

Kaustubh Naik will present his paper titled “Setting the stage: Aitihāsik Natak and the Maharashtrawadi politics in 20th century Goa” at the 18th International Conference on Maharashtra to be held at the South Asia Institute, UT Austin, USA.

UT Austin, USA

The theme for this year’s conference is *Communication and Community in historic and Contemporary Maharashtra*.



The 18th International Conference on Maharashtra: Culture and Society
Communication and Community in historic and contemporary Maharashtra

January 24-26, 2023, १००००००००००० | Glendon Conference Center, Rooms R1P 1, 206A and B, UT Austin campus

Any community is created by communication among its members. In a major cultural zone, such as the one where the Marathi language is understood, communication has taken many forms through time. Traditionally these forms have included large pilgrimages accompanied by songs and songs that traverse city and countryside; the circulation of texts in manuscript form and orally by untrained illiterate practitioners; and gatherings in local shrines, houses, forts, courts, and Jadhavs, where official business, daily activities, or simple curiosity have brought people together. In modern times, printing brought new forms of communication and community formation. First, we know, underwent revolutionary changes in the colonial period, changes that coincided with the development of “modern” education and the press. The post-colonial added cinema, and the last few decades have also seen the meteoric rise of cybermedia.

Maharashtra has had a strong presence in all these forms of communication, and many communities related to these forms have emerged and disappeared through time.

This conference seeks to bring together scholars of all disciplines with an interest in this theme through the past and present of Maharashtra. Members of the public are most welcome as observers. Proceedings will be in English and Marathi.

Participants

Kaustubh Naik, The South Asia Institute, The University of Texas at Austin
 Anand Kulkarni, The South Asia Institute, The University of Texas at Austin
 ... (list continues with many names and institutions)

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In the panel on Marathi theatre, Kaustubh will share his research on the history of Marathi theatre in 20th century Goa and its role in the Goan political sphere, especially in mobilising support for the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party in the sixties.

Abstract

In 20th century Portuguese Goa, the Hindu bahun samaj, a conglomeration of marginalised caste communities, claimed Maratha identity, based on the social aspects of Shivaji’s polity and the concept of a warrior heritage. This paper traces the popularity of the historical plays based on Shivaji, performed by village collectives in temple spaces during annual fairs and

ritual ceremonies throughout the 20th century. Specifically, I examine their role in consolidating communitarian identities and shaping regional consciousness by analyzing the tremendous electoral success of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Paksh, a regional political party that, in post-colonial Goa, sought to merge Goa with Maharashtra.

Kaustubh Naik to present at the 18th Intl Conference on Maharashtra, UT Austin, USA



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