



**AURANGABAD HISTORY SOCIETY
'Rural South Asia History Network'**

&

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS, DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, AURANGABAD

With

RAJKUNWAR COLLEGE, FARDAPUR, SOYGAON, AURANGABAD

Jointly Organize

National Level Seminar

On

Ajanta as a Composite Region: Its History, Heritage and Environment

Date: 1st March, 2015

Venue: Seminar Hall, Rajkunwar College, Fardapur



Ajanta as a Composite Region: Its History, Heritage and Environment

Concept Note

Ajanta well known for its Buddhist cave architecture encompasses in its background valuable cultural and environmental heritage. Ajanta name given to the Buddhist Caves is after the hill ranges of Ajanta which is spread over Jalna, Buldhana and Aurangabad districts of present Maharashtra State. The Ajanta hill ranges are covered with the forest and wildlife sanctuary of Gautala and river drainage areas of Waghori, Pein and Wein Ganga. In this region we have diverse ethnic communities of Bhil, Mahadeo Koli, Banjara, Vanjara etc. and migratory populations of Rajputs, Bundela, Yemeni-Hadrami, Arab-Chaus and so on. Historically when we assess this geographic region it fell on a major trade route from Agra-Ujjain-Burhanpur and connected it with the Deccan and South India. Since the ancient times hills and human passages of Ajanta remained cultural bridge between north and south. The active human and commodity migration on this path of cultural-convergence led in the development of the trading towns of Ajanta, Sillod, Bhokardhan, Jalna, Deogiri connecting it to the cities of Aurangabad and Pratishtan these trade passages were constructed various Buddhist, Jain, Hindu and Islamic structures in form of caves, temples, mosques and *sarai* respectively. These places of worship and habitation were patronized and embellished with the human and natural resources available from the neighbouring regions. However, the resource rich geographic region of Ajanta over the times has shown severe decline in its resource spread and ecological changes are evident in drying up of the water bodies and diminishing biodiversity resources which once enriched natural and cultural heritage of Ajanta. The seminar will discuss various issues pertaining to the heritage and ecology of 'Ajanta' as a sub-region of Aurangabad region. Aurangabad history Society through this seminar therefore, intends to bring out the newer aspects of region s connected and linked to the AHS.

The main themes and the areas of the discussion in the present seminar are as follows:

PROGRAM SCHEDULE: 1ST MARCH, 2015

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS AND CHAIR	THEME
10:00 to 10:45	Registration	Balkrushna Pagare, Research Student Prabhakar Shinde, Research Student	Professionals Rs. 100/- Students: Rs. 50/-
10:45 to 11:00 am	Inauguration	Welcome of Guests by: Dr. Bhagwansingh Dobhal & Dr. Vyenkatesh Lamb Anchoring of seminar: Dr. Gopal Bachire	
11:00 am to 11:30 a.m.	Introducing Theme	Introduction: Bina Sengar Seminar Presidents' Address by: Prof. V.L. Dharurkar (20 Min)	Ajanta as a composite region
11:30 am to 01:00 p.m.	Plenary Session-I	SPEAKER-I: Prof. P.D. Jagtap, (30 min) 'History of Buddhist Caves of Ajanta' SPEAKER-II: Dr. Manoj Kumar Kurmi (30 min) SA-ASI-Nagpur Circle 'Heritage & heritage of Ajanta and Its Associated Monuments'	History and Heritage of Ajanta Caves and its associated Monuments
LUNCH BREAK 01.00 p.m. to 02.00 p.m.			
02:00 to 03:30 p.m.	Plenary Session-II	Speaker-I: Dr. Manager Singh 'Heritage and Conservation of Ajanta' (30 min.) Speaker-II: Mr. Rajendra Dhongde 'Tribals and Environment of Ajanta' (30 min.) CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Gani H. Patel Discussions and Observers Comments (20 min)	Heritage Conservation and Environmental Aspects of Ajanta
03:30 p.m. to 04:00 p.m.	Discussion Session	I: Discussion of Observers on Seminar II: Discussion on AHS Agenda	<u>AHS Agenda</u> 1. Discussions on upcoming events (April, May and June Seminars) 2. Finalizations of date & venue of <i>Satkarni lecture</i> 3. Structures of VPM and VSM members forms and account and sponsorship specifics 4. Assigning tasks of documentation activities and mapping of Aurangabad 5. Next Meeting venue

SEMINAR ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

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THOSE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING FOR THE CONFERENCE KINDLY COMMUNICATE TO ABOVE PERSONS ON THEIR EMAIL ID

