
PANCHAKKI (WATER MILL)



Panchakki is one of the most attractive sights in Aurangabad city, which is often visited by world tourists who are deeply impressed by its elaborate water works. It particularly has a sheet of water flowing perennially, and setting the large iron blades and stones of flour mill to motion. There still exists in Aurangabad an underground network of water channels constructed by Malik Amber and tradition holds that the water channels that feed the Panchakki were also constructed by him, although much work was done later during the last days of Aurangabad and Asaf Jah I. There is a Dargah of Hazrat Baba Shah Musafir and Hazrat Baba Ahmad Sayid and a mosque and a Sarai inside its premises.

The water-mill is kept fed with sufficient water by an underground conduit, which commences from a well just above the junction of the Harsul river with a tributary stream. This water-pipe after crossing the tributary stream near its confluence with Harsul proceeds to the Panchakki reservoir. The arrangement is such that the water is made to fall in the Panchakki cistern from quite a height in order to generate the necessary power to drive the mill. The cistern in front of the mosque, whose bottom forms the roof of a spacious hall-below, is about 164' X 31' and is ornamented with fountains. The excess water is let out in the Kham River.

One can have a fine view of the Kham River from the windows of this hall. There is also a cenotaph to the spiritual preceptor of Baba Musafir Shah and a tomb to his disciple Baba Shah Mahmood and a few other graves. The country here exhibits one of the most picturesque landscapes about Aurangabad. The Kaula nala skirts the garden, and is first crossed by an old bridge with pointed arches and then by a second bridge which spans it lower down. The walls of Begampura are to the right and the city walls are to the left, while Shah Musafir's garden is between the latter and the river bank. The garden walls descend down to the bed of the nala; and the dargah and the accompanying buildings, with the cisterns and the fountains that are interspersed, blend picturesquely with the garden vegetation.

Information provided by:

Assistant Director.

Department of Archaeology.

Aurangabad Division, At "Soneri Mahal".

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Campus.