

# Shivaji's Iconic 'Wagh Nakh'

## Why In News

- The '**wagh nakh**' or **tiger claw-shaped** weapon used by **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** was brought to **Mumbai from a London museum**. This wagh nakh will now be taken to Satara in western Maharashtra and put on display from Friday.
- "The wagh nakh has landed," Mr Mungantiwar said but did not divulge any further details.



## What is the 'Wagh Nakh'

- The '**wagh nakh**,' literally translating to '**tiger claws**,' is a unique medieval dagger used across the Indian subcontinent.
- This **fearsome weapon featured** four or five curved blades affixed to a glove or a bar, designed for personal defence or stealth attacks.
- Its **sharp blades** were capable of slicing through skin and flesh with ease.



## Chhatrapati Shivaji's Defense with the 'Wagh Nakh':

- Chhatrapati Shivaji faced Afzal Khan, a Bijapur general assigned to stop Shivaji's strong campaigns in the Konkan. Khan suggested a peaceful meeting, but Shivaji, anticipating danger, came prepared.



- He concealed a '**wagh nakh**' and wore **chainmail** (armour made from small metal rings) under his attire. When Khan attacked, Shivaji's 'wagh nakh' struck, resulting in Khan's death, ultimately securing Shivaji's victory.

## Journey to London

- The '**wagh nakh**' made its way to London through **James Grant Duff**, an East India Company officer who served as the Company Resident of the Satara State. He **received the weapon as a gift** from the Prime Minister of the Peshwa of the Marathas.



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## All You Need To Know

- **State Cultural Affairs Minister** Sudhir Mungantiwar announced that the wagh nakh will be displayed at a **museum in Satara** from July 19, alongside other artefacts from the era of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The state government has heightened security measures for the artefact and **established two committees**, one in Mumbai and one in Satara, to oversee its transportation and exhibition arrangements.



- These committees comprise collectors, police officials, museum officials, and representatives from the Public Works Department.
- **Dr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee**, Director General of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), is leading the Mumbai committee responsible for the handling and display of the wagh nakh.
- According to a Government Resolution, the tiger claws have been loaned to Maharashtra by **Victoria and Albert Museum for three years** and will be exhibited in museums across the state.