

H.K. Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies
Ph.D. Research Topics and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

S.No.	Name	Topic	Relevant SDG(s)
1	Ms. Shaik Sana	Electrification of Hyderabad State under the Asaf Jahis (1920–1950)	SDG 7 – Affordable & Clean Energy The study of the historical development of electricity infrastructure provides an important historical perspective on energy access, technological development and infrastructure formation. SDG 7.1 specifically concerns access to electricity.
2	Ms. Firdaus Jabin	Colonial Governmentality of Lock Hospitals in the Secunderabad Cantonment Region (1858–1947)	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being and SDG 5 – Gender Equality Research on the Lock Hospital—its establishment under cantonment/contagious-disease regulations, admission registers, inspection routines, and correspondence—advances transparent, evidence-based histories of colonial public-health governance and military discipline. It is a key site for gender-history and for framing contemporary policies that avoid victim-blaming and protect bodily autonomy.
3	Mr. Salil Kader	Healing and Medicine in Medieval Deccan (14th–17th Centuries)	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well Being and SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Studying medieval Deccani therapeutics (Unani-Tibb, Ayurveda, local folk practices) addresses how these systems showcase traditional medicine strategies now promoted under WHO/UNESCO frameworks. Integrating medieval medical manuscripts, case-notes, and knowledge of pharmacy, surgery, technical/vocational training of hakim/ayurvedic practitioners strengthens relevant skills for decent work in the health sector.

4	Lt. K. John Milton	Cultural Identities of Proto-Historic Deccan in the Lower Godavari Valley of Telangana	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities & Communities The research on Megaliths of the Deccan contributes to documentation and understanding of cultural identity and heritage. SDG 11.4 specifically calls for protecting and safeguarding cultural and natural heritage. UNESCO identifies heritage as an important component of sustainable development.
5	Lt. K. Krishna Priya	The Role of Women in Telangana Statehood Movement (1956–2014)	SDG 5 – Gender Equality The topic directly examines women's participation in a major political and social movement. SDG 5.5 calls for women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership in political, economic and public life.
6	Ms. Tahniyath Begum	Contextualizing Core-Periphery Connections between Nizam and the Samasthans (1911–1948)	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions The study examines political-administrative relationships, power structures and governance. These provide a historical perspective for understanding institutional structures and inequalities. SDG 16.6 focuses on effective, accountable and transparent institutions.
7	Mr. Sarish Kumar Irukulla	Tax, Taxation and Tax Administration in the Deccan	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Studying early forms of fiscal administration, bureaucratic accountability, land-revenue settlements, crop-rates, and customs levies generates a debate on the revenue systems funded infrastructure (irrigation, roads, mints) and market regulations. Since tax systems are closely tied to fair, effective, and transparent institutions, normative rates and exemptions/concessions give a deeper insight into the subject.

8	Ms. Arunima Shankar	Water Management Techniques in the Deccan: Stepwells of Telangana	SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation UNESCO and the UN describe ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Deccan’s ancient and medieval water techniques such as tanks, stepwells, reservoirs, recharge structures, and rainwater harvesting support water storage, conservation in water-scarce regions. This is the basic premise which makes the topic a strong historical example of sustainable water practices in Telangana.
9	Mr. Sajjad Ahmed	A Historical Analysis of Persian Culture in Kashmir and Deccan	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities Persian culture in the Deccan and Kashmir can be studied through various cultural forms--architecture, literature, language, court culture, art, and heritage preservation. These themes fit UNESCO’s emphasis on safeguarding cultural heritage and historical identity and connect it to communities and local development.
10	MD Majahid	Recreation, Leisure and Sports in the Hyderabad State (19th–20th Century)	SDG 3 – Good Health & Well-being Historical study of recreation, leisure and sports contributes to understanding physical activity, social well-being and community life. SDG 3.4 includes promotion of mental health and well-being. The topic can also relate to public recreational spaces under SDG 11.7.
11	Mr. K. Gopi Varaprasad Rao	Unearthing the Megaliths: Archaeological Insights from the Godavari Basin, Telangana	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 15 – Life on Land The megalithic culture of the Godavari basin calls for strengthening efforts to “protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.” Megalithic sites—such as dolmens, cairn circles, and burial chambers constitute tangible archaeological heritage that, when conserved and interpreted responsibly, can

			support heritage-led development, community identity, and inclusive local planning.
12	Ms. Sumaira Begum	Environmental Governance under the Nizams of Hyderabad (1724–1948)	SDG 13 – Climate Action The study examines historical approaches to the governance, regulation and management of environmental and natural resources under the Nizams, providing insights into the evolution of environmental institutions and practices.
13	Ms. Mariyam Saba	History of Hyderabad Contingent: Military Identity in 19th–20th Century Deccan	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions The Hyderabad Contingent’s battle honours, cantonment landscapes, and regimental narratives are part of Hyderabad’s modern military-heritage ecosystem, useful for peace-and-governance histories, public access to information, and heritage education. The Contingent’s material heritage qualifies as modern military heritage requiring documentation, conservation, and adaptive reuse within city planning.
14	Mr. Sujay Rathan	Sacred Landscape and Architectural Heritage of the Kakatiyas: A Study in Contemporary Knowledge and Technology of Ramappa Temple	UNESCO SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities and UNESCO SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure The technology and contemporary knowledge associated with the Ramappa temple, Palampet aligns with “protection and safeguarding the world’s cultural and natural heritage.” As a UNESCO World Heritage property (inscribed in 2021), it is celebrated for its innovative “floating brick” technology, seismic-resilient stone joinery, and sophisticated craft knowledge. The temple is a living case for heritage-led innovation, conservation science, and skills transmission.

15	Ms. Smita Bellur	Syncretic Poetry in Deccan (16th – 20th CE)	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities & Communities The central concept of syncretic poetry involves the interaction and blending of different cultural, linguistic and religious traditions in the Deccan. Studying and documenting this literary heritage contributes to the preservation, interpretation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage as per SDG 11.4.
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