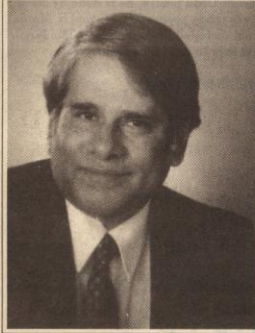


" Hyderabad "

A Brief History of Hyderabad, India

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The City of Hyderabad has recently celebrated 400 years of its existence since it was built during Qutub Shahi reign (1512-1687) in the area of Deccan, which is the northern part of southern India. The fifth Qutub Shahi ruler, Quli Qutub Shah, founded the city of Hyderabad. He spent lavish sums of money to build several buildings including the famous Charminar and Mecca Masjid. In 1687 Mughal emperor Aurangzeb conquered Deccan from Qutub Shahi Dynasty and annexed it to the Mughal empire.

Aurangzeb appointed his senior minister Nawab Abid Ali Khan as viceroy of Deccan. His grandson Mir Kamruddin Kulich Khan took over the responsibilities as Viceroy and later declared himself as Nizam of Hyderabad, under the title of Asif Jah Awal. After several wars in surrounding areas and with the British rulers, which lasted for almost a century, the Hyderabad state was finally recognized as an independent state under British sovereignty.

During the reign of the 6th Nizam (1869-1911), there was perfect peace and tranquillity in the Hyderabad and the Hyderabad culture, as we know it today evolved. Nizam VI also paid attention towards modernization of the state by establishing phone lines (in 1884) and railway lines and a comprehensive educational system. When Chloroform was introduced in Europe, Hyderabad was one of the 1st places in India to start research in the use of Chloroform as an anesthetic.

During the 6th Nizam's reign there was complete harmony between the Hindus and the Muslims. High positions were awarded to Hindus and his Prime Minister was a prominent Hindu, Sir Kishan Parshad. Nizam's earnest desire for Muslim-Hindu unity and his liberal attitude towards the majority community earned him mass appreciation and following.

Lavishly decorated Falaknama Palace (Mirror of the Sky) was built during his tenure by a famous engineer designer, Sir Viqarul Umara. Visiting European Royalties like Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and Czar Nicholas of Russia were among those entertained here.

The seventh and last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan succeeded his father, the 6th Nizam, Mahboob Ali Khan, in 1911. His public conscience was immense and he was successful in transferring the state into a highly technological and progressive modern state in the country. Literally hundreds of projects were completed during his rule. He called for a renowned architect from Mysore to build Osman Sagar and Himyat Sagar Tanks and control the potential flooding of Mosa river. Based on the structures that were erected during his rule, he is regarded as the true architect of Hyderabad.

A few notable buildings are: High Court, Asafia Library and The Secretariat, a combination of modern and Islamic designs. His greatest achievement was the establishment of an Institution of higher education for Engineering, Medicine, Arts, and Science.

He established the Osmania University, whose buildings are more like those of a palace than an academic institution, and decreed that Urdu should be the main medium of its instruction along side English. Famous philosopher/writer Somerset Maughaam remarked that Osmania University is one of the most beautiful universities in Asia. The university established a major translation center (Diaratul-Ma'arif) to translate complicated works in Arabic and European languages for use as instructional manual or reference books. Thousands of text books on advance technical subjects were translated into urdu. Special attention was paid towards higher education of women so much so that during the late forties there were more than 25,000 literate women in the state.

At the time when Indian subcontinent was still under the British rule, the Nizam managed to run Hyderabad as an independent state. The viceroy of India had an Ambassador in Hyderabad who was popularly known as the Resident General. Hyderabad had its own:

- Currency - Sikkae Osmania (Hali) while British currency was called Kaldar.
- Army and Air Force
- Postal department, which printed Osmania Postage Stamps also.
- Nizam's State Railway
- Radio Station - Deccan Radio
- Airline - Deccan Airways*

After the downfall of Delhi in mid nineteenth century, renowned scholars from northern part of India and other parts of the world moved to Hyderabad and settled here permanently. They have contributed in educational and cultural development of Hyderabad.

Some notable scholars were:

Abdul Aziz Muhaddis - This renowned scholar of Hadith came to Hyderabad in 1860 and spent rest of his life in Hyderabad working on "Life of Prophet Muhammed." (PBUH).

Abdul Haleem Sharar - A famous Urdu novelist moved to Hyderabad from North. He was a scholar in the French language and held a position as commissioner of education in Hyderabad.

Marmaduk Pickthall - Came to Hyderabad from England as Principal of Chadarghat High School and later became editor of a well known magazine "Islamic Culture." He did the most popular English translation of Quran under a grant from Govt. of Hyderabad.

Jamaluddin Afghani - The founder of Pan Islamic movement stayed in Hyderabad for years and attempted to launch his movement from Hyderabad. He was regarded as one of the most influential leaders of Muslim world in early 20th Century.

There were several other scholars and poets, for example Deputy Nazir Ahmed, Maulana Shihli Nomani, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Sarojini Naidu, Shabbir Husain Khan Josh, Hasrat Mohani, Fani Badayuni, Abdul Majid Daryabadi, Sir Syed Ali Imam, Sir Akber Hyderi and Mr. Ghulam Mohammed (Third Governor-General of Pakistan who was finance minister in Hyderabad). All of them came to Hyderabad and contributed a great deal to Hyderabad culture and language.

The list is neither complete nor it is intended to. Hyderabad has also produced many scholars. Some notables are: Maulana Maudoodi, whose Islamic work is known throughout the world, was born in Aurangabad, a part of Hyderabad State. Baba-e-Urdu Maulvi Abdul Haque also worked in Aurangabad and Hyderabad. Dr. Hameedullah of Paris, Prof. Waliuddin, Dr. Abdul Lateef, Dr. Raziuddin, Bahadur Yar Jung, Rasheed Turabi, Amir Meenai, Sikandar Ali Wajid, Maikash, Ahmed Husain Amjad, Himyat Ali Shair,

A famous Urdu drama, Adrak-Ke-Punjab written, directed and produced by Babban Khan Hyderabad, was listed in Guinness book of world records, which has put Hyderabad once again in the lime light. Nizam of Hyderabad contributed large sums of money to many religious and educational institutions in India.

He donated enormous funds to Aligarh Muslim University. He used to send Lakhs of Rupees to Mecca and Medina to provide facilities to pilgrims. The first electric generator to produce light at Masjid Nabavi was provided by Nizam of Hyderabad.

India achieved independence on 15th August 1947. The Nizam of Hyderabad continued to rule over Hyderabad as an independent state until September 1948. This political situation changed when Indian government made Hyderabad part of India.



Gradually the Army and Air Force were disbanded, while Nizam's State Railway became part of Western and Southern Railway system. The postal department changed to Indian currency and Deccan Airways was absorbed by Indian Airlines. Finally in 1956, when India was reorganized on linguistic basis, after 230 years of its independent existence, the Hyderabad State was disintegrated and absorbed by 3 states; Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Although State of Hyderabad (Deccan) does no longer exist, its culture, language and traditions will remain and inspire the Hyderabadis for years to come.