

Name of the Monument/ site: Ancient Mound , Paithan

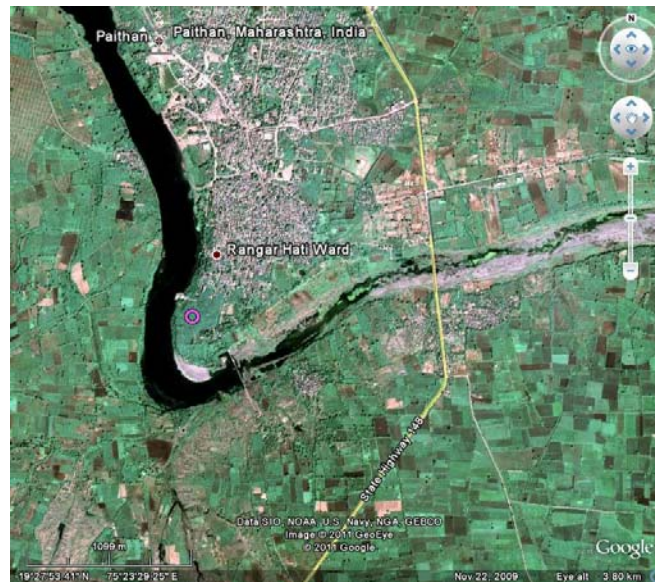
LOCATION :- The modern town of Paithan is located to the 55 km to the south of Aurangabad city on State Highway No. 148 via Bidkin. It was home of the great Maharashtrian saint Eknath, whose Samadhi is located there. The people gather every year during the time of 'Paithan Yatra' also known as Nath Shashti. It is also a famous Digambar Jain atishay kshetra. A beautiful Black coloured Sand Idol of 20th Jain Tirthankar, Bhagwan Munisuvratnath is installed in temple here. A major dam known as the Jayakwadi dam made from soil is located near Paithan, and is known for attracting a wide variety of resident and migratory birds. Sant Dnyaneshwar Udyan, famous garden for musical fountains here is developed on the lines of Mysore Garden. An archaeological museum under State Department of Archaeology is also part of this garden premises.

The town is mostly famous today for its sarees — the Paithani beautiful silk saris which sport intricately embroidered gold or silver borders. The ancient site at Paithan protected by Archaeological Survey of India is approachable from Bus Stand Road approaching Nag Ghat or via Chanakwadi flyover connecting State Highway No. 148 avoiding conjunction in the town.

Common Name	Ancient Mound
Longitude & Latitude	Lat. 19°27'48.69"N Long. 75°22'55.62"E
Village	Paithan
Police Station	Paithan
Taluka	Paithan
Talathi Sajja	
District	Aurangabad
Distance from	
District Headquarter	



General view of the ancient mound across the river Godavari



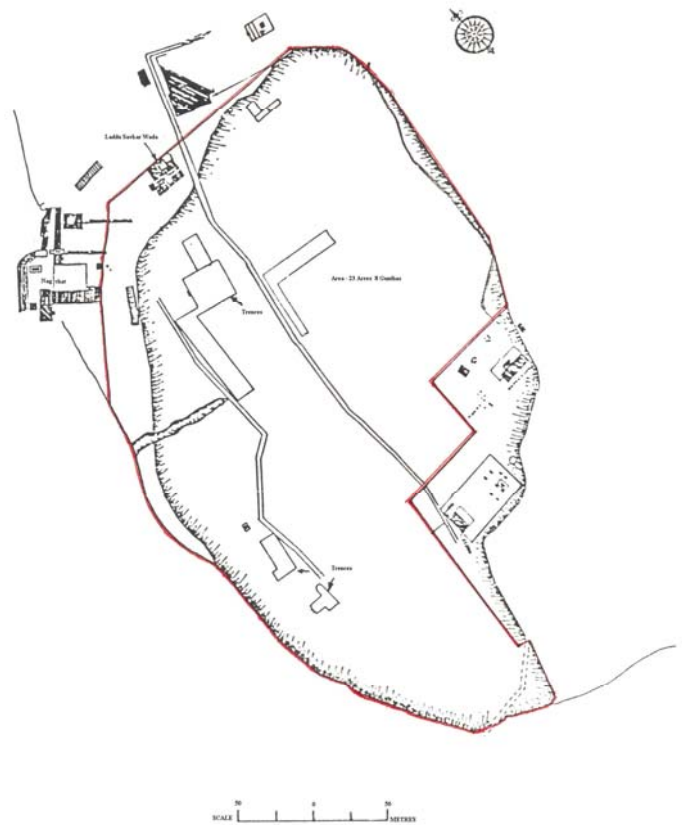
GOOGLE ROAD MAP

CULTURAL INFORMATION :-

Paithan an ancient town in the Aurangabad district, is located on the north bank of the river Godavari. The present-day Paithan itself stands on an archaeological mound which rises like a crescendo. Paithan and the area contiguous to it was the abode of man in the Lower Palaeolithic, Middle Palaeolithic, Chalcolithic, Early Historical and Medieval Times. Pratishthana, a town of consequence referred profusely in Buddhist, Jaina and Brahmanical literature, once the renowned capital of the mighty Satavahanas who ruled from circa 75 BC to AD 230. Rock Edicts V and XIII of Asoka mention Paithanakas or inhabitants of Paithana on the Godavari. The Kstrapas had temporarily conquered Pratishthana and

extended their sphere of influence into the upper regions of Godavari. It was again recaptured by Vasisthiputra Pulumavi and then continued to be the capital till the reign of Vijaya Satavahana. The city gained eminence mostly due to its strategic location. It was situated on the ancient highway linking or track route it with Broach, Ujjain and Mathura connecting hinterland with costal port Surparaka (Sopara) through Govardhana country (Nashik). The town is also referred to as famous center of trade by foreign travelers in their accounts as the greatest city in the Dakshinapatha i.e. the country south of Narmada. Periplus of the Arethrian Sea mentions Paethana was mart town famous for semi-precious stones and exported large quantities of them. Ptolemy also records it as "Baithana". Arrian another Greek traveler mentions it as famous for its textile jewellery and bead industry. Two inscriptions from Pitalkhora Caves record donations by residents of 'Patithana' one of them is Gandhkasa- perfume maker.

Archaeological investigations of Paithan have been undertaken in last century by G. Yazdani as early as 1915, in 1936-37 by Syed Yusuf of the Department of Archaeology under Nizam of Hyderabad by Maharashtra State Archaeology 1965-66 by Dr. M. G. Dikshit and recently by Archaeological Survey of India along with Society for South Asian Studies, U.K. from 1995 to 1999. Excavations as small scale were also of conducted by State Deptt. of Archaeology and Dr. BSA Marthawada University joint by



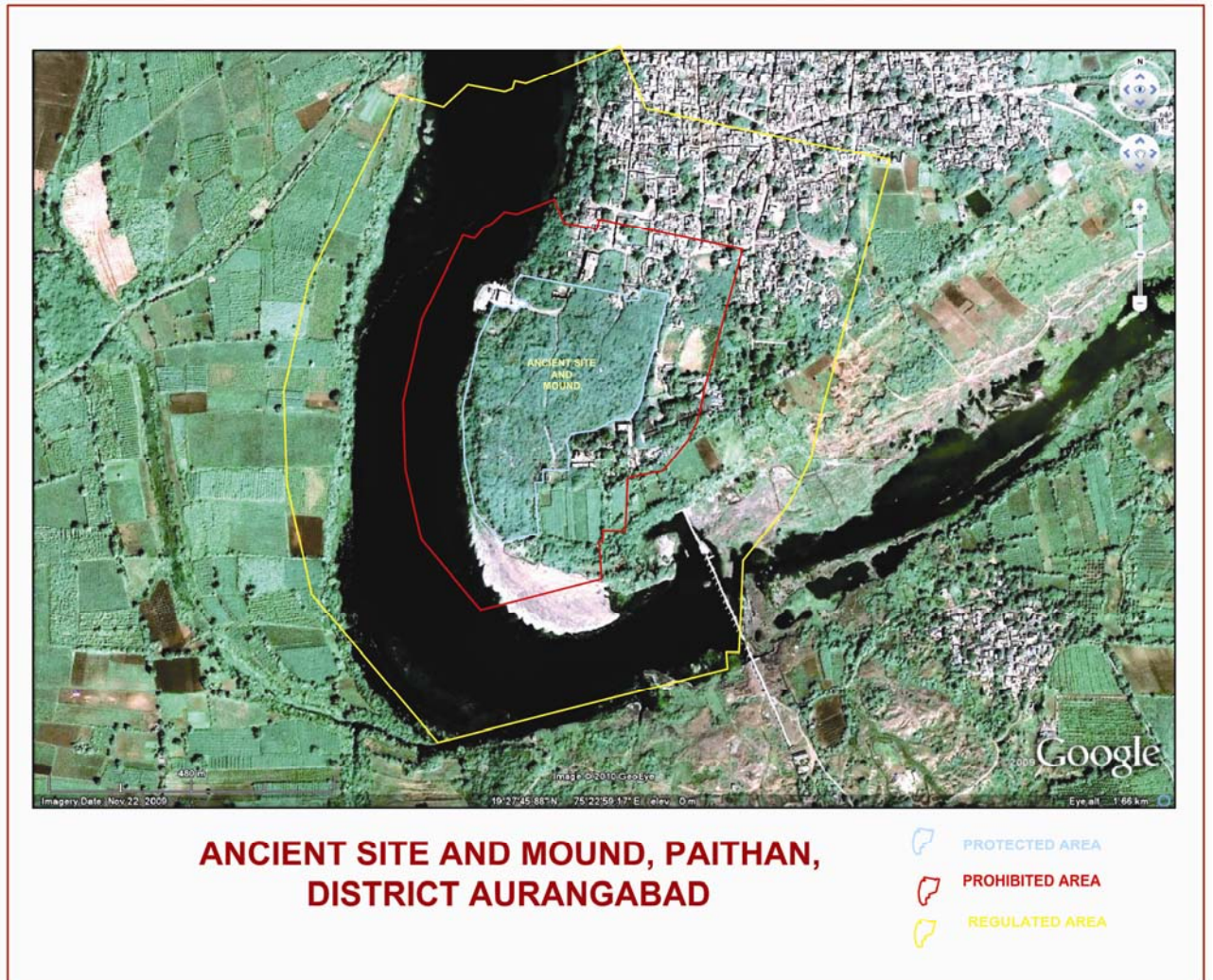
in 1994. The excavations revealed continuous occupation of the site divided in two cultural periods- (i) Early Historical and (ii) Medieval period. The excavations revealed that the town was well-planned and laid out with houses built with burnt bricks on both sides of the streets provided with burnt bricks and laid-out pathways in the Satavahana period. Special moulded bricks were used for decorative purposes. There was evidence of flooding of the settlement in the later times towards the end of the Satavahana period. A thick deposit of silt covered the site which led to large scale destruction and possible desertion of the site. The excavations also revealed ceramics of distinct types and fabrics, beads especially of semi-precious stones, glass, shell, bone and ivory objects, ear-reels of crystal, terracotta and keoline figurines and other objects, antimony rods etc. The antiquities included objects of day-to-day use and artistic objects. It was not only a manufacturing center but also a market and distribution point. However the recent excavations have shown that the main center of occupation of Early Historical Paithan moved from one place to another which is reflected in shallow stratigraphy heavily disturbed by late medieval occupation.

The solitary pillar representing later historical period locally known as 'Thirth Khamb', now stands on the vast and undulating ruins of the Satavahana period. It contains some forms of the Hindu representations such as the Bhairava, Saptamatrukas and Ganesa. It is surmounted with a pavilion with cusped arches on all the four sides resembles a flat roofed Chhatra. The rest of the pillar is cylindrical in shape. But the plainness is systematically relieved by a series of decorated bands. Just above the lower pavilion, the pillar is cut in octagonal shape to house the Saptamatrukas. Similarly at another stage, it is squarish where the Mithuna figures are carved. The surmounting pavilion is placed on a square abacus which in turn rests on multi-petalled reverse bell shaped member. The pinnacle resembles an umbrella. The medieval Paithan was also associated with Saint Dnyaneshwar whose birth place Apegaon is also nearby and Saint Eknath who attended his samadhi here. The ancient Paithan enjoyed as the capital and was called "Queen of Deccan" for a few centuries when the Satavahanas ruled from here.

PROTECTION STATUS :-

Notification No	No. LXXI of AHMASR (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951 dated 28th November, 1951
New Classification	Category D Monument located in densely populated rural areas and most sensitive from construction activity point of view
Status	Non living

GOOGLE DEMARICATION :



Google earth images demarcated with protected, prohibited and regulated areas

Under section of 20 A and B of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act 2010 areas up to 100 meters from the Protected limits and further beyond it up to 200 meters near or adjoining protected monuments to be prohibited and regulated areas respectively for purposes of both mining operation and construction whoever violate these provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extends to two years or with fine up to Rs. 1,00,000 (Rupees One lakh) or with both, under section 30 A and 30 B

TOURIST INFORMATION :-

Opening and Closing Days and Timing	Everyday Sunrise to sunset
Ticketes / Recipts	Non- Ticketed Monument

Other charges

- Filming**
- Filming of protected monument is allowed only on payment of ₹ 5000/- per day per monument in the form of demand draft from a nationalized bank in favour of "Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad Circle, Aurangabad "payable at Aurangabad. If you are interested in the proposal, you may intimate this office regarding the date of filming and submit Rs. 5000/-per day for each monument along with duly completed application in **Form IX**
 - For filming operation, an amount of ₹ 10,000/- towards "Security deposit " in the Post office saving account at GPO, Aurangabad after obtaining authorization letter from this office. The security deposit may also be submitted in the form of demand draft of nationalized bank in favor of "Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad Circle "payable at Aurangabad. The security deposit will be released and returned if no damage is caused to the monument during filming operation. A no damage certificate from the local monument in charge and a VHS cassette of filming operation is required for release of security deposit.

Tourist Facilities

Ticketed booking counters	Non- Ticketed Monument
Car parking	No
Toilets	No
Portable drinking water facilities	No
Cafeteria and souvenir shops	No
Sales counters	No
Visitors movement plan	No
Dust bins	No
Clock rooms	No
Entrance plazas	No
Resting areas	No
Pathways	Available
Approach roads	Available
Signage's	No
Free literature (e.g. pamphlets)	No
Facilities for differently abled	No

Tourist Flow & Revenue statements : As the monument is not ticketed monument, the data pertaining to the tourist flow is not being maintained.

Do & Don't

- Smoking, spitting and throwing garbage within the site / monument and premises is strictly prohibited.
- Without the permission of Director General Video filming inside the monument (Exterior and Interior) is not allowed.

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