

My City My Heritage MY NASHIK

Initiated by Sahapedia in partnership with the InterGlobe Foundation, the 'My City, My Heritage' project is focused on rediscovering the culture and heritage potential of Indian cities. The project entails exploration, documentation and dissemination of varied heritage and cultural aspects of 10 locations in India, including through the publication of these booklets. As a part of the project, a number of heritage walks, museum tours, baithaks and engaging educational activities for school students and general audiences were organised between 2020 and 2022. The locations covered in the first year were Ahmedabad, Indore, Prayagraj, Goa and Shillong and the locations covered in the second year are Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Nashik.

This booklet documents a mix of well-known as well as offbeat subjects from among Nashik's cultural heritage. We hope you enjoy the articles, self-guided walks, museum listings and listicles within and that they enrich your experience of this remarkable city.

More about the project

The My City, My Heritage project caters to a wide user group, including but not limited to children with disabilities and from financially and socially marginalised backgrounds, culture enthusiasts, scholars, heritage professionals and tourists. The project aims at creating opportunities, building interest and capacity of young local scholars through collaborative research, documentation and mapping. An equally important and compelling goal is to create fresh avenues for residents, local administration and local businesses to re-engage with their cities' living cultural heritage and renew old as well as create new relationships of participation, community and ownership within these places. This booklet is a small step in that direction.

More detailed versions of all pieces covered in this editorial and more information about each city can be found on our website. This specially crafted cultural mapping portal features an interactive map, through which you can explore

many other locations and themes documented by Sahapedia over the years. Scan this barcode to visit our portal and get access to our entire encyclopaedia.







My City My Heritage MY NASHIK

Project Head and Co-Editor Aditi Rakhe

Project Coordinator and Co-Editor **Dipti G.**

Research Coordinator and Editor Rituparna Pal

Designers
Alpana Khare
Neeraj Aggarwal

Contributors

Fatima Hamid Pranay Dewani Rituparna Pal Ashutosh Sharma Anushka Dasgupta Sunita Singh Karan Tekwani

City Mentor

Amol Deshmukh

Photographer **Mihir Vora**



FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that we present to you this compendium of booklets showcasing some of the lesser known and lost treasures of select cities in our country.

InterGlobe Foundation is committed to protecting and restoring the heritage and culture of India. We started this journey about seven years back by supporting the restoration and upkeep of the famous Khan-i-Khanan or Rahim's tomb in New Delhi. Since then, we have taken on a few more large and small restoration projects, which, while directly reviving these monuments, also contribute to the lives of craftspeople and neighbouring communities. Another project we have supported is the documentation and dissemination of a lost dance form.

'My City, My Heritage' is the first large project that we have launched to promote the intangible heritage of our country. We are fortunate to have found an able partner in Sahapedia. As part of My City, My Heritage, we endeavour to curate content and activities around both tangible (like museums) and intangible cultural heritage (like food, music, people, dances, fairs and festivals).

We also hope that in each of the project cities, a group of concerned citizens, institutions and government will come together to carry forward this beautiful curation of their city's history.

The recent disruption of our lives by the COVID pandemic has further brought to light the importance of the outdoors and local economies. This project will ably contribute to both.

We hope these booklets will entice you to discover these cities and their treasures and share it with others. We welcome more organizations, individuals and researchers to build on the repository created here.

I am grateful to Sahapedia and my colleagues at the InterGlobe group of companies for making this project a reality.

With best wishes.

Rohini Bhatia

Chairperson
InterGlobe Foundation

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Dr Monica Banerjee, The InterGlobe Foundation

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Known as the Kashi of South India, Nashik is located over nine hills of the Deccan plateau. The river Godavari flows through the centre of Nashik city. The population of the city was above 15 lakhs according to the 2011 census.

The city contains three main divisions: Old Nasik, the sacred settlement of Panchyati. on the east bank of the river; middle or Musalman Nasik, formerly called Gulshanabad or the City of Roses, on the right bank and to the south of Panchvati; and modern or Maratha Nashik, also on the right bank, lying north and west of Musalman Nasik and west of Panchvati. According to Hindu mythology, Rama, the hero of Ramayana, spent a large part of his exile in the Panchvati region of present-day Nashik. The Muslim population settled along the right bank of the river under Islamic rule during the 13-16th century. Settlements like Kokanipura, Pathapura, Kazipura and 'darwajas' or gates such as Kazipura Darwaja, Trimbak Darwaja, Darbar Darwaja, Baghur Darwaja, and Delhi Darwaja came up during this period. Apart from 8 Hinduism and Islam, Buddhism was dominant.

in the region during 200-600 AD, as indicated by a group of old Buddhist caves known as 'Pandu Leni'. Later, around 11th-12th century CE, Jainism became prominent, as evident from the presence of the 'Chambhar Caves'.

In the 17th century, the Peshwas of Pune won control over Nashik. The palace of the Peshwas at the end of the main bazaar road has been converted to a Police Station and Public Library in recent times. Various mansions or 'wadas', the 'peths' or neighbourhoods and temples from this period are still standing tall as a significant part of the urban landscape of the city. Later, in the 19th century, the Nashik area came completely under British rule. During the colonial period, the city landscape acquired many new features like industrial units, planned and unplanned shops, residential buildings, housing societies and bungalows. Traditionally, the economy of the city has been mainly reliant on religious activities and related trade. Post-Independence, many public sector industries like Nashik Industrial Co-operative Estate, Maharashtra Industrial Development



Nashik is located over nine hills of the Deccan plateau.

Corporation, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and State Investment Corporation of Maharashtra were established. Investments, irrigation schemes and electricity, improved the agricultural economy significantly, making the region a leading producer of a variety of grapes and home to several noted wineries like York and Sula.

Owing to its proximity to cities like Mumbai (185 km), Pune (210 km) and Aurangabad (190 km), Nashik benefits from a thriving tourism industry. In and around the city are a number of hilltop forts like Anjaneri and Ramsej, attracting trekkers and history enthusiasts alike. The lush forests on these hills are home to several endemic species of flora and fauna. Nashik hosts the religious gathering Sinhastha Kumbh Mela every 12 years. The city has seen important social movements against systemic oppression like the Kalaram Temple Satyagraha led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Nashik's public library, Sarvajanik Vachanalaya, played an important role in the development of modern Marathi literature. Handlooms and handicrafts

like *Paithani* and metal craft are an integral part of the city's culture.

While Nashik continues to be a traditional pilgrimage site, in recent times the city with its multi-cultural history has developed as a modern urban centre with global links.

FATIMA AND RITUPARNA PAL



Nashik is located over nine hills of the Deccan plateau.

Anjaneri Hill

Trimbakeshwar Rd, Anjaneri

Opening Hours: Daily | Open 24 hours a day Established: 18th century (speculated);

Located around 22 kms from Nashik, Anjaneri Hill is a volcanic basalt flat-topped hill believed to be the birthplace of the Hindu deity Hanuman. The site is frequented by tourists for the scenic uphill trek to the fort, the shrines dedicated to Hanuman, as well as several Jain caves and temples. Based on the remains of the Jain caves in the region, it has been assumed that Anjaneri was the capital of the Abhiras during their reign c.203 -370 CE.

The Anjaneri Hills, the village and the Fort is named after a Hindu mythological figure Anjani Devi, believed to be Hanuman's mother. The place where Goddess Anjani meditated for a child and Lord Shiva appeared to bless her, has been enshrined in her honour. The cave believed to be the spot of Lord Hanuman's birth has a temple dedicated to him. Located enroute the summit of the hill, it takes about two hours to reach the temple from the village. Hanuman Jayanti festival is celebrated at the village in April which includes several processions and wrestling matches.



Anianeri hills is home to several shrines dedicated to Lord Hanuman

Unlike other military hill forts of Nashik, the Anjaneri fort does not have any defensive structures. The fort was intended to be a summer palace for Raghunath Rao, the father of the last Peshwa. In the mid-eighteenth century, during his exile in Anandvalli (a small village to the west of Nashik), he visited Anjaneri in the summers and established it as his sanitarium. Ruins indicating his visits include the Failkhana (jail), the Hattitalav (Elephants' Pond) to the west of the hill and the Brahman Pond to the east.

Anjaneri Hill is now a reserved forest (RF) and was given the status of medicinal plant conservation area (MPCA) in 2009-2010. Five Jain temples and a Hindu temple from c.9th-10th century CE at Anjaneri village have recently been taken up for restoration by the Archaeological Survey of India.

FATIMA HAMID AND ASHUTOSH SHARMA



hoto by Mihir Vora

Kalaram Mandir Satyagraha

Nirman upavan C-3, Panchavati

Opening Hours: Daily | Monday - Sunday | 24 hours a day Established: 1782

An old shrine dedicated to Rama in the Panchavati area of Nashik, the Kalaram temple derives its name from a black statue of Lord Rama. Kalaram temple formed a pivotal role in the anti-caste movement led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in India.

Placed at the lowest rungs of Hindu society, the Dalits have suffered oppression and discrimination in every sphere of life—social, economic, religious, cultural, and political. They were forbidden to learn the scriptures and were prohibited from entering temples. Under Peshwa rule, they were not permitted to enter Poona City after 3 p.m. and before 9 a.m., as the Brahmins believed that during these hours the human body casts a long shadow which might pollute the "upper castes". Resistance to casteist norms gained momentum during the British period when caste discrimination ceased to be officially endorsed by the Government. Several attempts were made to achieve the temple entry.



The temple derives its name from a black statue of Lord Rama.

The Kalaram Temple Entry Satyagraha started under the guidance of Dr B.R. Ambedkar on 2nd March 1930. Some 15,000 Dalit followers of Ambedkar initiated picketing around the temple. On April 7th, the day of *Ram Navami*, Dr B.R. Ambedkar himself led a procession of two hundred volunteers. An important festival of the temple, Dalits had the right to pull the deity's chariot from a certain distance of the temple, but were denied entry to the temple complex itself. During the rally, members of the oppressor castes attacked the peaceful protesters. Dalits around the state

Kalaram temple formed a pivotal role in the anti-caste movement led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in India.

faced hostile attacks from oppressor caste Hindus during the Satyagraha. Despite these aggressions, the protestors remained peaceful. Dr Ambedkar's lieutenants like Bhaurao Gaikwad, Amritrao Rankhambe, Patitpawandas, and P.N. Rajbhoj also played an important role.

The Satyagraha went on for three years, but the temple doors remained closed for the oppressed caste members. The decisions of the Bombay High Court too were unfavourable to the Satyagraha. Eventually, Dr B.R. Ambedkar did not give permission to restart the Satyagraha in April 1933. He expressed his decision to not pursue the cause of temple entry for his fellow people, as he believed that they should focus on education and politics rather than engaging in idolatry.

Even though it failed to meet its immediate objective, it furthered Dr Ambedkar's long term aim of mobilizing the Dalits, as people from the oppressed castes from every strata participated and contributed to the Kalaram Temple Entry Satyagraha.

■ PRANAY DEWANI

The Trimbak-Nashik Kumbh Mela

Ramkund

Opening Hours: Daily | Open 24 hours a day



The ritual dip takes place in Ramkund and Kushavart Tirtha.

Nashik, along with Haridwar, Ujjain and Prayagraj is a venue for the Kumbh Mela held at an interval of 12 years in each city. According to Indian astrology, the Nashik Kumbh is held when both Jupiter and the Sun are positioned in the zodiac sign Leo, or Simha-hence it is also called Simhasta Kumbha. The only site where the festival is hosted at two different locations - Nashik and the nearby town of Trimbakeshwar - the main attraction of the Mela is the Godavari river, also called Dakshin Ganga (Ganga of the South) for its sacredness to Hindus.

The largest religious congregation in the world, the Kumbh Mela was enlisted as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2017. The most important element in these Melas being the ritual dip in the river, 12 Ramkund in Nashik and Kushavart Tirtha in

The main attraction of the Mela is the Godavari river, also called Dakshin Ganga (Ganga of the South) for its sacredness to Hindus.



The Kumbh Mela is the largest religious congregation in the world.

Trimbakeshwar are the water bodies of focus at the Nashik Kumbh. While Ramkund is venerated as the place where Lord Rama used to take bath during his stay on the bank of Godavari, Kushavart Tirtha is believed to be the place where Godavari re-emerges after disappearing from plain sight in the hills of Bramhagiri. According to a Maratha inscription, in 1789 a feud between Shaivite and Vaishnavite ascetics resulted in approximately 12,000 deaths. This led Peshwa Baji Rao II to assign Nashik city as the camping site for *Vaishnavites*, while the *Shaivites* continued to congregate at Trimbakeshwar.

Held for almost three months with thousands of devotees attending, the Kumbh Melas require careful crowd management by city administrations. The last Nashik Kumbh held in 2015 saw a footfall of over 10 million pilgrims. A budget of 2380 crore rupees was sanctioned by the state government to arrange lodging and boarding, public toilets, water supply and sewage, transportation and security. Additional ghats were built to accommodate the devotees thronging for dips in the river. Free community kitchens were set up at the Mela grounds. It generated around Rs 10,000 crore in revenue and created jobs for nearly half a million people.

The mass gathering also provides city planners an opportunity to study and analyse urban crises. One of the projects conducted by MIT at the 2015 Kumbh was the "Kumbhathon", which tried to identify ways to improve crowd and civic management of mass migration. The next Kumbh Mela is slated to be held at Nashik in 2027.

FATIMA HAMID AND RITUPARNA PAL



hoto by Mihir Vora.

Peshwa Baji Rao II assigned Nashik as the camping site for Vaishnavites and Shaivites congregated at Trimbakeshwar.



The 2015 Nashik Kumbh saw a footfall of over 10 million pilgrims.



Ramshej is a hill fort at an altitude of 3273 ft, in the Peth mountain range.

Ramshej Fort

Ramshej, Maharashtra

Ramshej Fort, a hill fort in Dindori, about 12 kilometres from Nasik, at an altitude of 3273 feet, is located on the Peth mountain range along the Nashik-Vapi road.

It is believed that during his exile, Lord Rama had made it his dwelling place for a while. The construction of the Fort has been traced to between the ninth and eleventh centuries. The main purpose of the Fort was the collection of tax on the way to Khandesh in north western Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Fort's location marks the route dispatching from and arriving at Nashik.

The perfectly vertical wall of rock along the periphery of the Fort ensured security for 14 the structure. A small temple, the Ramlalla

temple, is seen near the entrance gate dedicated to Lord Ram. This entrance gate at the East side of the Fort is rock-cut with remains of the outermost structural wall still visible. A remarkable feature of the Fort is its water management system. A cistern beside the temple and a reservoir on the top of the Fort are placed on the same vertical line. The cistern retains a good amount of water, derived from the contact springs of the rocks, in summers even today.

In 1682, Aurangzeb dispatched a Mughal force to capture the Ramshej fort. This confrontation lasted for six to seven years and despite the military superiority of the Mughals in terms of men and ammunition, the

There were two or three bombproof ammunition chambers built of stone within the Fort.

kiledar of Ramshej managed to defend it. After continuous resistance, Chhatrapati Sambhaji's forces eventually saw victory and the Mughal forces retreated. When Captain Briggs of the East India Company visited Ramshej in 1819, he described it as 'neither so large nor as high as most of the Nasik hills, but not so small as Hatgad. His account mentions that there were two gateways, one within the other, large but not so formidable as those of Hatgad. There was a way down by a trap-door kept covered with dirt and rubbish, called the secret road or 'chor-raster', affording passage for one at a time. This hidden door on the eastern side led to Bhorgad which is approximately 11 kms from Ramshej. There were two or three bombproof ammunition chambers built of stone within the Fort.

During the Maratha war of 1818 Ramshej was one of the seventeen strongholds which surrendered to the British on the fall of



The cistern retains a good amount of water.



The fort is a trekker's paradise, especially in monsoon.



This entrance gate at the East side of the Fort is rock-cut.

A remarkable feature of the Fort is its water management system. A cistern beside the temple and a reservoir on the top of the Fort are placed on the same vertical line.

Trimbak. While taking over the Fort, the British Army found elephant trappings, tents, carpets, and iron ware, which once had been Shivaji's. Captain Briggs left two companies of militia in the fort, one on the top of the hill, the other in the village below. This large party, with a spare of ninety or a hundred men, was stationed at the Fort to quell any disturbances.

Today a trekker's paradise, Ramshej Fort is especially popular as a monsoon trek and offers a fascinating view of the Trimbak, Satmala and Bhorgad peaks.



Saraf Bazar, Panchavati

Opening Hours: Monday-Saturday | 10 am to 5:30 pm Established: 18th century/20th July, 1993

Located in the heart of the city in Saraf Bazar Old Nashik Sarkarwada is a historical monument that served as the administrative headquarters for the Peshwas during their reign in the 18th Century. While some believe Sarkarwada was built by Balaji Baji Rao alias Nanasaheb Peshwa (1720 - 1761) between the years 1750-1760, others opine it was built by Thorlya Madhavrao Peshwe (1745 – 1772), while yet another faction of historians believe it was built by Raghunathrao Peshwe (1734 - 1783).

Sarkarwada seems to have been given different names at different times like "Oedhekarcha Wada" and "Pulawarcha Wada". Gopikabai Peshwe (1724 - 1778) during her reign controlled the administration of the Maratha Empire from Sarkarwada and hence this place came to be known as "Sarkarwada or Sadar". The account of E.N. Wilton, an engineer in the British Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, confirms it was built by Nanasaheb Peshwa. The article which followed stated that Balaji Baji Rao alias Nanasaheb, the son of Baii Rao I, built Sarkarwada to keep Nashik's administration in check. Despite the confusion about its patron. it was clear from Wilton's account that for the Peshwas, Nashik was a vantage point to expand the Maratha empire northwards, and Sarkarwada was their headquarter in the city. Around 1818, when the Peshwai was annexed the British East India Company took control of Sarkarwada. Sarkarwada also served as a prison for a while

Spread over 1582.70 sq. m, the structure during the Peshwa rule consisted of three floors, a basement, a well built drainage system, two chowks and a fountain. The 16 ground floor had intricately carved pillars, while the first floor housed the Darbar Hall. The columns and arches are made of great dark processed saag (teak), and are carved with intricate designs including serpentine, banana flowers and peacocks— Northern Black Polish Stone (NBPS) from Ramshej near Nashik city has been used for the plinth of Sarkarwada.

After independence, the first Collectorate office was set up here. Later, it housed the Bhadrakali Police Station and Sarkarwada Police Station. During the 1939 floods, Godavari submerged 11 steps of the structure. Though the flood dilapidated the structure, it could not destroy the glory of Sarkarwada. In the 1990s, the State Archaeological Survey of India took charge of the preservation of this beautiful historical site. On 20th July, 1993. Sarkarwada was declared a state protected monument.

Sarkarwada now serves as the office of state ASI and also houses a museum and small library. The main hall on the first floor has been renovated and preserves the royal darbar as it existed during Peshwa rule. Once renovation is completed, this beautiful structure will undoubtedly remain a proud monument of the Old Nashik city.

Sarvajanik Vachanalaya

Tilak Rd. Shalimar

Opening Hours: Daily | 8 am - 12 pm and 4 pm - 8 pm Established: 17th Century CE

Located in Shalimar, Nashik, Sarvajanik Vachanalaya is one of the oldest libraries in Maharashtra. Founded in 1840 by Christian missionaries and officers of the East India Company, over the years the library has become an integral part of the social and cultural fabric of the city. Originally named Nashik Library and Reading Room, it came to be known as Sarvajanik Vachanalaya in 1924.

Located initially in the "Sarkarwada", the Library played an important role in the development and propagation of nationalist ideology from the late 19th century onward. The British membership of the library was gradually replaced by Indian readers. In 1885, inspired by the Indian National Congress, there was an outburst in the publication of Indian magazines and newspapers. The Library had an updated collection of contemporary newspapers and magazines like Dnyanaprakasa, Kesari, Maratha, Bombay Gazette, Times of India, Industrial Quarterly Review, Hindu, and more. The Library also was a prominent meeting point for Modern Marathi literature enthusiasts.



The Library houses Hindi, Marathi, Gujarathi and English publications.

Today a computerised library, the Vachanalaya has a membership of 4000. The Library has approximately 187 Hindi, Marathi, Gujarathi and English papers, magazines, weeklies and bimonthlies, as well as 1,33,000 books and 10,000 old Sanskrit manuscripts in their collection. The institution receives regular patronage from the Municipal Corporation of Nashik, as well as the state government. The institution also offers a librarianship course.

Various annual activities like exhibitions. literary awards, lectures and conferences and writers' meets are hosted by the Library. FATIMA HAMID AND RITUPARNA PAL



Tambat Ali Craft

Naikwadi Pura, Panchavati

Established: c. 18th century CE

Nashik is well known for its traditional handicrafts such as filigree and silverware (Chandi che kaam), metal ware (Tambat kaam) and metal embossing (Uthavache kaam). Old Tambat Ali is a part of an ancient settlement of coppersmiths located in the historic core of the city. These coppersmiths known as Tambats are famous for making copper and brass utensils, which form an essential part of ceremonial rituals and daily life in Maharashtra.

The word Tambat originates from tamba ("copper" in Marathi). The coppersmiths in Maharashtra known as Tambats who settled in Nashik originally belonged to the Kansara samaj (community) of Champaner village near Pavagadh, Gujarat. Following their displacement due to Mahmud Begada's attack in 1484, they settled at Ozar in Nashik district, approximately 500 years ago. A few families moved to the city during the rule of Anandi

Bai Peshwa (1766-1795) for ease of business. Since then, the community has lived in two settlements, outside Navpura and outside Malhar Gate, eventually known as Old Tambat Ali and New Tambat Ali.

Old Tambat Ali is a 10-15 feet wide lane connecting Godaghat to Bhadrakali area of Nashik Gaothan. The striking characteristic of the area is its rectangular and linear plots with narrow frontal widths. The houses have an influence of wada architecture which were traditional residential houses of several families or of one large family. The housing at Tambat Ali are typically two-storied buildings arranged around the courtyard. Clear zoning of public, semi-public and private spaces can be seen in the plan. Typically, Tambat houses have living quarters and work space for the whole extended family. Houses are divided into three segments—the commercial part, Haal, facing the street, the courtyard for washing copper



noto by Mihir Vora

Tambat Ali is a part of an ancient settlement of coppersmiths located in the historic core of the city.

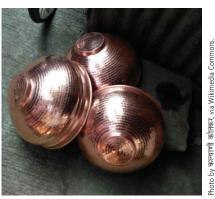
utensils and then the residential area leading to the rear open space.

Tambat craft is an art of making handmade copper products through fine metal hammering and embossing. *Matharkaam* or beaten work is the distinguishing feature of Tambat craft. The copper plates are first cut with scissors into desired sizes and weighed. The plates are then placed against an iron bolt buried in ground and hammered to give them a 'U' shape, which is generally the lower part of the product. The preparation of the middle and the neck part again follows the same process. To give shine to the product, a traditional motif, commonly known as *tikali*, is made by special hammers.

Since the last two decades, however, Tambat craftsmen have been facing challenges as their craft struggles for survival with each generation. The migration of the youth to jobs in other sectors in other cities has further contributed to the decline of the craft, and today the community even struggles to maintain their traditional dwellings, consequently also affecting the traditional architecture in the area.



Tambat houses have living quarters and work space for the whole extended family.



Tambat craft is an art of making handmade copper products.

PRANAY DEWANI



The houses have an influence of wada architecture.



Copper plates are placed against an iron bolt and hammered to give them a 'U' shape.

Photo by कल्याणी कोतकर, via Wikimedia Commons.

Shri Trimbakeshwar Shiva Temple

Trimbakeshwar Jyotirling Mandir, Trimbak

Opening Hours: Daily | 05.30 am - 09:00 pm Established: 1755-56

About 30 kms south-west from Nashik city, Shri Trimbakeshwar Shiva Temple is located in the ancient pilgrimage city of Trimbak at the foothills of the Brahmagiri Hills, the source of Godavari.

The current temple was commissioned by Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao in 1755. The main gate of the temple records in Sanskrit, the inauguration which took place on February 16, 1756. Built in the Nagara style, using black basalt stone, the temple has a courtyard measuring 260 x 220 feet. Within the temple complex is the sacred pond Kushavarta Kund, where the river Godavari takes its course and was built in 1750 by a Maratha ruler of Indore. At the sanctum sanctorum is the Jyotirling. Architectural features of the temple recall the Hemadpanti tradition, characteristic of medieval Maharashtrian architecture which incorporates local basalt stones and lime. The roof of the temple is ornamental sculptures of running scrolls, floral designs, figures of gods, yakshas, humans and animals.

The temple's prevailing significance is that it enshrines one of the twelve jyotirlingas



The temple enshrines one of the twelve 20 jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.

Every 12 years, Trimbakeshwar Shiva Temple serves as one of the key host temples for the Simhastha Kumbh Mela.

(a devotional representation) of Lord Shiva in India. The extraordinary feature of the Jyotirlinga here, is its three faced form embodying Tridev (three Gods); Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva. In contrast, the eleven other Jyotirlingas spread across the country, have Shiva as the main deity. The Shivalinga, placed in the depression of a square sanctum, is always covered with a silver mask and on special occasions with a golden mask with five faces. The lingas are further adorned with a golden crown studded with diamonds, emeralds, and many precious stones. Public exhibition of the crown takes place during Mondays from 4-5pm. Trimbakeshwar temple once housed the famed Nassak Diamond, a 90 carat, emerald shaped marvel, locally known as 'Neel Mani' meaning 'Blue Gem' and symbolizing the 'eye of the idol.' After the third Anglo-Maratha War, it was acquired by the British officer Captain James Briggs. It is now privately owned by J. Edward, a trucking firm executive in Connecticut, USA.

An estimated number of 30,000 pilgrims and about 25,000 sadhus or ascetics visit this place daily. Every 12 years, Trimbakeshwar Shiva Temple serves as one of the key host temples for the Simhastha Kumbh Mela. In 1954 the Trimbakeshwar Temple Trust was registered under the Public Trust Registration Act which oversees the maintenance and administration of the temple.

FATIMA HAMID AND ASHUTOSH SHARMA



The temple is built in the Nagara style, using black basalt stone.





These caves were carved between the 1st and the 3rd centuries and sculptures were added until the 6th century.

Trirashmi Leni

Panday Lene Rd. Buddha Vihar. Pathardi Phata

Opening Hours: Monday - Sunday | 08:30 am to 5:30 pm

Established: 1st century BCE - 3rd century CE

The Nashik Caves or Trirashmi Leni are a group of twenty four Hinayana Buddhist caves located on Trirashmi hill in the outskirts of Nashik city, about 8km from the Nashik Central Bus Station.

These caves were carved between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE-though additional sculptures were added until up to the 6th century. Recognizing the importance of Trirashmi Leni, the Central Archaeological Department (then British Government of Bombay) declared the caves a protected site on 23rd December, 1916.

The caves were erected principally by the Satavahanas. Out of the twenty-four caves, the major attractions are Cave no. 18, which is the Chaitya (prayer hall) with a beautiful Stupa; and Cave no. 10, which is the second largest Vihara, or Buddhist monastery, and contains six inscriptions of the Western Kshatrapas, descendants of the Indo-Scythians, in northwestern India, who ruled during the 1st or 2nd century CE. Cave no.18 houses Buddhist and Jain iconography depicting a beautiful amalgamation of Indo-Greek 22 aesthetic, as it was built by an Indo-Greek

"Yayana"—Buddhists of Greek descent from the northern city of Demetriapolis.

The entrance door to the cave no. 3, 'Gautamiputra Vihara' (c. 150 CE) is intricately carved with the three symbols of Hinayana Buddhism: the Bodhi tree, the stupa and the chakra, and at each side is a doorkeeper, holding flowers. The *Brahmi* inscriptions in caves 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20 give an insight into the history of the Satavahanas. The inscriptions confirm that Nashik, during that period, was ruled by three dynasties—the Western Kshatrapas, the Satavahanas and the Abhiras all of whom supported Buddhism.

In June 2021, The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) found three more caves in the Trirashmi Buddhist cave complex. The antiquity of these new caves—which may have been dwellings of Buddhist monks—is yet to be established; archaeologists studying them, however, believe they could be older than the Trirashmi caves.

PRANAY DEWANI



Cave 3, Chaitya Relief and Cells.

York Winery

Gat No.15, 2, Gangapur-Savargaon Rd, Gangavarhe

Opening Hours: Monday - Sunday | 12 pm -10 pm

Established: 2006

Located in Gangavarhe village, about 20 minutes from Nashik city, is York Winery - one of the region's and India's leading wineries. Established in 2006, York Winery is the brainchild of Nashik-based entrepreneur Lilo Gurnani. Its first batch of wine went to the open market in 2008, and since then York Winery has carved out a distinctive place for itself in the Indian market.

Called the 'Wine Capital of India', Nashik's hilly landscape, abundance of water bodies, and the fertile *volcanic black soil* of the region create the ideal conditions for viticulture. Since the inception of the local wine industry in the mid-1990s, it has grown to

in the mid-1990s, it has grown to almost 40 vineyards in and around Nashik, like Sula Vineyards, Charosa Vineyards, and Domaine Chandon to name a few. At the York Winery one comes across vineyards producing such varieties of wine as Chenin Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Tempranillo, Zinfandel, and Viognier. York also boosts its production by contractually buying grapes from other farmers

in the region. The winery here has an annual production capacity of 450,000 litres. Different stages of production, like grape receival, crushing, red winemaking, white winemaking, bottling and storage, are located here in a streamlined manner, so that there is no need to use pumps to transfer the product from one stage to the next. The underground cellars at the York facility provide optimum temperature and humidity conditions to age bottled wines and reserve wines in oak barrels.

Over the years, York Winery has produced several award-winning wines. Their first vintage

York Estate Reserve Shiraz 2008 won a Gold Medal at the Sommelier India Wine Competition. In 2012, they won Bronze Medals at Hong Kong International Wine and Spirits Competition for their Chenin Blanc and the Sauvignon Blanc. Apart from production, York Winery offers tours and wine-tasting sessions for visitors. They also have a restaurant, Cellar Door, which

York Wines is one of the bestselling in the Indian market.

is located adjacent to the York Tasting Room at the edge of the vineyards. The restaurant's cuisine

is an outcome of a specially curated menu of North Indian and Maharashtrian dishes with complementing wine. With a range of excellent varieties at affordable prices, York Wines is one of the bestselling in the Indian market. The quality of their product makes them a favourite at hotels and restaurants as well

FATIMA HAMID AND RITUPARNA PAL



York Winery produces Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Merlot, Zinfandel, etc.



York Winery is one of the region's and India's leading wineries.

Gargoti: The Mineral Museum

D-59, MIDC Malegaon, Sinnar

Opening Hours: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm | Daily

Established: 2001

Facilities and Services: Photography,

A Natural History museum located in the Sinnar town near Nashik, Gargoti houses a collection of natural minerals and gem specimens collected by Mr. Krishna Chandra Pandey over 40 years. This is India's first and the world's biggest private gem and mineral Museum. The museum was inaugurated by Balasaheb Thackeray on 26th April, 2001. "Gargoti", meaning pebbles in Marathi, is a reference to the spectacular Zeolites in the Museum's collection. A zeolite—a creation of marvellous colour and fragile structure—is formed through a process in which a group of silicate minerals expel water when heated.

Born in 1960 in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, K.C. Pandey worked as a Naval Engineer (Aeronautical) in The Indian Navy. During his postings in Maharashtra, he started collecting zeolites and minerals from the crusher quarries operating near his posts. A visit to the Gems, Minerals and Fossils show in Tucson, Arizona, the world's largest fair of its kind, was a turning point for him. Opting for early retirement in 1993, he concentrated on trading his collection in the international market. He transformed his mineral and zeolite collecting hobby into a business under his flagship export company, Superb Minerals India, the biggest dealer/ exporter of Indian zeolites and minerals in the world. Following the success of his business, K.C. Pandey established Gargoti: The Mineral Museum in Nashik.

Spread over an area of 13,000 sq. ft. the Museum has a 8.5 ft high statue of "Mother



hoto by Mihir Vora







Photo by Mihir Vora.

Each zeolite mineral in the Museum is almost 65 million years old.





Photo by Mihir Vora

Gargoti is India's first and the world's biggest private gem and mineral Museum.

India" located centrally. The inner side of the dome showing the drifting Indian subcontinent directly above the statue is one of the striking features of the building. The Museum consists of two main sections; The Deccan Plateau Gallery on the ground floor displaying the best of Indian zeolites and minerals, and The Prestige Gallery displaying the collection from other countries, on the first floor. Each zeolite mineral in the Museum is almost 65 million years old. The main attractions of the Museum include: Apophyllite from Ahmednagar, Cavansite from Pune, Sapphire from Sri Lanka, Native Gold

from California, USA, Amethyst Geodes from Brazil, Moon and Mars Rock, Dinosaur Fossils from Gujarat and Titanic Coal.

Additionally, the Museum also has a souvenir shop on the ground floor that offers exclusive stone collectibles and handicrafts such as gem trees, *japa malas*, jewellery, cut stones, onyx and soft stone handicrafts, etc. The Museum has also won several awards, namely; Pride of India, Saraswati Puraskar and Sinnar Gauray.

DIY Heritage Trail

A Walk Around Panchwati

The river Godavari flows through Nashik, dividing the city into two parts, with two distinct settlements on the left and the right bank. Numerous temples, ghats and structures on both the banks stand witness to Nashik's long history.

Starting Location: Bhalerao Wada aka Nakshidaar Haveli Ending Location: Nilkantheshwar Mahadev Mandir

Distance: 1.3 km **Time taken:** 2-3 hours

Walk requirements: Comfortable shoes and water Goreram
Mandir

Nilkantheshwar Mahadev Mandir

Saraf Bazar, Panchavati
As mentioned in one inscription at the temple, Nilkantheshwar Temple was built in 1747 by Laxman Shankar, brother of Naroshankar Raje Bahadur.It cost them around one lakh rupees at that time.

Nilkantheshwar

Mahadey Mandir

Goreram Mandir

Panchavati

Goreram Mandir was built in the year 1782 by Shri Mahadevrao Hingane, Sardar of Shri Madhavrao Peshwa. As the name suggests, this temple has a very beautiful "white Ram" idol along with idols of Sita, Laxman, Bharat, Shatrughna and Hanuman.

Shree Sihastha Goutami Ganga-Godavari Bagirathi Temple Mandir

Naroshankar Temple

Panchavati

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the temple was constructed by Sardar Naroshankar Rajebahaddur in 1747. The temple is known for the famous Naroshankar Ghanta (bell), commemorating the victory of Baji Rao Peshwa's younger brother Chimaji Appa who won the fort of Vasai from the Portuguese.

Shree Sihastha Goutami Ganga-Godavari Bagirathi Mandir

Vashrantar Griha, Ramkund, Panchavati

Devotees visit the temple after taking a dip in the holy waters of the river Godavari. The temple gates are opened completely only once in 12 years to coincide with the Kumbh Mela cycle of Nashik.

Bhalerao Wada aka Nakshidaar Haveli

Bhalerao Wada aka Nakshidaar Haveli

Naikwadi Pura, Panchavati

Built in the early 19th century, Bhalerao Wada is a two-storey structure standing on a stone platform, and five pillars, and has magnificent carvings on the facade. Around the years 1940-42, when freedom fighter Shri Vasantrao Naik was underground, he took shelter in this wada.



Sahapedia's award winning program, India Heritage walks, offers guided walks across India. Visit www.indiaheritagewalks.org for more.

DIY **Food Trail**

Street Food at College Road

From regional specialities like dabeli and vada pav to pan-Indian favourites like momos and shawarma, Nashik has something for everyone. The city's ever-busy College Road is home to various street food joints that have managed to sneak their way into the hearts of Nashikkars with their lip-smacking food.

Starting Location: Viju Dabeli Ending Location: Akbar Soda Distance: 1.3km Time taken: 1-2 hours Walk requirements:

Comfortable shoes and water

Zhatka Pani Puri at Shoukin Bhel

Shoukin Bhel

Shop No.3, near Vidya Vikas Circle red mixture of ground red chillies, potatoes, and other spices. One can also gorge on the "Kolhapuri Bhel" and a variety of other chaats that Shoukin Bhel has to offer.



Soda at Akbar Soda

College Road. near Shraddha Mall

than 100 years now, Akbar Soda is well-known for their masala sodas, which are available in



Viju Dabeli

Dabeli at Viju

College Road, Kulkarni Baug

Located near the BYK College Circle, Viju to destination for people in Nashik who love

Akbar Soda

loshua's Sha-

The Momo Factory

Momos at The Momo Factory

College Road, opposite Shraddha Mall Factory serves the best momos in the town. May it be steamed or fried, the momos served here

Shawarmas at Joshua's Street Cafe

College Road, next to Shraddha Mall

truck on Khau Galli, College Road, which serves delicious shawarmas. This food truck serves a variety of wraps, sandwiches, and fries too.

Kavnai Fort Trek

Max Altitude: 2,500 ft
Base: Kavnai Village

Kavnai Fort, a hill fort located at Kavnai village in the Igatpuri region of Nashik district, was built by the Mughals. It is especially popular among novice trekkers during the monsoon season. There are rock-cut steps to the top and a metal ladder that leads to the entrance of the fort. Inside the Fort, one can see the remnants of the old fort and a small poncibility is the main attraction.

AMK-Alang Madan Kulang Trek

Difficulty: Difficult Max Altitude: 4,852 f

Base: Ambewadi Village, Igatpuri, Nashil district / Ghatghar Village, Ahmadnagar district/ Kurungwadi, Igatpuri Best time to visit: Iuly-February

Alang Madan Kulang trek, also known popularly as AMK or Alangad Madangad Kulangad lies in the Kalsubai range of the Sahyadris, in Nashik district, Maharashtra It is the most sought after trek in Maharashtra. Due to the technical terrair and dangerous long traverse on ledges, mountaineering knowledge and skill in using technical climbing equipment at certain sections becomes imperative. From the top, one can see many of the prominent peaks and reservoirs which is the main attraction

About 22.53 km north of Malegaon, Nashik District, the Fort is on a circular detached hill with a fairly flat top. 2,316 ft above sea-level, the fort is accessible only by a broad flight of steps, now ruined, cut into the northern face of the hill Inside the Fort is a healthful mosque

Off-Beat Trekking

Off-Beat Trekking Sites in and Around Nashik

Nestled in the foothills of the Sahyadris in northern Maharashtra, Nashik offers several trekking trails that have gained popularity and attract tourists from all over the nation. Here are five off-beat trekking spots of Nashik which involve lots of thrill and adventure:

Harihar Fort Trek

Difficulty: Moderate Max Altitude: 3,676 ft Base: Nirgudpada Village, Trimbak Taluka, Harshewadi

Some 40 kms from Nashik city, the Fort lies at an altitude of 3,676 ft from sea level. Constructed to look upon the trade route through Gonda Ghat, Harihar Fort was built between the 9th and 14th centuries. The Fort receives many visitors drawn to its peculiar rock-cut steps.

Galna Fort Trek

Difficulty: Easy Max Altitude: 2,116 ft Galna village, Malegaon taluka time to visit: October-February

Non-Veg Thalis to Fix Your Gatari Plans

Many in Nashik keep fast or abstain from non-vegetarian food in the month of Shravan (July-August). The last day in the month of Ashadha (June-July), Gatari Amavasya is a day for eating and drinking merrily before the month-long austerity starts. Several eateries in Maharashtra offer delicious non-vegetarian thalis on this day and keep their shops open for longer hours. Some thalis not to miss in Nashik are:





Hotel Radhakrishna

1, Trambakeshwar Rd, behind ITI, MIDC, Satpur Colony

Average Cost: Rs 1,200 for two people

Hotel Radhakrishna is one of the first seafood restaurants of Nashik and has completed 30 successful years of providing its customers a fine dining experience. Their Malvani thali and seafood dishes served alongside North Indian & Chinese cuisine are highly recommended.

Hotel Maharashtra Darbar House Of Biryani

Shop No, 10, Dr. Ambedkar Market, MHB Colony, Satpur Colony

Average Cost: Rs 600 for two people

Known for their biryani, they have won many awards and accolades for their cuisine. They have two branches; one in Gangapur Road and another in Satpur.

Divtya Budhlya Wada Restaurant

Gangapur Road, Ganpati Nagar, Anand Wali Goan, Nashik 422013

Average Cost: Rs 600 for two people

A popular place for meat lovers around Gangapur Road, they are known for their kheema and Muttor Thali

Jayesh Khanawal

Plot No.3, Swaminarayan Nagar, Panchavati

Average Cost: Rs 600 for two people

A typical Maharashtrian eatery, all their dishes are made using authentic spices and on a wooden fire They have two locations; one in Panchwati and another at Adgaon Naka.

Hind Kesari

Makhmalabad Rd, Gopal Nagar, Matori

Average Cost: Rs 500 for two people

This well-known establishment serves one of the best and biggest non-vegetarian thalis in Nashik.

CALENDAR

Festivals and Cultural Events

MAKAR SANKRANTI

The citizens of Nashik celebrate the traditional winter harvest festival by flying kites. Many devotees also take dips in the Godavari on this day. A sweet, called tilgul, made of sesame seeds is eaten to mark the occasion.

SULA FEST

India's biggest vineyard music festival at the Sula Winery in Nashik is usually held in February. Many music lovers and tourists visit the winery at this time to listen to excellent musicians from across the globe and enjoy the choicest selection of wine.

MAHASHIVRATRI

Shivaratri, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is celebrated in February or March every year. On this auspicious day, devotees observe fast and keep vigil all night. It is celebrated with great fervour at the temple town of Trimbakeshwar.

JAN

THE INFANT JESUS SHRINE FEAST - FEBRUARY 12. 2022

The Shrine's feast (Bal Yeshu Yatra) culminates in a thanksgiving specially offered to the Infant Jesus during the Novena Mass at St. Xavier's Church, Nashik.In 2003 the festival merged with the Dhauli Mahotsav, and started hosting classical dancers on the same stage.



MARATHI BHASHA

Celebrated as Marathi Language Day in Maharashtra, February 27 is also known as 'Marathi Bhasha Diwas'. Like elsewhere in the state, Nashik honours its rich history and literature through essay competitions and seminars in Schools and Colleges.



MAR

RAMNAVMI RATHAYATRA

Ramnavmi is celebrated at Nashik with much pomp as the city is believed to be the place where Lord Rama stayed for more than twelve years. The Janmotsava or birth celebration of Lord Ramachandra begins from the first day of Chaitra (the first month of the Hindu calendar, usually March or April) and lasts till the Chaitra Poornima or full moon night, spanning 15 days.

RANGPANCHAMI

Similar to Holi in other parts of the country, colour where revellers

GUDI PADWA

The Marathi New Year performances of *dhol*



Photo by Abhijit Tembhekar, via Wikimedia Commons

KUMBH MELA

One of the most important festivals in Hinduism, the dates of the Kumb Mela vary each time, depending on the Hindu astrological chart. The highlight is the ritual bathing that takes place at the famous Trimbakeshwar temple. The last Nashik Kumbh Mela was held in 2015. and took place in the months of July, August and September.



DIWALI

Diwali, the day when, it is believed. Rama returned from his exile. is a special event in Nashik. Worshipping Lakshmi and bursting fire crackers are the highlights of the festival.

Glossary of Terms

INTRODUCTION

Kashi: A holy city for Hindus in Uttar Pradesh, North India.

Deccan Plateau: The high tableland at the Southern Peninsular India. The average elevation is 2000ft.

Ramayana: One of the two great epics of the Hindu tradition.

Peshwa: Meaning 'Chief Minister' in Marathi, it refers to the dynasty that started as the head of Shivaji's advisory council and went on to rule current-day Maharashtra.

Sinhastha Kumbh Mela: The Nashik Kumbh is celebrated when Jupiter ascends into sun sign Leo's quarter or the Simha constellation of zodiac, which is why it is called 'Simhastha'.

Dr B. R. Ambedkar: Key architect of the Indian constitution and the tallest Dalit leader in india.

Paithani: A popular handloom, originating in Paithan town of Maharashtra.

ANJANERI HILL

Basalt: Volcanic rock that is low in Silica content, and is dark in colour.

Hanuman: A main character in Ramayana, worshipped for his devotion to Rama. lain: Used in reference to the ancient Indian religion of Jainism.

Abhiras: c. 220-377 CE, Abhiras ruled over the North-Eastern regions of the Deccan. Hanuman Jayanti: Hindu religious festival marking the birth of Hanuman.

KALARAM MANDIR SATYAGRAHA

Dalit: Meaning 'oppressed', the term was chosen by people who belongs to communities outside the traditional Hindu caste system to refer to themselves.

32 Satyagraha: Passive resistance.

Ram Navami: Birth festival of Rama.

TRIMBAK-NASHIK KUMBH MELA

Shaivites: Followers of Lord Shiva Vaishnavites: Followers of Lord Vishnu Ghats: Flight of steps leading to a waterbody.

MIT: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

RAMSHEJ FORT

Ramlalla: Infant Rama

Cistern: An artificial reservoir.

Aurangzeb: The sixth Mughal Emperor, 1618-1707 CE.

Killedar: The chief of a fort.

Chhatrapati Sambhaji: Eldest son of the founder of the Maratha Empire Shivaji, he ruled from 1681-1689.

Hatgad: A village, 71 kilometres from Nashik.

Maratha War of 1818: The Third British-Maratha War (1817-1818) resulted in defeat of the Maratha Army and annexation of the region to British India.

Bhils: A tribal community.

SARKARWADA

Peshwai: Kingdom of the Peshwas, or the Maratha kingdom.

Chowk: Courtvard Darbar Hall: Court

Collectorate: Area under the jurisdiction of a collector(a senior government official).

SARVAJANIK VACHANALAYA

Sarvajanik: Hindi for 'public', also used to mean general.

Vachanalaya: Hindi for reading room. Indian National Congress: The first modern Indian nationalist party.

TAMBAT ALI CRAFT

Filigree: Ornamental work especially of fine wire of gold, silver, or copper applied chiefly to gold and silver surfaces.

Embossing: Carve, mould, or stamp a design on (a surface or object) so that it stands out in relief.

Mahmud Begada: Ruling from 1458 to 1511, he was a ruler from the Gujarat Sultanate.

TRIMBAKESHWAR SHIVA TEMPLE

Shiva: One of the main deities in Hinduism.

Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao: Prominent Chief Minister of the Maratha empire (1740-1761).

Nagara style: North Indian temple architecture.

Hemadpanti: Group of temples in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, named after Hemadpant, prime minister of the Yadava kings, 1271-1310 CE.

Yaksha: Supernatural beings in Hindu mythology.

Shivalinga: A votary object that symbolises lord Shiva in Hinduism.

Third Anglo-Maratha War: The third and final war between the Maratha army and the British forces in 1818 which the English won.

TRIRASHMI LENI

Hinayana: A school of Buddhism, they follow the original teachings of Buddha. Stupa: Buddhist monument, usually housing a relic.

Veer Manibhadra: Jain deity. Ambika Devi: Jain deity.

Yavana: Greek or any foreigner in early Indian literature.

Demetriapolis: A Greek city founded by the Greco-Bactrian King Demetreus South of Hindukush, around current day Pakistan, c.1st century BCE.

Bodhi Tree: The tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment.

Brahmi: The earliest script developed in India post-Indus Valley Civilization.

Satavahanas: A dynasty (late 2nd century BCE- early 3rd century CE) that ruled over Deccan.

YORK WINERY

Volcanic black soil: Soil formed frpm weathering of volcanic lava.
Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin Blanc, Shiraz, Sauvignon Blanc, Tempranillo, Zinfandel, Viognier: Varieties of grapes.

Bibliography

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Notes		

About Us

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The key focus areas of IGF include Heritage Conservation, Promotion of Livelihoods and Environment Conservation including Waste Management. The Heritage projects cover both the tangible and intangible aspects of heritage. The environment projects support development and protection of Natural Resources thereby increasing the green cover and ground water recharge. It also includes work on Waste Management. The livelihood projects support income enhancement of marginalized groups, especially women through environment friendly projects. By partnering with leading NGOs of the country, IGF has been able to impact more than

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Front Cover: Photos by Samruddham, via Wikimedia Commons, Prashant Kharote, via Wikimedia Commons and Privankulkarni, via Wikimedia Commons. This booklet documents various well-known and offbeat treasures of Nashik's living heritage and culture. Designed as a guide to navigate the city's better kept secrets, the publication spans themes such as built heritage, people and communities, institutions of cultural importance, and literature and the arts.

Other editions include: Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Goa, Hyderabad, Indore, Kolkata, Prayagraj, Shillong



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