

Hyderabad's Charminar

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Abstract

Charminar is a famous landmark in Hyderabad, India. It highlights the city's rich culture and history. Hyderabad founder Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah erected Charminar in 1591. Indo-Islamic architecture with Persian influences. Sultan Qutb Shah built Charminar in 1591. This square edifice with four pillars and intricate carvings is said to honour his wife Bhagmati. Why Charminar was erected is unknown. Many believe Charminar was constructed to celebrate the end of the citywide pandemic. People believe the Sultan prayed to end the illness that plagued his people. After the sickness, he built the Charminar for Allah. Some say the four pillars honour Islam's first four caliphs. Some claim the building honours Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law, who perished in Karbala. Based on Shiya Tazias' architecture. Some believe Sultan first saw Bahgmati at Charminar before they married. It has four tall minarets and a central mosque. The memorial commemorates the end of a dreadful disease and the start of the new city. The Charminar has been a commercial and social hub as well as a place to pray and hold festivities. With busy markets like Laad Bazaar around it, it remains a popular tourist destination and an important part of Hyderabad's culture. Historical significance, architectural elements, and current relevance of the Charminar indicate how its legacy will carry on.

Keywords: Indo-Islamic architecture, Qutb shahi dynasty, landmarks, cultural legacy

INTRODUCTION

The Hyderabad Mosque and edifice Charminar are famous. This building in India and Hyderabad is famous worldwide. Created in 1591 as the new capital of the area seized, the city center construction began.

Charminar—what? A memorial to create a work following the 1590 plague? City Square for the Four Cardinal Directions. A water tank to pump water to Qutb Shah's 7th-floor palace? A mosque? A madrasa? A market square? [1].

A BRIEF HISTORY

Hyderabad developed into a community in the late 16th century. Each cotton-dependent hamlet has its own fleet of ships. It attracts weavers, shopkeepers, and painters. Mohammad Quli unified these ethnic groups with their homes in Hyderabad, a megacity. Charminar is Hyderabad's first modern face and resembles the Mecca Masjid and Qutub Shahi monuments.

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Historically, Charminar is situated in Hyderabad, west-central Telangana, south-central India. The city, now the capital of Telangana, was once the capital of the historic princely state of Hyderabad [2].

These monuments characterize Hyderabad and convey the Qutb Shahi kings' geographical, personal, and political goals. The Mecca Masjid is a religious monument with substantial funding and is a sepulchral monument with infinite time for building, and Charminar is a commemorative

monument that requires copious manpower and money. Charminar planning and construction required money, materials, labor, and time. Masonry buildings are rigorous because they cannot be painted or sculpted, limit gestural freedom, and limit an architect's inventiveness and invention. Charminar is one of India's most exquisite buildings for these reasons.

Starting and Building

Charminar was erected by Shah Qutb in 1591. The foundation ceremony was held at 10:00 A.M. on June 20. Possible first day of the Moharram, the lunar Islamic calendar month. The monument commemorates a plague end, according to its inscription. Charminar is in Hyderabad, India, on the medieval trading route between the Golconda marketplace and Indian Ocean ports.

The edifice is a stunning Islamic structure, with four minarets reaching 56 meters [3]. The building is a square with four large arches pointing to the right. The four 48.7-meter minarets on either side of the edifice are India's largest. The Laad Bazaar surrounds Charminar.

Cultural Importance

Historic public buildings surround Charminar, including Makkah Masjid and the clock tower. A large square around the monument contains petrol automobiles, people, and fruit and vegetable sellers. Charminar combined Islamic, Persian, Rajput, and Hindu architecture to portray Hyderabadi life over time.

Charminar's impact extends beyond that of Hyderabad. This influenced numerous younger and smaller buildings, including Maharashtra's victory towers. The medieval Golconda Fort was built next to Charminar for topographical and symbolic reasons. The fort's concentric design contrasts with Charminar's frailty and serves various functions [4].

BUILDING APPEARANCE

Charminar minarets, Saracenic arches, and double balconies are stunning. The 56-meter minarets have bulbous domes and fluted patterns that resemble thistle flowers. The two upper floors are accessible by 149-step circular staircases that are wrapped around each minaret from the broader ground floor. A vaulted open area on the first level captured the cool breeze and included a three-sided mosque with Mihrabs. It was stuccoed but now has granite plinths. The four 11.5-meter arches are supported by towers that taper from 5.1 meters at the base to 4.1 meters at the summit [5].

Charminar is a 56-meter-tall, 20-meter-diameter granite structure. Built on a mosque at the crossroads of the medieval trade route, it is the hub of Hyderabad's developing cities. A load-bearing system without a frame supports granite, limestone, mortar, and pulverized marble buildings. A square base and four 11.6-meter arches facing the car form a symmetrical configuration.

Design, structure

The Charminar boasts stunning stucco artwork. The massive building is supported by four 11–12-meter-wide granite, limestone, and mortar arches. In the historic city core, it stands on a 9.1 × 9.1-meter raised platform that rises 56 m. The four towers have circular galleries at the top and are 48.7 meters tall. A 149-step narrow winding stairway connected the gallery to the ground. Each tower has six petalled balconies. A 48-square-meter hall was placed on the upper floor [6].

The foundation was 30 ft deep. The bulbous domes of minarets resemble the Persian architecture. The arches were topped once with miniature minarets blended into the terrace floor. Stuccoes in a light peacock green made the building look like a 'huge flower garden' from afar. Each minaret had stone steps from the street to the ground floor. Charminar's Grande Mosque is now.

Used Items

The black granite pillars were bound together using white lime mortar. Building the 45.7-meter minarets was difficult. Planking and sturdy timber were used to build five cofferdams in the tanks and

fill them with thick lime mortar. Over 70 million bricks from England cover an area of approximately 14,000 m².

The carbohydrates and proteins of lime plasters have prevented material degradation, which may have contributed to Charminar's long-term survival [7].

Architecture as Sign

Function, construction, symbolism, and harmony with nature-shaped architectural architecture, according to Sunan Gunung Jati.

Function and construction are explained by his engineering experience and preferences for basic designs. As for symbolism, the meanings of the construction are akin to what he taught about prayers and spirituality, as discussed previously, and are compatible with Charminar's Islamic architecture.

Although its initial purpose is unknown, Charminar was constructed for aesthetic purposes. On a single raised plane, equal-width support pillars radiate towards the square podium and roof. Like the entry facade, these supports have stucco embellishments with floral motifs and rugs with Arabic calligraphy. These pillars support a virtually ceramic object, the source of Gustavian Art, which is highly recognized for its beauty. Another ceramic cupola with square reverse domes topped the building. The four minarets contained many tiers of arches and several smaller ones with inscriptions and floral embellishments.

“Architecture and its process are a depiction of Islamic doctrines and principles.” Malacca mosques incorporate symbols comparable to those in Hyderabad's Charminar. The four minarets and eight arches on each facade make the building look larger and more grounded by showing that each corner is an access point. Eight are significant because they indicate that.

IMPACT ON CULTURE

Hyderabad and the world have come to recognize Charminar as a cultural icon. Owing to its history and unusual architecture, many Indian and foreign tourists visit the building. The statue is famous and draws crowds. The four strong Charminar buildings highlight the skyline of the Old City.

Hyderabad is known as the “City of Pearls,” and the monument reflects this. A fully blooming Gulmohur (flowering tree of flame), thought to have been planted when the city was founded, next to the Charminar, evokes history and romance. The neighboring Makkah Masjid enhances the city's religious atmosphere. Charminar and Makkah Masjid represent Hyderabad's historical greatness:

Local Customs Role

In Ramzan, the Elders still distribute Sohoolah, a mixture of rice, beef, Dalcha, and Desi. During EID-ul-Fitr, local lads pray and receive EID Ka Farz and EID Ki Taleem ceremonial presents. Most people continue their traditions and practices daily, even hundreds of years later.

A procession from the Madina Masjid through many neighborhoods ends at the Charminar, where people pray and obtain EIDI. A similar parade begins at Kilwath and passes Pathergatti, Nampally, and Gosha Mahal before ending at Charminar. The Sohoolathar, EID Ka Farz Committee, Hanthcharam Subdivision, Police, and EID Committee collaborated to ensure smooth operation and traditional rituals.

How It Affected Literature and Art

Charminar's history and the architecture of astonished poets and artists. William Hickey, a Quli Qutub Shah contemporary, wrote: “The Charminar of the City of Hyderabad is truly an ornamental monument that was built in the year 1591.” The massive edifice was associated with the Great Mughals. Adam, an English traveler who visited Hyderabad during Aurangzeb's reign, wrote: “The people who

live within the walls are protected by a garrison, there are four tall minarets on the square, and each one has a winding staircase that leads to the summit. Many stores sell flowers and fruits around the building's halls and verandas. It has almost become the center of the town”.

Its square design and the four clocks in all four minars are intriguing. Sarojini Naidu, a famous Indian political activist and poet, was born and raised in Hyderabad, and there are statues of her on each side of the monument.

Despite not being one of the world's seven wonders, Charminar is an important part of India's history and evokes memories for travelers each year because of its architectural beauty and historical significance [8].

Urdu poet Sayyid Dabeer believed that the king erected it for everyone's enjoyment. Imam Shibli sings of “the lovely fragrance of the Charminar.” Nusrati wrote: People still marvel at his four-tower palace in Hyderabad, India.

TOURISM AND ECONOMY

Hyderabad's most famous landmark, the Charminar, is visited by 2.5 million people annually. Only the Taj Mahal matched its fame. The monument stands in the middle of old Hyderabad and serves as a quiet reminder of the city's rich cultural history. It was built to prevent pandemics and famines.

Many of Hyderabad's business areas are named after former nawabs, ministers, or main rulers, but the Colaba-wallah celebrates the late Sardar Mahmood-ul Haq, Nizams' aas-oe-wazir. The markets around Hyderabad do well even without a planned order, showing how tolerant people are of chaos.

According to history, artists and jewellers who lived on the first floor of the arcade used Pathergatti Street for convenience and safety. Initially, horse carts, bullock carts, and pedestrians used the roads. Hyderabad is one of India's fastest-growing cities, so rapid urbanization and construction are happening even in the old walled city.

Statistics on Visitors

Because of its popularity, Hyderabad's Charminar Mosque and landmark draw over 2.5 million tourists per year. Residents are worried about how the government will handle the expected increase in the number of visitors.

Economic Contributions

Charminar's unique design attracts tourists and boosts Hyderabad's economy. The neighborhoods around it have become major business and commercial hubs with many offices that attract money and attention.

Tourists can buy textiles, jewelry, perfumes, traditional and modern costumes, and souvenirs within 100 meters of the monument. The Mining Geology department helps the economy by ensuring that production schedules are based on market demand and inventory levels and works with other departments to protect the state's natural and mineral resources.

KEEPING THINGS SECURE

Zhang, Fan, and Tang wrote “Cave Dwelling in Intangible Heritage Maintenance: A Case Study of Midu County, Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province.”

A cave dwelling is a kind of folk home where people and the environment interact a lot. This shows a harmonious relationship between the local environment and human activities that brings back the value of the local ecological environment. This study examines cave dwellings that have evolved into

landscape towns in Midu County, Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture. Its connection to the soil and the local ecosystem has led to efforts to protect traditional humans.

Habitat Local villages have low population densities because of their natural and settlement contexts. Communities are also at risk of losing their intangible heritage through cultural collapse because they have poor living conditions and transportation that is not easy to use. Consequently, this study examines the spatial configuration of Huilongyu village through the lens of preserving traditional customs, referred to as “intangible heritage support.” The findings indicate that preserving the traditional spatial arrangement of cave-dwelling settlements can contribute to the maintenance of intangible sociocultural heritage in Midu County. Furthermore, it investigates the relationship between living environments and the preservation of intangible heritage, illustrating how safeguarding and maintaining a natural residential environment facilitates the conservation of intangible cultural heritage. The project developed an intangible heritage management model utilizing a natural sediment trap in Midu County, which is advantageous for the conservation of cave dwellings in karst regions.

Ravinder Kumar Pappala’s book *The Natural Attraction of Charminar Mosque—A Review on the Core of Hyderabad City* examines the mosque in the heart of old Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Living in a busy metropolis is the best way to build infrastructure and meet 21st-century needs. The mosque’s natural beauty demonstrates how historical tourism can grow.

Restoration Work

In 2022, Charminar made money on its own, such as from Zaika-e-Hyderabad, a restaurant near the monument. Under Deputy General Manager, Eram Ali, it made 1.5 crore to 1.85 crore. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority budgeted 1.85 crore for the monument’s restoration, but the price rose to eight crores [9].

The Lancet Gateway, a large double-arched gateway on the southern arm that provides the city’s entrance and connects Charminar to the city, was completed in 2021–22 as part of the Charminar Pedestrianization and Urban Renewal Project’s goal of making the area around Charminar easier to walk.

Conservation Issues

Rising dampness and salt contamination are the most common and difficult problems to fix, especially in Penang, where buildings are more vulnerable to seawater effects. Dilapidation studies must be conducted before any conservation work can be performed.

Architectural conservation is a new subject in Malaysia, which makes it more difficult to implement changes. You need to know a lot about building structures and problems to rigorously evaluate all potential improvements. Good planning also ensures that buildings are safe and healthy for residents, preserve their original architectural and aesthetic qualities, and are dam resistant.

CHARMINAR TODAY

The Majlis-e-Itteḥādul Muslimīn Party promotes Muslim rights in the state, and a popular Urdu press contest asks writers if filming on the Charminar platform is allowed. The monument is currently covered in a thin veil of flimsiness with billboards lit by electricity and wrapped in thick green and red tweedies on the arches.

The monument is more beautiful, expressive, and unique than many modern buildings nearby that mix parts from Madina, Kamra Maidan, and Machli Kaman. It seems unlikely that any building in Hyderabad would be as unique as the Charminar.

Three-component velocity sensors and a high-resolution digital seismograph were used to measure vibrations caused by vehicular traffic around Charminar, a monument in Hyderabad. Measurements were obtained at the ground, middle, top, and other accessible levels of the structure. The acceleration

and displacement were calculated from the velocity-time series. The peak particle velocity was highest at the top level in the north-south direction.

Cities Growing

The Musi River, a major waterway, runs near Charminar in Hyderabad, India, but most of the planning for the old city did not take this into account. Islam values water and nature, and more than 100 Sikhara towers built in Greater Hyderabad that look like sea views help visitors find their way.

The path went past Charminar, via Nampalli, and east of Golconda. The monarch wished to move the city south and combine it with Golconda, but he built a city to guard the fort.

Pop Culture and Social Media

Transgender YouTuber Jaye Sophia, who speaks softly, has been criticized for selling T-shirts with a picture of Charminar and the phrase "Disrupt Cultures, not Charminar." This quote has angered Charminar-based cultural groups because it was a major part of the Indian Freedom Struggle and Durga Puja in many Kolkata homes. People said that the design was "hurtful and offensive." [10]

A COMPARISON STUDY

Charminar's Passing Sequence is a unique signature that can be used to compare, group, or identify objects. It tracks the exact order in which things go through the Charminar in all four directions without identifying them. This information is used to sketch possible sequences that could occur during Charminar's logical synthesis. Comparison with the current sequence showed that the synthesis was correct.

In addition to helping with the correct identification, categorization, and heritage management of historical tourist sites, current information may be used to make cultural monuments safer by adopting better safeguards and preventive measures. The realistic depiction of groups of people moving across space mimics how travelers behave as a group. This shows that the way groups act (whether they walk slowly, quickly, or with ease) affects the pace at which individuals move together in a certain area. The places where people are bunched together on paths are where jams are likely to occur, which is why there are so many people. This prediction can help people in charge deal with emergencies by getting people off the roads in a timely manner. Tourists can avoid crowded areas by adjusting their travel plans or routes, and the area can be promoted for travel at different times of the year. You can plan tourist activities around religious holidays, such as Ramzan, Unmasking, Bathukamma, and others, by looking at how traffic is moving at different times.

Similar Indian Monuments

The Charminar, four minarets at each corner of a roof, terrace, or porch, is the most important part of the Charminar design. Many forts and palaces in Golconda, Hyderabad, and other southern Indian cities contain them. Many later Islamic constructions in the Deccan region looked at the Charminar monument for inspiration and authority.

The Safdarjung Monument in Delhi includes similar minarets and a large chhajja that wraps around the monument.

World Architecture Comparison

Emperor Qin Shi Huang built the Great Wall of China, 5,000 km long. King David built the Red Fort in Jerusalem on Mount Zion. King Herod restored it at 30 BCE along Western Hill [11].

Its earthen ramparts, hills, and watch towers at key locations along the Great Wall of China make it a strong defense against attack. On the other hand, the Red Fort was built to protect the city from Arab tribes. It enclosed 5.5 hectares.

CONCLUSION

Building the Charminar symbolized the city's shift from Golconda to Hyderabad, which led to prosperity and progress in the years that followed. The four minarets represent the four places where the plague broke out and added a Christian touch to the monument's Islamic architecture, showing how diverse cultures impacted the area.

The Charminar, which beautifully blends Indo-Islamic and Persian styles, connects the lively Char Kaman bazaars below the sacred Mecca Masjid. It remembers the epidemic victims and shows how strongly it determined Hyderabadis.

It is important to renovate heritage structures that are about to collapse. For renovations, the same ancient materials should be available for reconstruction. However, many of the ancient materials used are no longer available, so they must be characterized and replaced with materials with similar strength and durability.

Charminar is a magnificent architectural masterpiece and a symbol of Hyderabad, a city rich in culture and history. It features a four-sided archway and towering minarets that reach 48.7 meters above the ground level. Charminar represents more than just a landmark; it embodies the historical, social, cultural, and economic values unique to Hyderabad. This monument is an exquisite example of Indo-Islamic architecture, boasting a delicate Persian influence. Its arches and domes proudly display Islamic architectural style. At the same time, balconies and outside walls showcase intricate stucco floral ornamentation inspired by Hindu architecture, creating a harmonious union between the two cultures within this grand edifice.

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