



MAHATMA GANDHI MISSION

Run for Heritage

8 December 2024

About MAHATMA GANDHI MISSION

Mahatma Gandhi Mission (MGM) Trust was established by a group of doctors and engineers on December 20, 1982. Inspired by the values and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, MGM aimed to build a self-reliant and self-sufficient society by providing affordable education and healthcare services to the marginalized sections. The trust built numerous hospitals, medical colleges, higher educational institutions and schools in its journey of four decades. Today, through its six campuses across Maharashtra and beyond, MGM is serving lakhs of people with unwavering commitment and dedication. Along with its significant contributions to the education and healthcare sectors, MGM is also recognized for its social and cultural initiatives. From MAHAGAMI, a world-class institution providing formal education in Indian classical arts and which has brought global recognition to the city, to the MGM Krishi Vigyan Kendra, dedicated to advanced research in the agricultural sector, as well as the Khadi Research Centre, the Smt. Rukminidevi Autism Foundation, and the Naturopathy, Ayurveda, and Yoga Centre, MGM's diverse efforts are testaments to its unwavering commitment to community welfare. From a modest healthcare centre in a remote village to a dynamic organization of many modern institutions, Mahatma Gandhi Mission has come a long way. Still there are miles to go. No matter how difficult and long the road is, the journey towards building a sustainable society will continue...

About Aurangabad

Aurangabad, located in Maharashtra, India, is a city steeped in rich historical and cultural heritage. Its origins trace back to ancient times, with evidence of settlements as early as the Satavahana dynasty (2nd century BCE - 3rd century CE). During this period, the region flourished as an important trade hub, linked to Central Asia and the Roman Empire. The nearby Ajanta Caves, now a UNESCO World Heritage site, date from this era and reflect the area's early prominence as a center of Buddhist art and culture. Later, under the Vakataka dynasty in the 4th and 5th centuries, the Ajanta Caves were further developed, showcasing exquisite frescoes and sculptures that highlight the area's devotion to Buddhist traditions.

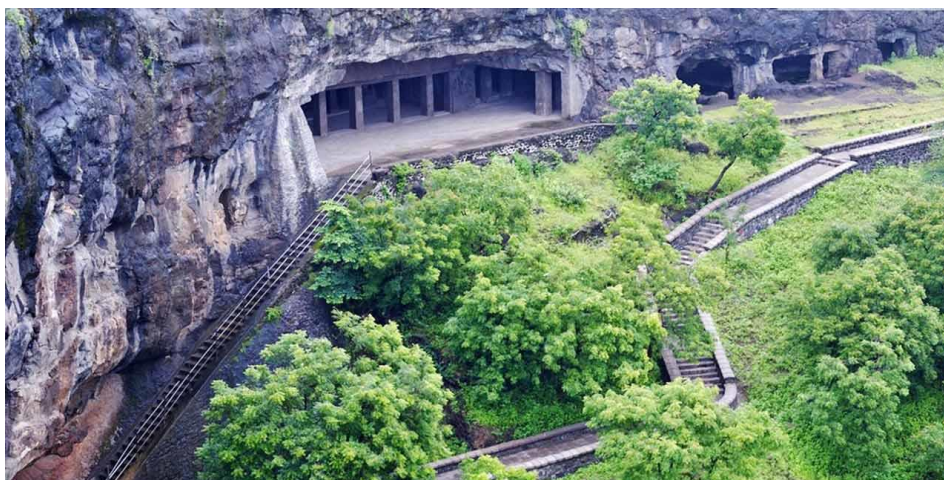
In the medieval period, the region came under the rule of the Yadava dynasty and then the Deccan Sultanates, whose influence introduced Persian culture and Islamic architecture. The city as it is known today began to take shape in 1610 when Malik Ambar, the Prime Minister of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate, established a settlement called Khadki. However, it was Emperor Aurangzeb of the Mughal dynasty who expanded the city during his military campaigns in the Deccan and renamed it "Aurangabad." This period also saw the construction of the Bibi Ka Maqbara, a stunning mausoleum built by Aurangzeb in memory of his wife, inspired by the architectural style of the Taj Mahal.

Following the decline of the Mughal Empire, Aurangabad came under the control of the Nizam of Hyderabad, remaining part of the Hyderabad state until India's independence in 1947. Under both the

Nizam and later British influence, Aurangabad continued to grow as a trade and cultural center, preserving its traditional significance while adapting to modern influences. Post-independence, Aurangabad became part of Maharashtra and developed rapidly, emerging as a major industrial and educational center. The city is now renowned for its historical monuments, its vibrant blend of Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic heritage, and its proximity to UNESCO World Heritage sites like Ajanta and Ellora Caves, making it a prominent destination for tourism and cultural heritage in India.

Aurangabad Caves

The Aurangabad Caves are a series of 12 rock-cut Buddhist shrines carved between the 6th and 8th centuries, located on a hill near Aurangabad, Maharashtra. These caves are divided into two clusters, with intricate sculptures and carvings that reflect the artistic influences of the Gupta and post-Gupta periods. The caves feature detailed depictions of Buddhist deities, including Avalokiteshvara and Bodhisattvas, and portray scenes from Jataka tales, which are stories of Buddha's previous lives. Known for their elaborate facades and intricate interior carvings, the Aurangabad Caves offer insight into the evolution of Buddhist architecture in India and showcase an artistic transition leading up to the Ajanta and Ellora caves nearby.



Shahganj:

Shahganj, meaning "Royal Market" (with *Shah* signifying royalty and *Ganj* meaning market), was among the earliest developed areas in the city. This area grew around the Sabz Mahal, or Green Bungalow, a palace built for Nizam Murtuza II. Opposite this palace, a market emerged to meet the needs of the royal household. Close by, Malik Ambar, an influential figure in the region, built a mansion for himself.

At the time, the palace complex was likely fortified, featuring a double-gated entry with a *Naubat Khana* (music room) above. Within the palace grounds, there were separate quarters for male and female royals, a baradari (pavilion), a *hamam* (bathhouse), and areas designated for elephants (Hathi Khana) and stables. Gardens and water tanks enhanced the grandeur of the palace.

The marketplace across from the palace thrived, selling grains, vegetables, and textiles to serve the royal community. It was once the most prestigious and costly grain market in the region, surrounded by a textile market. The business community lived nearby, creating a vibrant and prosperous center of commerce and trade.

Nawkhanda Mahal:

The Nawkhanda Palace, built in 1616 for Nizam Shah Murtuza II, replaced the earlier Sabz Mahal at Shahganj, as Malik Ambar deemed Sabz Mahal insufficiently grand and spacious for the king. The palace complex covered a large area of 25 acres, 23 guntha, and 9 yards, with the name "Nawkhanda" deriving from the Marathi word *khand*, meaning "nine," referring to the palace's division into nine sections or buildings. Key structures included the Diwan-e-Aam (Hall of Public Audience), Diwan-e-Khas (Hall of Private Audience), five Zanana Mahals (women's quarters), Mardana Mahal (men's quarters), Baradari (pavilion), and Kacheri (office), as well as a mosque and *hamam* (bathhouse). A large garden known as Bagh-e-Nawkhanda complemented the palace's grandeur, which was originally fortified by high walls.

The palace extended from the area of present-day Jubilee Park to Makkai Gate and up to Panchakki on the left. Though much of the structure has been lost, with significant portions demolished during the construction of the Medical College and Hospital, some parts, like the walls of the Diwan-e-Aam and the *hamam*, remain in reasonably preserved condition.



Bhadkal Gate:

The Bhadkal Gate, one of the tallest gates in Aurangabad, was built by Malik Ambar in 1612 for the Ahmednagar Nizam as a symbol of victory over the Mughals. Its name, Bhadkal, meaning "Big Gate," reflects its imposing height of 63 feet and substantial area of 3,720 square feet. The gate showcases the "groined vault" technique, an advanced architectural style involving intersecting barrel vaults that distribute weight effectively across arches. This style would later inspire the design of the Gol Gumbad in Bijapur.

Built with lime and basalt from the Deccan plateau, the gate is reinforced with a mix of silica, jute, gum, and jaggery, a unique construction blend that prevents fire damage. The first floor, accessible by stairways on each side, holds the *Nagarkhana*, where music was played on significant occasions. Above this is a seven-foot tower with open arches on all four sides, offering a panoramic view of the city. Malik Ambar's distinct mark of an inverted lotus decorates the gate, along with multiple *mehrab*s for illumination.

An inscription signed by Ghulam Ahmed Khan from the Nizam's period quotes poetry by Nusrati, a court poet for Bijapur's ruler, Ali Adil Shah. This poetic excerpt describes a battle with a demon, likening the demon's appearance to the spiked door of Bhadkal Darwaza, perhaps reflecting the poet's impression of the gate's formidable design. Additionally, Bhadkal Gate holds cultural importance during Moharram, when a ceremonial *Sawari* is displayed here, attracting crowds from across the region.

Historically significant, the gate has witnessed Aurangabad's evolution from a small settlement to a thriving industrial city and remains an iconic symbol deserving preservation by government bodies for future generations.



Pandit Khana/ Chita Khana:

The Pandit Khana, also known as Chita Khana and now called the Town Hall, is under the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation's authority. Originally established by Malik Ambar, it was intended as a gathering place for intellectuals, particularly Hindu scholars, whom he greatly respected and rewarded with titles and land grants, known as *inam* and *jagir*. Malik Ambar was known for his appreciation of diverse intellectuals, including Hindu pundits, Arab, and Persian scholars. He employed many Brahmins in the Revenue Department, which managed records in Persian but issued decrees in Marathi for local administration.

This octagonal building, once surrounded by gardens and water tanks, features an interior with arched compartments and a central water tank with a fountain, which likely provided a cooling effect in summer. The first floor includes rooms, possibly for the scholars' residence, and open galleries. The structure was originally capped with a flat ceiling, with the British later adding a Gothic roof after the original was damaged.

Under Aurangzeb, the building became known as Musafir Khana, and during the Nizam Asaf Jah's rule, it served as a central jail. Today, despite changes and restorations, Pandit Khana remains an architectural symbol of Aurangabad's scholarly and administrative legacy.

Nahar-e-Ambari:

The Nahar-e-Ambari, or Malik Ambar's Canal, is a historical water supply system created around 1612 in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, by Malik Ambar, an Ethiopian-origin Prime Minister of the Ahmednagar Sultanate. As a visionary statesman and skilled engineer, Malik Ambar constructed this canal to supply water to the growing city, meeting the drinking, agricultural, and public utility needs of Aurangabad's residents. The canal ingeniously tapped water from the Harsul River, roughly 11 kilometers away, using a series of channels, aqueducts, and gravity-based mechanisms to maintain a steady flow.

The Nahar-e-Ambari system was essential to Aurangabad's development, irrigating gardens, supplying water to fountains, and filling public reservoirs like Panchakki, the city's popular water mill and one of its architectural marvels. Aqueducts, a prominent feature of this system, allowed water to cross difficult terrain, while the controlled flow supported sustainable water usage year-round, even during dry periods. Malik Ambar's design also included decorative elements in select areas, adding beauty to functionality in line with Persian and Deccan architectural influences.



Over time, portions of the Nahar-e-Ambari fell into disrepair, but its legacy endures as a symbol of Malik Ambar's impact on the city's infrastructure and a testament to his foresight in sustainable water management. The canal remains a significant historical feature of Aurangabad, reflecting the engineering skills and urban planning strategies that shaped the city in the 17th century and contributed to its growth and prosperity.

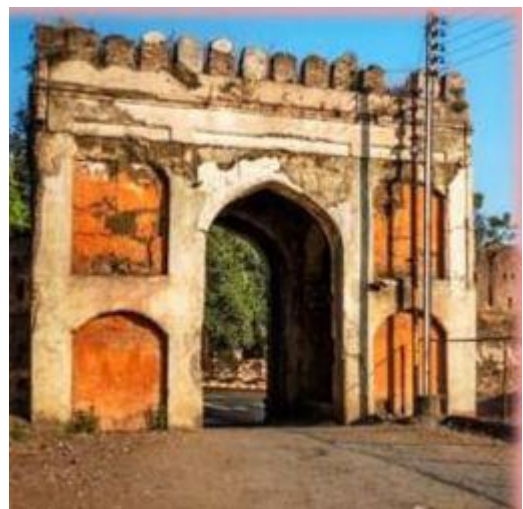
Quil-e-Ark:



Mir Adil Darwaza (Gate):

Mir Adil Darwaza, also known as Mir Adil Gate, is a historical structure located near the present Government College. It is believed that Mir Adil Darwaza was originally built by a nobleman during the Nizam's rule, likely a figure who had been granted land near the area. The gate, which is close to the Quile-A Dk fortification wall, became known as the Mir Adil Gate over time. During the Nizam's era, the building was repurposed as a court.

The gate itself features bastions decorated with three blind arches on top, a slender arch in the corner, and three arches along the lower section. Two supporting pillars stand on either side of the gate, which still retains its wooden door with blunt arches. Inside the gate are two open platforms. The central section of the gate displays two pointed arches. Originally, battlements were situated above the gate and bastions, but these no longer remain. The fortification wall flanking the gate, which once connected to Rangeen Darwaza, still stands on both sides, though the road construction has led to the demolition of the connecting wall.



During the Mughal period, this gate likely served as an internal passage leading to the prayer halls, with direct access to both the Moti Mosque and the Zenana Mosque. The Palmar Kothi, part of this complex, is also mentioned in historical references. According to a report from Kinnaird Douglas in the "Hyderabad Papers" (London, 1825), the British established a financial arrangement with the Palmar house. In December 1818, Mr. Russel informed the Governor-General that the Minister had arranged

for Palmar and Company to supply two lakh rupees monthly for troop payments in Aurangabad. Later, Palmar and Company proposed the creation of a banking house in the city. The revenue from various occupations in Aurangabad was collected at the Palmar Kothi.

Therefore, the Adil Gate not only served as an important entry point for the Nizam's era but also played a role in the operations of the British East India Company and the Palmar house.

Rangeen Darwaza:

Rangeen gate is another stately gate that appears pompous and regal. It is positioned near the District Collector's residence, built in square black stones. On either side of the main gate are strong bastions that are decorated with nine blind arches in three rows. The sides of the main gate are ornamented with semi-arched blind windows. Above the main gate on either side is a simple and slender minaret with floral decoration. In the center are the usual battlements with embrasures. The interior ceiling of the gate in the center is supported by wooden rafters fixed vertically and horizontally. However the usual wooden gate is absent here. Probably the gate crumbled and was removed from the site. But the holes (hollows in which door is fixed) can be seen on either corners of the structure. On either side in the interior of the gate are platforms for guards supported originally by pilasters. The arches are four centered. Above this are two more rooms and there are steps leading to these rooms. The back side of the gate wall is decorated with semi-arched designs, On either side of the bastion are steps leading to the wall-walk on the top and the lower portion of the bastion has hollow arches where guards could stay. Above the bastion on either side are platforms for mounting cannons. The platforms are rounded. Why the gate is known as Rangeen Gate? There are different versions to this name. Most of the celebrations, events used to be organized near this gate and colorful firework was carried on, hence the name. While some claim that the gate was made of colored stones. Both these claims have no authenticity hence, the name Rangeen remains on enigma. Near this gate is the Subedari Guest House and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum. This gate too was renovated and fenced and the interior was spruced up with lawns and decorative plants.



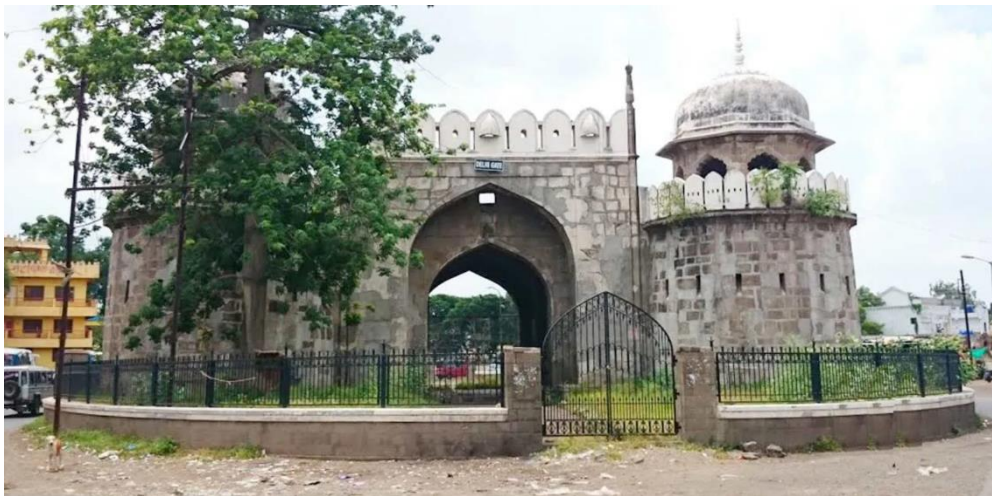
Makai Darwaza:

In 1682 A.D., in order to protect the city of Aurangabad from the Maratha invasion, a fortification was built by the orders of Aurangzeb by his general Khan Bahadur. The western side of this fortification faced towards Mecca, the sacred place of the Muslims and hence the western gate of the fortification was named

as Makai Gate or Makai Darwaza. The road through this gate also leads to Bibi Ka Maqbara. The gate is 38 feet in height and has huge bastions on both its sides. Taking into consideration its Mughal style of architecture and historic value, this gate has been listed as a state protected monument.



Delhi Darwaza:



Delhi gate is the one of the strategic gate of the Aurangabad city which lies on 19° 53' 38" N and 75° 20' 04" E. In Aurangabad city, it is located on the Major State Highway no. 8 which connects to Jalgaon Road. Dr. Salim Ali Lake is located towards the North eastern side of the Delhi Gate whereas the Divisional Commissioners office is located towards the South eastern corner. Delhi gate is the largest gate built by Aurangzeb. It is not only large in size but also appears attractive among all the gates built in the Deccan area so far. It is located towards the Delhi Town that is towards the north end of the Aurangabad city. Through this gateway Aurangzeb marched towards Delhi in rebellion against his father Shahjahan. After marching through the gate he encamped at Arsul (Harsul) in a sarai (now central Jail) and nearby area where he halted for ten days. Then he started from Aurangabad on 5th February 1658 to challenge the throne. In March 1666 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj accompanied by Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj and a body of one thousand select troop marched to Agra on Aurangzeb's invitation through this gateway. The gate is a two storeyed structure. The façade which provides the main entrance into the city of Aurangabad faces north. It has two octagonal bastions on either of the sides and a pointed arch in between for entry and exit which encompasses

another smaller pointed arch with a wooden door. The interior of the arch contains two small rectangular opening on the either sides which posed as guardrooms. Above the parapet wall of the arch is a battlement with numerous entablatures. On the two sides of the main arch are two turrets that rise up till the top of the battlement. The bastions have rectangular gun points on the first storey followed by an octagonal battlement and eight pillared Chhatri with a domical ceiling terminating in a finial on top. The chhatri is adorn with cusped arches.