

**ICHR Mourns for the Sad Demise of
Padma Sri Professor M.K. Dhavalikar
[1930 – 2018]**



Professor M.K. Dhavalikar, a well-known archaeologist and historian of our country, passed away on 27 March 2018. Professor Dhavalikar was the **National Fellow** of ICHR and closely associated with the ICHR academic activities. He served as *Editor* for the Third Volume of *Encyclopaedia of Indian Archaeology*.

Professor M.K. Dhavalikar was born in Patas of Maharashtra state on 16 May 1930. He was very keen to pursue higher studies in ancient Indian history. He completed M.A. in Archaeology in 1958. Thereafter he obtained Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor H.D. Sankalia, for the thesis, *Life in Deccan as Reflected in the Ajanta Paintings* in 1964 at Deccan College Pune.

Professor Dhavalikar began his career as a *Technical Assistant* in the Archaeological Survey of India and he served there for a period of twelve years, between 1953 and 1965. Subsequently, he joined Nagpur University as a Lecturer and served for a short period from 1965 to 1967. Later in 1967, Professor Dhavalikar joined Deccan College, Pune as a Reader in Archaeology and became Professor (1982 to 1990). Between 1985 and 1990, Professor Dhavalikar held the position of Director, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune.

Indian archaeology owes a lot to Professor Dhavalikar for his untiring research efforts and publications on Indian archaeology and ancient history. He undertook number of archaeological excavations at sites in different parts of India, namely, Kayatha, Kuntasi, Inamgaon, Ambari (near Guwahati, Assam), Apegaon, Paunar, etc. And he regularly brought out the **Reports** of the excavations, namely, *Excavations at Kayatha 1975* [with Ansari Z.D.]; *Paunar Excavations 1967* [with S.B. Deo]; *Kuntasi- a Harappan Emporium on West Coast 1995*; [with Raval M.R., and Chitalwala Y.M.]; *Excavations at Inamgaon Volume 1, Part 1* [H.D. Sankalia and Z. A. Ansari]; *Excavations at Kaothe* [with Vasant Sinde and S. Atre]. *Apegaon Excavations: Report of the Excavation at Apegaon*, [with S.B. Deo, & Z.A. Ansari]

He was an erudite scholar of ancient Indian history and culture and was well-known for his oratorical skills. He had a good command over Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit Marathi, English, languages and carried out his research work very meticulously. He has published number of **books** on various aspects of Indian archaeology and history. Some important titles are:

- *Mathura Art in Baroda Museum* [with V.L. Devkar], [Dept. Of Museums, Govt. Of Gujarat in 1971];
- *Ajanta- A Cultural Study* [Poona University in 1974]
- *Masterpieces of Indian Terracottas* [Taraporevala Publishers, Mumbai, 1977]
- *Late Hinayana Caves of Western India* [Deccan College, Pune in 1984]
- *The First Farmers of the Deccan* [Ravish Publioshers, Pune in 1988]
- *Cultural Imperialism: Indus Civilization in Western India* [Books and Books Publishers, Delhi 1995]
- *Indian Protohistory* [Books & Books Publishers, Delhi in 1997]
- *Historical archaeology of India* [Books & Books Publishers, Delhi in 1999]
- *Environment and Culture: a Historical Perspective* [Bhandarkar Oriental Institute, Pune in 2002]
- *Archaeology of Western India* [B.J. Institute of Learning & Research, Ahmedabad in 2003]
- *The Aryans: Myth and Archaeology* [Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, Delhi in 2007]

- *Ellora- [Monumental Legacy Series]* Oxford University Press in 2005
- *Studies in Indian Archaeology - a felicitation volume to Prof. H.D. Sankalia* [with Prof. S. B. Deo].
- *Sanchi- [Monumental Legacy Series]* Oxford University Press in 2009.
- *Pre-History of India* [A Comprehensive History of India Vol. 1] [Manohar Publishers, Delhi in 2013],
- *An Illustrated Prakrit Manuscript of Paryuṣaṇa-Kalpasūtra* [with S.L.Bapat, R.M. Poddar] Bhandarkar Oriental Institute, Pune in 2011.
- *Cultural History of Mumbai* [Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai in 2016].

He also wrote general history books in Marathi namely:

- *Aryachaya Shodhata* [Rajahnsa Prakashan]
- *Maharashtrachi Kulkatha* [Story of Maharashtra], [Rajahnsa Prakashan].
- *Bharatachi Kulkatha* [Story of India] [Rajahnsa Prakashan].
- *Kone Eke Kali Sindhu Sanskriti- Pratihask* [Rajahnsa Prakashan]

Professor Dhavalikar was in receipt of *Ravindernath Tagore National Fellowship in Cultural Research*, offered by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in 2010. He was honoured by various prestigious awards including the **Padma Shri award**, the fourth Highest Civilian award given by the President of India, in 2011. He was also a **Fellow of Mumbai Branch of Royal Asiatic Society** in 2010.

The ICHR Chairman Professor Arvind Jamkhedkar; the Council Members and Staff expressed their grief for the loss of historian Professor Dhavalikar, and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to Professor Dhavalikar's family.

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****** Photo Courtesy: Dr. Veena Mushrif Tripathy.