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## HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN SATARA

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### ABSTRACT

*Satara is a head quarter city of Satara District. It is situated on the bank of river Krishna and its tributary, the Venna. The city was established in the 16th century and was the seat of the Raja of Satara, Chhatrapati Shahu.*

**KEY WORDS :** *Historical Monuments, historical places.*

### INTRODUCTION:

It is the headquarters of Satara Tahsil, as well as the Satara District. The city gets its name from the seven forts (Sat-Tara) which are near the city. Because of its glorious history many historical places remained famous as a tourist places in the maharashtra<sup>1</sup>



### AJINKYATARA FORT:

The hill fort of Satara lies to the south of Satara town. It rises to a height of almost 900 feet and commands an impressive view of the town. The fort is said to have been built by the Kolhapur Silahara Chief Bhoj II in about 1190 AD. The Satara fort was always kept in a good condition by the Bijapur Government and went on to be used as a state prison. A number of noted historical figures were imprisoned here at different times- Chandbibbi, widow of Ali Adilshah I (1557-1580) in 1580 and Dilavar Khan, a Bijapur nobleman, in 1592. Shivaji captured it after a three months' siege in September, 1673. It was besieged by Aurangzeb and taken after five months' siege in April, 1700, but retaken in 1706 by a stratagem. Chandasaheb, son of the Nawab of Arkot, was confined here on his capture by the Maratha force which invaded the Madras Karnatak in 1747. Since 1749 it was used as a prison for the Rajas of Satara when under the domination of the Peshwas. It is

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### SAJJANGAD:

The Sajjangad fort is situated at a distance of about 9 kms. from Satara. It stands about 3000 feet above sea level. There are found two reservoirs inside the fort. During the reign of Shivaji, it was the spiritual capital of Shivshahi. This is the place where saint Ramdas had his Samadhi. On Navami day, the birthday of the Guru, a number of people from all over gather at the fort to celebrate the festival. It is on the way of Thoseghar waterfall.<sup>3</sup>

### ADALAT VADA:

One of the important historical places of the Maratha period. The Adalat Vada is situated at the base of the fort walls. It was built in such a way that the plinth is in level with the basement standing ten feet high, since the slope of the hill is considerable. The court is rectangular and about fifty square feet. It can be

reached by a flight of a dozen steps. There are a number of buildings surrounding the court, which were useful for the judicial administration. These are mostly inhabited in the upper stories the lower being long verandas opening on to the courts. Civil courts were held in this building till in 1876 AD when governments appropriated the new palace. The Adalat Vada currently serves as the house of the descendants of the Satara Rajas. That's why it is important historical place.<sup>4</sup>

#### **BHAVANI PETH:**

It is one of the historical place of Satara. The palace in Bhavani Peth is a remarkable specimen of Indian architecture. It is a four cornered block of buildings occupying several acres of ground. It has a white plastered surface, and a low veranda in wooden pillars which runs along the floors. The palace is in two blocks- the old palace and the new palace. This Peth is one of the oldest Peth in Satara.<sup>5</sup>

#### **OLD PALACE:**

One of the best architecture of the city is old palace. It was built in 1824 by Raja Pratapsinh. It can be seen from a distance of more than a mile in the East and has a terrace that rises fifty feet from the ground. There is a large cistern in the right wing for the use of the inmates of the palace. The front hall has two balconies on either side of the gateway. It was used as a relief house during the 1876-77 famine. The palace is now used for housing the Government High School viz., Pratapsinh High School. The balconies are used for Primary School, Municipal School Board Office and some Government departments.<sup>6</sup> It has historical importance because many historical incidents happened in and around the palace.

#### **NEW PALACE:**

The new palace was built by the local British engineer Mr. Smith on the orders of Raja Shahaji between 1838 and 1844. He also built the bridges over the two rivers. The facade is unusual. It is enriched with several mythological pictures, now badly eroded by the weather. The most distinguishing aspect of the building is its solid structure. . A gateway leads into a court-yard surrounded by a broad colonnade. On the west side of the central courtyard is a hall carried on sixty-four teak pillars. During the Rajas time, these pillars were covered with rich brocade, profuse gold embroidery and spangles. There is an audience hall on the upper end on the Western side of the courtyard. It is dedicated to Goddess Bhavani, the patron goddess of the Marathas. The surrounding buildings are occupied as administrative offices. There are rows of fountains surrounding the hall on three sides, capable of throwing up a jet almost 25 feet high. The royal throne was kept in a small but richly carved room opening from the colonnade. Near this is another room in which was kept Bhavani, the famed sword of Chatrapati Shivaji. The palace was taken control of by the British Government in 1876. At present in addition to the District and Junior Courts it is used to accommodate the treasury, State Bank, Satara City Survey Office, Divisional Forest Office etc.<sup>7</sup>

#### **SHRI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ MUSEUM:**

It was established after the independence with support of Yashwantrao Chavan. About 591 feet beyond is a villa containing the remarkable crown jewels of the Satara family, the famous sword of Shivaji - the Jai Bhavani - probably made in Genoa, and the baghnakh or 'Tiger's claws' with which Shivaji killed Afzul Khan. His shield, seal, coat and bejewelled dagger can also be seen.<sup>8</sup> It shows our history as pride and honor.

#### **RANG MAHAL:**

It is historical place of the city. Located about 220 yards east of the Adalat Vada is the Rang Mahal was originally rectangular building about 100 feet long and 50 feet wide. It must date back to the reign of Shahu I, since he died here at this place. Situated directly in front of it is a large enclosure known as the mansion of the Senapati or Commander-in-chief. Many programmes arrange there in the medieval period. After the banishment of the Senapati, it was confiscated. The enclosure was nearly 350 feet square.

A rectangular building with two wings lies to the North of this. It used to function as the elephant stable during the days when they were a lot in use for state purposes.<sup>9</sup>

#### **MANGALVAR TALE:**

The Mangalvar Tale, formerly known as Shripatrav tale after Shripatrav Pant Pratinidhi, is located at Mangalver Peth. In the temple on the western bank are the shrines of God Maruti and Bhavani Devi. When the city was small, the people use the water of that reservoir. On the other hand, the Historical Museum (1930) has an interesting collection of documents relating to Maratha history.<sup>10</sup>

#### **BHAVANI MUSEUM:**

Aundh is one of the important historical place of the Satara district. Balasaheb Pantpratinidhi gave their contribution for the creation of museum. The Shri Bhavani Museum and Library is located at Aundh, on the Yamai Hills in Satara district. Aundh was one of the Satara Jagirs, a princely state in British India. The museum was built by the Raja of Aundh, Bhawanrao Pantpratinidhi in 1938. More than 500 items are contained in the museum and the library. A building adjacent to the main building contains more than 25000 fine arts and reference books.<sup>11</sup> The tourists visited to the satara never return without visit to this museum.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Change-of-role-for-historic-Nawa-Rajwada-palace/articleshow/41295461.cms>

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