

*MASA Fellowship for  
documenting local  
heritage*

Fellowship for Documentation of Pateshwar  
site near Satara

Year of the Award: 2018

By Dr. Vaidehi Lavand and Ms. Saili Palande– Datar

**About Pateshwar Heritage Complex:** Pateshwar is a unique and significant heritage site located 16 Km away from the city of Satara in Maharashtra. The site offers incredible visual experience to the visitors and fills their mind with intrigue and awe. The remote location of the site adds to the mystic and it leaves audience in sense of awe, respect and intrigue. It is hence important to explore the secrets of Pateshwar through scientific enquiry and faculty of various subjects. This exercise aims to underline the importance of the small but unique site of Pateshwar in context of India heritage & history and has immense bearing on Satara region's multifaceted cultural identity. Dr. Vaidehi Lavand and Ms. Saili Palande Datar are currently working on MASA funded research project to document this site.



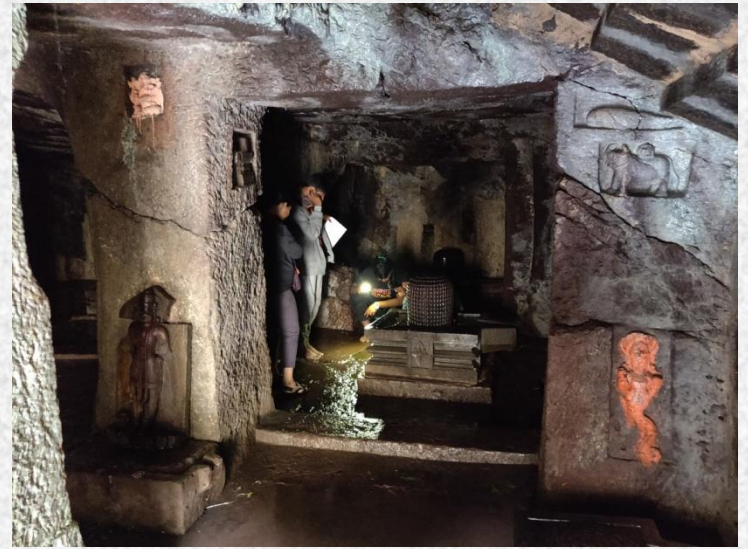
MASA funded research 2018 by Vaidehi  
Lavand & Saili Palande Datar

**Pateshwar temple complex** located on hilltop shows evidences right from 12th Century CE and is lesser-known but important religious heritage site. It exhibits transition from cave architecture from 12th century CE to independent structural temple complex built in 18th Century CE. Pateshwar site is very unique in its iconographic representations and distinctive symbolism in Maharashtra. Three distinct historical layers are clearly visible in different complexes such as Pateshwar Temple Complex, Agnivrish Cave Complex & Varhadghar caves complex. Field documentation and Preliminary work under MASA Scholarship: Work on site of Pateshwar began two years back under the MASA (Maharashtra Association of Schools of Architecture) scholarship for documenting the site in the form of report, visual representation and study of historical & cultural aspects of the place.



The principal aim is to bring out the cultural and historical significance of Pateshwar heritage site. Both the project coordinators have successfully completed the literature review of past works on Pateshwar and have critically analyzed it. Till date, both coordinators have worked on basic documentation of site with the students from SMEF's Brick School of Architecture and Dr. DYP College of Architecture, Akurdi.

As a part of the MASA scholarship, students of both the colleges were oriented and trained by both the investigators, to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to study the site. These presentations and focus discussions helped in design the methodology to study the site in better fashion. The study of iconographic representation and architectural language developed over the period of time at Pateshwar site is currently under process. In this process, the authentic time line account of site of Pateshwar has been traced for the first time. Altogether, three reviews for three quarters have been presented before MASA expert panel under this fellowship.



## About Project Coordinators –Brief Introduction:

**Dr. Vaidehi Lavand** is a conservation architect based in Pune with the experience of last 17 years of professional proficiency. She has completed her Ph.D. in ‘Art, Architecture and Historic City’ from Università Degli Studi Di Palermo under the Department of Architecture, Italy. She is practicing and working on her research projects in the field of Conservation, History of Architecture, and Historic Gardens and Landscape Architecture. She is working as a Professor at SMEF’s Brick School of Architecture, Pune, India. She has worked on conservation management plan for Heritage town of Saswad under her research project. She has worked on heritage listing of Satara in association with Conservation Architect Kirti Da Unwala. She has contributed in the proposal for conservation management plan of Ahmadnagar fort and Salabat Khan tomb at Ahmadnagar.



**Mrs.SailiPalande–Datar** is an Indologist, historian and ecologist since last 15 years and is based in Pune. She has worked on various projects related to Art, Architecture and Landscape Archaeology and has worked as Project research Scientist for Ajanta History and development project under Ministry of Culture and IIT IDC, Powai. She has served as member of Editorial Board for Maharashtra state Gazetteer Department for 3 years and currently involved as a subject expert for various gazetteers in line. She is visiting faculty at various architectural colleges and other research institutions and has designed and led site-specific heritage study and development programs.

She is founder director of Heritage Insights and trustee of Samvidya institute of Cultural Studies, Pune. In environmental field, she is working as Vice President of Malabar Nature Conservation Club, Amboli and member of Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group. She has contributed in developing the cultural and historical understanding of sacred site of Pateshwar and has been studying Art and Architecture of the religious complex.

