some spots like Devi temple and water tanks are really worth to visit. There is a inscription in a well, stating the Hindu year 1628. Two caves, locally called 'Guahgar', believed to be the home of wolves and leopards, are nearby. Limestone quarries are seen around.

The most important spot near the fort is valued Banyan tree, which covers an area of more than 2.5 acres. It is one of the largest Banyan tree in India.

## *Jamkhed Model*

The comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP) Jamkhed, has been working among the rural poor and marginalized for more than 47 years. Founded in 1970 by Drs. Raj and Mabelle Arole to bring healthcare to the poorest of the poor. CRHP has become an organization that empowers people to eliminate injustices through integrated efforts in health and development. Pioneering a comprehensive approach to community based primary healthcare, known as the 'Jamkhed Model'. CRHP has become a leader in public health and development in rural communities within India and the world. CRHP includes a cost effective secondary care hospital, a campus training center for local and international workers, a preschool, a demonstration organic farm, a rehabilitation centre for survivors of domestic violence and outcast women with HIV / AIDS and a mobile health team and clinic. In each CRHP project village there is a village health worker (VHW) who facilitates various community empowerment programmes. (75 kms from Ahmednagar)





## *Bhandardara*

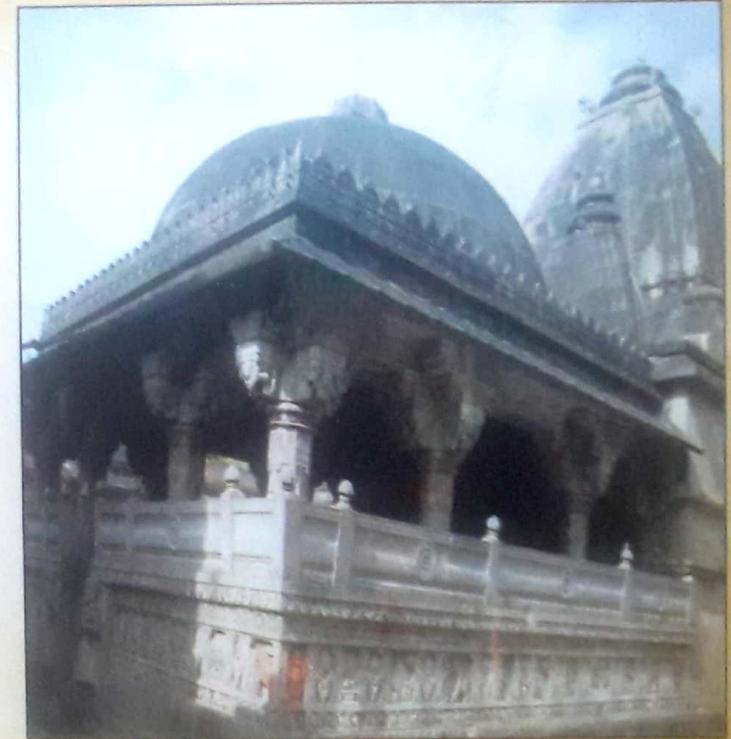
*F*or adventure and nature loving trekkers, Bhandardara (Taluka Akole) is an ideal destination. Arthur lake set amidst scenic forest affords many hours of entertainment. Wilson Dam is one of the most popular attractions of the Bhandardara hill station. The dam at a height of 150 meters was built on the river Pravara in the year 1910-1926. Umbrella falls is situated near the Wilson Dam and with their breathtaking splendour will make you in love with them.

Amriteshwar Temple (Ratanwadi) is one of the tourist attraction is 20 km away from Bhandardara. Randha falls is also worth place to visit.

By Road Ahmednagar - Bhandardara 165 kms., Mumbai - Bhandardara 185 kms., Pune - Bhandardara 191 kms.

## *T* Siddheshwar Temple, Toka

Toka is a small village on the left bank of the river Pravara at its meeting with the Godavari, at a distance of 12 kms from Nevasa. The objects of interest in the village are the temples dedicated to Siddheshwar. The temple of Siddheshwar belongs to the period of the Peshvas. Nana Phadnis built six flights of steps (ghat) on the bank of the river Godavari which lead from the temple to the river. The temple is a solid structure built in black stone. It is Hemadpanti in style and bears some elegant carvings. On the temple building are seen pictures of the incarnations of god and also depicting mythological themes. There are temples dedicated to Durga Devi, Maruti, Ganpati, Dattatrya etc. within the compound of the main temple. Siddheshwar is in the form of a linga considered to be a swayambhu one. The temple has its own Nagarkhana (Drum-chamber).





## *Dhokeshwar Caves*

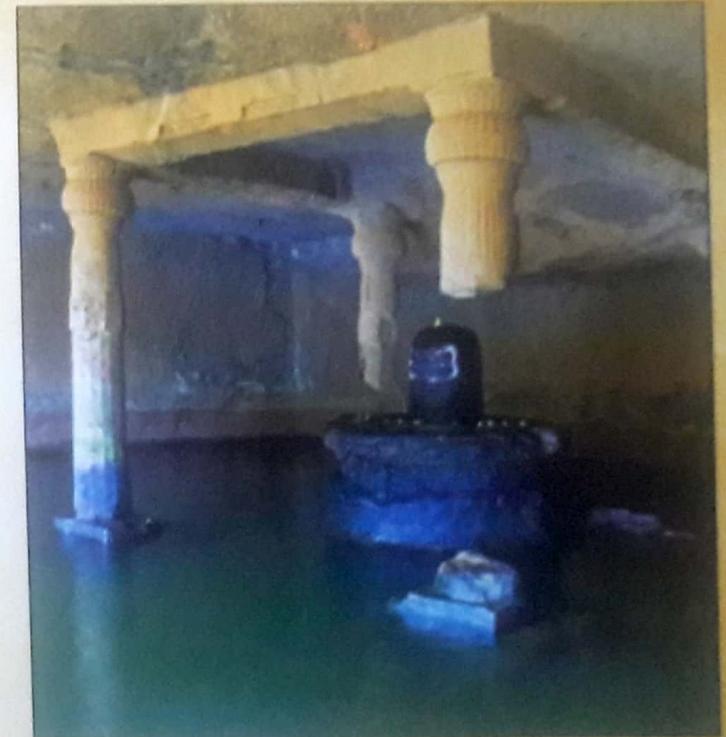
**J**akli Dhokeshwar is a small village in Parner taluka, 20 kms to the north of Parner. The village has on the east side, two rugged hills from a stony plateau, a group of early Brahmanic caves of about 550-600 AD. The cave is about 45 feet wide in front and upwards of 40 feet deep. In front are two massive pillars between pilasters. The shrine is rock-cut with round it a wide circling path or pradakshina and with a door in front and in the right end. On each side of the front door is a Dwarpal (door-keeper) with an aureole behind the head, holding a flowers in this right hand.

On the south wall of the cave are figure of the seven mothers (saptmatruka) with Ganesh and Bhringi at their head. The mothers are seated under the foliage of five trees. Each has an aureole and her distinguishing animal symbol. Behind the last mother is Shiva. On the deep architrave on the inner pair of pillars in the centre is a sculpture of Lakshmi and elephants pouring water over her and other figures to the left. At the north end is a chapel with two pillars in front and on the back wall a large sculpture of Bhairav and some snake figures.

## *Harishchandra Gad*

4691 feet above the sea level, with ruined fortifications and Brahmanical caves Harishchandragad lies on the Sahyadris, 28 kms south-west of Akola. The hill top, which is about three miles in diameter, is an irregular tableland with deep gorges and at the south east edge rising rather suddenly to highest point 4691 feet above the sea. The caves lie north of and above 600 feet below the summit. A few images of the Shiv symbol and Ganpati also appear on some of the door lintels. A little below the row of caves is a large Hemadpanti reservoir with steps, along whose southern side is a row of little niches or shrines some of them are occupied by images. Kedareshwar cave is also one of the attraction of pilgrimages.

Especially in May the edge of the Konkan cliff often gives an excellent view of the curious phenomenon called the circular rainbow.





## *Kharda Fort*

The Kharda Fort (Taluka Jamkhed) was built by Sardar Nimbalkar in 1745 in the south-east part of the village Kharda. It is a square and very strongly built with cut stone walls about 30 feet high and a ditch now entirely ruined. The walls have a very massive gateway and two gates at right angles to each other. Over the inner gateway is an inscription. Inside the fort is a small mosque with an inscription on a stone. Over the front besides there is a cellar and an underground gymnasium. Behind the mosque is a deep well built in cut stone. On the 11th March 1795, Kharda witnessed the famous battle in which Nizam Ali, who brought his army over Mohori Pass from Bidar was defeated by the combined Maratha forces of the Peshva, Shinde, Holkar, Bhosle and Gaikwad.

## *Pedgaon Fort*

The Pedgaon fort (Taluka Shrigonda) was built by Khan Jahan Bahadur Kokaltash, who was Deccan Viceroy of Mughal. There are ruins of an 'Elephant Mot', a persian wheel and a tower which was used to raise water from river Bhima. Temples of Lakshmi-Narayan, Baleshwar, Mallikarjun or Mundeshwar and Bhairavnath are situated inside the fortification. All of them have elaborate carvings. Outside carving of the Lakshmi-Narayan temple consists of elephants in the lowest panel, tigers in the next and figures of men and women in the succeeding panels. You can visit Siddhatek which is 20 kms away and Shrigonde 11 kms from Pedgaon fort.





## *Rehekuri Blackbuck Sanctuary*

Situated in the Karjat Taluka, the Rehekuri wildlife sanctuary is spread over 2.17 square kilometers and draws nature lovers and tourists for its wide variety of flora and fauna. Apart from the many species of trees and plants you can spot here blackbucks, chinkaras and the Indian fox. Given the fact that the area is grassland territory, walking through the sanctuary is a pleasure, more so for the sightings of the many types of antelopes present here. Rehekuri is 8 km away from Karjat.

## *Puntamba*

**P**untamba is considered as 'Dakshin Kashi'. Puntamba has sixteen temples of Maruti, six temples of Mahadev, three temples of Vitthal, two temples of Datta and one each of Laxmi-Narayan, Changdev Maharaj and Kartikswami. There are low flights of steps or ghats to the river Godavari one of which was built by Ahilyabai Holkar. The Godavari which flows to the west of the temples, provides a delightful scenic background. The place is most important for its big fair which is held annually in the month of Kartik (October-November).





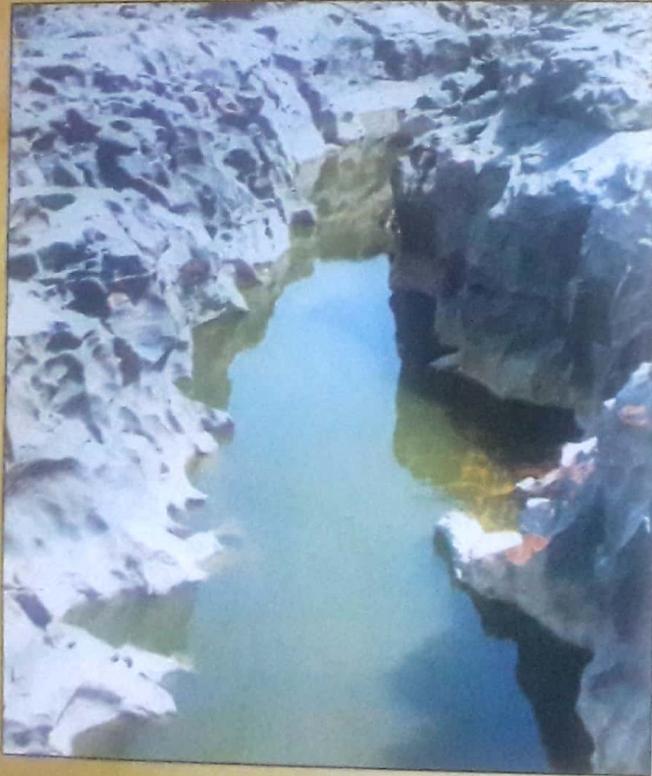
## *Madhi*

*M*adhi (Taluka Pathardi) is famous for the temple of Kaniph Nath. The temple is situated on a small hill. It has approaches from three different directions. The tomb of the saint is made of stone in the shape of a turbat. There are also a few tombs of the disciples of the Kaniph Nath. A horse of brass is placed in front of the tomb of the saint. Every year fair is held between the festival of Holi and Gudhi Padhva. Mayamba, a shrine of Machindra Nath is few kilometer away from Madhi.

## *Shree Korthan Khandoba*

Shree Kshetra Korthan Khandoba Devasthan is situated on the hills of Pimpalgaon Rotha (Taluka Parner) which is located 50 kms from Ahmednagar and 30 kms from Parner. Lord Shiva took avtar of Marthand Bhairav to defeat Mani and Malya Rakshas. That day was Shudha Champasasthi. Since then Champasasthi is celebrated as 'Khandoba Avtar Day'. On Poush Pournima Shri Khandoba is married with Mhalsa, hence this day is important and celebrated as three days annual 'Yatra Utsav'. Here devotees gets darshan of Lord Khandoba in the form of Swayambhu Rocky Tandala (stone), also Mhalsa and Banai are visible in the same Tandala. In front of them there are twelve swayambhu lingas. In 1997 the old temple was renovated by villagers and devotees.





## *Nighoj*

*N*ighoj (Taluka Parner) is famous for potholes. These potholes are geological wonders will take your breath away. Carved out by the river Kukadi, over hundreds of years in the Basalt rock in bed they are spread over 2-3 kms at varying depths. The churning of water flow has created pot shaped craters of varying shapes and sizes.

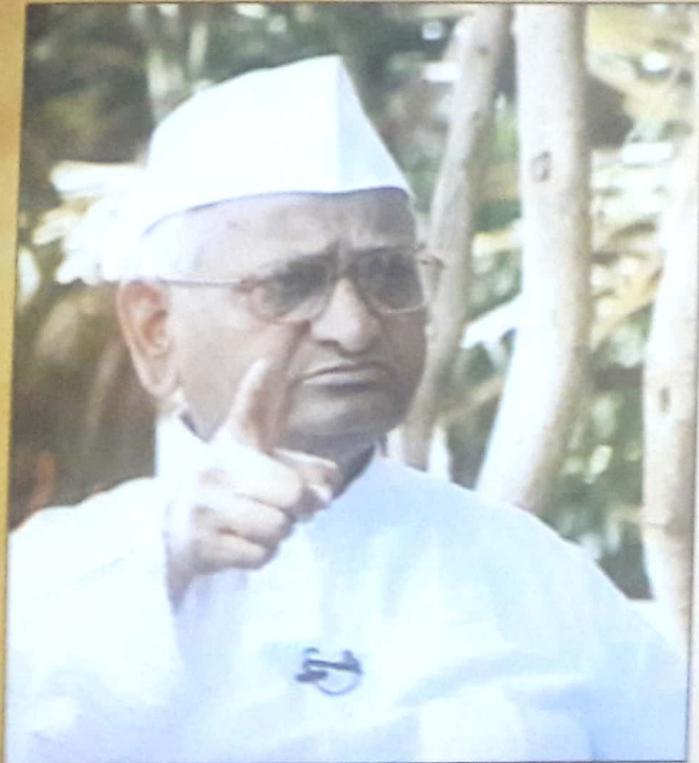
Nighoj is about 2 hours away from Pune and Ahmednagar. The best time to visit would be winter or summer when there is not much water in the river. Malganga temple is also worth to visit.

## *Chondi*

The village Chondi (Taluka Jamkhed) is a birthplace of Punyashlok Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar. The 'Gadhi' and 'Wada' of Ahilyabai's father Mankoji Shinde is recently renovated by Maharashtra Government. Ahilyeshwar Temple and Samadhi of members of Shinde family are next to the Gadhi. 'Ahilya Shiplashrusthi' is the main attraction, where the life of Ahilyabai is displayed. You can reach Chondi via Chapadgaon, which is on way of Ahmednagar-Karmala Road.

(Chondi is 78 kms from Ahmednagar city)





## *Ralegan Siddhi*

Ralegan Siddhi is considered as a model of sustainable development and environmental conservation. The village has carried out various programmes like tree planting, terracing to reduce soil erosion and water conservation. The village's biggest accomplishment is in its use of non-conventional energy. For energy, village uses solar power, biogas and a windmill. The project is heralded as sustainable model of a village republic.

Apart from various projects of village development initiated by veteran social worker Shri Anna Hazare, you can also visit Yadavbaba and Pemai temple, training centre, school and a museum.

Ralegan Siddhi is in Parner Taluka located at a distance of 87 kms from Pune and 55 km from Ahmednagar.

## Hiware Bazar

Hiware Bazar, a small village 17 kms away from Ahmednagar city, has emerged as a role model of rural sustainability through people's participation. In early nineties, Hiware Bazar started acting collectively under the guidance of Sarpanch Popatrao Pawar by adopting 5 mantras i.e. family planning, ban on tree cutting, ban on liquor, ban on grazing and rendering voluntary labour (Shramdan). In less than a decade, Hiware Bazar become one of the most prosperous village using rainwater harvesting and watershed development models. Together with the green agenda, this village also implemented a program for social change which involved Ek Gav Ek Smashanbhumi, Ek Gav Ek Panavatha etc. Do visit Gram Sansad, Model School, Anganwadi, Mumba Devi Temple, Training Centre, Tourism Centre & Hill Top Pagoda.  
Contact 7588092075



## *What else to see in Ahmednagar...*

- Vishal Ganesh Temple, Maliwada
- Renuka Devi Temple, Kedgaon
- Shahsharif Darga, Mukundnagar
- Mahavir Kaladalan ('Sare Jahan Se Accha' Pencil sketch)
- Chatrapati 4th Shivaji Maharaj Samadhi
- Rev. Narayan Vaman Tilak Samadhi
- Chintamani Art Gallery, MIDC
- Shree Raghvendra Swami Temple, Bolhegaon
- Shree Chakradhar Swami Temple, Nagapur
- Dharampuri, Nimbalk
- Vaishnomata Temple, Isalak
- Shukleshwar Temple, Bhingar
- Bhringrushhi Temple, Bhingar
- Anuradha Thakur's Art Gallery, Dharmadhikari Mala
- Bhai Daya Singh Gurudwara
- Agyari, Hatampura
- Adhai Ghumat, Savedi
- Lakkad Mahal, Savedi
- Iskon Temple, Savedi
- Siddheshwar Temple, Siddhibaug
- Birthplace of Shri Anna Hazare, Bhingar
- Meher Centre, Aurangabad Road
- Sina Bridge
- Hatti Barav
- Balaji Temple
- Jain Temple
- Maliwada War Memorial
- Bara Imam Kothla
- Major Dinubhau Kulkarni Jogging Park, Savedi
- Kalashri Art Gallery, Gulmohar Rd.
- Mahanubhav Ashyam, Arangaon
- Panjarapol, Arangaon Road
- Akolner, birth place of Sant Dasganu
- Shree Kalbhairavnath Temple, Agadgaon
- Kapurwadi Lake
- Pimpalgaon Malvi Lake
- Gorakshnath Gad
- Manjersumbha Gad
- Miravali Pahad
- Radasba, Devgaon hills
- Bhatodi.

# DISCOVER AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

