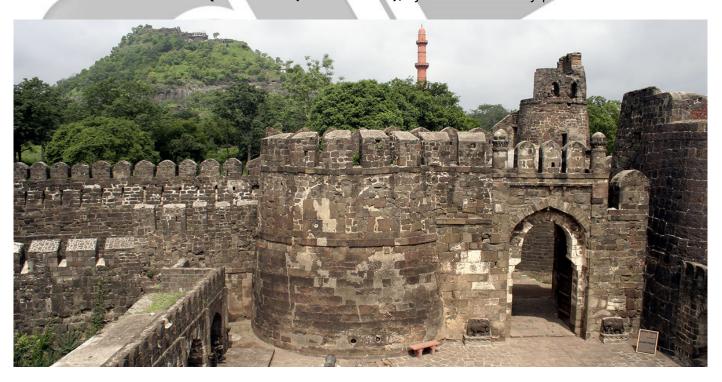


## **Daulatabad Fort**

## **Source: TH**

A fire at **Daulatabad Fort** in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar 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 Tughlag** 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 <u>UNESCO-nominated heritage site</u>, 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 <u>Outub-ud-din Mubarak's</u> 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

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