

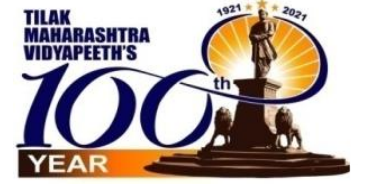


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Shri Balmukund Lohia Centre of Sanskrit and Indological Studies

1242 Sadashiv Peth, Pune- 411 030.



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This is to certify that

Ar. Vaidehi Lavand and Ar. Onkar Khebudkar

presented a paper entitled

19th Century Treatise and Manuals and Its Influence on the Development of the Colonial Urban Cultural Landscapes in Deccan Region, India

in the 2-Day International Webinar on

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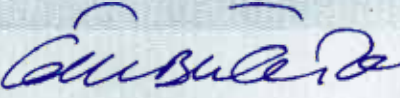
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Discourse on Lost Pages of History: Architectural Works of Vasudev Kanitkar in Western India

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Abstract:

Ample western historiographical resources are available to understand Colonial Architecture in India. Architectural language evolved during Colonial period in India was a collaborative effort of British Royal and Local engineers from several parts. Eclectic architectural language of British India is a product of amalgamation of western models and eastern knowledge simultaneously. They worked in collaboration with Indian philanthropists, engineers, contractors and artisans. Much is available to read about royal engineers as a pride for British sovereign but contributions of local engineers who equally built colonial India lost in the pages of history.

This Paper tried to document and discuss works of local contractor Vasudev Kanitkar born in Baroda and worked at several places in Western India. With the help of archival resources and primary secondary surveys conducted this research paper compiles architectural contributions of Vasudev Kanitkar less known for his many landmark edifices he designed and built in western India.

Keywords: Eclectic Architecture; Colonial India; Local Contractors; Royal Engineers; and Public Architecture

1. Introduction and framework of study

Role of Locals in building Western part of colonial India

Western India was mostly under the presidency of Bombay during British rule in the nineteenth century. Royal engineers in collaborations with locals proposed and construct notable architectural works under Bombay presidency. Many local engineers and contractors were involved in decision-making at various levels during the actual implementation of public buildings on site. There were roadblocks in the execution process, including as opposition from locals and a lack of funds. Colonial sovereignty was built on democratic ideas to some extent. Documents such as old newspapers and municipal records may be sufficient proof that choices appear to be made democratically with the cooperation of local leaders and people. Correspondence between officers and commissioners about decisions made in the selection of appropriate sites for specific projects and its character in general can be found in municipal and PWD archives. Detailed estimates, material selections, and local community responses appear in the overall paperwork, although names of local contractors appear to be included in the files linked to public buildings completed very rarely. (**Fig. 1 and Fig. 2**) Framework shows how colonial rule was percolated and reached at grassroots levels. How the architectural vocabulary of colonial urban heritage and landscape could be interpreted in time and space. (Munasinghe, 2022)

Numerous articles published in Professional Papers on Indian Engineering by Indian local contractors such as Teekaram, who worked primarily in Lucknow, Babu Shumbhoo Dass, whose works can be seen in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, Rai Bahadur Kunhya Lal's and Sir Ganga Ram's legendary projects in Lahore, Pakistan, Muncherjee Beyzunjee at Hyderabad during the Nizam reign, are excellent resources indicating their contribution to the architectural vocabulary developed^{1 2} (Chopra, 2011) (Lavand, 2017) Researchers such as Preeti Chopra states extraordinary works of Murzbaan in Mumbai in her writings. On the other hand local engineers such as Narso Ramchandra, Vasudev Kanitkar from Pune and some other towns in Deccan were never got recognized and documented extensively for their contributions in the development

¹ Preeti Chopra in her Book *A Joint Enterprise* on the page number 76 mentions name of Sir Ganga Ram as legendary figure who worked for PWD in Lahore now in Pakistan.

² Lavand Vaidehi, "Public Architecture And Role Of Local Contractors In Late Nineteenth Century, Case Of Pune." In *Urban Regeneration*. Nashik, 2017



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Nature and Conflict: Case of Tilari Bio Region

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Abstract

Tilari region is well-known for its rich biodiversity that is part of Western Ghats¹ listed under UNESCO natural heritage category. Unique geographic and natural setup of the Tilari region, imparts significance to its context. Tilari river originates in Tudai Chandgad in Kolhapur district where its known as Tilotama. It flows towards the west and flourishes the entire region near Kudase and meets the Arabian sea at the end. Exclusive biodiversity of Tilari region, number of endemic, endangered species, rich flora and fauna marks its uniqueness in Western Ghats. This paper discusses the unique natural setup of Tilari, its rich ecology and touches upon some aspects of settlements around the river.

Data is collected with the help of actual field visits, photographic documentation, primary, secondary data and random interviews conducted during visits. Research discourse mainly focuses upon overview of coexistence of man and nature in Tilari bioregion and transition through the shared landscape currently going through. Major deforestation for commercial reasons has destroyed ecological balance to a large extent. Human intervention in the migrating corridors of the native animals and destruction of local flora and fauna resulting in the conflicts between man and nature. Region is under major threat due to issues related to human interventions in terms of its ecological setup, geology, hydrology and at the extreme end mining what is hampering the area extensively. Study attempts to unveil the rich context of the Tilari region currently under threat due to several uncontrolled elements around the region and undesirable policies by the authorities. Research concludes with the brief about holistic approach towards sustainable landscape management plan considering the people's participation in natural conservation to retain its identity in rapid commercialization and urbanization in the region.

Keywords Bioregion; Ecology; Private forest; Deforestation; Shared landscape; Coexistence of man and nature

1. Introduction

As said by world-famous natural historian David Attenborough “Ever since we arrived on this planet as a species, we’ve cut them down, dug them up, burnt them and poisoned them. Today we’re doing so on a greater scale than ever.” (Attenborough, 2018) We are looking back to nature to learn from it. Many scholars, researchers have discussed a lot about our natural resources and their importance in today’s fast-paced life. Term nature comprises the idea of ecology around us that includes flora, fauna, climate, and ecological setup around us. Whereas conflict mainly focuses upon friction between nature and human intervention.

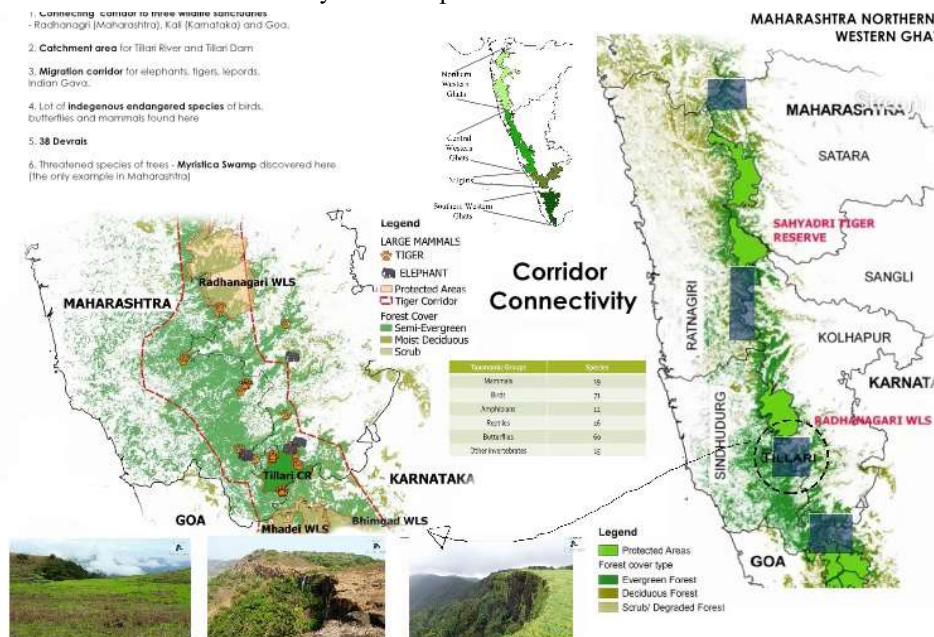


Figure 1: Maps and images establishing the context of the region Source: Images by Author and Mapping based upon existing geographic map Maharashtra Forest department

¹ Ghat in this case is a mountain pass region connecting Deccan plateau to the west coast in India.