

How To Reach VADNAGAR



111 km by Road
from Ahmedabad

361 km by Road
from Surat

285 km by Road
from Rajkot



Nearest Airport
Ahmedabad



Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor, Sector-11, Gandhinagar - 382 011.
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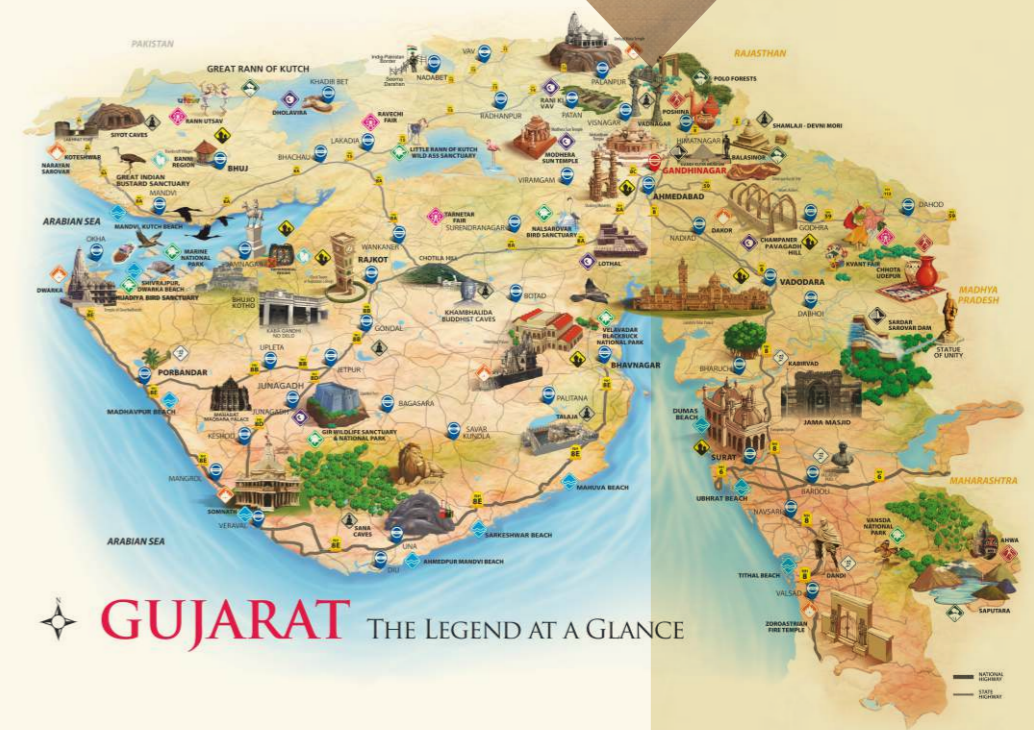
Disclaimer: The details and pictures contained here are for information and could be indicative. Some of the activities listed may be unavailable due to seasonal and technical reasons.



VADNAGAR

A CITY OF THE AGES



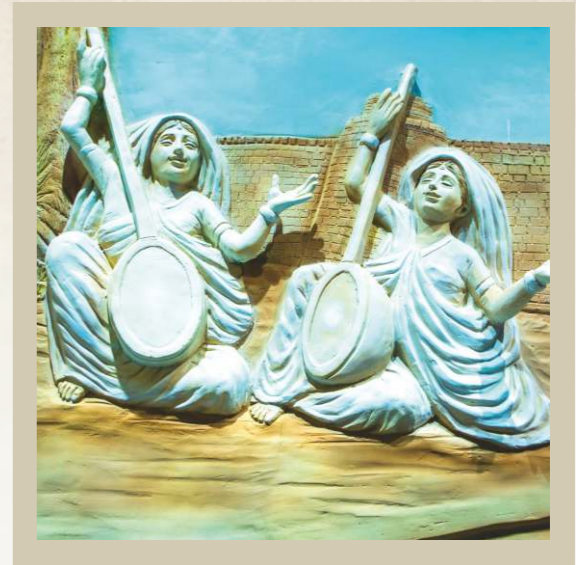


MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

- *Kirti Toran*
- *Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple*
- *Sharmishtha Lake*
- *Budhhi Site*
- *Railway Station*
- *Tana-Riri Samadhi*
- *Saptarshi Aaro*
- *Art Gallery and Watch Tower*



Pithori Gate



THE LAND OF KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

THE CITY OF VADNAGAR BELIES
A RICH AND MULTI-CULTURAL
HISTORY OVER MILLENNIA.

From mentions in ancient Sanskrit literature, Jain literature and copperplate inscriptions, we know that Vadnagar was a prominent city in ancient India. Packed with history, and a cultural mélange that is unlike any other city in Gujarat, Vadnagar is a traveller and history buff's absolute delight.

From ancient records to Chinese travelogues, estimates suggest the city has stood for over 2500 years. Scriptures indicate Vadnagar was known as Chamatkarpur in the Satya Yuga, Anartapur in Treta Yuga, Anandpur in Dwapar Yuga, and Vriddhanagar or Vadnagar in Kali Yuga.

It has always been a city of knowledge, known as the Kashi of Gujarat. Vadnagar is a home to religious scholars, literary giants, artists, sculptors, singer-musicians and more! From ancient times to the present day, Vadnagar has stood as a symbol of a civilisation's might, withstanding the test of time.

A CITY LAYERED IN HISTORY

VADNAGAR HAS A HISTORY OF BEING NOT ONLY A RELIGIOUS CENTRE FOR A NUMBER OF FAITHS, BUT ALSO A CENTRE OF GREAT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. WITH CENTURIES OF CIVILISATIONS HAVING FLOURISHED ON ITS SOIL, VADNAGAR STANDS PROUD AS A CITY WITH A UNIQUE HERITAGE.

Many assume that the city is built on a mound, a natural structure of varying heights, many also believe this mound to be debris from civilisations from long ago.

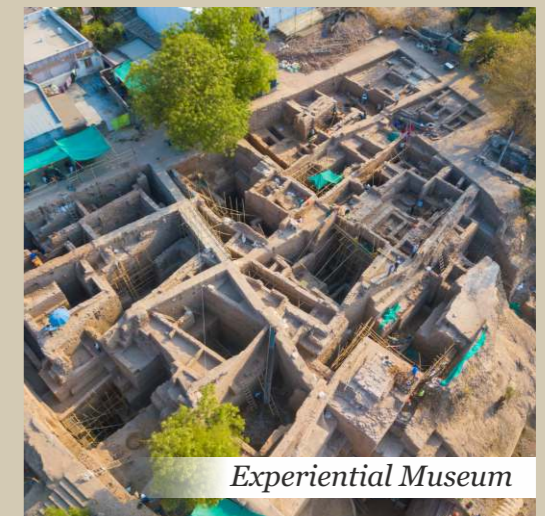
Just as each layer of earth beneath the city tells a story, every lane of the city speaks of a storied era. The true beauty of the city is in

how it reveals a near perfect chronology of the history of the land through ancient fingerprints.

Be it a 2nd Century Bodhisattva Idol or the Toran from the Solanki period starting from 942 CE, this city has been a keystone of culture and heritage.



Buddhist Monastery



Experiential Museum



Patthar Haveli



VADNAGAR'S RICHES DRAW INVADERS

AS VADNAGAR'S PROSPERITY GREW, IT CAME UNDER ATTACK BY MANY ARMIES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, AFTER KING MULRAJ SOLANKI SUPPLANTED THE LAST CHAVDA KING AND ESTABLISHED THE SOLANKI DYNASTY.

The Solankis, who were rising in power, established rule here. Kumarpal, who succeeded Siddharaj Solanki, restored the fort encircling Vadnagar to its old glory. The Solanki rule continued till the end of the 13th century, and it was during this time that the city thrived as a centre for trade and arts.

Several religions flourished here and the city housed religious establishments of the Hindus, Buddhists and Jains.

After nearly 4 centuries of peace, Vadnagar was once again shaken when the Khiljis and Tughlaqs marched towards the riches of Gujarat. They overthrew the Solankis and looted the Vadnagar town. Later on, the Mughal Empire continued the plundering of prosperous Gujarat.

Then came a period towards the latter half of the 17th century, when Maratha rulers battled against the Mughal rule in Gujarat. The first sacking of the city by the Marathas was in 1726, followed by 1735 and 1737. By this time, many of Vadnagar's citizens had fled the city, and it is said the city never recovered from this devastation.

Hathi Vadu Derasar

A MULTI-CULTURAL HERITAGE

THIS CITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CREATIVE CENTER OF THE ARTS. MUSIC, SCULPTURE, DANCE AND LITERATURE BECAME A HUGE PART OF THE CITY'S CULTURE IN A NEAR RENAISSANCE EVOLUTION.

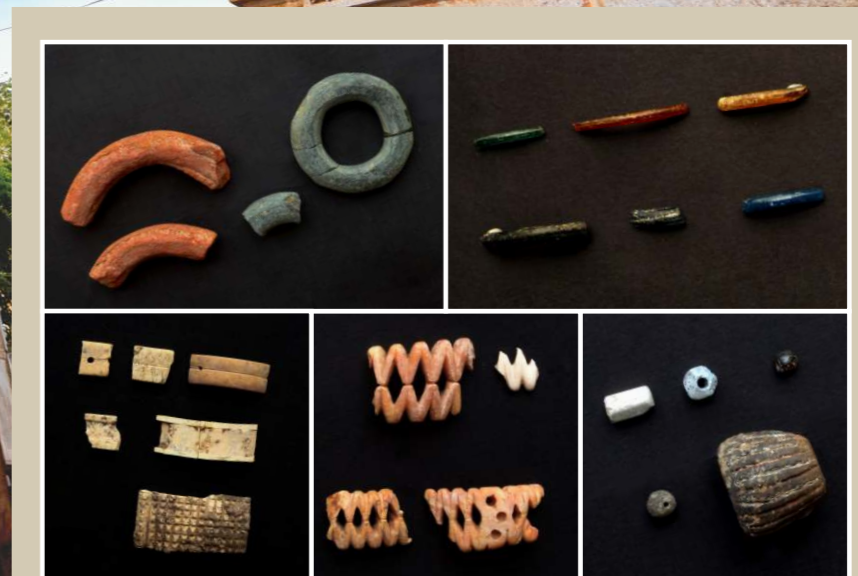
Archaeological Excavations have also pointed at shell bangle manufacturing industry in Vadnagar, which could have been the secret to the city's riches. The study shows the variation in designs and shapes of shell bangles with the changes in the cultural periods. The technological development and highly skilled craftsmanships shows the prosperity of Vadnagar. The excavations suggest that the city also thrived on bead

craft, ornaments, ivory carving and iron smelting.

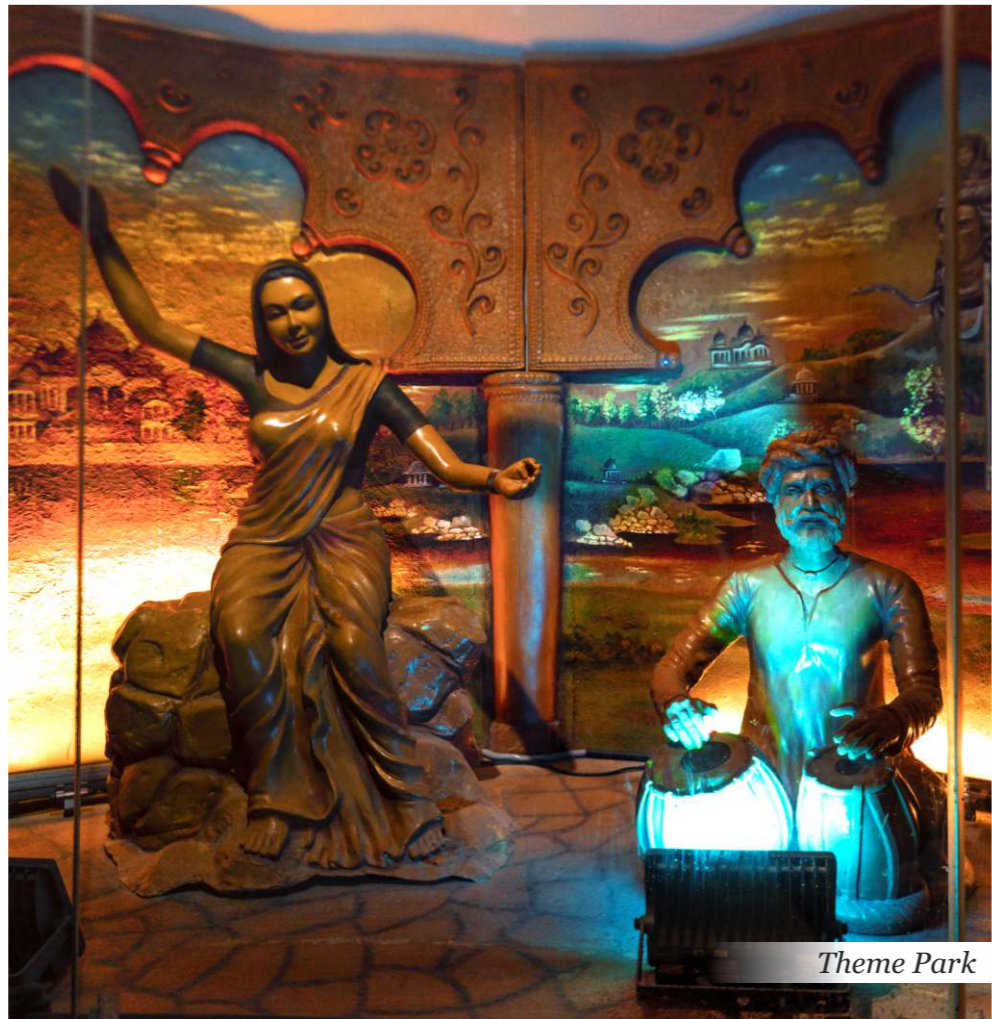
The entire city was fortified and had six arching gates like many other places in Gujarat under the Solanki era. Today, five of the six original gates still stand watch over the city.

The famous Chinese traveller, Xuanzang, noted that residents were prosperous and wealthy, and there was no chief ruler.

Amarthol Gate



Terracota, Glass, Shell, Ivory Bangle fragments and Beads
Picture Courtesy ASI



Theme Park



Tana-Riri Park

**VADNAGAR
ANCIENT
← & →
MODERN
LANDMARKS**

The city of Vadnagar has innumerable sites of heritage that are truly timeless. For a city whose history spans over 2500 years, this is only to be expected. But, over and above the ancient landmarks, there are also a number of relatively modern landmarks that are truly inspiring.



Saptarshi Aaro



Sheth Bhogilal Chakulal Library



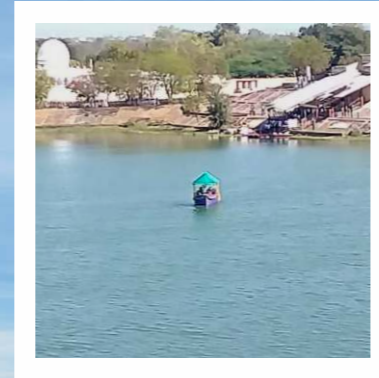
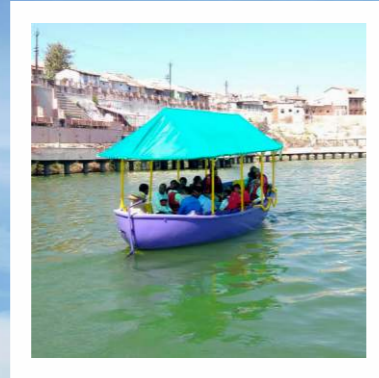
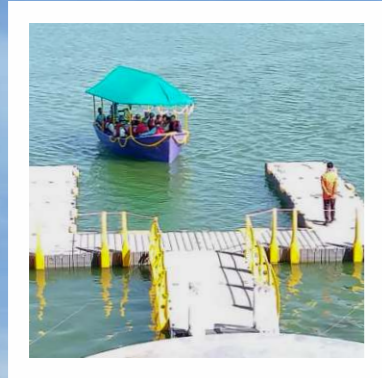
KIRTI TORAN

These victory arches were installed by the Solanki rulers. At nearly 40 feet in height, these torans are decorated with intricately carved images, a feature of the Solanki period. Standing on the bank of the Sharmishtha lake, these victory arches miraculously survived many attacks and invasions faced by Vadnagar over the centuries.



HATKESHWAR MAHADEV TEMPLE

The Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple enshrines the family deity of Nagar Brahmins. A Swayambhu ling, Hatak means a gold Shivaling, which is what gives the temple its name. This temple is visited by thousands every week and is one of the most popular temples in the state.



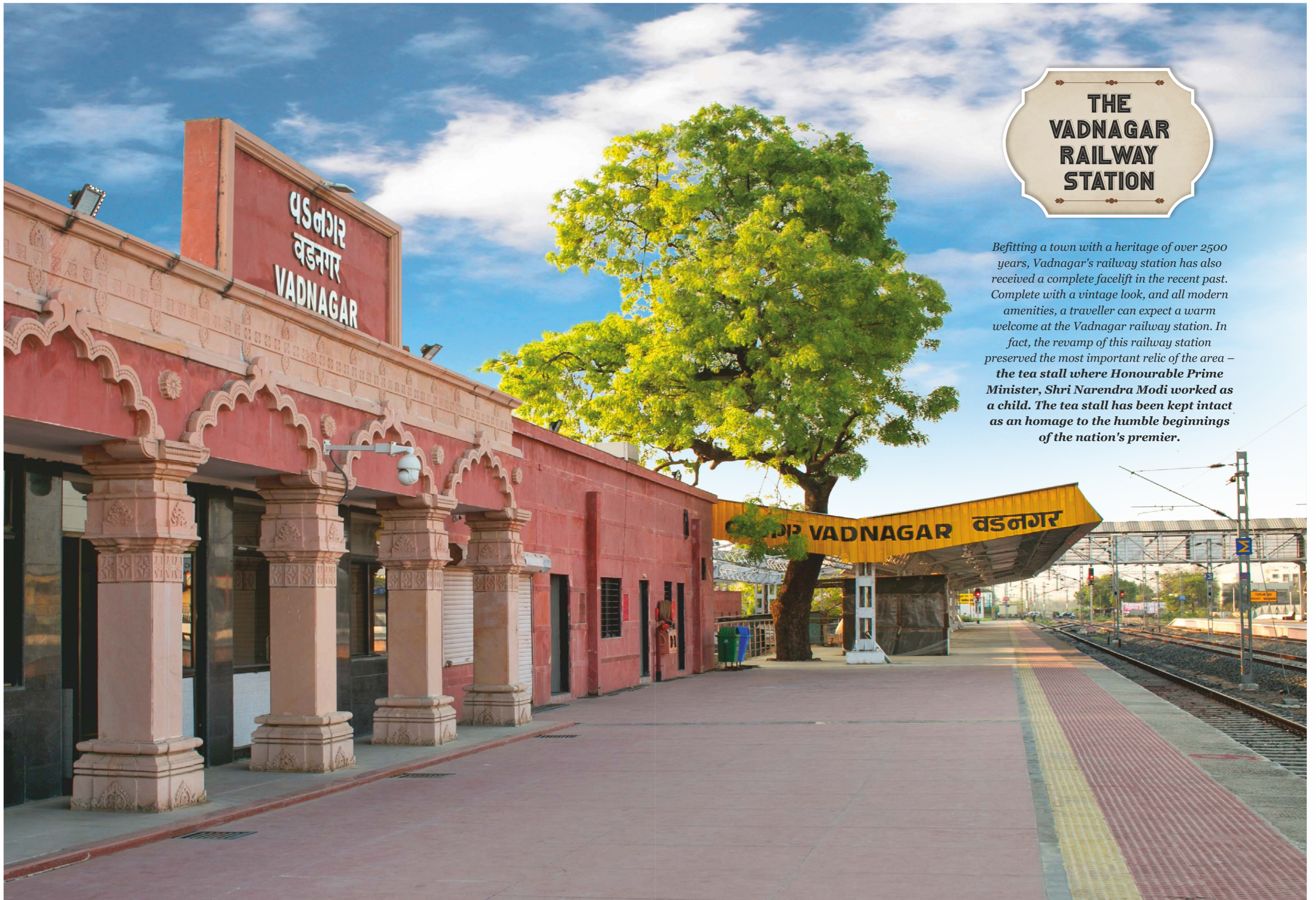
SHARMISHTHA LAKE

The ancient lake was developed during the Solanki period and continues to be one of the most scenic points in the city of Vadnagar. Popularly known as Samedalake, the Sharmishtha lake is also mentioned in the Puranas. It is believed to have been constructed by one of the most prominent rulers of the Solanki dynasty, Siddharaj Jaisinh Solanki, but legend has it that it was named after the daughter of the Som dynasty king, who undertook penance here. The lake is undergoing a modern redevelopment as well, with plans being put in place to make it an even better tourist attraction.



THE VADNAGAR RAILWAY STATION

Befitting a town with a heritage of over 2500 years, Vadnagar's railway station has also received a complete facelift in the recent past. Complete with a vintage look, and all modern amenities, a traveller can expect a warm welcome at the Vadnagar railway station. In fact, the revamp of this railway station preserved the most important relic of the area – the tea stall where Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi worked as a child. The tea stall has been kept intact as an homage to the humble beginnings of the nation's premier.





TANA-RIRI SAMADHI

According to popular folklore, Tana and Riri were two sisters whose rendition of the raag Malhar brought cooling rain to Tansen, burning with fever after a rendition of raag Deepak. The condition being that Tansen could never reveal who the sisters were. When Tansen revealed this secret to Akbar, his sons overheard him, and reached the city to find the sisters. Chanced upon by the city folk, the strangers were killed. When the Mughal army came marching to capture the sisters, they chose to give up their life rather than allow their city to face the wrath. The city never forgot the sacrifice of Tana and Riri, and continues to honour their memory with an annual music festival.

ART GALLERY & WATCH TOWER

The city of Vadnagar had always been a place of learning. From ancient Sanskrit Pathshalas to schools teaching the modern curriculum, rulers of Vadnagar always embraced the city's love for learning. **Maharaja Sayajirao III** even set aside a budget to build libraries as he valued literacy. The first library in Vadnagar came in 1911, built by Mehta Bhogilal Chakul Shahekaranwala in his father's memory. The Watch Tower now houses an Art Gallery and a Museum on Vadnagar.



EASTERN FORT WALL

The most recent excavations near Amther Mata temple have unearthed the massive Fort Wall at the Eastern side of the town. The construction of the bastion indicate that the fort wall was regularly maintained and consolidated over the century.



BODHISATTVA

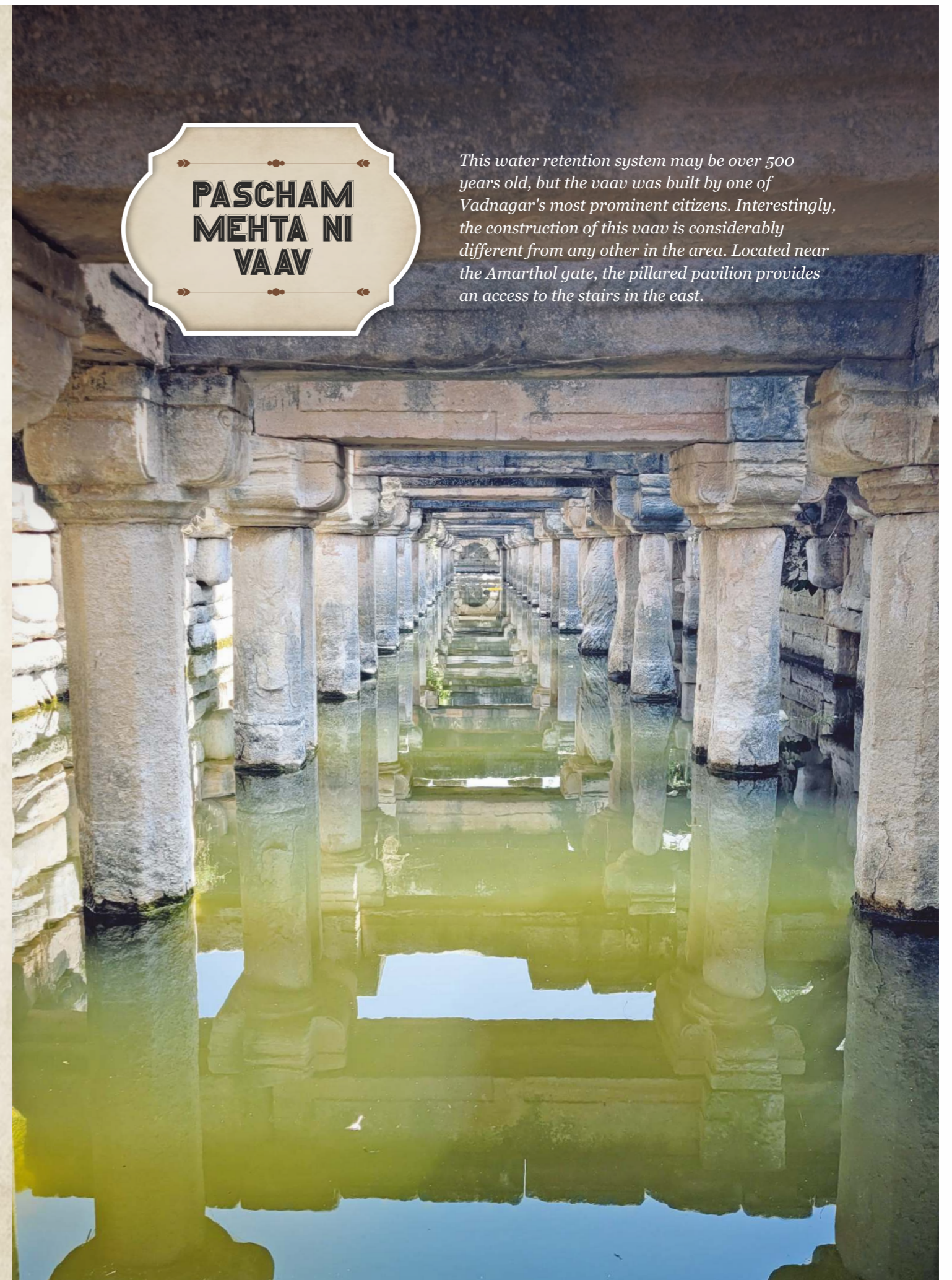
A Bodhisattva idol dateable to 2nd - 3rd century was found in 1992 at Vadnagar. An inscription on the pedestal of the idol reveals that it was brought for the Chaitya, and was donated by a nun.



Buddhist Monastery

PASCHAM MEHTA NI VAAV

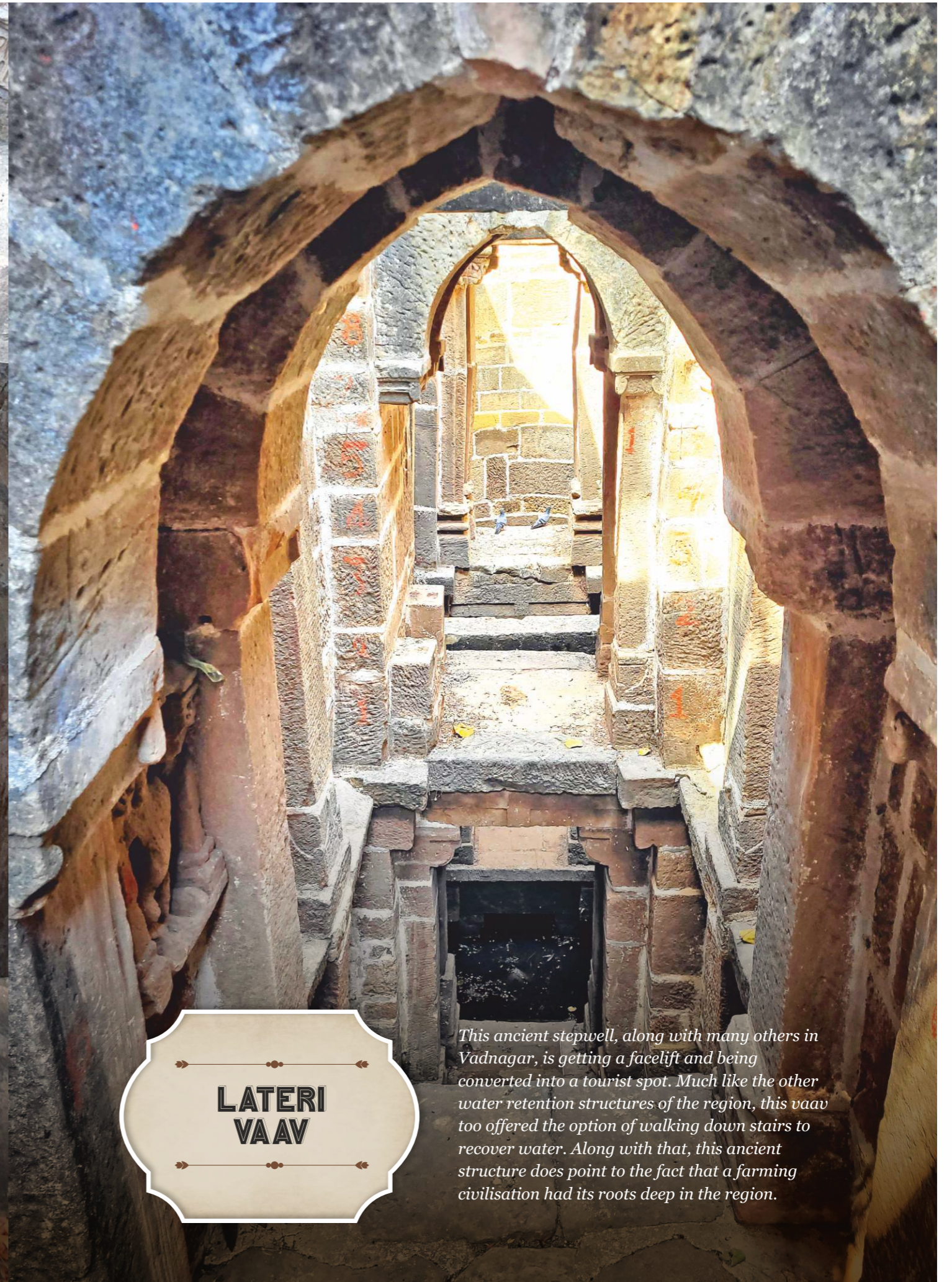
This water retention system may be over 500 years old, but the vaav was built by one of Vadnagar's most prominent citizens. Interestingly, the construction of this vaav is considerably different from any other in the area. Located near the Amarthol gate, the pillared pavilion provides an access to the stairs in the east.





JUN JUNIO KUVO

This well has been dated back to over 500 years, based on its construction. It is over 300 feet deep, and since the water falls into the well with a unique tinkle, this is why this well is called the Junjunio Kuvo. The unique construction of the well also ensured that this well provided water for irrigating nearby fields, as well as provided water for cows and other animals through an outlet.



LATERI VAAV

This ancient stepwell, along with many others in Vadnagar, is getting a facelift and being converted into a tourist spot. Much like the other water retention structures of the region, this vaav too offered the option of walking down stairs to recover water. Along with that, this ancient structure does point to the fact that a farming civilisation had its roots deep in the region.

NEARBY LOCATIONS

Chauta Adinath Jain Temple
3.3 km from Vadnagar Ring Road

Gauri Kund
1.5 km from Vadnagar Railway Station

Temple of Ashapuri Mata
2.13 km from Tana-Riri Samadhi

Amarkund
3.8 km via Vadnagar Ring Road

Amther Mata Temple
3.9 km via Vadnagar Ring Road



Amther Mata Temple



Gauri Kund



Chauta Adinath Jain Temple