The Pandharpur Wari is a religious procession, where hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all over Maharashtra walk to Pandharpur, in Solapur District, which is the main place of worship for their deity, Vithoba. These pilgrims carry an image of their local saint during their walk to Pandharpur. Pune is of special importance in this procession, because Alandi, a small city to the north of Pune is from where a large group of pilgrims start their walking journey to Pandharpur. They carry the sandals of Saint Dnyaneshwar, one of the most important saints from Maharasthra, and pass through Pune on their journey. Another equally large procession, coming from Dehu also passes through the city of Pune. The procession reaches Pandharpur on the morning of the eleventh day of the month of Ashadha in the Hindu calendar, which is when the main celebrations start.

**Key Risks:**

- Traffic congestion around major roads and highways going in the direction of Pandharpur due to crowds of people walking on the roads.
- Other major roads and highways will have higher vehicular traffic as many devotees travel towards Alandi and Dehu from other parts of Maharashtra through Pune.
- There have been some fatal accidents due to rash driving, involoving devotees being driven in cars and those walking on the pilgrimage.
- Many highways and roads, while being open for vehicular traffic, will also have food and water camps for the devotees. This will increase the number of people on the road and contribute towards traffic congestion.
- Large crowds are often targeted for picking pockets, chain/bag snatching and other petty crime.
Recommendations:

- Many roads in Pune will have greater traffic or shall be closed for traffic by the police. Most of these will be located in the north and centre of city of Pune. Please follow local TV channels for information about traffic closure or diversions to avoid inconvenience.

- Incidences of violence or fights between devotees have been very rare in the past, due to the religious nature of this procession. In spite of this, caution must be exercised.

- To view this procession, please ensure that you are located in a spot which has adequate access to a clear road or path. This will ensure your safety in case of any incident taking place.

Routes and Traffic Advice:

- The procession from Dehu will arrive in Pune on July 10, and will halt at Nana Peth on the night of the 10th. On the 11th, the procession will move towards the adjacent Bhawani Peth and stay there for the whole day. On the 12th, the procession will follow through the Bhairoba Nala area in Pune Cantonment and go through Hadapsar, after which it will exit the city.

- The procession from Alandi will arrive in Pune on the 10th as well and go through Bhosari Phata, Sangamwadi and halt for the night at Wakdewadi. On the 11th, the procession will move towards Bhawani Peth via Sambhaji Bridge and halt there for the night. On the 12th, the procession will move towards Shinde Chhatri in Wanowrie, and then go towards Hadapsar, after which it will exit the city.

- While many smaller roads are being closed by the traffic police, the major roads that shall be closed are Alandi Road (10th July), Holkar Bridge (11th July), F.C. Road (11th July), Sambhaji Bridge (11th July), and Laxmi Road (11th July). Other major roads may also be closed depending on the traffic situation and the route that is taken by the processions. The exact time of the road block depends on the speed of the procession, and can be determined by following local media, especially TV and radio.
**Procession Route 1**
Procession Route 2

Special Advisory: Pandharpur Wari Yatra, 12-27 July 2015