



# AHS

Aurangabad History Society

HOME

ABOUT US

INITIATIVES

RESOURCES

ARCHIVES

GALLERY

CONTACT US



AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY

**AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Aurangabad History Society**

**Aurangabad-431001**

**Website:** <http://www.ruralsouthasia.org/ahs.html>

**AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY (AHS)** is a collective venture of scholars, philotrophists, architects, amateur and professional historian's etc. working on the history, heritage and cultural documentation, conservation and restoration of Aurangabad and its affiliated regions. As an initial working group Aurangabad History Society is working as collective of working members under the aegis Sudarshan Foundation Trust.<sup>1</sup> On 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, AHS had its first public event and thereafter we had its foundation on the given date.

Aurangabad is one of the oldest cities of state of Maharashtra and Deccan, in its vicinity is located well-known historic political and cultural capitals of history of Deccan i.e.: 'Pratishthan', 'Devgiri-Daulatabad' and religious abode of Sufi saints 'Khuldabad'. The region of Aurangabad also well known for Buddhist heritage of Ajanta, Pitalkhora, Bhokhardhan and many of the less explored sites. It was the connecting town since ancient times for trade routes from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Konkan region. Traders passing through Khandesh, Burhanpur and Deccan used it as a major trade center. Regent Malik Ambar of Nizamshahi Dynasty founded the city as Fatehnagar and the city started getting its initial fortifications. In 17<sup>th</sup> century Emperor Aurangzeb further ornamented the city of Aurangabad and constructed some of the eminent architectural monuments like Bibi-Ka-Maqbara and gave the city its own fort with name Qila-I-Ark. Through the ages Buddhist, Jain, Sufi, Hindu, Sikh and Mahanubhav saints gave some eminent abodes of worship and public welfare monuments to the city and later during the Nizam and British era many more public welfare buildings were constructed in the city which all are part of the heritage of the city and areas around and continue to be the legacy of today.

---

<sup>1</sup> This is to state that AHS is an affiliated committee body under Sudarshan Foundation Trust & its accounts and audit coordinated through **Sudarshan Foundation Trust-Aurangabad Chapter**. The registration details of Trust are as follows: Sudarshan Foundation Trust, {Registration No: E-6997 (BRD), AAAhts-9217, Q, 12/A/No: BRD/CIT-I/12AA, (54)/2008/2009}

Therefore, with such a rich legacy of history and heritage which has been briefly highlighted over here; we endeavor to begin this AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY-AHS, the ongoing under the **working group committee activities (WGCA)** are as follows:

1. 'Different Meetings, Conferences, Lectures, Seminars of AHS Members' and Public of Scholarly and learning skills for sharing ideas' and thoughts on history and heritage of Aurangabad and its associated regions.
2. Documenting the places and events of Aurangabad districts history
3. Developing a database of the public and private historical archives of Aurangabad
4. Heritage plan study and conservation for monuments of Aurangabad district
5. ***Journal of Aurangabad History Society***
6. Bi-annual workshops on "Aurangabad History and Heritage"
7. **'Satkarni'**: Annual Public Lecture

As part of developing a working group, AHS promotes people who are interested in history and culture of Aurangabad-Deccan to be members. There are criterions for **Volunteer Professional Members** (VPM) and **Volunteer Student Members** (VSM) the updated contact list of the VPM and VSM will be updated regularly in the AHS webpage. The active members of the AHS are thereafter made members WGCA mentioned above wherein for membership terms and conditions apply.

#### **\*Advisors of AHS**

**Senior Officials, Patrons and Administrators: Padamshri Fatma Zakaria Mam, Dr. Krishna Bhoge, Sr. Baburao Kadamji, Prof. C.H. Gill, Shri Anna Vaidya**

**Veteran Historians: Dr. R.S. Morvanchikar, Dr. Dulari Qureshi, Shri Baba Bhand, Sr. Abdul Hai, Sh. Nanak Singh Nishter, Dr. Shrinivas Satbhai**

#### **AHS Working Committee**

##### **1. Dr. V.L. Dharurkar**

Chairperson, AHS  
Director-School of Liberal Arts,  
& Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad,  
email: [vldharurkar@gmail.com](mailto:vldharurkar@gmail.com)

##### **2. Dr. Bina Sengar**

Secretary, AHS& Trustee-Sudarshan Foundation Trust  
& Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture  
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad  
E.mail: [binasengar21@gmail.com](mailto:binasengar21@gmail.com)

##### **3. Dr. Gopal Bachire**

Treasurer, AHS  
& Assistant Professor, Department of History  
Siddharth College-Jafrabad  
Aurangabad  
email: [bachire4@gmail.com](mailto:bachire4@gmail.com)

##### **4. Dr. Syeda Rizwana Tabassum**

**WGCA: Member-AHS**

Associate Professor, Department of History

Sir Sayyed College, Aurangabad  
E.mail: [dr.rizwanatabassum@gmail.com](mailto:dr.rizwanatabassum@gmail.com)

**5. Ar. Pradeep Deshpande**

**WGCA: Member-AHS**

Architect dp-Designs Associates  
Aurangabad

**6. Ad. Pradeep Mhaishekar**

**WGCA: Member-AHS**

Freelance Historian  
Aurangabad

**7. Dr. Shaikh Musak Rajjak**

**WGCA: Member-AHS**

Assistant Professor, Department of History  
Maulana Azad College  
Aurangabad

## AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY (AHS)

### Annual Report: 2014-2015

On 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 Aurangabad History Society (hereafter AHS) had its first public event. Thus, on the given date we celebrate our first Foundation Day as '**Foundation Day Lecture Series**': on '**Contribution of Sikhism in the history of Deccan**'. In this past one year we are happy to say that we could reach to a number of issues of public concern. As part of developing cultural consciousness for history, heritage and collective efforts for its organization we reached to different educational, administrative and voluntary organizations. As brief update about all the events and activities initiated by the AHS is given below.

**I: The first in-house meeting of AHS advisors and members was held at Government College, on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.** The meeting was attended by Advisors and working Committee members of volunteer professional members and student Volunteers of AHS. The initial decisions of the meetings were:

The major points which were raised were as follows:

- 1) **What will be the road map plan for AHS at least for coming 2 years?**
- 2) **What will be the structure of AHS?**
- 3) Shri Bhoge suggested that for the good working it's important that the Society should remain informal.
- 4) Baba Bhandji suggested that the society can work as a pressure group for initiating the heritage and conservation issues in the context of Aurangabad, he also gave insightful comments' on the archiving project which AHS can take up in future. Mohd. Abdul Haiji introduced about Abdul Hai Research Centre and the assets which his research centre has for the historical and cultural researchers'.
- 5) Dr. Gill discussed about the *Udasi* saints sources and the urgent need for their archiving and translation
- 6) Suggestion for Urdu, Persian and Modi sources for translations were also welcomed, Shri Bhoge suggested that with cooperation of large projects smaller activities of documentation and conservation could be initiated the suggestion was endorsed by architect Pradeep Deshpande
- 7) It was further stated that the University (Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad) should be taken as a core centre to approach for the academic and research sustainability of AHS
- 8) Two suggestions were proposed about whether the AHS must have a stationary building to work upon or whether it could be a floating body which will mainly have virtual presence through a website and thereafter, the local heritage and conservation site will be developed as work areas

of AHS. Thus. the previously given objectives of AHS were discussed and approved, which were as follows:

- i. Documenting the places and events of Aurangabad districts history
- ii. Developing a database of the public and private historical archives of Aurangabad
- iii. Heritage plan study and conservation for monuments of Aurangabad district
- iv. *Journal of Aurangabad History Society***
- v. Bi-annual workshops on “Aurangabad History and Heritage”



**First Meeting of AHS at Govt. College-Aurangabad, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**

**II: FIRST PUBLIC EVENT ‘Honor of Prof. Carl Ernst’ 28<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2015:** The first Public event of AHS was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. At Conference Hall, Institute of Management-Mahatma Gandhi Mission

**Objectives of the meeting were**

- A. WELCOME CEREMONY OF PROF. CARL ERNST AND PUBLIC MEETING OF AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY
- B. PRESENTATION OF ROAD MAP OF AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY

The second meeting/ceremony of AHS was hosted by MGM Trust, where Special Honorary Chief Guest was Prof. Carl Ernst, Kenan Distinguished Professor of Islamic studies at the Department of Religious Studies, North Carolina University, USA



**First Public Lecture of AHS-Public Lecture by Prof. Ernst, 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, venue-MGM, Aurangabad**

**III: Workshop on Historical Cartography of Deccan Aurangabad:** The third important event of AHS in last year was A National Level Workshop on Historical Cartography, from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 held at Conference Hall, Maulana Azad College Campus. The workshop was planned mainly to train students and professionals about the documentation through Cartography of the Deccan-Aurangabad Region. The two day event was jointly organized by the AHS and Maulana Azad College. More than 10 experts and 40 participants were engaged in the two day workshop.



Experts and Participants of **Workshop on 'Historical Cartography of Deccan-Aurangabad'**, 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, Maulana Azad College-Aurangabad

**III: A WITNESS WORKSHOP: 'Perspectives of Patients' And Practitioners' On Mental Healing Practices in Aurangabad' 20th and 21st December, 2014 at Khuldabad Guest House, Aurangabad:** As a unique experiment in the living history and culture study the workshop engaged researchers working on history of medicine, psychiatric and mental healing practices. The experts from national arena and participants witnessed and discussed about the engaging discourses' on mental healing measures practiced by Sufi saints, *ayurvedacharyas*, *vaidyas*, *hakims*, general Practitioners viz. RMP, (Registered medical

practitioners) homeopathy, ayurveda doctors and MBBS- Psychiatric experts will be invited along with patients (cured) and those taking curative measures under Sufi saints.

The objective of workshop was to engage discourses on social systems in rural societies of Deccan Aurangabd and those practices in the Rural South Asia. Through the workshop insights will be gathered on people and their practices which influence an integral part of their life concerning health and wellness. The workshop was under banner of Rural South Asia and Aurangabad History Society with support from Chishtiya College-Khuldabad, Wellcome Trust and Sudarshan Foundation Trust-Aurangabad Chapter.



**Moments from AHS-Witness Workshop, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014, Khuldabad**

**IV: An International Colloquium on 'Medieval Temple Architecture in Aurangabad-Deccan: Continuity and Change', Venue: Conference Hall, School of Liberal Arts, Dr. B.A.M. University, Aurangabad, Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** The fourth important event of AHS was a one day international colloquium on Temples of Aurangabad region. The objective of the colloquium was to discuss about the temples which evolved in the region after the 11<sup>th</sup> century and contributed in the rich architectural and cultural legacy of the region. The experts for the event included scholars from India and abroad; Dr. Pushkar Sohoni, from University of Pennsylvania-USA gave an impressive speech on Temple Heritage and its History in Aurangabad Region of Deccan with Special Reference to Temple of Anwa. Other than that there were presentation on regional temple heritage conservation by Dr. Bhagwan Padalkar, Ar Vijay Sangwika, Ar. Pradeep Deshpande and Dr. Dulari Qureshi and our Chairperson: Dr. V.L. Dharurkar. During the event participants and experts discussed about the nature of temple studies in global, Indian and Deccan region.



**Glimpses from colloquium on *'Medieval Temple Architecture in Aurangabad-Deccan: Continuity and Change'*, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad**

**V: National Level Seminar On *'Ajanta as a Composite Region: Its History, Heritage and Environment'*:** Aurangabad History Society and School of Liberal Arts, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad with Rajkunwar College, Fardapur, Soygaon, Aurangabad Jointly Organized National Level Seminar On *'Ajanta as a Composite Region: Its History, Heritage and Environment'* On **1st March, 2015**, At Padmpani Hotel Hall through Rajkunwar College, Fardapur. The Seminar discussed the environmental and Heritage connections of the region of Ajanta. The seminar was unique in its approach because it was a travelling seminar its participants and experts travelled from Aurangabad to Fardapur and a couple of the sessions of the seminar were held in the journey itself. In the venue of Padmpani Conference Hall, Fardapur, there were discussions on various issues pertaining to the heritage and ecology of 'Ajanta' as a sub-region of Aurangabad region. Expert speakers like Dr. Manager Singh, Dr. Manoj Kumar Kurmi, Dr. P.D. Jagtap, Dr. S.G. Patil extensively shared their expertise on Ajanta and environs in the seminar. Aurangabad history Society through this seminar therefore, could bring out the newer aspects of regions connected and linked to the AHS.





**Glimpses from AHS National Level Seminar On 'Ajanta as a Composite Region: Its History, Heritage and Environment', 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2015, at Fardapur, Tal.: Sillod-Aurangabad**

**VI: Ellora Pre-Conference Summit organised with support from Ms. Christel Pilz-Germany, MGM Khadi and Chishtiya College-Khuldabad, on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at Hotel Kailash-Ellora. :** The event invited experts from all professional and amateur arena from Aurangabad to discuss their opinions about a future international workshop intended to be organized by the AHS by the end of 2015 for Heritage and conservations issues pertaining to monuments of Aurangabad. The event was a grand success with more than 40 experts from fields of history, heritage conservation, architecture, literature religious studies and so on. A vibrant interaction among the experts and participants was a major outcome of this event.



**Dr. Dulari Qureshi, Dr. B. Padalkar, Dr. R. Qureshi and Mr. P. Mhaisekar: Session during Ellora Pre-Conference Summit, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**



**Volunteers at work and some leisurely moments during the Ellora Pre-Conference Summit in Hotel Kailash-Ellora, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**

**VII: AHS organized International conference on ‘Sant Mahatmyanchi Bhumi: Histories of Connections, Interconnections’ and Subjectivities’ from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2015, held at Chishtiya College Campus, Khuldabad:** International conference on ‘Sant Mahatmyanchi Bhumi: Histories of Connections, Interconnections’ and Subjectivities’ was a joint initiative of Chishtiya Arts College and Aurangabad History Society. The conference was supported by UGC-New Delhi, ICSSR-New Delhi, Urdu Education Society-Aurangabad, MGM, Aurangabad History Society and many more well-wishers. There were papers and participants from USA, UK, Portugal, Slovakia, France and many other nations as delegates and Participants’. Scholars like Dr. Dominique Sila Khan, Dr. Vasant Bawa, Dr. Oudesh Rani Bawa, Prof. Rahamat Tarikere, Dr. Yaaminey Mubayi, Shri Nanak Singh Nishter and Dr. Dusan Deak who have extensively contributed for the cultural studies of Deccan, Maharashtra and Aurangabad. There were scholars from Delhi, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and various cities of Maharashtra. Where we received more than 100 research papers and there are more than 200 participants registered for the conference. The conferences engaged intellectual debate and brainstorming for the well-being for the rich art and culture of Aurangabad as a region.



**Moments from Inaugural and valedictory session of International Conference on 'Sant Mahatmyanchi Bhumi: Histories of Connections, Interconnections' and Subjectivities' from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2015, held at Chishtiya College Campus, Khuldabad**

Thus, we are happy to announce that in the given One (1) year AHS successfully accomplished eight (08) national and international level events for the public awareness and educating learners about the history and heritage of Aurangabad. During these eight prominent and every month conducted monthly meetings of AHS various issues concerning heritage conservations and knowledge dissemination were discussed and materialized in forms of conferences, workshops and seminars. The above 'Foundation Day Lecture Series: on Contribution of Sikhism in the history of Deccan' is a further leap of growth and development for Aurangabad History Society. During the last one year other than public events we developed our website, came up with two main publications of Souvenirs and initiated research projects for heritage documentation of tangible and intangible historical sources of Aurangabad region. During these various activities we trained, guided and nurtured through fellowships young learners and enthusiasts for the cause of AHS and its objectives.

**VIII: AHS-Foundation Day lecture series on 'Contribution of Sikhism in the History of Deccan', at Gurudwara-Osmanpura, Aurangabad with Sikh Sangat Aurangabad, 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**



**Hon. V.C. Prof. B.A. Chopde, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad graced the occasion of Foundation Day Lecture Series.**

The Aurangabad History Society's first 'Foundation Day Lecture Series' which was held to commemorate the successful one year completion of Aurangabad History Society-AHS, was

attempted to explore the contribution of and community history of Sikhs in Deccan through its lecture series on **CONTRIBUTION OF SIKHISM IN THE HISTORY OF DECCAN**, AHS took initiative for fulfilling the research gap which exists in the History of Sikhs in Deccan. The articles included in this collection and presentations assembled writings by the invited scholars in the proposed research area and regional subject experts from Deccan. The edited collections of the articles gave impetus for initiating a dialogue among learned and the learners so to unravel and diversify the scope of research and writings on the history of Sikh in Deccan. The writings assorted range from teachings and philosophy of Sikhism to the history of Sikhism in Deccan.

The event was inaugurated by hon. Vice Chancellor of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. First article/lecture was of Prof. Dharurkar is on '*Contribution of Sikhism in the History of Deccan*', wherein he gave detailed account of the life and times of Sikh Gurus and their preaching evident in the life of the Sikhs in Deccan. The second lecture by Prof. Rajkumar Hans discussed 'Sikhism in Deccan' where he discussed meticulously the emergence of Sikhism and its wide spread in entire South Asia. The historical accounts of Sikhs in medieval and modern history of Deccan give new insight for the aspiring researchers in the theme. Shri Nanak Singh Nishterji spoke on '*Deccani Sikhs Peace Corps*' where he brought into light significant aspects about the history of Sikhs in Deccan. The peace corps of Sikhs established them prestigious status of warriors in the regional politics. **Smt.** Narinder Kaur Chhabda gave her lecture in Hindi wherein she discussed various spiritual and philosophical aspects of Sikhism. In the article of Late Shri R.S. Sodhi titled, 'Guru Nanak Devji and His Spiritual Philosophy' discussed various aspects of Sikhism and teaching of Guru Nanak Devji, Sardar Kuldeep Singh Nirhji's article 'Sikhism', discussed the philosophy of Sikhism and significance of Gurudwara and its culture. Shri Sardar Hari Singhji discusses in his writing about a significant historical letter '*Jafarnama*', which established peace between Mughals and Sikhs. Dr. Chandrashekhar Jafre, through his write- brought to light the religious and spiritual connections between Sikhism and Saint Poetry of Sant Namdev. The event was attended by more than 400 persons and dignitaries of city. There was also a resolution passed on the city heritage of Aurangabad related to Sikh Culture.

**We through making our Annual Report a public document requests people of Aurangabad and those having interests in history and heritage of Aurangabad to regularly visit our website: <http://www.ruralsouthasia.org/ahs.html> and support our activities by your generous participation and collaborations'.**

\*\*\*