



## ARCHITECTURE OF INDIAN CITIES- KOLHAPUR- ROOTS OF HERITAGE

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### ABSTRACT

*In today's urban environment high rise buildings, parking areas, network of roads have acquired major urban land. In such congested environment rooftop and terrace of buildings provide a valuable potential source of outdoor space accessible to users of building. (A. Patel, R. Yadav, B. Singh, 2019) The purpose of this study is to give an insight into what motivates middle-class citizens to engage in gardening. The Indian middle classes are described as well educated with busy, stressful lives and with a high resource use due to consumption, however, also with increasing awareness and practices of pro-environmental behaviour. (Mathur 2010) Balcony and terrace gardens give pleasure to city dwellers and provide an opportunity for enhancing creativity as well psychological benefits. In addition, they change the visual appearance of the building, screening from neighbors, and conceal unwanted pipeline and unappealing scenery (Green, 2004). The findings of this article are based on literature review. The study concludes that, regardless of the type of home, both Individual house and apartment respondents prefer a terrace Gardening for the purpose of relaxation and decreases recorded in global Warming is the greatest benefit.*

**Keywords:** Kolhapur, Historic Town, Heritage, Cultural heritage, Conservation policy, Historic settlement, Cultural significance

### INTRODUCTION:-

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India has a great cultural heritage of temples across the country. There is a wide variety of temples and heritage buildings like palaces, schools, colleges, lakes constructed from East to West and North to South of India. Most of the temples are built centuries ago and still are in good condition and the centre of cultural activities.

Dakshin Kashi, a city known to be located on the banks of the Panchganga River, southern-western zone of the state Maharashtra, surrounded by Sahyadri mountain ranges is famous for being ruled by multiple kings belonging to different backgrounds. As a reflection of its people and period, the city of Kolhapur reflects the wisdom and beliefs of the kings who ruled over it, and as a result, the city is rich in forts, temples, and palaces, making it a destination to be explored for its spectacular and grandeur of India. City was referred as Karvir after the installation of Mahalaxmi temple. Before that, there were many names like Kolhapur, Kollpur, Kollagiri, Kolladigiripattan. Kolla means valley and Kolhapur means city of valleys. In short, Brahmapuri, Karvir and Kolhapur are different names for this place. After the establishment of Mahalaxmi temple, Kolhapur was recognized as a religious center and gave rise to various cultural and financial developments. Other than the architectural marvels the city is celebrated for Kolhapuri chappals; Indian handcrafted leather slippers and Kolhapuri Saaj; A unique necklace made by local jewelers. Apart from the architectural beauty, the historical and cultural richness of the city makes it a touristic place.

### Statement of problem:

The historical and cultural significance of a heritage building is huge. As time passes and outside factors affect the building, however, it will wear down. In this case, a heritage building restoration is your best option. However, restoring a heritage building isn't as simple as putting a fresh coat of paint on the outside.

### Objectives

1. The aim of this study is to spread awareness about conservation of heritage building at Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
2. To document the values of a heritage-listed building of Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

### Scope:

The purpose of this study is to give an insight to numerous conservation strategies for architectural heritage conservation, which is an important aspect of preserving society's culture identity. One of these is heritage building reuse, which is the essential notion in finding an optimal balance between cultural property conservation and changing its functions. The reuse of heritage buildings has the potential to improve many areas of the city.



### **Methods:**

The findings of this article are based on literature review. The literature reviewed is a mix of articles and papers about the study of conservation of heritage building at Kolhapur Maharashtra, basic study of history of heritage of Kolhapur and conservation strategies for architectural heritage conservation. For this study drawings and details are done of heritage buildings at Kolhapur. Through presentation drawings trying present view of heritage building and details in written format. It is a descriptive study. With the help of study facts are considered in descriptive methods and surveys and case studies are done to clarify the facts. These help to determine and explain with examples, the facts, and they are not rejected.

### **What is Heritage?**

The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'heritage' as 'property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance', 'valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations', and 'relating to things of historic or cultural value that are worthy of preservation'. The emphasis on inheritance and conservation is important here, as is the focus on 'property', 'things' or 'buildings'. So (according to the Oxford English Dictionary, anyway), heritage is something that can be passed from one generation to the next, something that can be conserved or inherited, and something that has historic or cultural value. Heritage might be understood to be a physical 'object': a piece of property, a building or a place that is able to be 'owned' and 'passed on' to someone else. Heritage encompasses all of our inherited customs, monuments, artefacts, and culture. The spectrum of modern activities, meanings, and behaviours that we derive from them is most crucial. Preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of old artefacts is part of heritage, but it is much more.

### **Benefits From Heritage Conservation:**

Heritage preservation is a long-term commitment that benefits us now and provides a priceless treasure for future generations.

Here are five significant advantages of preserving our built heritage:

#### **Retaining Identity**

Many heritage precincts serve as gathering places for locals and activities. The significance of their preservation extends beyond their historical significance, emphasising the distinct personality and sense of belonging they create in our emotions. Furthermore, these historic architectural aspects contribute to the beauty of contemporary urban environments.

#### **Promotes Cultural Tourism**



Historic structures play an important role in heritage tourism. These fascinating and tangible links to our past pique tourists' interest in soaking up the unique atmosphere, which in turn serves to attract business. Heritage visitors have a higher economic impact per trip, according to statistics, because they remain for longer periods of time and spend more money every day.

### **Increases Property Value**

Heritage preservation often leads to greater appreciation rates for both the restored building and its surrounding properties compared to areas without historical landmarks.

### **Economic Sustainability**

The enhancement of existing neighbourhoods and infrastructure is significantly cheaper than building new ones. Aside from cutting down on hefty infrastructure costs, restoration projects also help to retain money within the community by creating more local employment and requiring fewer imported materials. Various industries such as construction firms and product manufacturers also benefit from heritage conservation.

### **Reduction of Demolition Waste**

Conservation and restoration of heritage buildings are the ultimate forms of recycling. Research has shown that the demolition of a typical brick house results in an average of 60 to 100 tonnes worth of waste. To top it off, restoration is also proven to be a massive energy saver. The energy required to demolish an old building and erect a new one is estimated to be equivalent to the energy needed to operate it for 40 years. Imagine the amount of invaluable resources and savings that could be put to better use.

### **Heritage of Kolhapur:**

#### **1. Maharaja palace:**

Maharaja Palace, also known as “New Palace” is a blend of Rajasthani, Gujarati, and Jain style architecture, built by British architect Mant in 1884 and has paintings of Shivaji Maharaj's life stories. Their clothes, living styles, games, pieces of jewelry, weapons, or royal culture. Housing a zoo, museum, and multiple parks, this palace stands out from other places in the city. It is also considered to be a fine example of the Rajwada style of architecture. It was developed at Kolhapur by the architect Major Charles Mant under the auspices of the Maharaja. Mant designed the New Palace which took seven years to complete (1877-1884). This building was built in basalt and sandstone around a central courtyard and exhibits a lofty clock tower. The interior was equally lavish, adorned with trophies of game and tiger heads, it contains several beautiful stained glass windows depicting the life of

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Shivaji which was the work of an Italian artist. The principal south facade presents a double-storeyed range, with Neo-Mughal lobed arches beneath and temple-like columns and brackets above. This scheme is interrupted by trefoil arches capped with curving cornices and small domes. The same elements cap the octagonal corner towers. The Darbar Hall occupies a double-height space in middle of the Palace. The side walls display lobed arches filled with stained glass illustrating scenes from the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ; carved columns with temple-like brackets support the cast iron balcony above. A raised throne is placed at one end of the Hall. Photos include one of the Maharajah with his hundredth dead tiger, elephant hunts and a series detailing how to train a cheetah.



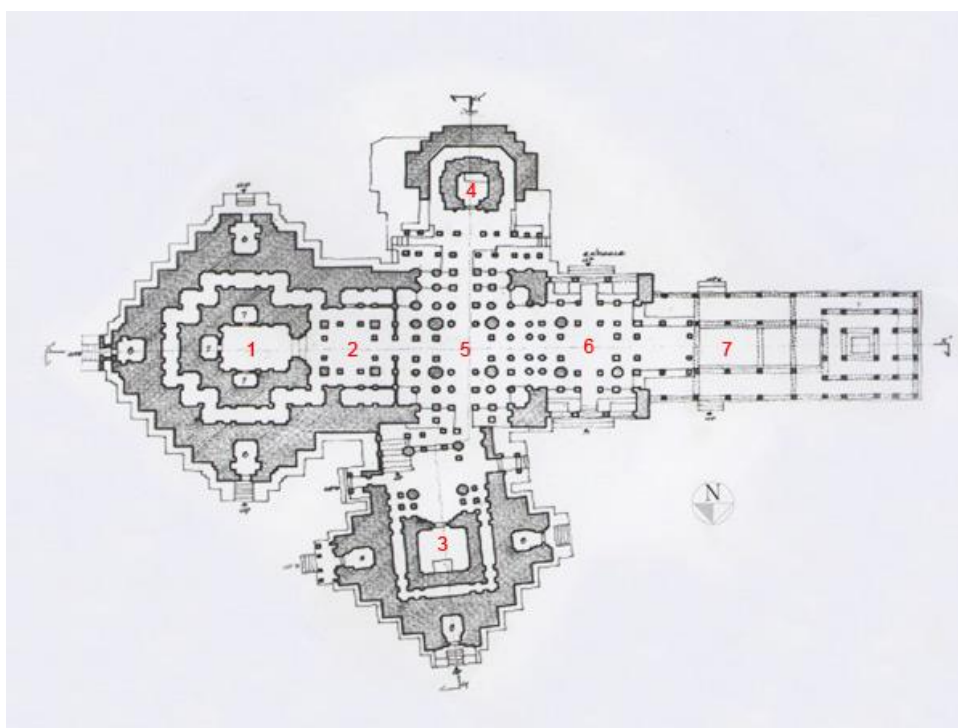
Drawing details:

## 2. Mahalaxmi temple:-

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Mahalaxmi temple precinct is a very old precinct in Kolhapur, built in 8th century by Chalukyan rulers. Every year lacs of devotees are visiting this temple of goddess Mahalaxmi from most of the part of India. The interior and exterior walls of the temple are adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures. The monolithic statue of Goddess Mahalaxmi is one of the highlights of this temple. Diamonds and other precious stones have been used as ornaments for the deity. A festival of sun rays also referred as Kirnotsav is celebrated in Mahalakshmi Temple at Kolhapur when the sun rays fall directly on the idol of Mahalakshmi highlighting it at the time of sunset on specific six days in a year which is possible because of the precise calculations of the size of the opening and the distance between the source of light and the idol (*K. Rewatkar, P. Rewatkar, 2016*). The temple is constructed of basalt stone with beautiful intricate carving on it. Indoor environmental quality of the temple which is deteriorated due to the impact of increased number of devotees. Some of the devotees face the problem of suffocation, fatigue, fainting, irritation, nasal congestion; as provision of vents are absent and natural ventilation is not available inside the shrine of goddess Mahalaxmi. Due to lack of air exchange and natural ventilation the indoor environmental quality is deteriorated. It is observed that the CO<sub>2</sub> level is increased, decreased in O<sub>2</sub> level, rise in temperature and humidity above the standard level causing discomfort. With the beautiful Indian architectural style, back then since the 7th century, the place holds a scientific beauty of Indian beliefs. As justified by the name the temple encloses Mahalaxmi's deity at the center who is worshipped by Indians as an idol signifies money.



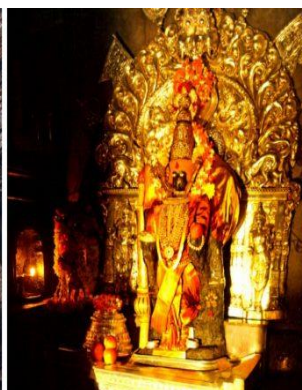
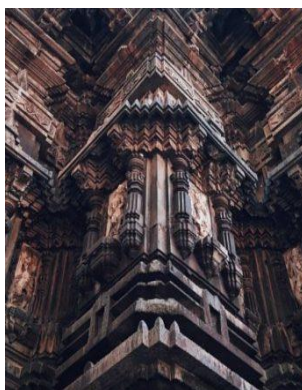
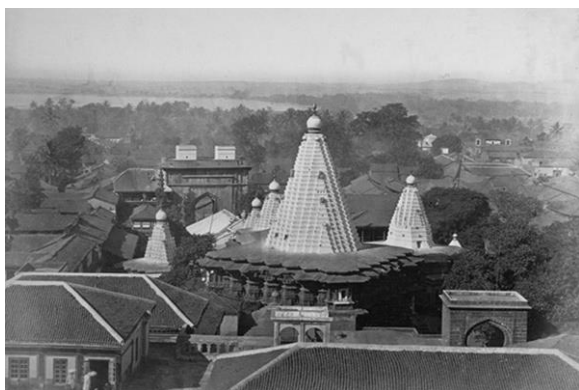
Plan of Mahalaxmi temple

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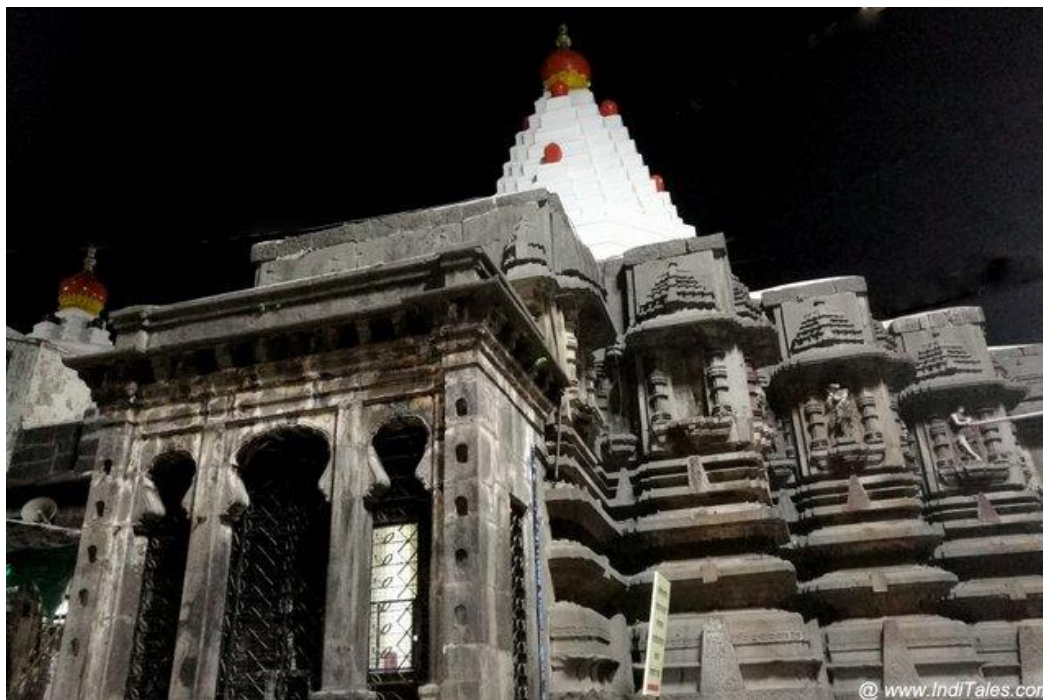
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The temple premises is covered with strong masonry walls. Along with the walls, there exist various famous and worshipful temples. Four main entrances exist for easy accessibility for citizens and pilgrims, There was enough place to rest for people visiting from other places. Broadly, the main temple premises is divided in following ways.

1. Garbh gruha ( Mahalaxmi Gruha)
2. Antaraal
3. Mahakali
4. Mahasarswati
5. Madnya Mandap / Kurm Manda
6. Ganesh Mandap
7. Garud Mandap



When you enter, you see the base of the big structure in dark grey stone. Get a hint of Chalukyan architecture. Most of the sculpted images on the walls are broken. As shown below;



## Shikhara's:

The Shikhara's is painted in pale lemon yellow with saffron outlines. The Shikhara's are triangular or conical in shape and look like a much later addition to the original mandir. Were the original Shikharas destroyed or they were simply renovated. From the ground level, it is difficult to understand the formation of Shikharas. There are 5 Shikharas in all. The central one is on top of Koorma Mandap and the four in four cardinal directions surrounding it are on the temples of Mahalakshmi, Mahakali, Mahasaraswati, and Ganapati. The one on top of the presiding deity is the tallest of them. As shown below;



Deepstambh:

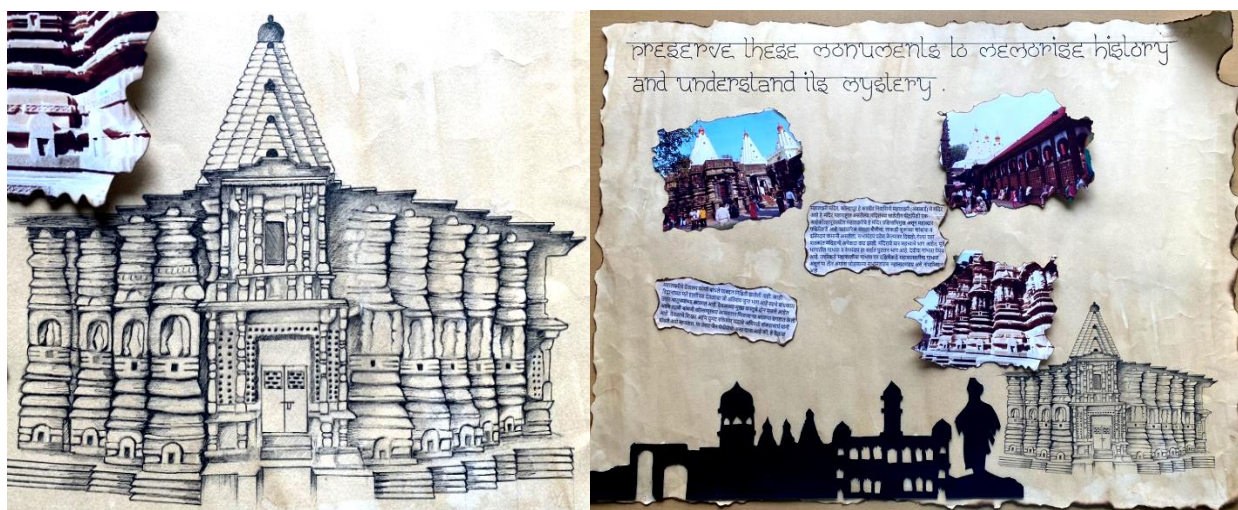
Typical Maharashtra style Deepstambhs stand in one corner. They are lit up on the festival days.



Drawing details:

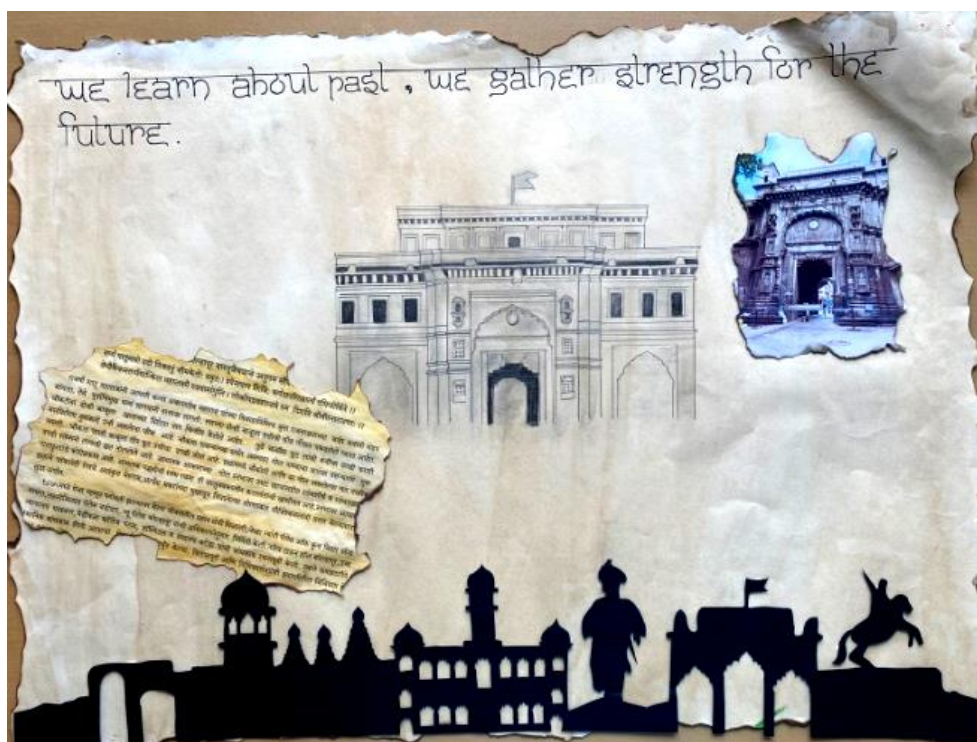
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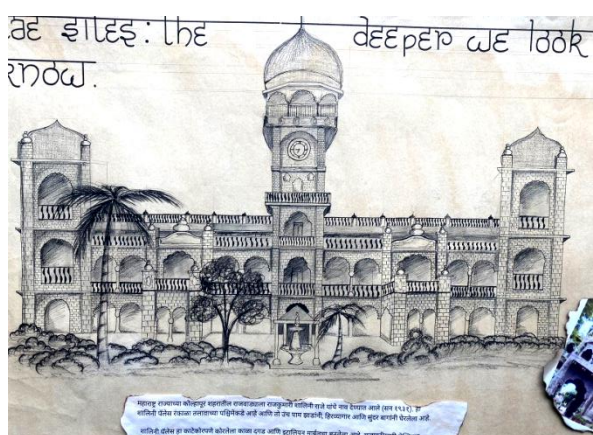
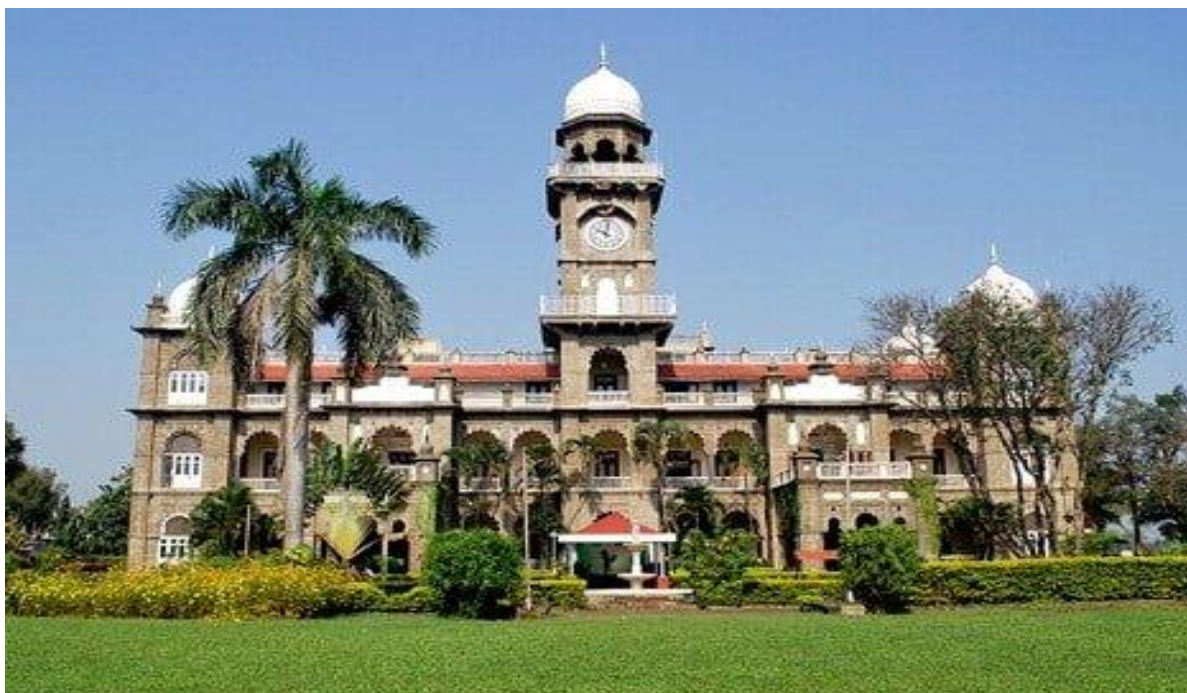


### 3. Bhawani mandap

The city's splendour is known as the Bhavani Mandap. In Kolhapur, the Mandap is one of the city's oldest structures. It was constructed between 1785 and 1800 by Shivaji Maharaj. This complex has an ancient architectural design and it is surrounded by huge walls and arches. It served as a royal residence to the rulers of Kolhapur and within this complex a temple was built dedicated to goddess Tulja Bhavani by Shri Chhatrapati only for the members of the royal family. The biggest and oldest monument of the city Kolhapur "Bhawani mandap" is now re-adapted as a public heritage site that was used for courts during the times of Marathas and the palace of Chhatrapati Maharaj. The mandap was constructed with fine carving and it had 14 square but during 1813 the palace was invaded by a Muslim and half of its part was burnt; only 7 squares were survived. With great warriors and their stories, the mandap also has sacred importance which makes the place publicly engaged. Kolhapur was a rich princely state and the Mandap is a look back into the rich history of the place. The goddess Tulja Bhavani is the deity of the Bhavani Mandap, which is also a temple. The entrance hall is magnificent, and there are ornaments such as Zumbur, a light collection. A life-size statue of Shahu Maharaj, the most loved king of Kolhapur is placed in the entrance hall of the Mandap. There are many interesting artifacts on display here, such as the stuffed animals like deer and panther hunted by the king.



The Palace named after the princess of Kolhapur, Shalini is a great example of Italian architecture, carved out with black marble, intricately carved wooden doors and windows fitted with Belgium glass signifies its magnificent richness of that time. The palace was built in 1931-34 and converted into a 3-star hotel afterward. Majestic black stone arches form the verandah and the porch. The stained glass windows and the huge tower clock are restored to their original beauty.



## 5. RANKALA LAKE

Rankala Lake is on the western side of Ambabai temple, it is a popular evening spot and recreation centre. This lake was constructed by late Maharajah, Shri Shahu Chhatrapati. The Lake is surrounded by Chaupati and other gardens. In the backdrop stands majestic Shalini Palace. Shalini Palace is the only star-rated Palace Hotel in Maharashtra. In past, Kolhapur was famous as a centre for Film Industry. Many Marathi movies, Hindi movies have been shot in studios in Kolhapur. ShantKiran Studio on Rankala Lake was shot in numerous movies. Witness of historical events during 750-850 AD Formerly, this was an extensive mine of black stone. During 800-900 AD, there were earthquakes, which transformed the

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mine. There across big holes through which water from under ground collect. Located at a distance of half a kilometer from the Mahalakshmi Temple is a huge lake called “RANKALA LAKE”. This is the oldest of all, it is thought and was given more importance in the past as a big temple of Nandi and a fine resort called ‘Sandhya Math’ have been built. The idol of Nandi is very big and rare. To the northern end of the lake is the Shalini Palace. To the southeast is Padmaraje garden. The lake is picturesque and it’s a pleasure to go for a walk along this lake. At two spots one can reach the water, at Rajghat and Maratha ghat. There is a tower on the Rajghat. In front of this tower are the Shalini Palace and Ambai swimming tank. The ‘Sandhya Math’ in the lake is most ly under water during the rainy reason.



Sandhyamath



Rankala Lake





## CONCLUSION:

The study mentioned above is the 'essence of the culture of Kolhapur. While visiting the tourist places is important, feeling the culture of the city is a new experience altogether. This is heritage that we need to see, get inspired and preserve for our next generation.

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