Heritage Walk and Discussion
Himayat Bagh Complex: Learning Mughal Gardens
Date: 18th June, 2017, Time: 07:00 a.m. To 10:00 a.m.
Venue: Himayat Bagh, Near Delhi Gate Aurangabad

‘The Aurangabad History Society’ has pleasure in announcing a "Heritage-Walk" to renowned medieval Mughal Garden and heritage monument ‘Himayat Bagh’ on Sunday 18th June, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. It will be a travel through the history, architecture, Mughal Gardens Water-System, legend and anecdotes related to this heritage site. Himayat Bagh in all its facets will be narrated by Dr. Dulari Qureshi in light of Mughal heritage in Aurangabad and its construction details will be narrated by Mr. Rafat Qureshi.

All the participants are requested to kindly carry water bottles, an umbrella and caps to avoid heat and rain.

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<td>08:00a.m. to 09:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Walk</td>
<td>1. Introduction: Dr. Dulari Qureshi</td>
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<td>2. Features of Himayat: Mr. Rafat Qureshi</td>
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Tea Break: 09:15a.m. To 09:30 a.m.

Himayat Baugh, Aurangabad: Himayat Bagh is a 17th-century garden that now houses the Fruit Research Station and Nursery, which is a part of the Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra). It is located near Delhi Gate in Rauza Bagh area of Aurangabad. It is a sprawling complex spread over 300 acres (1.2 km²), naturally green and in the olden days it was known as the Mughal Garden. In Aurangzeb's time, ‘Khizri Talao’ extended the whole length of the northern wall, (extending
from present day Salim Ali Lake till Begumpura / Makbara) but the exhalation and dampness proved unhealthy and Aurangzeb ordered the portion immediately in front of his palace (Kila-e-Ark) to be filled in and converted into fields. This reclaimed portion was later developed into Mughal garden, (now known as Himayat Bagh) by one of the officials of Aurangzeb's court, with many fruit-bearing trees of different varieties for the royal court and its officials.

**Barra Darri:** Himayat Bagh also houses the Barra Darri which was erected by Ivaz Khan. A covered aqueduct passes over one of the buildings and in the olden day’s water descended in a shower into an oblong cistern below containing several fountains. A marvelous feat of engineering that involved an underground water chamber; it created a natural air-conditioning that cooled the entire area when in operation. It is now inoperative, but the system still exists and is worth a study. Barra Darri now houses the office of Fruit Research Station.

**Contemporary Features Challenges:** The Himayat Bagh is a tourist attraction in itself because of its greenery and cool environment. Visitors can have a look at various plants and trees in the nursery, on which research is being conducted. Visitors are able to buy plants that are grafted by experienced local *malis* (gardeners) in the gardens. There are saplings from tamarind to mango, and one can see the saplings and then see how the tree looks when it is fully grown. Recently the underground drainage pipeline work being carried out by the municipal corporation has damaged the northern historical wall of this beautiful place. After cognizance taken by *Sakal* newspaper, summer palace was emptied by VNK University. This palace is rare and is half underground. The water flowing on all sides of this octogobal palace keeps it atleast 5 degree cooler then the outer temperature. Earlier it was filled with scrap.

Although this garden is a ecological heritage to the city, there are several challenges to this Mughal garden. Encroachments, increasing garbage disposal and total neglect to his heritage buildings and water systems are causing threat to its very own survival.

These heritage walks make citizens of Aurangabad aware about the rich legacy of gardens in our city. It will also educate about how to save these monuments of immense value.