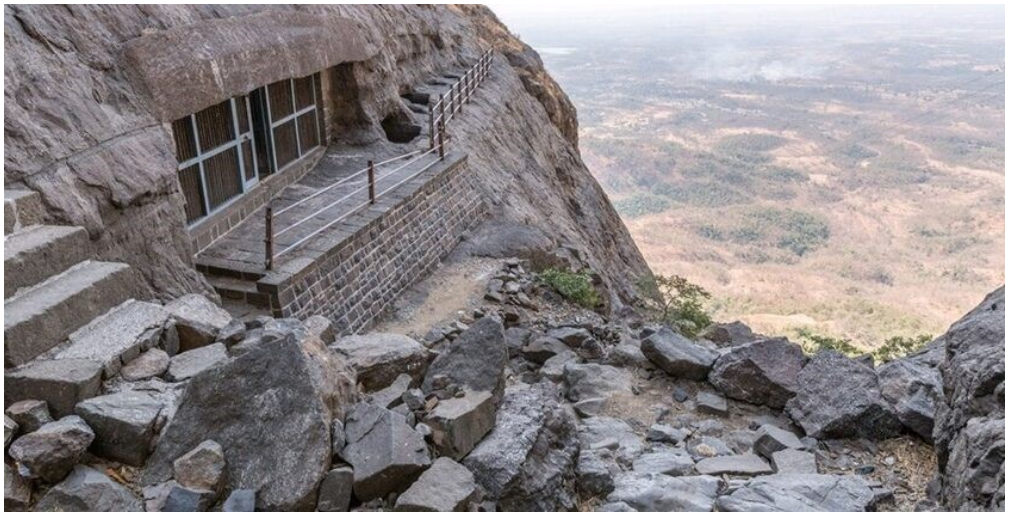
Naneghat Caves

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

Why in News?

Recently, Pune Police booked a man for illegal construction near the historic Naneghat Caves, under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act.

- **Location –** Naneghat is a mountain pass in the Western Ghats, about 20 km from Junnar in Pune district, Maharashtra.
    - Other sites in Junnar - Shivneri fort and Lenyadri caves
- **Managed by –** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and any construction within 200 metres of the site boundary is prohibited.
- **Protected under –** The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- **Timeline –** Dating back to the ***1st century BCE.***
- **Belief –** Used by Buddhist, Jain and Ajivika sects for meditation and ascetic life.
- **Associated with – *Satavahana dynasty.***
- **Construction –** Rock-cut caves carved into the hillside.
- **Extent –** Part of Junnar's historical sites along with Shivneri Fort and Lenyadri Caves.
- **Features –**
- **Architecture –** Rock-cut cave architecture with *early Brahmi inscriptions* giving insights into Satavahana rule and trade routes.
- **Trade Importance –** Extensively used during the Satavahana period as a trade route between Kalyan and Junnar.
    - Important corridor linking the *ancient trade route connecting the Western coast to the Deccan plateau*
- **Archaeological Evidence –** Excavations indicate trade links between Romans and Satavahanas.



Quick Facts
Shivneri fort • Archaeologically important for ancient fortifications, water management and structural remains, offering insights into Deccan military architecture and settlement patterns. • **Historical significance –** Birthplace of Chhatrapati Shivaji, founder of the Maratha Empire. **Lenyadri caves** • Part of the Buddhist rock-cut cave complex. • Notable for chaitya and viharas carved into a hillside.

Reference

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