

Vitthal Rukhmini Temple

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Vitthal Rukhmini Temple Latest News

A Marathi-Hindi language row has emerged at Pandharpur's renowned Vitthal-Rukhmini temple recently.

About Vitthal Rukhmini Temple

- It is a **Hindu temple** situated in Pandharpur, **Maharashtra**.
- Located on the **banks of the river Bhima**, also **known as Chandrabhaga**, Sri Vitthal Rukmini Mandir is **dedicated to Lord Vithoba**, a **form of the Lord Vishnu** or Krishna, and his consort Rukhmini.
- The temple is classified as one among the 108 Abhimana Kshethrams of the Vaishnavate tradition.

Vitthal Rukhmini Temple History

- The temple was **built by King Vishnuvardhana of the Hoysala Empire** between **1108 and 1152 CE**.
- He built the temple after being **persuaded by Pundalik**, a **historical figure**, great devotee of Lord Krishna.

- There is an **inscription in the temple, of a Hoysala King Vira Someshwara** dating back to 1237 CE, which grants the temple a village for its upkeep.
- **An extensive temple was constructed** in the second half of the **13th century** following the **Hemadpanti style of architecture**.
- The temple was **attacked by invaders** and completely damaged.
- The **present temple** was **built in the 17th century** & later in the **Deccan style**, with dome motifs and lobed arches **by the contribution of Peshwas** of Pune, the **Shindes** of Gwalior, and the **Holkars** of Indore.
- The temple was the **first shrine in India** that **welcomed people and women from backward categories as priests in 2014**.

Source: **TOI**

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