

# My City My Heritage MY HYDERABAD



## **My City My Heritage**

### **MY HYDERABAD**

Initiated by Sahapedia in partnership with the InterGlobe Foundation, the 'My City, My Heritage' project is focused on rediscovering the culture and heritage potential of Indian cities. The project entails exploration, documentation and dissemination of varied heritage and cultural aspects of 10 locations in India, including through the publication of these booklets. As a part of the project, a number of heritage walks, museum tours, baithaks and engaging educational activities for school students and general audiences were organised between 2020 and 2022. The locations covered in the first year were Ahmedabad, Indore, Prayagraj, Goa and Shillong and the locations covered in the second year are Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Nashik.

This booklet documents a mix of well-known as well as offbeat subjects from among Hyderabad's cultural heritage. We hope you enjoy the articles, self-guided walks, museum listings and listicles within and that they enrich your experience of this remarkable city.

### **More about the project**

The My City, My Heritage project caters to a wide user group, including but not limited to children with disabilities and from financially and socially marginalised backgrounds, culture enthusiasts, scholars, heritage professionals and tourists. The project aims at creating opportunities, building interest and capacity of young local scholars through collaborative research, documentation and mapping. An equally important and compelling goal is to create fresh avenues for residents, local administration and local businesses to re-engage with their cities' living cultural heritage and renew old as well as create new relationships of participation, community and ownership within these places. This booklet is a small step in that direction.

More detailed versions of all pieces covered in this editorial and more information about each city can be found on our website. This specially crafted cultural mapping portal features an interactive map, through which you can explore many other locations and themes documented by Sahapedia over the years. Scan this barcode to visit our portal and get access to our entire encyclopaedia.



# **My City My Heritage MY HYDERABAD**

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# FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that we present to you this compendium of booklets showcasing some of the lesser known and lost treasures of select cities in our country.

InterGlobe Foundation is committed to protecting and restoring the heritage and culture of India. We started this journey about seven years back by supporting the restoration and upkeep of the famous Khan-i-Khanan or Rahim's tomb in New Delhi. Since then, we have taken on a few more large and small restoration projects, which, while directly reviving these monuments, also contribute to the lives of craftspeople and neighbouring communities. Another project we have supported is the documentation and dissemination of a lost dance form.

'My City, My Heritage' is the first large project that we have launched to promote the intangible heritage of our country. We are fortunate to have found an able partner in Sahapedia. As part of My City, My Heritage, we endeavour to curate content and activities around both tangible (like museums) and intangible cultural heritage (like food, music, people, dances, fairs and festivals).

We also hope that in each of the project cities, a group of concerned citizens, institutions and government will come together to carry forward this beautiful curation of their city's history.

The recent disruption of our lives by the COVID pandemic has further brought to light the importance of the outdoors and local economies. This project will ably contribute to both.

We hope these booklets will entice you to discover these cities and their treasures and share it with others. We welcome more organizations, individuals and researchers to build on the repository created here.

I am grateful to Sahapedia and my colleagues at the InterGlobe group of companies for making this project a reality.

With best wishes,

**Rohini Bhatia**

Chairperson

InterGlobe Foundation

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# HYDERABAD

## హైదరాబాద్



The Telangana High Court stands at the southern bank of River Musi in Hyderabad.



Hyderabad has grown to become a cultural and technological hub.

A city with a glorious past, home to over nine million residents and the capital of Telangana, Hyderabad is spread over 650 sq kms. With a skyline ranging from hillocks to historic minarets, from ancient gateways to the modern-day skyscrapers in Hyderabad, it is truly a metropolitan city.

The foundation of Hyderabad was laid on the banks of the river Musi by *Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah* to decongest the former capital of the *Qutb Shahi* kingdom of Golconda. Replacing the old capital, over the years, Hyderabad rose to prominence as a centre of commerce owing to the production of diamonds, pearls, arms and printed fabrics. This fame also attracted the *Mughal Empire*. *Aurangzeb* successfully raided the city in 1687, after his first raid ended in a failure.

Within four decades however, the control of the city went to the *Asaf Jahi* dynasty, originally governors under the Mughals, referred to as the Nizams, who continued to rule the city until 1948 before acceding to the Republic of India. The importance of Hyderabad's cultural and economic prowess





Chowmahalla Palace used to be the seat of Nizams in Hyderabad.

wasn't lost then either. Prominent economist and politician Dr B.R. Ambedkar even suggested making Hyderabad the second capital of India in his work titled 'Thoughts on Linguistic States'.

Today, Hyderabad has grown to become a cultural and technological hub. After several years of agitation, Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in 2014, to form Telangana with Hyderabad as its capital. Several academic institutions like Osmania University, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU now TEFLU) and the University of Hyderabad enrich



The Taj Falaknuma Palace is located in the restored 1894 palace of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

the city's intellectual heritage. Hyderabad is known for its cuisine, be it Haleem, Irani Chai, Osmania Biscuits, Dosas, or the world-famous Hyderabadi Biryani. One can find many parks and lakes across the city, in addition to several sites of historical significance like the Golconda Fort and the Charminar. A visit to the city and its historic pockets is a must for anyone seeking to explore the Deccan.

■ SUHAAS PUTTA, ASHUTOSH SHARMA AND RITUPARNA PAL



Charminar and Mecca Masjid are important landmarks in the city.

# Golconda Fortified Area

Khair Complex, Ibrahim Bagh

Opening Hours: Daily | 9 am - 5.30 pm

Established: 1143

Originally a mud structure called 'Mankal' built by the *Kakatiya* rulers of Warangal in the 12th century, Golconda was fortified between 14th-17th century CE under the *Bahmani* reign and the Qutub Shahi dynasty. The term Golla-Konda roughly translates to 'Shepherd Hill' in Telugu. Local folklore suggests that the hill was discovered by a shepherd who came across an idol on the rocky hill. Thereafter, the Kakatiya rulers used this fort as their stronghold. The Fort would later fall into the hands of the Musunuri Dynasty and further handed down to the Bahmani Sultanate by *Musunuri Kapaya Nayak*.

When Quli Qutb Shah, a Governor of Turkish Origin declared his independence from the Mughals in 1518 CE, he established his capital in Golconda. Owing to several

diamond mines nearby in Kollur, Parotala and Atkur, Golconda soon became the hub of the diamond trade in India. Many acclaimed diamonds such as the Koh-i-noor, and the

Hope Diamond were sourced from the

mines here. A few miles away from here, the Qutb Shahi dynasty would soon establish a new city called Hyderabad.

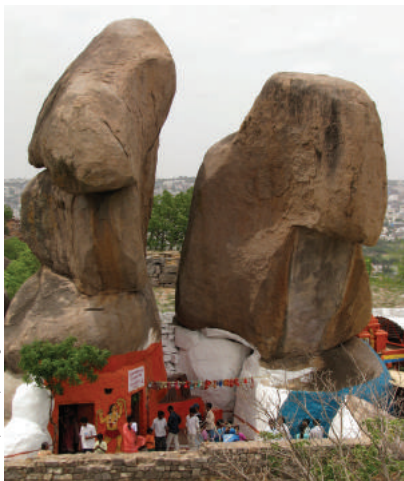
At about 400 ft on a granite hill, Golconda Fort complex consists of several temples, mosques, palaces, halls, apartments and four district forts. Eight gargantuan gates provided unparalleled protection



Interior details at Golconda Fort.

**At the Bala Hisar Gate of the Fort, is the famed Clapping Portico with its unique acoustics.**

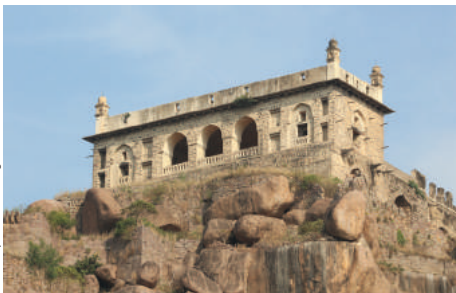




The fort is at about 400 ft on a granite hill.

for the inhabitants. Within its premises, the Fort has 15 to 18 ft high walls, with entrances protected by huge gates with iron spikes. Important destinations within the fort include Khilwat, Dad Mahal, Nagina Bagh, Qutb Shahi Tombs and Ibrahim Bagh Mosque, among others. Being the most impregnable fort in the history of Deccan, the Fort could be captured only with treachery. The eastern most gate of the Fort was opened by the traitor *Abdullah Khan Panni* for the Mughal Army, and since it led to the overthrow of the Fort, Aurangzeb named it 'Fateh' Darwaza. A beautiful view of the inner fort and the water body called Langar Houz can be seen from the top of the Fort on the Fateh Darwaza.

At the Bala Hisar Gate of the Fort, is the famed Clapping Portico with its unique acoustics. The gate was engineered so that a clap under the arch at the gate could be heard at the pinnacle of the pavilion located farther up in the Fort. This served as a method to convey messages and make announcements. The gate also has *Tel ka kotha* on the top, a mechanism for hot oil to be poured on invaders. The Fort also has several cannons from different periods of history, such as Fateh



The Balahisar Baradari is located on the top of Golconda Fort.



The fort complex houses four district forts.

Rahber and Azdaha Paika used by Aurangzeb's army for capturing the Fort and Qila Kusha (Fort Opener), to name a few. Other attractions within the Fort include the bodyguards' barracks, camel stable and three water tanks, all of 12 metres deep, which once formed part of the intricate water system at the fort.

The Fort today has seen many modifications and renovations, some of which were widely protested against. The construction of a golf course was permitted, which overlapped with the Naya Qila area of the Fort, and despite several protests, the project went ahead, changing the landscape of the area. With the passage of time, the allure of the Fort has only increased, and as a result, several new installations have been added, such as a light and sound show.

# Hussain Sagar lake

Tank Bund Rd

**Opening Hours:** Daily | 8:am – 10 pm

**Established:** 1563

Hyderabad has hundreds of lakes, most of them dating between the Kakatiya period and the Asaf Jahi period. A man made reservoir, the Hussain Sagar was dug up in 1563 CE. Originally a source of water, it later became a recreational space too. Initiated on the orders of *Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah*, it was named after his son-in-law Hussain Shah Wali who designed the project.

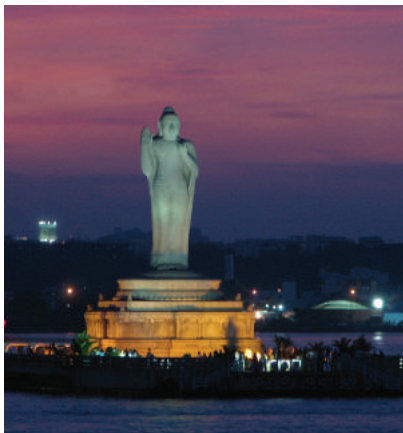


There are several recreational gardens around the lake.



Several statues and memorials stand at the periphery of the lake.

Several other landmarks around the lake can be explored on foot, like the Indira Park and the Lumbini park.



A large Buddha statue in white granite stands within the Lake.

There are several landmarks, and recreational spaces around the lake. A large buddha statue in white granite stands within the lake. Towards the north of the lake is the Sanjeevaiah Park, named after the former chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh. On the opposite end, one can explore the NTR gardens named after another former chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh, N.T. Rama Rao. Several other landmarks around the lake can be explored on foot, like the Indira Park and the Lumbini park. Other landmarks include: Indira Gandhi Statue, Love Hyderabad installation, Flag Monument, the Jalavihar Waterpark, the PV Gyan Bhoomi etc. Located nearby is Saidani Ma's Tomb, a protected monument (by Heritage Telangana) built during the rule of the Asaf Jahi dynasty. The Birla Mandir, built in white marble, is also close by. Several statues and memorials stand at the periphery of the lake, dedicated to important Telugu personalities like *Rani Rudrama Devi*. A fascinating anecdote associated with the lake is that the first truce between the Mughals and the Qutb Shahis of Golconda was negotiated on its banks.

Apart from enjoying boat rides, visitors can also spot migratory birds here, even though

Photo by Alish Bennett, via Wikimedia Commons.

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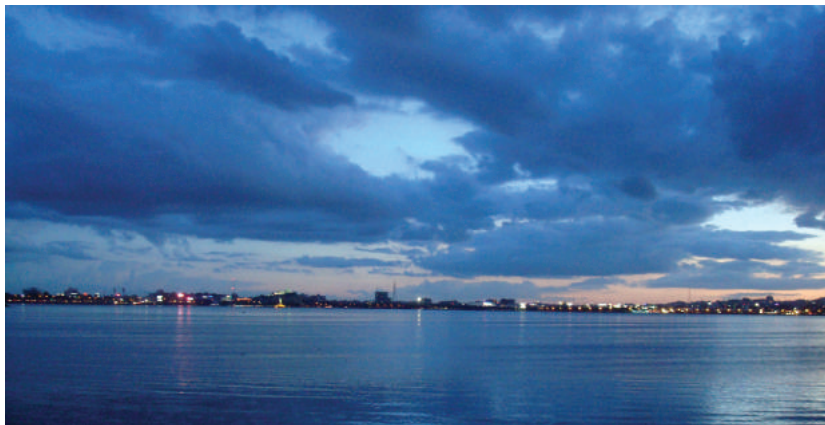


Photo by Cephas 405, via Wikimedia Commons.

Hussain Sagar was dug up in 1563 CE.

their number has reduced owing to pollution. A large part of the lake is bordered by the famous Necklace Road which is a tree-lined, prominent promenade. There are several cafes and restaurants along the road, like the Chocolate Room Bistro, Madras Coffee House, Minerva Coffee Shop, etc.

The lake today faces serious existential threats, primarily due to pollution and encroachments.

■ SUHAAS PUTTA AND ASHUTOSH SHARMA



Photo by Shrichandray, via Wikimedia Commons.

It is said that the first truce between the Mughals and the Qutb Shahis was negotiated on the banks of Hussain Sagar.

# Koti Women's College

Koti Main Road, Essamiya Bazaar, Kachiguda

Established: 1924

Apart from the iconic *Charminar* and the famed palaces of the Asaf Jahi dynasty, Hyderabad has a legion of heritage structures, some now housing public institutions. Commissioned in 1803, the building currently housing Koti Women's College earlier served as the British Residency at Hyderabad. It was designed by Lt. Samuel Russel of Madras Engineers.

Unlike the dominant *Indo-Saracenic* style of architecture seen in other built heritage sites from Hyderabad, the imposing structure of Koti College has a distinct *neoclassical* facade. Standing on forty ft high *corinthian* pillars, it welcomes visitors with its majestic porch. There is a grand *darbar hall*, with an intricately designed ceiling and *parquet* floor with inlaid wood. The campus has three arched gateways, one of them named after Queen Victoria, referred to as the Empress Gate, overlooking the Musi river. The entire campus is spread over 42 acres. Recently, 53 heritage structures have been found within the erstwhile Residency complex, some of which require urgent renovation.

The building received fresh attention after



The College accommodates about 4000 students today.

**The campus has three arched gateways, one of them named after Queen Victoria, referred to as the Empress Gate, overlooking the Musi river.**

the release of William Dalrymple's book *The White Mughals* published in 2004, which revolves around James Achilles Kirkpatrick, the first inhabitant of the building and Khair-un-Nisa whom he loved. It has also received attention from the ASI and the World Monuments Fund, which jointly restored parts of the building, like the impressive Darbar Hall. The Hall has one of the most impressive papier mache ceilings in the country with 650 panels, gilded sections imported from London and impressive chandeliers. The British Residency building was often the site for hatching conspiracies against the Nizam and the state.

The Women's College was moved to this location at Koti in 1949 and was granted autonomous status in 1988. The College accommodates about 4000 students today offering several combinations of undergraduate degrees, and close to 13 postgraduate programmes along with vocational courses.

While the Darbar Hall has been restored, several heritage structures that are part of the Residency await similar attention. Conservation activists hope the recent elevation of the college to a University will hasten the process.



14 The imposing structure of Koti College has a distinct neoclassical facade.

■ SUHAAS PUTTA AND ASHUTOSH SHARMA



# Lamakaan

Off Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Opposite GVK One

**Opening Hours:** Daily | 12 pm - 8 pm

**Established:** 2010

Located in the Banjara hills locality, Lamakaan, meaning a 'house without boundaries' in Arabic, revolutionised the concept of open social spaces in Hyderabad. While Lamakaan started functioning in 2010, the journey to create the space started in 1972. In just over a decade since its opening, Lamakaan has created a mark for itself in the cultural history of Hyderabad.

The building was a residential property of Mr. M. Hasan. After his passing, the property was handed down to his nephew, Ashhar Farhan. It was Ashhar, and his wife Humera along with like-minded friends Elahe Hiptool, a film producer, and Biju Mathew, a professor in the United States of America, who established Lamakaan. They modelled the centre after the famous *Prithvi Theatre* in Mumbai. While the building was remodelled to suit its new purpose, it still carries photos of the late M. Hasan, as a tribute. The exterior of the building wraps around several natural rocks, making the 5000 sq. yard venue feel larger than it really is. Post the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns, days start here at 12 pm and go on till 8 pm. Workshops, art exhibitions, plays, concerts, movie screenings, photo exhibitions, book launches and even music classes are held regularly. Actors like Ratna Pathak Shah, Nagesh Kukunoor, and musicians like Warsi Brothers, Ateeq Hussain Khan, and several others have performed here. The venue has seen several protests while staging controversial plays in the past, but have remained a sanctuary for cultural and artistic expression. Moreover, when the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation issued a notice to shut down the space, citing complaints of nuisance, within hours, there were several online petitions



Photo by P. Jeganathan, via Wikipedia Commons.

Workshops, exhibitions, plays, concerts, movie screenings, etc are held here.



Photo by P. Jeganathan, via Wikipedia Commons.

Lamakaan means a 'house without boundaries.'

demanding the repeal of the order, and even the IT. Minister of the State got involved to ensure that the issue was resolved immediately.

Organisations can host their events here for about Rs 500 (for free events) and up to Rs 2,500 (for paid events) a day. The daily upkeep of the venue depends heavily on the canteen, Café @ Lamakaan. Their *samosas* and *nimbu paani*, along with buttermilk, *chai*, coffee, *mirchi bhajji*, *dahi vada*, *anda bonda*, and *lassi* keep the customers coming back. In-house rules require that ticket prices for any event here cannot exceed Rs 200. All events organised at Lamakaan have to be open to all and cannot be invitation-only. Additionally, events with government or corporate sponsorship are not allowed. Speaking about its future, the founders have hinted at a foray into the digital space to further enhance the reach of Lamakaan.

■ SUHAAS PUTTA ASHUTOSH SHARMA  
AND RITUPARNA PAL

# Moazzam Jahi Market

Mozamjahi market, Hyderabad

**Opening Hours:** Daily | 8 am - 10.30 pm

**Established:** 1935



Photo by Mihir Vora.

Moazzam Jahi is a popular fruit market, 3km from the Charminar.

A popular fruit market, three kilometres from the Charminar, Moazzam Jahi Market was modelled on the western concept of a universal store where one could buy everything under one roof. The Market is named after the Seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan's second son, Nawab Moazzam Jah Bahadur, the then president of the City Improvement Board. A massive sum of Rs. 4 lakhs was spent for the construction of this market, the purpose of which was to decongest the other three markets in the area; Mehboob Chowk Bazaar, Residency Bazaar and Begum Bazaar. Planned in 1932, the Market with 120 shops spanning over 1.77 acres, was completed in 1935.



Photo by Mihir Vora.



Stand out features of the market building are its white domes and granite structures.

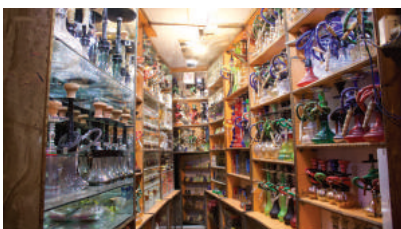
Stand out features of the Indo-Saracenic style market building are its white domes and granite structures. The Market has been given a triangular design with an impressive clock tower at the entrance. The arcades are topped with a flat, terraced roof supported by *jack arches*. The terrace can be accessed by spiral staircases.

Originally a market for food grains and general merchandise, it soon began to sell almost everything under the sun, including vegetables, flowers, earthen pots, dry fruit, ice-cream, paan, hookah, ittar, at wholesale rates. Even arms and ammunition were sold here under the Nizam's governance, although the stores have been replaced with chicken and mutton retail shops.

One of the oldest shops here is of Shivram Peshawari, which stocks the best dry fruits in Hyderabad. Guchchi, or Kashmiri mushrooms available here, was known for being a great delicacy. However the fruit market was shifted to Kothapet market in the 1980s and some of the other shops to Begum Bazaar and Osmangunj. Initially a part of the Moazzam



An ittar store at the Mozzam Jahi market.



A hookah store at the Mozzam Jahi market.

Jahi Market, the Jambagh flower market was also shifted to Gudimalkapur market in 2009.

For many young Hyderabadis now, the Market is best known for the natural, locally made ice-creams sold by Famous Ice Cream. Opened in 1951 by Mohammed Haleem, the handmade ice creams are prepared using fresh fruit pulp, milk and sugar. Mango, litchi, sapota, custard apple, fig and muskmelon are some of the most popular flavours. Apart from this store, ice-cream seers like Bilal, Gafoor and Shah are also sought after.

The Historic market structure has recently undergone a restoration by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department of Telangana State Government. Since then, there have been attempts to repurpose the market as a cultural hub. As a start, the courtyard of the Moazzam Market played host to the renowned Qadir Ali Baig Theatre Festival in 2021.

# Mecca Masjid

Charminar Rd, Charminar, Ghansi Bazaar

**Opening Hours:** Daily | 4 am - 9:30 pm

**Established:** 1693

The Mecca Masjid, the second largest Mosque in India, is located about 200 metres from Charminar. The construction of the mosque began under *Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah*, in 1614, and was completed under Emperor Aurangzeb in 1694, after his conquest of Golconda. It is believed that earth from the Islamic holy site of *Mecca* was used to make the bricks of the central arch of the Mosque. That is why the mosque came to be known as Mecca Masjid.

In the early 16th century, Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk, a Shi'a Turkmen from Persia, migrated to Delhi from modern day Iran with a few of his kin. He travelled to Deccan to trade horses, and soon joined the ranks of the Bahmani Sultanate who were the rulers of this region. The Sultanate, founded in 1347, was the first independent Islamic kingdom in the Deccan. After the Sultanate broke into smaller factions in 1518, Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk declared independence and laid the foundation stone of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty of Golconda.

According to local legends, Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah had invited religious elders, who never missed their daily prayers, to lay the foundation of the Mosque. Since no one came forward, the Sultan, who never missed his daily prayers since the age of 12, laid the foundation stone himself. Almost 8,000 workers were employed for the construction.

Constructed completely in dressed stone, the mosque has a high blocking wall on the western side for the *mehrab*, a prayer niche in the wall. *Mehrab* indicates the direction of the *Kaaba* in Mecca, determining the direction to face while praying. It can accommodate up to 10,000 worshippers. A room in the courtyard is believed to house a sacred relic of the *Prophet*.

The Mosque retained its prominence even under the rule of the Nizams. *Nizam Ali Khan*, was buried at the south end of the mosque, following his death in 1803. It continued to be the burial ground for the Nizams for more than a hundred years, until 1911, when *Mehboob Ali Khan* (fondly called Pasha) was buried. In 1914, a pavilion was built over the graves. This changed the main elevation of the mosque.

A stone's throw away from Charminar, the Mosque is often visited by tourists who visit the monument.

■ SUHAAS PUTTA AND ASHUTOSH SHARMA



Photo by Suraj Garg, via Wikipedia Commons.

# Numaish

Nampally Exhibition Grounds, Mangalhat, Nampally

**Opening Hours:** Monday to Friday | 9am - 5pm  
**Established:** 1938

Numaish, locally called 'The Exhibition', is an important part of Hyderabad's cultural identity. In the year 1938, 'Numaish' began as an annual event to promote locally made goods. Conceived by a group of graduates from Osmania University, the concept of Numaish Masnuat-e-Mulki, meaning 'Exhibition of the Local Products', was approved by the then Prime Minister of Hyderabad, Sir Akbar Hydari for a princely sum of Rs. 2.50. The first Numaish was inaugurated by the Seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan at the Public Gardens which lasted a period of ten days. The Nizam's support made the Numaish popular with the citizens and eventually the event extended to a month.

Initially, the exhibition simply displayed 100 stalls in venues such as public gardens. The 23-acre Exhibition Grounds near Nampally Railway Station came to be its permanent venue in 1946. Numaish initially started with products from small industries and businesses from districts like Aurangabad, Sholapur, Nanded, Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar in the erstwhile state of Hyderabad. During the Independence of India, in 1947 and 1948, the Exhibition was shelved, due to the increasing conflict between the Nizam's State and the Republic of India. However, after the annexation of the State of Hyderabad to India, the Exhibition resumed in 1949. The name of the exhibition was changed to All India Industrial Exhibition and was inaugurated by C. Rajagopalachari, the then Governor General of India. The Exhibition now covers businesses from across the country. In 2009 however, the Exhibition was renamed as Numaish once again.

One can enter the Exhibition through either Gandhi Bhavan Gate, Ajanta Gate or



Numaish Masnuat-e-Mulki means 'Exhibition of the Local Products'.



The major attraction at the exhibition is usually the innumerable garment shops.

Gosha Mahal Gate. Over 2,000 stalls adorn the exhibition and the major attractions are usually the innumerable garment shops that sell traditional Indian wear, mainly Kashmiri embroidered salwar suits and Lucknowi *chikankari* kurtis. Some of the other attractions include woodwork from Rajasthan, West Bengal and Mysuru. Also popular are the Rajasthani *Jootis*, Kozikhode *Halwa* from Kerala, and even dry fruits from Afghanistan.

While the tickets used cost 10 paise in 1938, it is Rs. 30 per ticket today. The exhibition has come a long way, providing free wi-fi and featuring a fully-functional food court with the presence of top eateries from across the city.



# Nehru Zoological Park

NH 44, Bahadurpura

**Opening Hours:** Tuesday - Sunday |

8:30 am - 5 pm

**Established:** 1963



The Nehru Zoological Park received Himalayan Black Bears from Sipahijala Zoo.

Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, is one of the first zoos in the Country to display animals in open moated enclosures. The Zoo was first opened to the public in October of 1963 at Bahadurpura, after its relocation from Nampally Public Gardens. Spread over a huge campus of 380 acres, the Zoo is over 50 years old, and is one of the largest zoos in India.

A high tree density complements the rich faunal diversity of the park. The main entrance is off National Highway 44. From the first roundabout, the primate park is towards south and nocturnal sections towards north, followed by the elephant park and the crocodiles section respectively. Then there are several specialty zones like the Walk-through

Aviary, the Reptile House, the Sparrow House, the Bear Safari, the Rhinoceros Park and the Deer Park.

Over the years, the Zoo has added more facilities. They established the Lion Safari Park in 1974, followed by the Nocturnal Animals House in 1982. Presently, the Zoo is home to animals of 140 species. It has also received several animals from other zoos such as Common Marmosets and Spoon Bills from the Alipore Zoo, Kolkata, Pig Tailed Macaque, Himalayan Black Bear and Leopard Cats from Sipahijala Zoo, Tripura and Mouse Deers from Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park, Tirupati.

The most popular segment is the Lion Safari wherein the visitors are taken in a van fenced with iron. The Dinosaur Park is especially popular with kids. The Nocturnal Animals

**Then there are several specialty zones like the Walk-through Aviary, the Reptile House, the Sparrow House, the Bear Safari, the Rhinoceros Park and the Deer Park.**







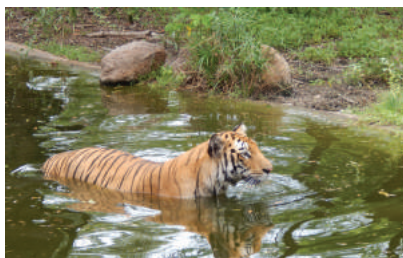
The Rhinoceros Park is one of the many speciality zones at the Park.



The Reptile House is one of the many speciality zones at the Park.



Various facilities have been introduced to ease traveling within the premises.



A tiger at the Nehru Zoological park.

enclosure uses different technology driven tools to regulate light and keep the animals active. The lights are gradually dimmed during the day to simulate nighttime, so that the visitors can see them in their natural habitat. At night, the lights are brightened to allow them to rest.

The Zoo Administration has introduced bicycles for hire to make traveling within the Zoo easier. Battery-operated golf carts are also available for visitors to hire. In the face of criticism, the Zoo has taken up several conservation activities to help rehabilitate animals in stressed areas, and help create enclosures for breeding populations of endangered species like the critically endangered white-backed vultures.

# Osman Sagar

## Gandipet Lake

**Opening Hours:** Daily 9:30am - 5pm

**Established:** 1920

The Osman Sagar Lake, also known locally as the Gandipet Lake, is a man-made lake and dam over Isa, a tributary of the river Musi, that spans about 46 sq kms. It is the main water source to the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Located 20 km west on the outskirts of Hyderabad, the lake is surrounded by grasslands and parks on all sides.

The Osman Sagar Lake was constructed by the Seventh Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan, in 1920, to save the city from disastrous floods like the one in 1908. A noted engineer of the time, Sir Mokshagundam Vishvesvaraya took charge of the construction.

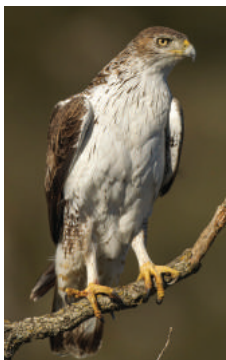
Mir Osman Ali Khan laid the foundation stone of Osman Sagar on March 23, 1913, and the reservoir filled up with water in 1920. Built with the expanding population of the city in mind, the reservoir could cater to the needs of 13 lakh people when the city's population was just four lakhs.

Sprawling gardens with colorful flora and vegetation towards the dam's lower sides make the place truly picturesque. The lake also offers boating facilities for visitors. Overlooking the lake, Sagar Mahal is a historical building, used by the Nizam of Hyderabad as a summer resort.

One can spot a variety of seasonal birds like Bonelli's Eagle, Booted Eagle, Black Kite, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Greater Spotted-eagle, Montagu's Harrier, Pallid Harrier, Eurasian Marsh-Harrier, Indian Spotted Eagle, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Steppe Eagle and Tawny Eagle among many others.



The Osman Sagar Lake was constructed to save the city from disastrous floods.



One can spot a variety of seasonal birds like Bonelli's Eagle around the lake.

Located on 60 acres of landscaped area at the Osman Sagar Lake is Ocean Park, the first theme park of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. A family amusement park, its main attractions are the toy train, helicopters, video games for the kids and a single loop roller coaster for adults. Another major attraction is Treasure Island. Though the ideal time to visit is post monsoon, visitors flock to the lake throughout the year.

Osman Sagar is a testament to the idea of Hyderabad as a City of Lakes. It is one of the few remaining lakes that still remind everyone of the foresight of those who came before us.

■ SUHAAS PUTTA AND ASHUTOSH SHARMA

# Purana Pul

Hussaini Alam Road

Established: 1578

The Purana Pul, or the old bridge is a *masonry arch bridge* constructed in 1578 by Ibrahim Qutb Shah, the fourth ruler of the kingdom of Golconda. Built over the river Musi, a tributary of Krishna, the bridge was the first one to be constructed in Hyderabad.

While the bridge served the practical purpose of connecting the banks of the River Musi, there are several popular legends around the structure. According to one, Prince Abu (later known as Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah) fell in love with a Hindu girl, Bhagmati, from the other bank of the river, in the village Chichlam. His father, Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah, decided to build the bridge so his son could cross the river safely to meet his lover. This legend gave the bridge its other popular name, Pyarana Pul. Another legend, disputed by historians, throws light on how Hyderabad got its name. Some believe that Bhagmati, whom Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah eventually married, took the name Hyder Mahal upon her marriage. The new capital city founded by



Photo by Dipti G.

The bridge now hosts a makeshift vegetable market.

Mohammed Quli was named after her.

The Purana Pul has 22 arches and is around 600 ft long and rises 54 m above the river bed. It has survived great floods like that of 1908 and still stands after periodic repairs. One end of the bridge has the Purana Pul Darwaza, which is one of the two surviving gateways to the old walled city of Hyderabad. Originally there are believed to have been 13 such gateways, built in 1724 by Mubariz Khan, the Mughal subedar, after the conquest of Golconda.

The bridge now is open for pedestrians only and also hosts a makeshift vegetable market.

■ SUHAAS PUTTA ASHUTOSH SHARMA  
AND RITUPARNA PAL



Photo by Aditya369, via Wikimedia Commons.

Puranapul is a masonry arch bridge constructed in 1578.

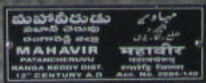


Photo by Bhaskaraidu, via Wikimedia Commons.



# Telangana State Archaeology Museum

5-10-193, I Floor, H A C A Bhavan, P G Road

**Opening Hours:** Saturday - Thursday | 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Established:** 1930

**Entry Fee:** Adults: Rs 10 for Adult, Children: Rs 5

**Facilities and Services:** Photography, Videography, Restroom, Drinking Water, Parking, Seating facilities

The Telangana State Archaeology Museum, the oldest museum in the city of Hyderabad, is located at Public Gardens, Nampally. It is the outcome of the last *Nizam's* efforts to preserve the rich history and heritage of the state and country during the British Rule.

In 1930, a museum was established in Public Gardens, Nampally. In 1952, the items displayed in that museum were shifted to the current building, under the supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Museum consists of various ancient artefacts which were excavated during the years around 1940. Later, works of various contemporary artists were also collected in the Museum. In 1968 the Museum was formally named AP State Museum and came under the jurisdiction of Andhra Pradesh Government. Currently it's called the Telengana State Archaeology Museum.

There are many galleries in the museum displaying captivating collections of stone sculptures, modern paintings, bronze works, manuscripts, different kinds of textiles etc. The Museum also boasts of unique collections like the copies of *Ajanta Paintings*, and is the only museum in possession of these. It also houses a separate gallery of Buddhist sculptures. The Museum has an extensive collection of Hindu sculptures from the *Chalukyan* period and the *Vijayanagara period*. The Museum's main attraction is a 2,353-year old Egyptian mummy, reportedly brought to Hyderabad by Nazir Nawaz Jung, the son-in-law of the sixth Nizam, Mir Mehboob Ali Khan, who had then donated it to the last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan. It was acquired for a sum of 1000 pounds. Recently



Photo by Dipti G.

The museum displays stone sculptures, modern paintings, bronze works, etc.



Photo by Dipti G.

The Museum consists of ancient artefacts excavated around 1940.

the mummy was restored from damages through expert intervention. A copy of the Holy Quran with the seal of Shahjahan, the Mughal Emperor, has also been kept here.

A popular tourist attraction, the Indo-Saracenic architecture of the Museum is also worth observing besides its collection.

# DIY Heritage Trail

## The built heritage of Abids

Abids is one of the oldest and most popular market areas of Hyderabad. It is home to some of the oldest buildings of the city, consisting of food joints, churches, colleges, schools, market complexes and book stores. This trail aims to be a guided tour through the myriad and diverse lanes of Abids.

**Starting Location:** Centenary

Heritage Museum

**Ending Location:**

Best Books

**Distance:** 2.5 km

**Time taken:** 1 Hour

**Walk requirements:**

Please bring comfortable shoes and water

Centenary Heritage  
Museum

### Centenary Heritage Museum

Gun Foundry,  
opp. Lepakshi

Located opposite LePakshi (a popular handicrafts emporium), this Museum is a must visit for those interested in the history and heritage of Telangana. On display are artifacts that showcase the life of early humans settled in the Deccan Plateau region.

### Taj Mahal Hotel

Abids Road, Sultan Bazar

This iconic 65-year-old property is one of the most popular hotel/food joints of Abids. It is famous for its vegetarian Telugu cuisine and of course, the filter coffee.

### Nizam College

L.B. Stadium Rd, Gun Foundry, Basheer Bagh

Established in 1887 during the reign of Mir Mahbub Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VI, this is a popular landmark for the residents of Hyderabad. Right opposite the College is the Government Boys High School Aliya which was established in 1872. Both buildings are designed in a style typical to Hyderabad.

St. Joseph's Cathedral

### St. Joseph's Cathedral

Gun Foundry Street Number  
1, Basheer Bagh

Abids is home to some of the most historic churches of the city. These churches were built at different points in time and add to the diverse culture and architectural beauty of Hyderabad. Located close to each other are the Centenary Methodist Church, Seventh Day Adventist and St. Joseph Cathedral.

Taj Mahal  
Hotel

Best Book Center

### Best Book Center

Fire Temple Complex, Tilak Rd,  
Hanuman Tekdi, Abids

A haven for avid readers and collectors, Best Book Center, is famous for its collection of rare and unique books.



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# DIY Heritage Trail

## The structures of Golconda Fort

Located in the western part of the city, the Golconda Fort is a fortified citadel built by the Kakatiyas and extended by various rulers of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. A trip to the City of Pearls remains incomplete without a visit to this iconic Fort, one of the largest forts in India that houses numerous gateways, palaces and durbar halls.

**Starting Location:** Qutub Shahi Tombs

**Ending Location:** Taramati Baradari

**Distance:** 5.5 km

**Time taken:** 2-4 hours

**Walk requirements:** Please bring comfortable shoes and water.

Qutub Shahi Tombs



### Qutb Shahi Tombs

Located in the western part of the city, the Golconda Fort is a fortified citadel built by the Kakatiyas and extended by various rulers of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. A trip to the City of Pearls remains incomplete without a visit to this iconic Fort, one of the largest forts in India that houses numerous gateways, palaces and durbar halls.

### Golconda Fort

Golconda Fort houses numerous gateways, palaces and durbar halls and is one of the biggest fortified citadels in India. Every nook and corner of this Fort holds intricate detail and stories. To best explore this fort, it is recommended to hire a tour guide, who will take you around the fort and guide you through a small trek inside the fort that culminates in a spectacular view of the city.

Golconda Fort



Taramati Baradari



### Taramati Baradari

Now a government resort, that serves scrumptious Telangana style meals and biryani, this monument was a Persian style garden that was also used as a travellers' inn. This is a perfect stop to rest and eat after a tour of the Golconda Fort.

# 5

## Performance Spaces in Hyderabad

Hyderabad has always been the city for poetry, music, dance, art, theater and festivals. Over the last few decades, many of these art forms have been revived and are appreciated in many art festivals. Here are some of the spaces where you can catch these performances:



### Ravindra Bharathi

Lakdikapul Rd, near State Assembly, Saifabad

The foundations for Ravindra Bharathi were laid in 1960 and the space was opened to the public on 11 May 1961. Since then this space has become one of the most iconic cultural landmarks of the city.

### Shastri Market

Gaffar Khan Colony, Banjara Hills.

Established in 2003, Saptaparni is known to host a variety of musical events. Apart from being a prominent performance and workshop space, Saptaparni also houses a bookstore that is filled with books on performance arts and traditional Indian toys for children.

### Rangbhoomi

Jayabheri Pine Valley, Gachibowli

One of the newest cultural establishments in Hyderabad, Rangbhoomi has become a popular destination as it has the capacity and logistics to host a wide range of events.

### Nritya - Forum for Performing Arts

Behind Lumbini Jewel Mall, Road No. 2, Banjara Hills

This open-air venue has an ideal location. Tucked away in the green and quiet lanes of Banjara Hills, Nritya can be easily accessed by the main road. It houses a small canteen and a cozy performance space that aims to promote a diverse culture in art and performance.

### Our Sacred Space

Sardar Patel Road, Marredpally, Secunderabad

This multi-purpose art space is located in Secunderabad. It's a popular community space known for its regular classes and the variety of performances it hosts. They promote sustainability and stand for a more environmentally conscious approach in their day to day operations.

# 5 Places to have pocket friendly Hyderabad Biryani

Born out of a unique combination of Deccani and Mughlai cuisines, Hyderabad Biryani was first prepared in the kitchens of the Nizams of Hyderabad. Here are five pocket-friendly eateries where you can savour the original taste of Hyderabad Biryani:



**Alhamdulillah Hotel**  
Habeeb Nagar Road, Aghapura,  
Nampally

Located in Nampally, Alhamdulillah Hotel offers you traditional Hyderabad Biryani at a most reasonable price. If you are looking to experience the real Hyderabad cuisine amidst the bustle of city life, Alhamdulillah is the place you must surely visit.

## Cafe Bahar

Old MLA Quarters Rd, Avanti Nagar,  
Himayat Nagar

Cafe Bahar was opened in 1973 and is located at Basheerbagh. Started by a Persian settler, Cafe Bahar is the go to place for Hyderabadis to enjoy Biryani with Irani chai.

## Shah Ghouse

Raidurgam, Madhura Nagar Colony,  
Gachibowli

Shah Ghouse is another popular restaurant located in Shalibanda where you can have authentic Hyderabad Biryani. Shah Ghouse is one of the most affordable places to have original Hyderabad Biryani. You can order a jumbo plate that can easily feed 6 people at just Rs. 715.

## Maa Ooru

K P H B Phase 3, Kukatpally

Maa Ooru is another famous restaurant known for its Biryani located at Kukatpally. This place serves a unique type of Hyderabad Biryani called the 'rustic Biryani'. This Biryani is brownish in color and rough in texture. So if you want to have an original rustic flavor of Hyderabad Biryani, do not forget to check out this place.

## Nayaab Hotel

Chatta Bazar, Darulshifa

Started in the 1980s Nayaab Hotel is one of the most authentic food joints located in Chatta Bazar. The eatery is especially known for cooking and serving Hyderabad Biryani in handi. This not only adds to the flavor of the Biryani but also gives you a special dining experience.



Photo by Mahi Miansari66, via Wikimedia Commons.

# CALENDAR

## Festivals and Cultural Events

### HYDERABAD LITERARY FESTIVAL

is an annual festival that goes on for three days. It is organised by the Hyderabad Literary Trust and Department of Tourism, Telangana around 26 January.



Photo by Pratham Books, via Wikimedia Commons.



Photo by Shashank Mhasawade, via Wikimedia Commons.

JAN

MAR

APR

MAY

### HOLI

the festival of colours, is celebrated across the city. Large scale parties are organised from early in the morning. A pooja is organised in the morning before playing with colours, although some places have it in the evening before Holi.



Photo by Kamalakanta777, via Wikimedia Commons.



Photo by Haqeer, via Wikimedia Commons.

### RAMZAN OR RAMADAN

is the ninth month as per the Islamic Lunar calendar. It is a period of prayer, fasting, and reflection for followers of Islam. It is one of the most important festivals in Telangana, and the city of Hyderabad, when the state's mosques are filled to their capacity. The fasting period observed by Muslims is followed by celebratory feasting. The fast is broken by a celebratory feast, and Hyderabad has several popular destinations offering food specific to Ramadan. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

## BONALU

is a month-long Hindu Festival where Goddess Mahankali is worshipped. It is an annual festival celebrated in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad as well as in other parts of Telangana. The festival involves scores of devotees offering the traditional 'bonam' (derived from Bhojanam, meaning meals) to the goddess Mahankali at temples across the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The first of these offerings - the 'golden bonam' - is offered to the goddess Jagdamba at the temple atop Golconda Fort.

## GANESH CHATURTHI

is celebrated with fervour across the city. *Prasadam* is prepared along with elaborate pandals. Devotional songs are played and *pooja* is performed for Lord Ganesha. Idols are immersed in the Hussain Sagar Lake and other water bodies after a period of ten days.



Photo by Batthini Vinay Kumar Goud, via Wikimedia Commons.

JUL

## MUHARRAM

also called Peerla Panduga is marked by processions. During this occasion a relic called Alam is taken out for processions. Muharram marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Mohammad. Large processions are carried out which mark the mourning for Imam Hussain.



Photo by NaveedAhmed0703, via Wikimedia Commons.

AUG



Photo by VishwakEIMP, via Wikimedia Commons.

SEP

## BATHUKAMMA

the most popular festival of the region, is celebrated in the Bhadrapada month of the Telugu calendar, between September and October of each year. Flowers are of utmost importance in this festival. The festival marks the beginning of Sharath Rtu or autumn, and involves women performing many rituals. Bathukamma floral arrangements are representative of gopurams (the entrance gateways) of Hindu temples. Typically the different flowers are arranged on a plate in seven tiers.

OCT

# Glossary of Terms

## INTRODUCTION

**Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah:** The fifth King of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty (1580-1611).

**Qutb Shahi Dynasty:** Founded by Quli Qutb Shah, a former governor under the Bahmani Sultanate, in 1518, their reign lasted till 1687.

**Mughal Empire:** Mughal dynasty of rulers who ruled most of India from 1526 to 1857 CE.

**Aurangzeb:** The sixth Mughal Emperor, 1618- 1707 CE.

**Asaf Jahi Dynasty:** Former governors of the Mughal Empire, the Asaf Jahi Dynasty was founded by Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I in 1724 and lasted till 1948 when it was annexed by the Indian Republic.

## GOLCONDA FORTIFIED AREA

**Kakatiyas:** A dynasty, ruling the present day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana regions between the 12th and 14th century.

**Bahmani:** A Sultanate reigning over the Deccan region from 1347 CE to 1518 CE.

**Musunuri Dynasty:** A dynasty that shortly ruled over the Telugu region in the 14th century CE.

**Musunuri Kapaya Nayak:** The second and last king of Musunuri Dynasty (1333-1370).

**Abdulla Khan Panni:** A soldier in the Golkonda army.

**Tel ka Kotha:** Translates to room for oil.

## HUSSAIN SAGAR LAKE

**Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah:** The fourth ruler from the Qutb Shahi Dynasty (1550-1580 CE).

**Rani Rudrama Devi:** A ruler of the Kakatiya Kingdom (1245-1289 CE).

## KOTI WOMEN'S COLLEGE

**Charminar:** Meaning 'four minarets' in Urdu, it is a historic monument at the heart of Hyderabad built in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah.

**Indo-Saracenic:** Also referred to as Indo-Gothic, this style of architecture has influences of Mughal architecture.

**Neoclassical architectural style:** Architectural style characterised by grandeur of scale, simplicity of geometric forms, use of column and blank walls.

**Corinthian:** One of the classical orders of architecture from Greece.

**Durbar Hall:** A court of Native rulers, used especially during the time of colonial occupation.

**Parquet:** Flooring of wooden blocks, forming patterns.

## LAMAKAAN

**Prithvi Theatre:** Founded by superstar of Hindi film industry, Prithviraj Kapoor, in 1944 to promote Hindi stage productions.

**Samosa:** A triangular-shaped fried snack with stuffing inside.

**Chai:** Hindi for tea

**Mirchi bhajji:** Deep fried fritter stuffed with chillies.

**Dahi vada:** A popular Indian delicacy made of lentil and served with yogurt.

**Anda bonda:** A recipe involving boiled eggs that are dipped into a batter and fried.

**Lassi:** Indian beverage made of yogurt.

## MECCA MASJID

**Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah:** Sixth ruler of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty (1612-1625 CE).

**Mecca:** Located in Western Saudi Arabia, it is the holiest of Muslim cities.

**Kaaba:** A small shrine located at the



Great Mosque in Mecca considered the most sacred by Muslims.

**Prophet:** Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

**Nizam Ali Khan:** Second ruler of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty (1762-1803 CE).

**Mehboob Ali Khan:** Sixth ruler of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty (1866- 1911 CE).

### **MOAZZAM JAHİ MARKET**

**Jack Arch:** Arches with a horizontal lower surface instead of semicircular ones.

### **NUMAISH**

**Chikankari:** Intricate thread work from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

**Jootis:** Shoes

**Halwa:** A sweet dish.

### **PURANAPUL**

**Masonry Arch Bridge:** An arched bridge with massive supports whose main load-bearing structures are made of either stone, brick or concrete.

### **TELANGANA STATE ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM**

**Last Nizam:** Mir Osman Ali Khan (1911-1948 CE)

**Ajanta Paintings:** Cave murals from 2nd century BCE, located near Aurangabad in Maharashtra. The Buddhist caves have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Chalukyan:** Relating to the Chalukya dynasty of rulers in Southern and Central India, between 6th century and 12th century CE.

**Vijayanagara period:** Vijayanagara Empire, which was founded in 1336 in the Deccan region and remained a dominant power for over two centuries.

## **Bibliography**

To get access to bibliography for all the pieces in this booklet visit [map.sahapedia.org/inhyderabad/100009](http://map.sahapedia.org/inhyderabad/100009) or alternatively, scan this (QR Code)



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InterGlobe Foundation (IGF) - **[www.interglobe.com/foundation](http://www.interglobe.com/foundation)** is the CSR arm of the InterGlobe Group of companies.


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This booklet documents various well-known and offbeat treasures of Hyderabad's living heritage and culture. Designed as a guide to navigate the city's better kept secrets, the publication spans themes such as built heritage, people and communities, institutions of cultural importance, and literature and the arts.

Other editions include: Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Goa, Indore, Kolkata, Nashik, Prayagraj, Shillong



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