



The Sanjan Pillar marks the arrival of Zoroastrians in India after fleeing persecution in Persia. It represents the resilience and adaptability of our community as we integrated into the cultural fabric of the country. A key site for Parsi cultural heritage.

The old settlement of Sanjan Bandar (port) situated on the banks of the Varoli River on the West coast of India is the place where the Parsi story in India begins. The arrival of the Parsis in India between the 8th and the 10th centuries made Sanjan an important settlement as this was where they built an Atash Bahram (a fire temple of the highest grade) on land gifted by the ruling Shillahara King, Vajjad-dēva popularly known by the Parsis as Jadi Rana.

Why Is Sanjan Historically Important For The Parsis?

It is where the Parsis were given sanctuary by King Jadi Rana*

It is here that the Parsis made 5 promises to the King Jadi Rana*

1. To Explain the religion
 2. To learn to speak Gujarati
 3. That Parsi women should wear the Saree
 4. That Parsi Men should lay down their weapons
 5. And Zoroastrian marriage ceremonies to be held after Sunset.
- (There is no rational explanation for this enigmatic promise)

In 1920 a fifty-foot commemorative column known as the Sanjan Stambh was erected by the Parsi Punchayet to mark the arrival of the Parsis in Sanjan. Few know that the inspiration to build the column came from Daphne Menant a French scholar whose monumental book (in three volumes) *Les Parsis* is a seminal text for the study of the Parsis and their history. The Sanjan monument is appropriately topped with a stone sculpture depicting a fire blazing in a fire vase, a symbol of Parsi religiosity.

* The First Atash Bahram (Fire Temple) was built in Sanjan

* The First group of Zoroastrian priests lived and thrived in Sanjan for over 300 years until the invasion of Mehmud Begada in c.1478