



Shivaji Memorial in Agra

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has asserted its plan to construct a **memorial** dedicated to **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Agra's Kothi Meena Bazar**, marking a significant step in **promoting tourism and cultural unity**.

Key Points

- The UP government **will fully fund the project**, with no external collaboration.
- Construction of the project will be **led by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation**.
- The government is **preparing to begin work on the memorial and museum**, with a focus on ensuring cultural and historical accuracy.

Key Monuments in Agra and Their Builders

- **Agra was founded by Sultan Sikandar Lodi of the Lodi dynasty in 1504.**
- **Agra Fort**
 - **Builder:** Akbar (initial construction), Shah Jahan (major structures)
 - **Prominent Buildings:**
 - **Moti Masjid:** Built by Shah Jahan
 - **Diwan-i-Aam (Hall of Public Audience):** Built by Shah Jahan
 - **Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience):** Built by Shah Jahan
 - **Jahangiri Mahal:** Built by Akbar
 - **Sheesh Mahal (Turkish Bath):** Built by Shah Jahan
 - **Gardens:** Built in Charbagh style, typical of Mughal architecture
- **Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daula**
 - **Builder:** Noor Jahan (wife of Jahangir)
 - **Uniqueness:** First Mughal structure **made entirely of white marble**.
- **Taj Mahal ([UNESCO World Heritage Site](#))**
 - **Builder:** Shah Jahan
 - **Uniqueness:** Finest example of Mughal architecture, built **in memory of Mumtaz Mahal (Arzuman Bano Begum)**. Known for its grandeur and opulence.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- **About:** 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**.

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