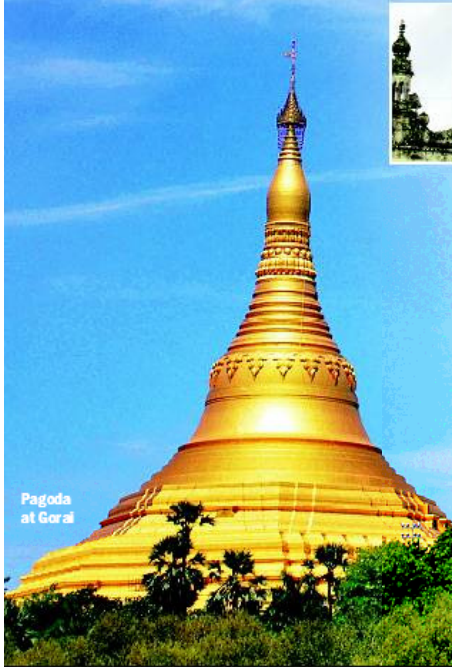




After three weeks, 16 options, thousands of text messages, and lakhs of votes, we finally unveil...

YOUR 7 WONDERS



Pagoda
at Gorai

The maximum city is a world in itself, attracting many who harbour a million dreams. Those who come choose to stay on because they're able to celebrate the life and energy they discover for themselves.

Just as the Seven Wonders propel citizens across the globe to harbour deeper ties, three weeks ago we decided that it was time that Mumbaikars found their own favourite icons in the city. Hence, we kick-started a campaign that had never been undertaken before. The campaign to embrace your own choice of seven wonders was an attempt on our part to forge a closer tie between citizens and the city.

We brought you 16 fascinating stories about celebrated and hidden gems of our city and were overwhelmed with a strong response. We're proud of the sense of belonging you've shown towards your city.

The campaign created quite a stir, the voting pattern throwing up surprises almost every day. Having said that, the seven wonders were decided through your SMS and website votes and we're happy to present the final list, which is here to stay.

Today, we are projecting your choice. Soon, we will organise visits to your favourite chosen spots, accompanied by a celebrity. Watch this space for future plans.

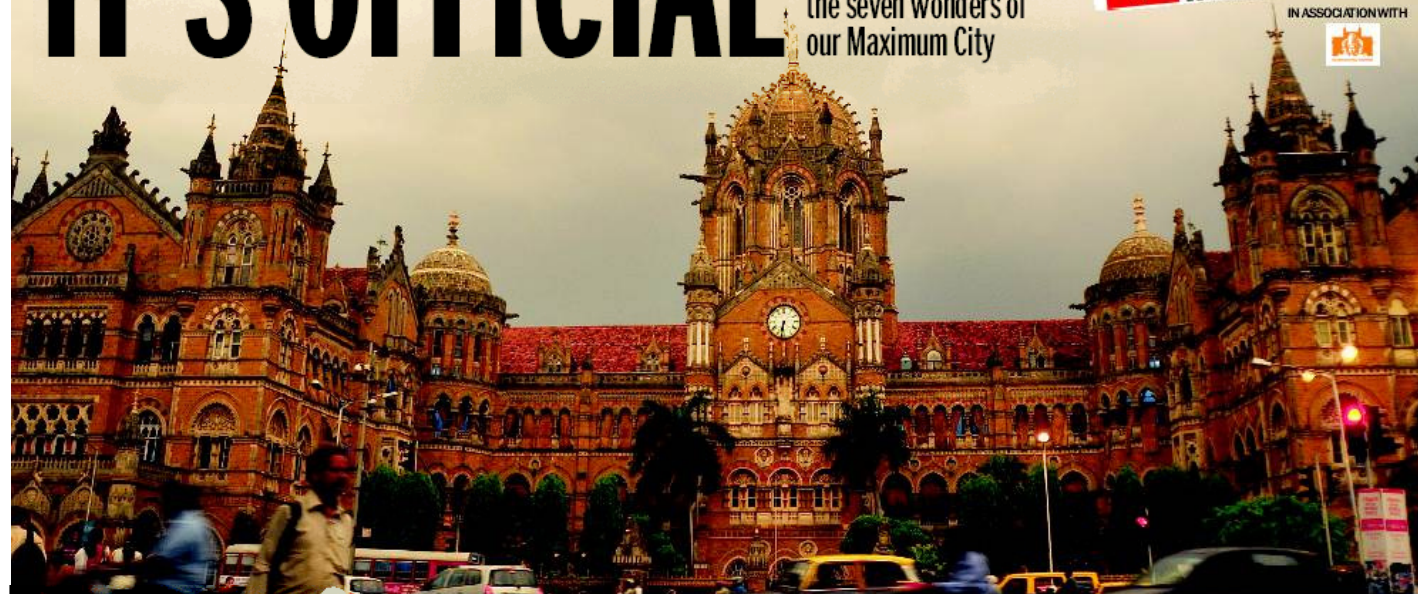
**FOR
FULL
LIST
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IT'S OFFICIAL

Mumbai has given its verdict. Introducing, the seven wonders of our Maximum City

SEVEN WONDERS OF MUMBAI

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI TERMINUS

This one's a no-brainer, but ironically, few people know the real reason why. While the structure may capture your attention by its sheer grandeur, the charisma lies in the finer details – the elaborate flora and fauna displayed on every pillar, the cathedral-like arches (right above the local ticket window), the inner structure of the dome, and the fact that it was the largest erected building in Asia at the time of its construction.



HAJI ALI

Haji Ali tells us why faith and religion aren't always the same entities. The saint's following cuts across castes and creeds, reinforcing Mumbai's cosmopolitan existence. The only island dargah in the world, it hosts almost 80,000 visitors every week. Currently under restoration, it's only a matter of time before its aesthetics are taken to a whole new level.

JAIN TEMPLE

Nestled in Walkeshwar, this temple was built more than 100 years ago. However, its interiors still hold you in awe. The carved sculptures and vibrant frescos of the Babu Amichand Panalal Adishwarji Jain Temple are a must-see. The piece de resistance, however, is the Zodiac dome, which is devoted to celestial bodies denoting the 12 signs of the zodiac.



GATEWAY OF INDIA

Flanked by the Taj Heritage Hotel on one side and the Arabian sea on the other, Gateway of India remains an icon, seamlessly attached to the image of Mumbai. It is also an architectural wonder, courtesy its basalt rock and the Indo-Sarcenic style of architecture. True to its name, it stands as the "Gateway" to Mumbai (and India at large) when seen from the sea.



MOUNT MARY CHURCH

Associated largely with the annual vibrant Mount Mary fair, the Bandra church holds a special position in the pages of Mumbai's history. Built when Bandra was an island, this shrine has been a standing symbol of faith for followers of all religions. Built in the semi-Gothic style, it's no wonder the church is now one of the seven wonders of our city.

BANDRA-WORLI SEA LINK

If you know the nuances of its construction, you would definitely stop wondering why it took "forever" to build. An architectural marvel of modern Mumbai, the Sea Link is much more than an ordinary 'bridge' that reduces travel time between Bandra and Worli. It is every engineer's dream – showcasing the victory of human endurance over nature's obstacles.

GLOBAL PAGODA

This could have been yet another concrete structure in the already claustrophobic concrete jungle, but its makers decided to make it out of stone. And we couldn't thank them enough. Today, standing as the world's largest dome, it is built with around 2.5 million tons of stone. Also, as the engineers have promised, the marvel will stick around for at least another 1000 years!

