

Karnala Fort

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Karnala Fort Latest News

In yet another dubious private forest land diversion, over 60 hectares has been recently deforested off the Karnala Fort under Bhadbhuvan village, Uran, without prior permission of the Union govt.

About Karnala Fort

- Karnala Fort, also called **Funnel Hill**, is a historic **hill fort** located in Raigad District in **Maharashtra**.
- Standing at 1,500 feet **inside the Karnala Bird Sanctuary**, it offers stunning **views of the Sahyadris**.
- The fort **overlooks** the **historic Bor Pass**, a **key trade route connecting Konkan to Maharashtra's interior**.

Karnala Fort History

- The fort was likely **constructed before 1400**, under the **Devagiri Yadavs (1248-1318)** and the **Tughlaq rulers (1318-1347)**; **Karnala** was the **capital of the north Konkan districts of their respective empires**.

- Its **strategic location** made it a coveted possession for various rulers over the centuries.
- **Controlled at various times** by the **Yadavas, Tughlaqs, Gujarat Sultanate, Nizam Shahis of Ahmednagar, Portuguese, Marathas, Mughals, Peshwas**, and finally the **British East India Company**.
- The fort's significance grew during its role in Maratha history, when it became a **crucial outpost for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in his quest to establish a Maratha empire.

Karnala Fort Features

- It actually consists of **two forts, one at a higher level** and the **other lower**.
- **At the centre of the higher level** is a **125-feet-high basalt pillar**. It is also called **Pandu's tower**.
- This structure was **used as a watchtower** when the fort was occupied; however now it is in a ruined condition.
- There is a **temple dedicated to the goddess Bhavani** located at the bottom of the fort.

Source: **TOI**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/karnala-fort/>

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