



# Zakir Husain Delhi College

(University of Delhi)

under the aegis of

Vivekanand Study Centre

announces



## National Conference

on

**Leadership and Legacy: The Visionary Administration of Ahilyabai Holkar as a Model for Women's Empowerment**

**16th January, 2025**

### CONCEPT NOTE

This conference aims to explore the life, leadership, and administration of one of India's most revered queens, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar (1725-1795), the ruler of the Malwa kingdom in central India. Her reign, marked by a unique blend of compassion, administrative acumen, and spiritual wisdom, represents a historic example of enlightened governance and women's empowerment. Ahilyabai's leadership transcended the challenges of her time, making her not only a cherished ruler but also a timeless role model for gender equality and good governance.

### WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

PG students, Researcher scholars, and Academicians.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Registration starts: **11-11-2024**
- Registration with an abstract of 200 words: **11-11-2024**
- Notification of acceptance: **31-12-2024**



## ABOUT THE COLLEGE



Zakir Husain Delhi College is one of the leading colleges of the University of Delhi, imparting higher education in Science, Commerce, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The college has the distinction of existence well before the University of Delhi. It carries within itself a history of nearly 300 years as an institution of learning. The college was affiliated with Delhi University in 1925 and became one of its constituent degree colleges. Following the partition of India, the Delhi College was revived as a non-denominational institution in 1948. It was renamed Zakir Husain College in 1975 and managed by the Zakir Husain Memorial Trust under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India. The present Chairman of Zakir Husain Memorial Trust is our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and the Vice-Chairman is Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Today, the college runs undergraduate courses in 21 disciplines and offers 17 postgraduate courses. The solid academic structure is complemented by various societies, giving students a platform to nurture their talents in drama, music, dance, art, and sports. The college has state-of-the-art laboratories, ICT-enabled classrooms, a fully automated, air-conditioned, rich library, and a centrally air-conditioned auditorium. Besides well-maintained lawns and parks, the college houses ecological spaces for students and herbal, rose, and rock gardens, which are well-recognized in the Annual Flower Show of Delhi University. Students can also explore their caliber and interest in outdoor and indoor games. By January 2025, a new nine-story building with bright classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories, and IT infrastructure will be added to the current infrastructure as an expansion facility.

## THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Ahilyabai Holkar ruled the Malwa kingdom from 1767 to 1795, following the death of her husband, Khanderao Holkar, and later her father-in-law, Malhar Rao Holkar. At a time when female leadership was rare and often contested, Ahilyabai defied social norms by ascending to the throne and becoming one of the most respected rulers in Indian history. Her tenure as queen and administrator is often noted for its inclusivity, innovative policies, promotion of justice, and relentless efforts toward improving the welfare of her people.

In the 18th century, the Indian subcontinent was engulfed in a state of political instability, with regional conflicts and imperial struggles on the rise. It was against this backdrop that Ahilyabai Holkar carved out a distinct legacy of peaceful administration and visionary governance, offering an alternative to the turbulent politics of her time. Her rule can be seen as an exemplar of decentralized, community-based leadership that prioritized economic growth, cultural preservation, and social reform.

## Apply Now

The registration process may be completed using the link below or by scanning the given code. <https://forms.gle/2vATikJPvwj9kEbeA>



### REGISTRATION FEE:

Research Scholar/Students: Rs. 500/-  
Academician/Faculties: Rs. 1000/-

The registration fee will be paid online with the following details:

Name of the Account Holder: ZHDC Boys Fund  
Bank Name: Canara Bank  
Account Number: 8668101000002  
IFSC Code: CNRB0008668



**Contact: [vsc@zh.du.ac.in](mailto:vsc@zh.du.ac.in)**

## OBJECTIVES

In today's world, where gender equality and women's leadership are topics of intense global discussion, Ahilyabai Holkar stands as a remarkable historical figure whose life and reign offer valuable lessons. Her leadership was not only pragmatic and visionary but also rooted in the empowerment of women and marginalized communities. She serves as an enduring role model for modern women striving for leadership in political, social, and economic arenas.

Ahilyabai's example emphasizes that women's empowerment is not merely about assuming positions of power; it is about using that power responsibly for the welfare of the people. She showed that women, when given the opportunity, could excel in leadership roles traditionally reserved for men. Her ability to balance the responsibilities of governance with compassion and humility makes her an exemplary figure for women leaders today.

This conference seeks to explore Ahilyabai Holkar's contributions to governance, her legacy of women's empowerment, and how her life offers insights into leadership models relevant to contemporary society.

## PUBLICATION

All full papers sent for the conference will be subjected to a peer-reviewing process (guidelines will be sent later) and will be published in the special issue of the online journal *Samanjasya*.

**Venue:** Zakir Husain Delhi College (University of Delhi), JLN Marg, Delhi, 110002  
e-mail: [vsc@zh.du.ac.in](mailto:vsc@zh.du.ac.in)

Nearest Metro Stations: New Delhi (Yellow Line), Barakhamba Road (Blue Line), Delhi Gate (Violet Line)

## CONFERENCE THEMES

- **Ahilyabai Holkar's Administrative Model: Governance and Policy Innovation:** A detailed analysis of her governance style, focusing on her policies in agriculture, infrastructure, and fiscal management.
- **Women in Leadership: Lessons from Ahilyabai Holkar's Reign:** A reflection on how her leadership challenges gender norms and what modern women leaders can learn from her example.
- **Ahilyabai Holkar's Social Reforms: Gender, Caste, and Class in 18th-Century India:** Exploration of her inclusive social policies and their impact on marginalized communities.
- **The Role of Religion and Spirituality in Ahilyabai Holkar's Administration:** A study on how her religious beliefs influenced her policies and promoted interfaith harmony.
- **Fiscal Prudence and Public Welfare in Ahilyabai Holkar's Kingdom:** A focus on her economic policies and how she utilized state resources for the public welfare.
- **Ahilyabai Holkar and the Cultural Renaissance of Malwa:** How her patronage of the arts and architecture contributed to the cultural flourishing in Malwa.
- **Ahilyabai Holkar and the Ethics of Governance:** Exploration of her ethical principles and how they shaped her approach to governance.
- **Women's Empowerment in Pre-modern India: A Case Study of Ahilyabai Holkar:** Comparative studies of women rulers in Indian history, with Ahilyabai as a central figure.
- **Ahilyabai Holkar's Legacy: Cultural, Political, and Social Impact Beyond Malwa:** An analysis of her contributions to India's religious, cultural, and political landscape.
- **Comparative Leadership: Ahilyabai Holkar and Other Women Leaders in Global History:** Cross-cultural comparisons of Ahilyabai with female rulers and leaders across the world.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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