

Hyderabad (1/25/2008 to 1/26/2008)

In the midst of north Indian winter, I was ready to go south and to the warmer weather that lower latitude provides, so I hopped on a train from Bhopal to Hyderabad, the capital of the state of Andhra Pradesh. This started a three city swing through the old capitals of the Muslim sultanates that held power in this region from the 14th century on. Hyderabad, in addition to a smattering of architectural remains in the form of Muslim forts, tombs, and mosques, is now on the map as one of the outsourcing capitals of India, home to numerous call centers, consulting, and tech firms with a growing middle and upper class. I had been to Hyderabad briefly on my first trip to India so I was using the city more as a transportation hub to get to the provincial backwater city of Bidar than to see the sites again. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the city and stayed a day longer than I had thought, wondering the photogenic markets of the old city, enjoying the serenity of the tombs and their surrounding gardens, as well as dining on the famed Hyderabadi chicken biryani.

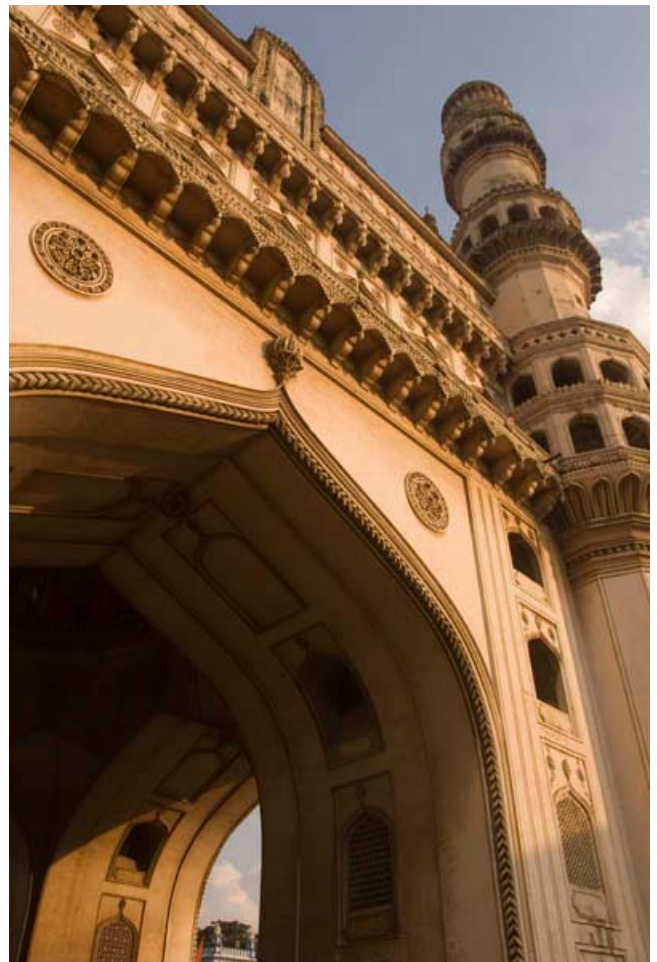


One thing you do have to give India credit for, in a country notorious for its pollution, is the conversion of the fleet of noxious fume emitting auto rickshaws to cleaner burning natural gas driven engines. In bigger cities such as Hyderabad, Delhi, Jaipur this upgrade is already complete and all of the rickshaws in these cities now run on compressed natural gas. Here auto rickshaws are being refilled with compressed natural gas in Hyderabad.





Street scene in Hyderabad.



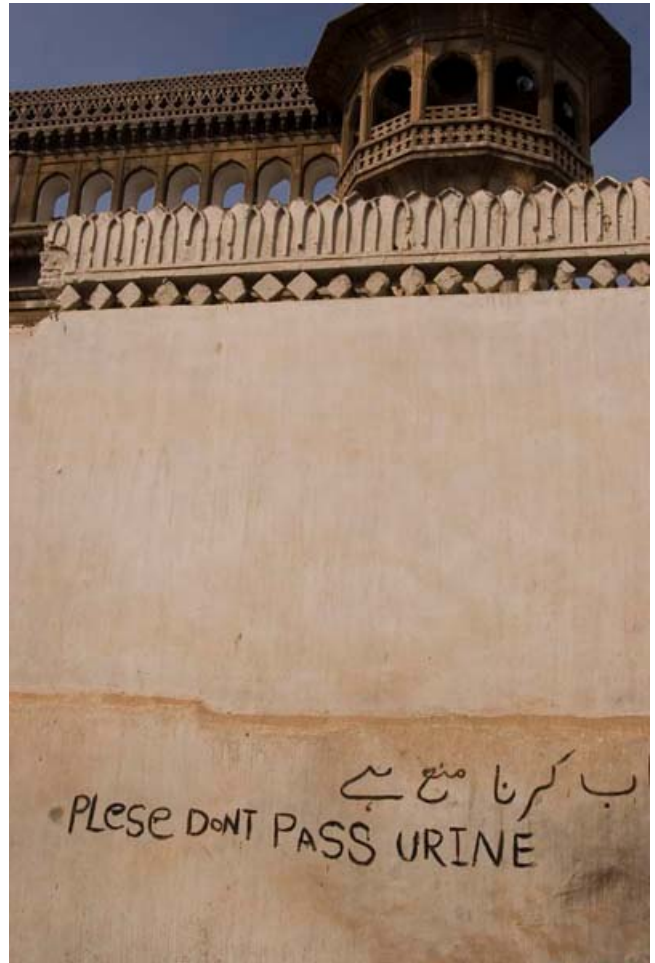
The symbol of Hyderabad the 16th century Charminar (four towers).



Street scene in Hyderabad.



When people no longer want a place the goats take over. Hyderabad.



Apparently one of the few places you shouldn't urinate in India is on the wall of a mosque. Hyderabad.



Muslim boy in front of a street side fabric shop, Hyderabad.



Shoes displayed on the street, Hyderabad.



Muslim women dressed in burkas shopping for some very colorful shoes, Hyderabad.



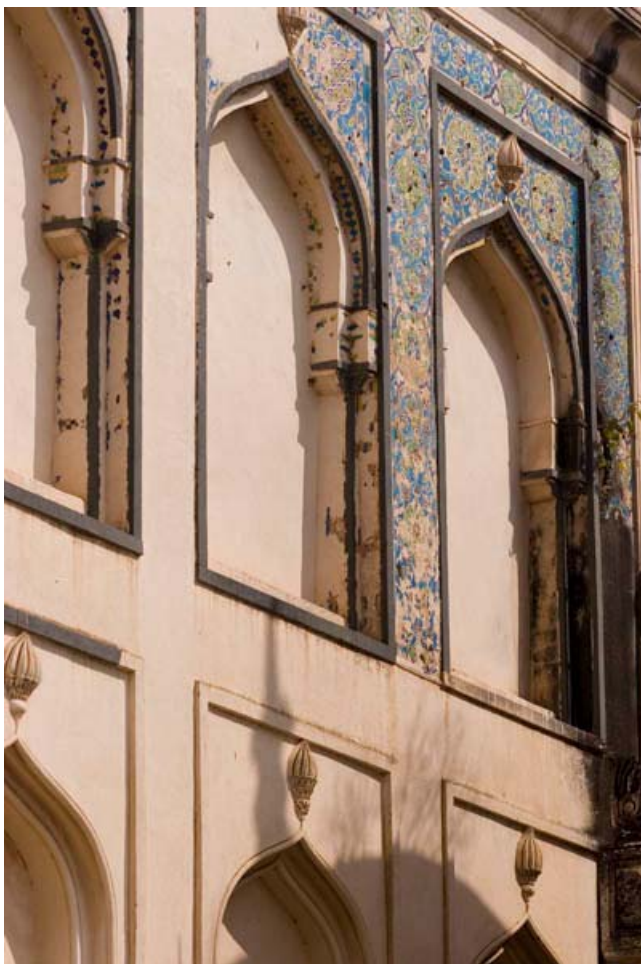
Street-side shopping in Hyderabad.



Tombs of the Qutb Shani Kings, near Hyderabad.



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Minaret of a mosque on the grounds of the tombs of the Qutb Shani Kings, near Hyderabad.



With the emergence of a larger middle class in India, comes weight loss centers, Hyderabad.



Advertisements for a gun shop in Hyderabad.



A foreign car of a no doubt middle class Indian parked in front of the Hyderabad Sunni Student's Federation plea to "say no to Cultural Imperialism."