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India ranks second in retail potential [+ Info](#)

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Telangana to set up Pharma City near Hyderabad [+ Info](#)

Government to develop six bulk drugs, medical devices parks [+ Info](#)

#### Renewable energy:



#### “Pilgrimage to Pandharpur”

Pandharpur is one of the most famous pilgrimage cities of Maharashtra. This beautiful pilgrimage city is located in Solapur district on the banks of the Bhima River. The PANDHARPUR WARI (tour of duty) is an annual pilgrimage undertaken by devotees of Lord Vitthal or Vishnu, subscribing to the teachings and tenets of the BHAGWAT DHARMA.

The WARI is a procession accompanying the PALKHI (palanquin) carrying the PADUKAS (foot wear / replica of sandals of saints). This is the largest religious Padayatra ("pilgrimage by foot") and consists of over 1 million pilgrims travelling for 21 days to the Vitthoba temple, Pandharpur by foot. During this long pilgrimage people collectively sing, dance, play, recite the praises of Lord Vitthal and reflect on the works of his regional devotee saints. The nearly two week long journey culminates on the eleventh day of the month of "Aashaadh" (June-July).

Annually hundreds of thousands of WARKARIS (those undertaking the WARI) travel on foot to have a glimpse of Lord Vitthal by reaching the town of Pandharpur. The Warkaris give up all the worldly pleasures and comforts, during their journey to Pandharpur. They uphold a strict vegetarian diet throughout and observe fasts

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#### Inflation:

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 Food Security Act to be implemented in all states by next month [+ Info](#)

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during the pilgrimage.

There are various views on the origins of the Wari. The Wari is generally regarded to exist for more than 800 years. One theory credits Dnyaneshwar (13th century) and the saint Tukaram (17th century) to have started the pilgrimage. The tradition of carrying the paduka (sandals) of the sants in a Palkhi was started by the youngest son of Tukaram, Narayan Maharaj, in 1685. Further changes were brought to the pilgrimage in the 1820s by descendants of Tukaram and Haibatrababa Arphalkar, a courtier of the Scindias and devotee of Dnyaneshwar.

Along with the Dindi (palakhi) procession, service(seva) to the poor and needy, like Amrut Kalash (donation of food), Narayan seva, medical help and building and repairing of rural infrastructure, is done. This is known as Seva dindi.

The whole is divided into a sub groups called as Dindi. There are more than 200 Dindi on each route. Each dindi comprises a members between 100 and 500 depending on the size. The palkhi is at the centre of Wari and around half number of Dindi are ahead of palkhi and similar numbers are behind. All Dindi are assigned the numbers and the sequence is strictly followed. Every dindi has one truck or a similar vehicle where the luggage and food material is kept. This is used at the night stay location everyday. Many NGO's are operational to ensure smooth journey for the Warkaris.

***"The very search for pleasure is the cause of pain."***

- Nisargidatta Maharaj, Indian Guru (1897 – 1981)

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