



Statue of Shivaji Maharaj at Sindhudurg

Why in News?

On 11 May 2025, **Maharashtra Chief Minister** Devendra Fadnavis unveiled a statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** at the **Rajkot Fort** in Sindhudurg.



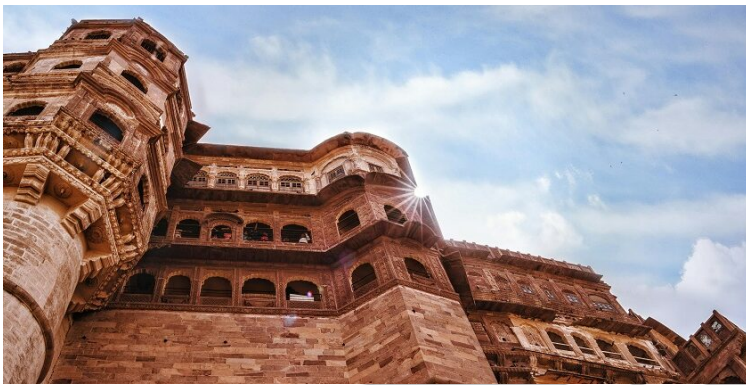
Key Points

- **About the Statue:**
 - The statue stands **91 feet tall, including a 10-foot pedestrian base**, making it the **tallest statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in India**.
 - According to the Chief Minister, the grand statue will **inspire future generations and boost tourism** by spurring development in the Sindhudurg region.
 - The **Maharashtra Public Works Department constructed** the statue at a cost of Rs 31.75 crore.
 - Renowned **sculptor Ram Sutar's** company executed the project.
 - Engineers used **stainless steel framework, M50 grade concrete, and stainless steel bars** to build the structure.
 - The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai** verified the statue's concept and design for structural safety and durability.

▪ **About Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:**

- Born on **19th February 1630, at Shivneri Fort, Pune** was a visionary leader from the **Bhonsle clan** and the founder of the **Maratha Empire**, known for resisting the **Mughal Empire** and striving for **self-rule**.
 - **Major Battles:** Battle of Pratapgad, Battle of Pavan Khind, Sacking of Surat, Battle of Purandar, Battle of Sinhagad, and Battle of Sangamner.
 - The **Wagh nakh**, was used by Shivaji to kill Afzal Khan in the **1659 Battle of Pratapgad**.
 - **Titles:** Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas, and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.
 - **Administration:** Centralized administration with the **Ashtapradhan** (Council of Eight Ministers), abolished the **Jagirdari System**, implemented the **Ryotwari System**, and built a **strong naval force** for coastal defense.
- Shivaji is renowned for his innovative **guerrilla warfare tactics**, which influenced subsequent rulers and shaped the **Maratha Military Landscapes**.

Rajkot Fort



- Chhatrapati **Shivaji** Maharaj **constructed Rajkot Fort** between **1664 and 1667** in **Malvan, Maharashtra**, as part of his **coastal defence strategy**.
- The fort functioned as a **vital military outpost for protecting coastal trade routes** and was **integrated into the broader Sindhudurg Fort** complex.
- Positioned near **the Arabian Sea**, the fort's robust walls and strategic coastal location reflect the **region's rich maritime heritage** and **naval foresight under Shivaji's rule**.
- In **1766, the British entered into a treaty** with the **Chhatrapati of Karveer** (a branch of the Maratha royal family).
 - As part of this engagement, the **British sought permission to establish a shipbuilding yard at Rajkot**, highlighting the fort's continued strategic value even in the colonial era.