

Naneghat Caves

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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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