

ASI undertakes conservation and management of Seven Maratha Forts in Maharashtra

Site Management Plan for Shivneri Fort includes conservation, visitor facilities and community outreach

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The Government has prepared and submitted Site Management Plans for twelve forts, including Shivneri Fort, to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre as part of the nomination dossier for inscription of the Maratha Military Landscapes of India on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2025.

The Site Management Plans outline a comprehensive framework for conservation, infrastructure development, visitor management and community engagement for the nominated forts.

Major Deliverables under the Site Management Plan

Short Term (6 months – 2 years)	Mid Term (2 – 5 years)	Lor
Administrative structure, Site infrastructure, Interpretation and visitor management	Excavation, Conservation, Site infrastructure, Mobility plan, Interpretation and visitor management, Disaster and risk management, Community outreach	Ci (

There is no separate budget allocated for individual sites under the nomination. Funds are allocated to field offices of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and are utilised as per the requirements of monuments and sites under their jurisdiction.

Expenditure on Conservation Works at Shivneri Fort

Year	Expenditure
2023–24	₹2.13 Crore
2024–25	₹2.82 Crore
2025–26 (as on 12.03.2026)	₹1.65 Crore

The proposed buffer area for Shivneri Fort is already protected by the Maharashtra Forest Department. The proposed buffer will not adversely affect the traditional livelihoods or housing rights of residents of Junnar. UNESCO has not mandated the appointment of a dedicated site manager for serial nominations. Out of the 11 forts located in Maharashtra under the 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' nomination, seven forts, including Shivneri Fort, are managed by the Mumbai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India, which is responsible for their conservation and management. The remaining four forts are under the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums.

This information was given by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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