



First Temple of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra inaugurated [Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's first temple](#) in **Bhiwandi, Thane district**, to mark the Maratha warrior king's **birth anniversary** according to the **Hindu lunar calendar**.



Key Points

- **National Temple:**
 - The CM referred to the **temple as a “national temple”, emphasizing its inspirational value.**
 - He highlighted that the **temple honours Shivaji Maharaj’s legacy**, allowing devotees to witness the **glory of the Maratha king.**
 - Shivaji Maharaj fought battles for God, country, and faith, ensuring the right to worship Ishta Devas (personal Gods).
- **Structure & Design:**
 - The first grand temple of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Maharashtra spans four acres in the Marade Pada region, Thane district.
 - **Architect Vijaykumar Patil** designed the temple’s structure.
 - **Sculptor Arun Yogiraj**, who also created the Ram temple idol in Ayodhya, carved the 6.5-feet idol of Shivaji Maharaj for this temple.
- **Efforts for UNESCO Recognition & Memorial in Agra:**
 - The Maharashtra government has **approached UNESCO to recognize 12 forts associated with Shivaji Maharaj** under the Maratha Military Landscape of India.
 - These 12 forts are:
 - **Maharashtra:** Lohagad, Salher, Raigad, Pratapgad, Shivneri, Suvarnadurg, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg, Panhala, Khanderi Fort.

- **Tamil Nadu:** Gingee Fort.
- The **State has also sought permission from Uttar Pradesh to build a memorial in Agra**, marking **Shivaji Maharaj's escape from Aurangzeb's captivity in 1666**.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

▪ Birth:

- He was **born on 19th February, 1630 at Shivneri Fort in District Pune** in the present-day state of Maharashtra.
- He was **born to Shahaji Bhonsle**, a Maratha general who held the jagirs of Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate and Jijabai, a pious woman whose religious qualities had a profound influence on him.

▪ Early Life:

- He displayed his military zeal for the first time in 1645 when as a teenager, he successfully got control of the Torna Fort which was under Bijapur.
- He also acquired the Kondana Fort. Both these forts were under Adil Shah of Bijapur.

▪ Granted Title:

- He was crowned as the **king of the Marathas** on 6th June , 1674, at Raigad.
- He took on the titles of **Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak**.
- The **Maratha Kingdom** founded by Shivaji grew larger over time and became the dominant Indian power in the early 18th century.

▪ Death:

- He **died on 3rd April 1680**.

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