



Daulatabad Fort

Source: TH

A fire at **Daulatabad Fort** in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district has prompted the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) to initiate damage assessment and plan disaster management.

- **Significance:** Originally called **Devgiri (Hill of Gods)**, it was renamed Daulatabad by [Muhammad bin Tughlaq](#) when he shifted his capital there in the 14th century.
 - It served as the capital of several dynasties including **Yadavas, Tughlaqs, Bahmanis, Nizam Shahis, Mughals**, and briefly the **Marathas** before the **Nizams of Hyderabad**.
 - It is a [UNESCO-nominated heritage site](#), known for its historical, architectural, and ecological importance.
- **Architectural Brilliance:** Daulatabad Fort is fortified in three layers **Ambarkot, Mahakot, and Kalakot** with moats, bastions, and iron-spiked gates.
 - It features a deadly tunnel called **Andheri**, used to trap and attack invaders.
- **Monuments and Structures Within:**
 - **Chand Minar (1435 CE):** Indo-Islamic style victory tower modeled after Qutub Minar.
 - **Bharat Mata Mandir**, located within the fort, was previously the Jama Masjid during [Qutub-ud-din Mubarak's](#) reign (1318 CE).
 - **Chini Mahal**, a lavish palace turned prison by Aurangzeb.
- **Artillery and Cannons:** Fort was equipped with ~**288 cannons**, a notable one is **Aurangzeb's Mendha** also called **Qila Shikan (fort-breaker)**, symbolized military power.



Read more: [Gingee Fort Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiiias.com/printpdf/daulatabad-fort>

