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From the Desk of President MASA

From the Editor's Desk

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## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL LAYERING OF HISTORIC TOWN AUNDH (SATARA)

Ar. Maithili N. Kulkarni

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### Abstract

India is known for its heritage, natural and cultural resources in the form of tangible and intangible values. Maharashtra is renowned for religions, temples and pilgrim centers which are an essential part of Hindus and such concentrations have attracted patronage. Culture and community plays a vital role in defining the architecture of a place or people with time and also development of society in terms of political and commercial background and social and cultural character which contributes in the formation of town or city.

Mythology has been the major part of Indian civilizations. In India there are a number of temple towns or pilgrim centers like Pandharpur, Madurai etc. which evolved because of the temple as the focal point and the settlement around. Aundh has its built heritage, cultural and religious significance as it is a *tirtha kshetra* because of *Mulpeetha* of Shri Yamai Devi. The mythological association of Devi Yamai have shaped an interesting form of a settlement which shows different layers of development through cultural, traditional knowledge systems and flourished due to contribution of patronage. When British ruled India, amongst 562 Princely States in 1947, Aundh which was founded in 1699 by Parshuram Trimbak Pant was declared as a Maratha princely state in British India, in the Deccan States Agency division of the Bombay Presidency. In the historical layers, the development of Aundh under the patronage had remarkable architectural establishment like Rajwada of patron Shri Pant Pratinidhi, Yamai devi mulapeeth temple on hill and in town, bazarpeth and museum consists



of original paintings of patron and collection of Raja Ravi Verma's original paintings. This built and cultural heritage have not yet been identified and documented. Heritage and the development of the historic town Aundh which is facing intense urban issues of economic developments, haphazard planning and negligence towards our heritage and cultural values have been documented and analysed in the study. Such towns with significant identity should be identified and protected as a whole to establish their identity and sustainable development.

*Key words: Historic town, temple town or pilgrim centre, historical and cultural layers, settlement*



Fig. 1 Shri Yamai Devi temple on hill



Fig.2 Rajwada of Patron Pant Pratinidhi

### **Cultural & Historical layering of historic town Aundh (Satara)**

Maharashtra is a highly urbanised state in India, in which the urban areas are governed by Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Cantonment boards. It is observed in most of the part of India that the heritage of small towns remains unidentified and vulnerable to loss. The efforts are concentrated on most of the big cities or towns to conserve the heritage of the town but in this situation the small towns have local significance and not international or national significance for heritage which also needs to be focused as it is a traditional knowledge system resources for the sustainable development of the town. Heritage and the development of historic town Aundh which was founded in 1699 by Parshuram Trimbak Pant was declared as a Maratha princely state in British India, in the Deccan States Agency division of the Bombay Presidency. In the historical layers, the development of Aundh under patronage had remarkable architectural establishment, which



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## To Outline the “Cultural Landscape” of the Krishna River in Maharashtra and emphasize the need for planning Conservation Strategies for the same so as to conserve associated “Rural Heritage” at a Regional Scale.

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**Abstract :** Rivers have always been important to people. The World's first great civilizations arose in the fertile flood plains of the mighty rivers like the Nile, the Indus, the Tigris and Euphrates and the Huang He. Rivers remain important today. In fact, settlements and built aspects along river banks are usually the oldest parts of any rural or urban setup anywhere across the world. The River Krishna, which originates in the Western Ghats in Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra and ends in Bay of Bengal through Andhra Pradesh is one of the major Rivers that make up the river system in India. This river has tremendous religious and cultural significance in Maharashtra. Satara and Sangli districts have several Ghats and Temples built on Krishna River banks, most of which are located in rural settlements along the river banks like Menawali, Mahuli, Limb, Govegaon, Dhona, Vaduth, Targaon, Bhuinj, Mardhe, Ozarde and many more. Most of these Ghats and Temples were built during the 18th Century Peshwa Period and strongly reflect the Architectural Characteristics of that period. These Ghats and Temple complexes transformed the Krishna River banks into religious sites through combination of Architecture and Landscape. They became a place for social and cultural interaction. The Ghats were not only used for religious purpose but also catered to the daily water related activities of the people. These Temples and Ghats together constitute the Cultural Landscape of the Krishna River and each Ghat and Temple built on the banks of Krishna River during the 18th Century Peshwa Period constitutes the Rural Heritage of that particular settlement. These Heritage structures which are a testimony to the 18th century landuse, in terms of interface between the settlement and the River are rapidly succumbing to deterioration due to Natural and Man-made factors. This research is an attempt to identify and document all the Temples and Ghats built on the Krishna River banks during the 18th century Peshwa period so as to create a base map on which further detailed studies can be undertaken. This research also explains and emphasizes the need for formation of a technical conservation council at a Regional level subsequent to enlisting and analysing the threats to these rural heritage structures which form a part of the “Cultural Landscape” of the Krishna River in Maharashtra.

**Keywords:** Cultural Landscape, Krishna River, Ghats and Temples, 18th Century Maharashtra, Rural Heritage

## **To Outline the “Cultural Landscape” of the Krishna River in Maharashtra and emphasize the need for planning Conservation Strategies for the same so as to conserve associated “Rural Heritage” at a Regional Scale**

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**Keywords :** Cultural Landscape, Krishna River, Ghats and Temples, 18th Century Maharashtra



# Conservation and Promotion of Rural heritage of historic town Aundh (District-Satara) for Cultural Tourism.

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**Abstract:** India is known for its heritage, natural and cultural resources in the form of tangible and intangible values. Temples, religion and associated mythology are an essential part of Hindu culture and such concentrations attracted patronage.

In Maharashtra, large number of temple towns or religious centres were settled because of the temple as the focal point and the settlement around. The places like Pandharpur, Aundh, Madurai etc. with temples of goddesses on hill and the settlement at foothill. This paper describes the historic town Aundh and its heritage potential to promote it for cultural tourism.

Aundh is a tirtha kshetra because of Mulpetha of Shri Yamai Devi temple. The mythological association of the place and its built heritage and cultural, religious significance have shaped an interesting form of a settlement which shows different layers of development through cultural, traditional knowledge systems and flourished due to contribution of patronage. During British rule, Aundh was founded in 1699 by Parshuram Trimbak Pant was declared as a Maratha princely state, in the Deccan States Agency division of the Bombay Presidency.

In the historical layers, the development of Aundh under the patronage had remarkable architectural establishment like Rajwada of patron Shri Pant Pratinidhi, Yamai devi mulapeeth temple on hill and in town, bazzarpeeth and museum consists of original paintings of patron and collection of Raja Ravi Verma's original paintings. As it has museum and Yamai Devi temple there is a sudden boost in number of tourists visit per day. It needs to be developed with conserving and restoring its integrity for the society, facing intense urban issues of economic developments, haphazard planning and negligence towards our heritage and cultural values have been documented and analysed in the study. Such towns with significance should be identified and protected as a whole for sustainable cultural heritage.

The documentation and analysis of the city's conditions, followed by policy development and applied conservation interventions that will reveal and maintain Aundh's rural heritage, as well as support to boost-up to become sustainable place for cultural tourism.

**Keywords:** *Rural heritage, Historic town, Cultural tourism, Promotion*

## Introduction:

India is known for its heritage, natural and cultural resources in the form of tangible and intangible values. Temples, religion and associated mythology are an essential part of Hindu culture and such concentrations attracted patronage. A Historic town is a town which has a mythological as well as physical evidences from the past. A Rural heritage is a local architectural style based on the cultural and natural heritage in that region considering the values and traditions.

## Conservation and Promotion of Rural heritage of historic town Aundh (District-Satara) for Cultural Tourism

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