Hyderabad Special

My City, My Dream
Editorial: My City, My Dream

By S M Fasiullah

Youth is our focus. We want to explore “youthness” as much as possible. We are determined in pursuing our goal of inspiring young generation. In our first phase, we tested our product i.e. magazine by taking it among colleges students and youngsters. After feedback from the students, we have realized that e-magazine is convenient than conventional print version. Therefore, we have decided to go with youngster who prefer to read online.

Among many important decisions we have taken to to keep our not-for-profit brand suitable for youngsters are: logo redesign, brandline change, and keeping our online portal youthmirror.in focused on youth, education, and Hyderabad. Our new brandline is: Voice of youth, choice of youth.

In October 2015, we introduced news to our e-magazine to keep readers engaged. The results of December surprised us. Our website received 2.23 lakh hits. It not only gave a much needed boost for efforts, but also motivated us to expand our activities for youth. We will continue to organize events and activities to benefit the youth.

Also, we had conducted an essay writing competition at city-level a few months back. Students from intermediate to post graduation expressed their ideas on the theme: “My City, My Dream”. An overwhelming response to the competition and thought provoking ideas of students pertaining to Hyderabad motivated us to come up with a special issue on the same theme.

We could feel students’ warm-heartedness towards the city, and recognize diversity of their ideas. While some elaborated on problems such as pollution, sanitation, women safety, unemployment and terrorism, some other penned down ideas on smart city, harmony & tolerance, culture & traditions, etc.

At one hand, we need to keep a check of contemporary problems. On the other hand, we need to plan for a future that promises a better world for us to live in.

I had the opportunity to attended a talk show hosted by Hyd Park wherein Telangana’s IT & Revenue Minister KTR presented an impressive development plan of Hyderabad. If the TS government succeeds in even half of what it has planned, then I am sure next generation of Hyderabadis would have more reasons to feel happy and live comfortably.

Last but not the least, appreciation does wonders. Though we have awarded a few participants, but thought that true appreciation of their efforts is in publishing their essays. What could be better for these budding writers than compliments. I request our esteemed readers to read and appreciate the work, so that these budding writers could become renowned columnists, novelists, thinkers, activists, and writers in future.

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Winners of Essay Competition 2015

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I Want My Hyderabad to Stand Out from the Rest of Cosmopolises

By Mohammed Sanaullah Farhan

Home is where a man feels the warmth of careness, love and affection, where he sees the nurturing of one’s heart by nature, where he hears the voice of tranquility and where he smells the aroma of life’s journey. It is a place characterised by all the necessary ingredients to make a savoured dish. One finds solace in times of discord, companionship in times of abandonment and pleasure in times of pain.

And what better place could there be on earth when you find all these numerous features in one city. Well that’s true, there is a city with all these traits and that is my Hyderabad.

A city 400 years young, thriving amidst robust commercial, professional, business, social and charitable activities, never getting wearied or old by the time, but growing younger and smarter by the day. It has witnessed, through many ages, various rulers, people and guardians caressing it like a lovely and adorable feline and making it today as one of the best places on earth. Today, Hyderabad poses as a blend of all religions, races, creeds, sexes and origins. The culture is more than just being unique, adaptable by the social animal very swiftly.

My Hyderabad has evolved and evolved accommodating all kinds of people and making them feel at home, taking in all as her own children and not making a single soul feel as an adopted one. Such is the demand today that nowhere in the world will you find two different states fighting for one city to be their unencroachable capital. This single fact speaks volumes about the demand and lust this magnanimous city possesses.

The ruling class is trying to make the most of this by making it the most happening city on earth. The burden of time may prove too much on the gloss of my home town for it is being thrived upon excessively which may harm her. It has remained famous for the tagline “Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb” which aptly elaborates about the cultural diversity it portrays and the homeliness it offers to a visitor.

It can be rightly nomenclatured as the Biryani Capital of the world, Pearl house of Asia and the Sherwani of India. I never did, for a moment, realise that things will pick up speed in such a manner that when you look back, it just looks like your own shadow, though more than a score has passed.

The attachment which I've developed, the longingness to be in Hyderabad, which has grown more stronger when you’re away from it, and the feeling which you call ‘Apnaapan’ in the local Urdu dialect, for I couldn’t find an exact substitute in English, has all made me wish more and more for my city. To see it being crowned with more jewels and polished by the best one can offer, has always remained my dream.

To start with, I would choose the total rejuvenation of the lifeline on which my city was built. Yes, the Musi.
People should not show their back to the things or services one has done earlier, not here in Hyderabad at least. The revival of the Musi along with the adjustment and re-alignment of the famous Pul's above it and reshaping of the arches underneath it will, give the city a very pristine look.

One can never, for now, decongest the area around the majestic Charminar but there can be a modernisation plan to accommodate the businesses around it by constructing a circular complex around the historical wonder. That indeed looks very ambitious and imaginary but is practically possible and will amaze a traveller. As for the two royal Palaces, I can assure that there is not any need for a couple of decades for anything and they can attract anyone with the splendour which they display today. Their preservation and care is being taken care off well and these two surviving Palaces will play the host to the visitor.

Indeed I do want my Hyderabad to stand out from the rest of the cosmopolises across the globe and not be behind in the evolutionary race but on the same hand I am against it being turned into a Concrete Jungle sporting mindless and overzealous Skyscrapers. Hyderabad is well ahead in the modernisation race with many commercial, technological and business parks and hubs. It will be better to tailor this advancement with the present geographical and locational setting keeping in mind that no particular area is left behind.

Development begs to happen in the older parts of the city which has been an object of neglect by various authorities. Priorities have to be changed to see that the weaker, marginalised and immobile locations are taken into the fold of progress and growth. A well established and properly functional city development corporation with ample authority coupled with ample accountability consisting of leading figures from the city can help redress this particular problem of regional imbalance.

Lastly, the indigenity of the city should not be tampered with. The Hyderabadi youth himself differs from all his contemporaries across the nation, or to be more comprehensive, across the globe. The filtered and simple Urdu language with its many famous words, phrases and sarcasm, the local way of life, the Chalta hai bhai, khala and Chicha attitude and the humanness it offers will have to be preserved to make it look and appear different.

The city has many treasures to offer to a vivid traveller. One of the many reasons for me not going anywhere abroad is the attachment which I have developed with it. Being Hyderabadi itself is a pride and an honour. As the famous narration goes, “Poore Duniye me Hindustan acha, usme Andhra Pradesh acha aur usme apna Hyderabad acha” (In the whole world India is good, in it Andhra Pradesh, now Telangana, is good and in that our Hyderabad is the best), narrating the life Hyderabad has to offer.

[This article was written as part of Hyderabad Youth Mirror’s city-level Essay Writing Competition 2015. The author is a student at University College of Law, Osmania University. He received First Prize worth Rs 4,000.]
As a transfer student, I plunged myself into the “Shahi-way” of Hyderabad in my grade 6. I remember coming here all the way from Chennai; dreamy-eyed and wondering when the journey would end. Today, as I look back at those dreamy eyes, all I see is an enlightenment of conscience to vision a better Hyderabad. My dream is to see Hyderabad as a safe and secure city with no scope for evils like terrorism, unemployment, disunity, etc.

Life in Hyderabad is admirably cosmopolitan. People run helter-skelter seeking for jobs and there is no time for a little “mirroring” of oneself that is, assessing a person’s contribution to the city’s development. Instead of listing down tasks the Government needs to perform, I prefer to list some ideas that “we” as individuals must practise.

I would like to begin by describing my idea of a terror-free Hyderabad where the fear of being attacked is abolished in the minds of people.

Terrorism and Hyderabad are commonly associated terms and what is observed, is that there is a repetition of similar terrorist attacks in the city. We cannot blame the Government entirely for this, but some necessary carefulness on behalf of the citizens of the city can surely help. If setting up of hidden cameras and tightening security by placing bomb-alarms in crowded areas are some of the Governmental duties, even citizens must display alertness and quickness in their moves. By intimidating police squad about unidentified luggage or strangely behaving persons, many horrific mishaps can be avoided.

Next, Hyderabad is a city of dreams, but, unfortunately most of the dreams remain dreams. My servant-maid’s daughter aspires to study and eradicate poverty from her life, but her mother feels education is a mere “waste of money.” Dreams need wings to direct themselves into reality. Most often, these wings are chopped down by prejudices and ultimately, the dreams die an unnatural death. We need to have dream-recognizing agencies that would identify and encourage the innate talents of people from neglected communities so that they prosper. (If not prosper, at least earn a livelihood doing what they love)

This is definitely not an arduous task. We all can begin right from home. By tutoring your servant-maid’s children for an hour daily for free, progress can be achieved. Money brings happiness but a little goodness can bring eternity!

Hyderabad is a beautiful place and its beauty lies in its history. The Golconda Fort, the Charminar and the Falaknuma Palace are exemplary institutions built by great kings of yester yore. We must remember that watching a sky-scraper renders us awe-struck but watching an old palace in our city brings us a sense of
Hyderabad is a beautiful place and its beauty lies in its history... Hyderabad is an eye-opener and director of many dreams. Pride and establishment. In preserving these palaces lies the serenity of Hyderabad. Unfortunately, the thing of irony is that we visit these palaces only to find names of lovers written upon pillars and encased in shapes of love! People must be reminded that such acts only diminish the city’s historic reputation. Only when we start loving and respecting our history, we can expect people from other states or even countries to do so.

Further, a great city is one which displays in it, a vivid sense of brotherhood among its people, and which bestows the sweet of security in its streets such that there is no place for fear in the minds of its people. It does not matter if a person is Hindu, Muslim, or a Christian. What matters is the inter-twining of human relationship, the mutual dependence on one another for a sustainable and healthy development.

Finally, I would like to say that Hyderabad is an eye-opener and director of many dreams. The enchanting city was once home to the tennis ace Sania Mirza. Her gutsy strokes in the game make everyone aspire to become like her. Her success in tennis is enjoyed by us as if it is our own. Badminton player Saina Nehwal credits Hyderabad of encouraging her in her sport so well, that she is now striving for the World No.1 title. Hyderabad is by-far better than many other cities in India, but to achieve its title as the best city, we need to expand our individual duties and perform them exceedingly well.

By being sound and responsible citizens of the city, we can all succeed in achieving the title of “the futuristic city” for Hyderabad. By means of this essay, I have put forth ‘my dreams about my Hyderabad’ because I want the essence of my city to live on for ages and ages...

And as the song goes, “I can feel my dreams when I’m in my city, I fall on my knees for my, my city...”

[This article was written as part of Hyderabad Youth Mirror’s city-level Essay Writing Competition 2015. The author is a student at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Gandipet. She received Second Prize worth Rs 3,000.]

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Home Is Where the Heart Is

By Prashanti Chunduri

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer.”

--- Harriet Tubman

There comes a time in every person's life when he or she looks back at the home they came from and the places that nurtured them. For me, home is Hyderabad, where I have spent the past decade, and I couldn’t be happier!

Besides the obvious fact that is one of the most happening places for a young adult to thrive in India, it is also someplace I can be at complete ease – neither does it choke me with its overwhelming energy nor does it lack what it takes to keep life exciting. I completely concur with Oliver Wendell Holmes, who once remarked, “Where we love is home – home that out feet may leave but not our hearts.”

Having said that, I will admit that the City of Pearls is not yet my dream city, albeit it is very close to being that. In this regard, I have a few ideas about how Hyderabad can become one of the best and smartest cities in India. I will now delve into some of the issues that need to be resolved to transform Hyderabad. One of the very first issues that sets me on edge every time I step out is the smoke that seems to hang over the city like a dreary veil of doom, and it might as well be that in a few years’ time if we do not take steps to prevent it. Pollution is one of the major problems that many big cities face and Hyderabad should not fall prey to this horrendous problem. The Traffic Police departments ought to impose stringent rules that no vehicle should use fuel that produces toxic smoke. Vehicle owners should be encouraged to get their vehicles tested regularly. The Municipal Corporation must spearhead the initiative to stress upon the public the noxious effects of vehicular pollution.

Next, loss of green spaces in the city is a worrying thought, especially for those of us who crave relief from the constant company of smog. Destruction in the name of development is ubiquitous these days and green areas are being razed to the ground overnight to make way for the hubs that house the materialistic necessities that the urban public craves so strongly. I am not against the idea that development should be halted; in fact, I am all for it.

What concerns me is the steady disappearance of greenery with no efforts made to replenish it. In this regard, city planning is a serious issue. Haphazard planning is often the cause for widening roads, demolishing buildings and digging ditches. Hundreds of trees are cut down to widen roads in the city; planning should be give some forethought before it is practiced.

Management of waste is another major problem-area that the government and public should work on. Heaps of garbage, with disease-carrying mosquitoes and flies swarming around them greet pedestrians at every street corner; it is an eyesore, and makes people gag and flee the area. What’s worse is when tourists do the same - the sense of shame I feel every time I see this happen cannot be helped.
One issue that I have to touch upon while envisioning my dream city is safety of women - my dream Hyderabad would be one in which girls and women are respected, not taunted when they dare to venture outside. I speak on behalf of all girls and women in this city when I say that it is literally a trial by fire every time we need to travel by public transport or walk.

Eve-teasers should be dealt with in an uncompromising manner and severely punished. The Hyderabad Police’s initiative of setting up She Teams in October 2014 to check sexual harassment of women, including mental abuse, is a step in the right direction. However, much more should be done to curb this problem entirely.

Furthermore, Hyderabad is home to breathtaking monuments and awe-inspiring structures, but it breaks my heart that most are considered blots on the landscape rather than the pride of the city. These magnificent monuments are made nondescript by the piles of litter that are omnipresent in their surroundings.

Besides, carvings and inscriptions bemoaning lost love that the walls of our historic structures sport are highly off-putting. The Hyderabad of my dreams would have its architecture on a pedestal and use it as its USP. Historic areas in the city should be guarded and maintained in proper condition, for they are the bookmarks of history.

Well, now that I’ve outlined some of the most pressing problems that the city faces that ought to be dealt with, I will give brief pointers which could help Hyderabad regain its charm.

First and one that appeals to me the most is urban aesthetics. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11) in 2012 saw Hyderabad decked up to the nines; this gives hope that it can continue to do so. Residential areas and bleak buildings can be given a brand new look, so can unused government land. This will not only rejuvenate people, but will also let them take pride to call the beautiful city theirs.

Secondly, though Swacch Hyderabad has already been launched, I do hope that the good work continues till Hyderabad become an epitome of cleanliness. A clean city is a happy city and my dream Hyderabad will be just that. Next, Hyderabad will be energy smart – solar panels for all street and traffic lights, green infrastructure and efficient and power-saving lighting solutions to name a few. The city should have cultural hubs to encourage artistes who display the beauty and complexity of Indian art forms. Areas housing slums should be cleaned up and given basic amenities.

In a nutshell, the Hyderabad of the future will be the embodiment of its people – healthy, happy and energetic. Combining a green lifestyle, efficient administration and undeniable oomph, Hyderabad should be the place to live in.

[This article was written as part of Hyderabad Youth Mirror’s city-level Essay Writing Competition 2015. The author is a student at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TIISS), Hyderabad Campus. She received Third Prize worth Rs 2,000.]
My Hyderabad, My Pride – It’s Bold, Dynamic and Regal

By Shiphrah Shiny

My city, Hyderabad, is a harmonious blend of ancient and modern times. The royal and imperial city has always been known for its distinguished cuisine and kingly monuments. From its distinct culture and language to its discrete lifestyle, Hyderabad and Hydrabadis have always remained Hatke!

The aura of Hyderabad is not just confined to the flavours of its haleem and biryani but it’s much much beyond them. Starting from Irani chai, osmania biscuits, kubani ka meetha, pather ka gosh, rumali roti, lukmi, boti, etc from the Hyderbadi cuisine, its various arts like bangle making, bidriware, ikat work and lacquer work to its historic monuments like Golconda, Charminar, Qutab Shahi Tombs, Salar Jung museum etc, Hyderabad has embraced a vivid and vibrant culture.

The city of Nizams, with its 400 years of history, though evolved with time but has always remained deeply rooted in its unparalleled civilization, be its speaking style or the attitude, the nawabgiri still remains intact in the hyderabadis.

Abode of the richest royals of that time, the city’s fortune was built on the trade of gold, diamonds, fabrics and importantly pearls. The world famous Kohinoor diamond also has its home here. The journey of Hyderabad from nawabs, pearls and biryanis to that of a Hitech city is also a very enchanting one.

However, this city of pearls is plagued by various issues due to increasing population, which were categorized by HMDA as problems of Energy supply, Water supply, Sewage disposal, Storm water drainage, Ecology – Flora and Fauna. These complications may not be unique to our city but resolving these obstacles is the key to my dream city.

True, I am a dreamer and I dream big. I dream of that city where these backlogs are delusions. Power cuts may have been figured out to some extent but zero power cuts still remains a task. To ensure adequate power supply without the need for regular power cuts using solar features and energy efficient appliances and buildings which tap the natural light and air needs to be given a thrust.

I dream of that city in which water problems are a thing of the past. Though our present demand is met with the water sourced from the lakes like Osmansagar, Himayatsagar, River Singur and River Manjira, yet, these are fast diminishing and we face a water deficient of 15%-20% of the total demand. Its not that our city in itself is not blessed with abundant water but we have utterly failed in the areas of water management
The copious rain that we receive just gets wasted away due to inadequate storm water control.

Every rainy season we witness, roads and drains flooding and the pristine rainwater mixing up with the untreated sewage. The problem of water supply and sewage disposal are interconnected. We, hyderabadis are at very much ease at disposing off of our sewage into the water bodies. The sickening practice not only contaminates and pollutes surface and sub-surface water and makes them unusable but also causes plethora of diseases.

Consequently, the dreamer in me fantasies of that pure city in which the bountiful water resource is put to judicious use with the usage of accurate methods of water management and foolproof rainwater harvesting, additionally, I dream of that Hyderabad where there are well defined and managed sewage network and also where river Musi and Hussain Sagar are restored to there former glory of the Nizam’s times.

How many times have you cherished the old blessed time of fun with friends during summer under the shade of trees, how long has it been since you have spotted a sparrow or how many times have you not missed the refreshing breeze near the Tank Bund? These clearly indicate the deteriorating state of our flora and fauna.

Now comes, the problem of TRAFFIC!! There won’t exist a single soul that has not cursed the traffic situation of the city. Every one of us have story to share about how our 45mins travel has turned into a 3hrs journey purely because of traffic jams or how the large pits and potholes turned driving into a nightmare or how one had to swim through during rains.

I crave for that city in which roads remain roads whatever may be the season and where footpaths are not encroached off. I yearn for that Hyderabad which facilitates free and smooth flow of traffic and that Hyderabadis who know how to follow traffic rules.

If all these are on one side then the whole trouble of garbage disposal, public urination and spitting of paan is on another side. Only proper check on these issues will contribute to the enhancement of the beauty of the city. Strict rules with fines needs to be enforced and not just stay on the papers.

Shoving all these aside, two gems which we have, is our O.U Campus and our early start in IT. We were known as the Silicon Valley of India due the boom of IT sector here (though later Bangalore overtook us).Yet, still its not late to regain our lost throne.

We are indeed rewarded to have such a prestigious university which holds the key to international attention. I strongly feel that when due attention, care and concern is shown towards this varsity in putting it on global platform, then golden days for Hyderabad won’t be far behind.

My dreams for my city maybe bizarre and absurd, unrealistic and impractical or foolish and childish, but they are not unachievable. We are at an edge over other cities due to our exceptional culture, tradition, cuisine and customs.

Nevertheless, we shouldn’t leave behind these special features of our city in our zest for scaling new heights of development. Because it is these peculiarities which make Hyderabad what it is- bold, dynamic and regal. No wonder I can proudly say- “My Hyderabad, My Pride!”

[This article was written as part of Hyderabad Youth Mirror’s city-level Essay Writing Competition 2015. The author is a student at Sri Chaitanya Degree College, Madinaguda, Hyderabad. She received Fourth Prize worth Rs 2,000.]
A City With Sympathy Towards Others

By M. V. N. Surya Prakash

Though Hyderabad is a recent name (400 - 500 years), this area had civilizations from Mauryan dynasty (King Ashoka the Great) or Satavahana empire days. The region was known as Golkonda for some period and Alauddin Khilji (around 1310 AD) took the Koh-i-Noor diamond, which is said to have been mined from the Kollur Mines of Golkonda, to Delhi.

Mentioning of this brief history is to elucidate the richness, heritage and culture of Hyderabad and its people. Andrew Petersen, a scholar of Islamic architecture, says the city was originally called Baghnagar (city of gardens).

Hyderabad is a historic city noted for its many monuments, temples, churches, masjids, and bazaars showcasing Indo-Islamic architecture influenced by Medieval, Mughal and European styles. A multitude of influences has shaped the character of the city and currently it is the capital of Telangana and de jure capital of erstwhile combined state of Andhra Pradesh.

It is a unique city centrally located to India with a mix of north-south languages and culture and much diversity. Even with all its centuries of natural beauty and wealth, added with heavy industrialization and information technology advancements in the city after independence from the British, Hyderabad still faces problems with its deteriorating infrastructure, pollution, shrinking middle class, stray incidences of violence, education, and cultural divide.

My ideal Hyderabad is a modern utopia but can be achieved by its inhabitants like me, local and central governments and responsible politicians who should become its leaders. My dream city of Hyderabad, in appearance, will not be and should not be modeled with other cities of advanced and/or Western world. For that matter why should we? The culture, heritage, climatic conditions of those countries are quite different from my Hyderabad which is unique and has everything on its own.

My dream city cannot be built taking model of another city even New York (jungle of skyscrapers) which has gloomy sunsets and guns are the only solution where innocent citizens are the only victims, or Paris with nightclubs of every kind of entertainment for youth to spoil, making people with fat bank accounts and with people who know only to eat with forks and not with fingers, or Singapore where people are only for materialistic matters. This list may go on but my dream city, instead of being built by taking models of other cities, will be unique and for the people of Hyderabad, for their unique traditions and culture built by its own people for them and it is of them.

My dream Hyderabad will be a wonderful one, its people having high quality of life, collectively nice and pleasant among ourselves and with guests and visitors of our city. My city people value others with compassion, harmony, understanding their races, customs, practices and cultures.

"We, in my dream Hyderabad, show sympathy and regard to everyone and there is no feeling of hatred, jealousy and unpleasant feeling towards others."

My dream Hyderabad will be clean, with fresh and clean drinking water to all, with gardens, fresh lakes and ponds, amusement parks with various public recreations, roads which are safe well marked for all types of vehicles including child and elderly pedestrians, very high standard educational institutions which provide...
excellent education of every student’s choice and interest, jobs and work for everyone with affordable housing and healthcare to all its inhabitants.

In my dream Hyderabad children will have sporting grounds to improve their athleticism by playing various sports and games. In schools, children will be encouraged to pursue arts like music, dance, theater, and painting along with their regular education. There will be numerous museums showcasing art, history, and culture and promote cultural harmony and improve excellence in fine arts. There will be a science and technology expositions where children and adults can learn about the wonders of science through hands-on-approach and the inventors in my city can showcase their products and technological advancements.

My ideal city’s energy will be completely self-sustainable and smokeless. My city will have unlimited electrical capacity, through water, solar, wind and nuclear energy harvesting. All the houses in my city will be required to be sustainable by incorporating solar panels so that homes can generate their own electricity. All the vehicles in my city will be powered electrically eliminating pollution completely. There will be increased services for public transportation resulting in reduced congestion on the roads. This will allow people in my city to spend more quality time with family and doing activities they enjoy rather than spending it in commute.

My dream city Hyderabad will have large acres of parks where people can just relax to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. There are also sanctuaries for animals where they are protected in their natural environment so that man’s encroachment on their land does not lead to their extinction.

Making Hyderabad my dream city may keep going unstopped, unless the existing realities are not analyzed and suggest some immediate remedies. Though education is a top priority among the citizens of Hyderabad, extracurricular activities are not. There is no quality of education, children have no playgrounds to play.

Like all major cities, Hyderabad too is facing the problem of pollution because of a rapidly growing population, faster modes of transportation, and deforestation. A lot of people/families now-a-days are relocating to big cities from villages to add quality to their lives and Hyderabad is no exception to that. There are many reasons behind people choosing cities and some of them are good education, good jobs, hospitals, etc.

In many cases people even move from one part of the country to other like people from Bihar, North Eastern states moving to cities like Hyderabad or Mumbai. This exodus of the people is partly due to our corrupt political system where government after government didn’t develop our villages and some parts of our country. But people moving in such large numbers to cities like Hyderabad creating lot of issues to our city and my dream city of Hyderabad is becoming farther and farther. This exodus of people creates slums, high traffic, pollution, diseases, increase in crime, no neighborhood or community belonging, etc. There are no sanitation facilities and many people in slums are using the roads for urination and human waste.
Due to urban migration and modern advances in technology, the tropical jungle setting has been replaced with an urban jungle of concrete, roads, vehicles, and buildings. While necessary, it is important not forget about the simplicity and beauty of nature that comes with trees, plants and animals.

Hyderabad is a vibrant city with many areas of growth. The people of Hyderabad and their elected representatives can make Hyderabad a model city of growth and development while still holding onto traditions and cultures that identify us as proud citizens. We can keep our city a dream city only with participation of its people.

To make our Hyderabad a dream city, local governments, youth, citizens should bring huge awareness, to the public and especially for the exodus of the people coming from villages and other under developed areas of the country, through public media and also the government should play a major role in conducting awareness programs.

For example, the local government of Hyderabad should take the people, who are urinating and using open public places and roads for such things, in to the custody and keep on playing awareness programs on multi-media equipment. While this may be a long and arduous project I have faith that one day my dream Hyderabad will become reality and the norm. I hope Hyderabad changes to become an ideal city on the global stage so all the people around the world can come to Hyderabad and also enjoy its biryani.

[This article was written as part of Hyderabad Youth Mirror’s city-level Essay Writing Competition 2015. The author is a student at Nalla Malla Reddy Foundation School, Hyderabad.]

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I Dream of Clean City, Not An Abode of Garbage

By Sreesravya Nutulapati

Known as the city of pearls, the Hyderabad city is one of the most beautiful cities in the place. It is the place which I call home. I am proud to be a Hyderabadi! And I have numerous incidences to support it. Here is one, just to give you a hint.

Few weeks ago, I went out with my family to meet my relatives. We went on happily discussing when we suddenly realized it was way past dinner time. So then we headed out to one of the most famous chat bandaars in the place. It was a usual thing for me.

But that day when I stood there among all those people, enjoying every morsel of my samosa chat, I could almost feel the Hyderabadi spirit hovering there in the atmosphere. I felt connected and secured as if I was amongst my very own family. Hyderabad is well known for its rich heritage and culture.

The monuments, temples, churches, masjids, bazaar, etc are just the beginning. One cannot simply forget the iconic Hyderabadi biriyani and haleem.

Now the trend has changed. Technology is becoming more advanced by the minute. Humans are accomplishing those which were once thought impossible. We have moved on to smart cities. The era of technology and science has taken over and it is time for us to accept this change and climb to heights we know not of. We must raise the standards of ourselves and our living. We must arise into the future.

The first and foremost thing we expect in a place which we call home would be security and comfort. The mere sound of home brings a smile on the face and peace in the heart. Unfortunately, that is the very thing that we find difficult in any city or town. We fear to go on the roads, lest there be an accident. We hesitate to walk on deserted streets alone at night for the fear of assailants. Though we have a smile on our face while going for a vacation, our mind still thinks...
of the doubted safety of our money and jewelry back home in our locker. Why must we live with it? Why can’t we do anything about it? Why should we accept that it is life and move on? I dream of a city, my city, where I can walk a lonely street with peace knowing my city policemen are doing their job right. I dream of a city where I will not have to read about a horrid accident where a school bus gets rammed into by a train while the driver was busy on his cell phone. I dream of a city where I do not have to grieve over the death of some hopeless farmers.

Who would prefer to live in a garbage bin? A simple answer to that would be no one. Then why would the population of 7.75 million, of Hyderabad, want that very thing? We generate tons and tons of trash every day for which we don’t take responsibility. But when it comes to the outbreak of any disease, we are first in line to blame the government for its ignorance and negligence. The thing is we are too generous. If we stop littering on the roads, the rag pickers will be out of job! How could we possibly do such a heartless thing, right? There are innumerable organizations, rallies, etc regarding the issue and surely most people are aware of the importance of a clean city. Yet, we are far from the practices.

Actually, we should blame our junior colleges, shouldn’t we? All our practical classes used to be robbed by some or the other lecturer... we don’t even know what “practical” is! How hard could it be for someone going in an auto to hold on to their empty biscuit packet until they reach a garbage can? Or probably they would say, “Please, I can’t even keep my room clean. How do you expect me to do Swachh Bharat?” Now what do we say to people who accept they have no problem living like a pig? My dream city will not be an abode of garbage. We will live as sincere citizens who respect our natural resources and keep them clean and replenished. It won’t cost you more than a few bucks to maintain a small dustbin in your vehicle. It won’t require too much of your precious energy to keep that banana peel or ice-cream tin in a cover until you find a garbage can. When it is this easy, I ask, we don’t people just do it? We say foreign countries are so neat and pretty while we dump trash all over our place, sit on it and curse it for being in India. By the way, even trash might get important in the coming days considering the fact that science will soon be able to transform garbage into useful things. Of course, after that people might actually even stop peeing on the roads. Yes, I would definitely dream of a city like that!

Then comes our age old battle: poverty. It shouldn’t be a surprise when a millionaire goes to a billionaire and says that he is poor. This is one problem for which we know the root cause and yet we are helpless. What do we do about corruption? Who doesn’t know of it? For some reason, I strongly believe that the anti-corruption acts which are coming about will surely make some change. Better late than never, right?

A change in an atom will change the properties of an entire compound. A faulty brick might bring ill fate to a tall building. A single change in the thought of a citizen will bring a wave of enhancement for the community. Needless to say, every problem comes into existence only after its solution. I dream of a city where the solution of each problem reigns supreme.

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“To succeed in your mission, you must have single-minded devotion to your goal.”

- Dr. APJ Abul Kalam
An Inclusive and Overall Development for Hyderabad

By Sadiyah Y Lasania

From pearls to minars and biryani to kebabs, from the Hitech corporate slaves till sundown to the bustling bazaars of Secunderabad and night time hawkers at the Charminar; Hyderabad is a city that’s got it all. A city of rich contrasts and deep rooted culture, it’s one that believes in living and letting live albeit the lazy way.

Born and brought up in this city, I’ve seen the way it has substantially changed. From a time when having the flyovers build was such a novelty, we’re now ready to welcome the Metro rail soon.

Infrastructural growth, the rise of plush malls, the biggest multinational corporate houses, a plethora of restaurants and designer stores; the choices for us “almost-sophisticated” are growing every day.

But the sad reality of this growth is that it’s extremely unequal. Almost all of them are restricted to just one side of the city-starting from the Begumpet side to the corporate one and beyond. There’s just very few on the Secunderabad side that house them.

I do realise that this is a case with almost every city where it houses different things, but what’s this has led to in Hyderabad is a neglect of the facilities to be provided because it doesn’t fall under the elitist side.

What I dream for is a city of equality. Equally distributed infrastructural facilities and options... A lot of things there have been built by revamping; a similar model needs to be adopted to bridge the inequality that’s developed. It would also lead to more markets on this side which would just add to the sheen of the city and be better for all.

Unless there’s inclusive and an overall development, there’s no point to the plethora of investments coming in and the growth.

Also, what I’d like for the government to take the initiative for more is to give more importance to the promotion of arts and music by way of promoting more modern concerts and having old time sufi singers, etc., too.

The city dream may be extremely weird but amongst all the debate about inclusive growth, this is something I’ve always felt strongly about and wished for a city of my dreams to always be.

Hyderabad is almost everything I’ve wished for a city to live in but the fuel costs is something that’s rising everything and it’s only sometimes the amount and time spent travelling for a cup of coffee so far can be worth the ride.

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“Time is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels, and what one achieves.”
- Jawaharlal Nehru

http://YouthMirror.in
A city of pearls and heritage where people of every religion reside in peace, harmony and tranquility is Hyderabad. Noted to have a wonderful mesmerizing history dated back to almost 500BC ruled by Chalukyas, Kakatiyas, Bahmanis, Mughals and many other gallant emperors now stands amongst us with its natural bounty, hi-tech infrastructure, impeccable diversified culture and traditions, unbeatable software and pharmaceutical industries, extra-ordinary education and employment standards.

Also, declared “the best heritage city of India”. It lives in the heart of Telengana with its embedded diamonds like Chowmahalla Palace, Golkonda Fort, Charminar, Hussain Sagar, Birla Temple, KBR National Park, and many more.

This fascinating city derives its name Hyderabad from a Persian word meaning Hyder’s abode or Lion’s city. Built on the banks of river musi it is said to have the splendid blend of the Mughal and Telugu traditions. It today stands as the 4th most populous city, 5th largest contributor of India’s GDP and 6th most populous urban agglomeration, and industrially known as the genome valley (India’s pharmaceutical capital).

It also houses world class research organizations like BHEL, CCMB, ECIL, DRDO, HAL, ICRISAT, NGRI, etc. from which the renowned scientists of our beloved city got world level laurels and honor recognition. My city Hyderabad is a huge IT hub where Microsoft has its largest R&D Campus outside the US. It also houses companies like Google, IBM, Yahoo, Dell, Facebook, etc which generated 11 billion USD state revenue. About 87% of the city’s population is marked above poverty line with a literacy rate of 82.96% and employment rate of 94.1% making it 5th richest city in India.

“Cyberabad” in Hyderabad undoubtedly has the most number of SEZs in the country. Our cosmopolitan industrial service centre holds everything from a local business to an international summit with so many foreigners visiting from vivid countries to taste its heritage and also to make many successful industrial and business deals.

But in the words of Christopher Morley “All cities are mad, but the madness is gallant. All cities are beautiful, but the beauty is grim.” The same applies to our city. No matter how amazingly it excelled to such great heights in every single aspect there have been ramifications arising now and then. These are leaving scars of
pollution and ineffective waste management, unemployment, crime, ill-health care, corruption, no proper governance, etc to the atomic level.

Rapid urbanization and increased economic activity has triggered the increase in industrial waste, air, noise and water pollution. Every year around 1700-3000 succumb to atmospheric particulate matter. The ground water that we think is potable has a hardness of 1000ppm which is around 3 times higher than the desirable. And for every 10,000 people in the city, there are a mere number of 17.6 hospital beds, 9 specialist beds, 14 nurses and 6 physicians.

Only 61% of the children are provided with all the basic vaccines (BCG, measles and full courses of polio and DPT). The infant mortality rate went up from 35 to 41 (per 1000 live births). 13% of this metro city population lies below poverty line with 66% of population living in unhygienic and inhabitable slums. An unemployment rate of 4.7% which is the highest amongst the metro cities and illiteracy rate of 17% doesn’t definitely give the best off to our city’s pride and heritage. Hyderabad is not very far away from Delhi when it comes to the crime against women and their safety which is such a grave disgrace for any city with 32,809 cases in just a year in fact tops the list in India.

Having born on this land, breathed its air and brought up by this city, I as a responsible citizen of Hyderabad look up for every slightest opportunity to embellish the city’s status in all facets. Especially the youth can do numerous deeds to escalate its development, safety, infrastructure, economy, governance and many more paramount elements in the city both locally and globally.

I’d love my city to have frequent volunteered cleaning drives, NGOs of the professionals which can help the needy in terms of food, clothing and education. The city should soon blossom into an interconnection of townships with all key amenities along with the world-class Metro Rail Transit, Buses, Cabs etc viable for the general public at all times.

The health care should be made more affordable and available for the common man with required schemes for the poor especially women and children. The natural bounty should be conserved i.e. when urbanizing a region, samplings should be planted around the area keeping the green meter up and the industries should keep the releasing of harmful chemicals and particulate matter under regulation using the world-class technology available.

The women should be kept as safe and secure as possible at all times with the aid of the SHE teams at major locations and allot strict police patrolling especially during the nights.

It is everyone’s dream to have a city of 100% literacy rate where every citizen could be blessed with proper education and employment and where there is stability in the families. The government should bring up more jobs especially for the unemployed youth which a wonderful resource left untapped. The local government should make sure every child goes to school and has at least 2 nutritious meals per day.

The Hyderabadi youth living in a drastically westernizing city should still care to respect and remember our great traditions and heritage and not drift away from our history and origin. Motorists should opt for greener ways of everyday transit like car pooling or office/public transport etc, to avoid the increase of pollution levels each day.

A city is never gauged by its length, height and width but by the broadness of its vision, lengths of its diversity and heights of the people’s hopes. Our time is now and what we are will be our city. So let us shine and make our Hyderabad the best.

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Power Generation from Renewable Sources in Hyderabad

By Ramala Kinnera

A city, which is a place of large human settlement, can witness hundreds of people from various parts of the world, coming to it on a daily basis with their innumerable goals and dreams waiting to come true. There may be various reasons for their migration into the city - to pursue education, to start a business, to find a job and make their living, few after their marriage and many more reasons yet to be filled.

When it comes to a City which would be placed top in the list of my favorite cities, it would be the historic and legendary city of “Hyderabad”. Its majestic triumphal arch made of four minarets - Charminar, the most amazing citadel - Golconda, the magnificent tombs built in the memory of the founder rulers of Hyderabad - Qutub Shahi tombs, a unique museum - Salarjung Museum, centuries old lake - Hussain Sagar, the stunningly built Hindu temple devoted to Lord Venkateshwara- Birla mandir, a huge and impressive mosque - Mecca Masjid, the HUDA park which has the Asia’s largest musical fountain- Lumbini Park, one of the 10 world’s largest zoo’s- Nehru Zoological Park and many more historical, devotional, entertaining places are truly the gems of the city Hyderabad, which attracts tourists from all over the world.

Associating my favorite city, Hyderabad to my dream, I would very strongly dream of placing it as a city which would be placed the first in all positive aspects. Be it the education it provides, the opportunities it has, the progress it experiences, the governance it is under, the importance it gives to women, the broadness its vision has, the cleanliness it maintains and for that matter any positive issue, it has to be the best.

It is an acceptable fact that, more the progress in a city, more is the progress in its country. The acclivity a city has in its progress is very much directly proportional to the acclivity in the progress of a country. Matching the latter to Hyderabad as a city and India as a country, the progress in Hyderabad can definitely make a good amount of contribution to progress in India.

We can witness a considerably tremendous progress in the city Hyderabad after it has been 13 months, ever since Telangana has emerged as the 29th state in India. One of the main highlights being the government’s effort to improve the IT sector. There are many other issues pertaining to the progress in the city in the last 13 months such as minimization of power cuts, frankly to say no power cuts at all, new notifications being released for youth, promoting sports, Swachh Hyderabad program, and financial assistance to students of Telangana, action against land encroachment, investment free industrial policy and many more.

Dreaming more about my favorite city, the main points I would dream of seeing Hyderabad as are:

- a place where education is made possible and is reachable to everyone
- a clean and green city which would encourage all possible eco-friendly activities
- a city which has the latest medical technology and would never be responsible for peoples death due to lack of amenities
- a place where everyone indulges themselves in community collaboration to achieve a perfect and ideal city
- where there is no discrimination among people in any issue and all are treated equal by public as well as the law
- a city where women can feel complete secured and women empowerment is encouraged
- 24x7 power supply from renewable sources of energy like the solar, wind etc
I Dream of Clean and Pollution Free Hyderabad

By Abdul Ahad Tariq

Dreaming about my city always gives me a beautiful view in mind which sparkles the smile on my face. A city whose air is perfumed with a fragrance where everybody can feel relaxed. Streets of city are beautifully lightened with colorful lights during night, which give wonderful environment. A city with a beautiful lake having clean water, which fill energy upon its view. Every morning lights up our aims and makes us strong to fulfil it and every night give hopes of better tomorrow.

Citizens always play an important role to make a good city. People of my dreamed city are well-mannered and well cultured who live with unity. Every heart in the city is full of love and respect for each other. Children of my dreamed city are those beautiful angles which spreads smiles in city. There are several parks for children to play and make their childhood wonderful and memorable. Youth of my city are the most responsible citizens among all. Youth of my dreamed city are well educated, and well behaved with elders. They always try to develop city and make their city ideal for others. They always throw their efforts to help other in every aspects.

Education is a fundamental of developed city. My city is a place where quality of education is at its peak. Teachers of my city are well educated, kind and polite towards students. They psychologically understand their students and help them to bring out their hidden talent. Education system of my city doesn’t produce programmed robots but intellectuals who give their best and make their city proud.

My city gives best engineers, doctors and other professionals to the world. My city is most developed among all. Sports and Entertainment are important part of my dreamed city. Sports are fundamentals to maintaining equilibrium between mental and physical drop counts.

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work and for physical fitness of city’s youth. Sports centres are available in my dream city at multiple places which create enthusiasm in city’s youth.

Education centres of my dreamed city allot time for sports daily. Entertainment centres like theatres are located at multiple places of city. Different Movies are made for old, youth and children according to their interest. My dream city is the very clean and pollution free where everyone can inhale pure air which increases freshness and can live with peaceful mind. Roads and streets are very neat and convenient for people to travel. Water provided to citizens is pure and free from contamination which makes them live a healthy life. Every street and road consists of trees on both sides which increases greenery and makes the surroundings fresh and cool. Citizens can feel safe from diseases caused by different forms of pollutions.

My dream city holds many tourism and historical places which makes the city more beautiful and attracts tourist. Parks, zoo and forts are places of interest of tourist and citizens where they can enjoy and capture the beautiful moments in their memory for entire life. It has a wonderful dam which makes a pleasant scene and sunset here is most attractive part of evening. Government and politics of my city is corruption free and work for people to fulfil their needs. Governing bodies of city works dedicatedly for the welfare of citizens and citizens equally cooperate in their work. Finally, I wish we had such city in reality where there is always peace and happiness in all the corners. If every citizen work hard with dedication then the day is not far when we can have a city I dreamed of.

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My City to Be Healthier and Smarter

By Hafsa Iqbal

Since a young age I have always wondered what my version of a perfect city would be. It would be to in a sunny part of the world with great weather all year. It would be crime free with only persons with good character residing within its limits. As I have grown older, I have taken a more adult outlook and as such, have added more requirements to my perfect city such as diverse and developed neighborhoods with strong economical characteristics.

A SOCIAL CHANGE! A Healthier and Smarter City:

I would like to see better aanganwaadi centers across Hyderabad so that the rate of malnutrition can be brought down and we can have Healthier and Smarter Hyderabad children. After all children are the future of the country.

I would also like my city to have more world class sports facilities so that our budding badminton, tennis, cricket and hockey players get an opportunity to utilize their potentials. I would also expect better roads in Hyderabad.

***As Citizens, we need to give back more'****

It is not about what the city gives us, it is our responsibility to make the city a better place to live in. We should try and prevent the cutting of trees and avoid sound pollution. If we are accountable to our city, it will give us back 20 times more!!

We as citizens should become more responsible and aware.

FAIR POINT!

***'Safety FIRST for women'***

There are so many women entrepreneurs in Hyderabad doing great work. Only they haven’t got
the right visibility. In the upcoming years we should be working towards that.

But first, our aim should be to empower women with knowledge, opportunities and the right skills. Every woman should learn the skill of how to ensure her safety. Only then she can freely think of doing other things.

Make it Women-Safe, Crime-Free and Technologically Smart City

By G. Neesha Kumari

Dream, Dream, Dream! Dream transforms into thoughts and thoughts into action. "Yes, if every individual dreams of a goal and works very hard to achieve that goal, it would surely pave a way to not only that persons success but also the success of the area or the city in which the person lives. Thus dream of a smart individual person is linked to the city being smart and a safe.

After doing research, it was found that Hyderabad ranks 138th position in a list of 230 cities around the world in terms of standard of living according to Consultancy Firm Mercer's 'quality of being report-2015'. The list is topped by Vienna. Now the question arises that how did Vienna top the list.

Political instability, quality of living and relatively low crime levels enables expatriates to feel safe and secure in most of the location in Vienna.

Hyderabad too, can be the best city, if it follows, at least few of the steps of Vienna. It's not that Hyderabad wants to lag behind in the race, like every other city, it is also trying to built a smart city as Singapore. All it requires is large funds and of course efforts from each individual living in the city to make it not only a smart city but also a safe and secure city. To this,
the Hyderabad police is commendable for its work. Introduction of 'SHE' teams have done surely good to the city's women. On the other hand, a failure of 'SHE cabs' should be ponder upon.

Hyderabad is known for its English Speaking and International Institutions. But these could be afforded only by the riches. Of course, there are other institutions with a board saying 'English Medium', but sorry to say, most of these institutions deliver subjects in Hindi or Telugu making it a Hindi or Telugu medium institute. Also, there are very few institutions who have a balance in academics and sports. Hence, education system needs to be improvised, as "students are the future citizens of the country".

Smart! Of course my city could be smart and a dream of each individual living elsewhere, to live in Hyderabad, if only its people are smart enough to keep its city clean. Major parts of the city is dumped with garbage. Even the 'educated literates' become 'educated illiterates' when it comes to keeping the city clean and neat. People forget that garbage is meant to dump in the bins and not to litter around the city. Always have in mind that "cleanliness is next to godliness".

The problem of transportation is a major problem that have to be dealt with. Everyday we find Youngsters struggling to board a Bus. They are seen hanging to the Buses, risking their lives. Also, few busy spots still do not have Bus Stops.

Traffic Congestion is yet another major problem. Road accidents also have to be tackled with. Also many under-aged people drive on the roads without license.

Next comes the issue of Health Centers. In Hyderabad there are many Private Hospitals, charging high fees and only one or few Government Hospitals lacking many facilities. People are seen waiting long hours outside the Government Hospitals. Also the number of 108 Ambulances are very less. People experience a harsh time with no other choice left but to treat themselves in Private Hospitals, by spending large amount of their incomes.

Hyderabad is a water starved city. Everyone might be knowing it, as there was a bitter experience this year. All this had happened only because of lack of planning.

Few suggestions can be made, in order to make Hyderabad a Smart and a Dream City. Firstly, Education system should be improvised by bringing in skilled faculty. Also there should be a fair balance between academics and sports. Garbage should be collected by dividing it into wet and dry waste. A separate Garbage Industry could be set up to recycle the waste which could be utilized to make books and other stuff. Those found littering around should be imposed with heavy fines in their respective areas.

A perfect planning should be brought made every year in order to harvest rain water. More R. T. C. buses and stops should be built up. Those found driving under-aged or without licence should be imposed with heavy fines and penalties. Roads must be built up in the required areas. More Government Hospitals should be built up, Private Hospitals should charge low fees. All these could be done with less G. H. M. C taxes and responsible Government investments.

In a World Economy that is becoming more Globalized, our city should work towards improving the quality of life, so that they can attract more Foreign Companies, by investing massively in infrastructure and attracting F. D. I by providing incentives such as tax, housing and entry facilities.

Every individual must shoulder responsibility to make it a Women-safe, Crime-Free and Technologically Smart City. It's a dream that could surely come true with each ones' United Effort.

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No matter how old we are, we never stop dreaming. Using our imagination in the highest way we can create our own world and a whole new perspective of life can be created by taking the following steps:

Developing a neighborhood: Firstly a good neighborhood should be developed.

Transport and connectivity: Transport facilities should be in such a way that they should be well connected to other places with good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, health and other services.

Moreover accidents should be avoided. Most accidents occur when people do not follow traffic rules. So people should follow all types of road safety rules like not using mobile phone while driving and wearing seat belts and helmets and many more. By using bicycles we can reduce the pollution to a large extent.

Saving Fuel

Fuels which are available in nature have a limited supply. This means once they get exhausted we cannot get them again. Therefore they are precious and we have to be careful while using them.

It is therefore very important for us to economize our fuel consumption. A better use of fuel can be made by using public transport such as buses, trains and metro trains.

When we burn fuels like petrol and diesel, they pollute the environment and also affect our health. For this reason fuel efficient vehicles are required. If we use more fuel efficient vehicles, we burn less fuel and reduce pollution. An example of this is Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) which is now being used successfully to run cars and buses. We should make use of solar based vehicles and solar panels.

By consuming solar energy all day we can generate electricity and run vehicles. The city should have the provision of street lights in each and every colony.

Essential Services

Garbage has become a major problem these days. Many people are falling ill due to unhealthy surroundings. So garbage collectors should be appointed for each locality and he should collect garbage without fail. Whereas a sweeper or cleaner provides valuable service by keeping our surroundings clean.

But as a responsible person we can help the sweeper by putting all the rubbish in the dustbins. By doing this we can not only help keep the environment clean but also breath odorless air. They should be given proper wages so that they never hesitate to work. Moreover it is on our part that we should never look down such people.

Better hospitality for tourists, adequate facilities in hospitals, poor people should be treated free of cost. Better advancements in medical field should be made. Education should be provided for all. 3D printing should be encouraged. 3D printing is such an emerging technology which helps industries streamline their design process and lower production costs. It helps us to quickly design products. It will surely make a huge impact on education and research sectors.

Finally I would like to conclude with a famous quote "STRENGTH AND GROWTH COME ONLY WITH CONTINUOUS EFFORT AND STRUGGLE".

[This article was written as part of Hyderabad Youth Mirror’s city-level Essay Writing Competition 2015.]

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Hyderabad Welcomes People from across the Globe

By Anu Renoola

Hyderabad is the beautiful city of lights, smiles, rich history, unique culture, desirable architecture, adorable people, and delicious biryani. It is endearingly called the Pearl City or City of Nawabs. Today, Hyderabad is a modern hub of Information Technology, ITES and Biotechnology.

According to an International travel publication, Hyderabad is declared as the 2nd best place in the world one should see in 2015. It has population of around 8 million, making the 4th most populous city in India. The Hyderabad is packed with rich history. It was ruled by Qutub Shahis, Mughals, and Nizams for centuries.

To an ardent traveler, Hyderabad offers variety of tourist attractions ranging from fascinating panorama of the past, monuments, breathtaking views of lakes and parks, amazing gardens and resorts, to appetizing cuisine and a wonderful shopping experience.

The art, architecture with several palaces, mosques, and tombs mesmerize history lovers with its fascinating beauty. There’s lot more you need to know!

**Charminar**

The Charminar in Hyderabad is a must-visit place which was constructed in 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah. This historic monument is constructed to mark the end of plague. It is an impressive structure with four minarets. It got its name from words Char and Minar, which means four towers. Charminar has occupied much importance to become symbolic of Hyderabad itself. It is situated near the bank of the river Musi, adjacent to Mecca Masjid.

**Golkonda Fort**

The most majestic monument of Hyderabad is Golkonda Fort. It unravels with it 400 years of rich cultural heritage of this city. The fort was reportedly built by the ruler of Kakatiya dynasty. The construction of the fort characterizes the rich nawabi culture of the time. One can find several royal apartments, temples, mosques, and stables inside Golconda Fort.

**Hitech City**

Hyderabad has now become the seedbed for many global IT brands. Hitech City is abbreviated as Hyderabad Information Technology and Engineering Consultancy City. The technology township is also known as Cyberabad. This is built as a result of the IT revolution in India and which has become the hub for IT professionals.

**Salar Jung Museum**

The Salar Jung Museum is a famous art museum across India. It is housing the largest one-man collection of antiques in the world. It is a home for vast collection Encompassing sculptures, paintings, scriptures, manuscripts, carvings, and more. This museum houses India’s most important treasures. The complete collection of museum was the fruit of Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan’s passion for historical antiques and the arts.

**Ramoji Film City**

Ramoji Film City (RFC) is the largest integrated film city in the world. It was established by Indian film producer Ramoji Rao in 1996. RFC is certified by Guinness World Records as the world’s largest film studio complex. It is a dream destination for complete entertainment, recreation and tourism.

**Hyderabad International Airport**

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is also well known as Hyderabad International Airport. It is the sixth-busiest airport in India by international and overall passenger traffic. Today this airport is the highest-ranked Indian airport by Skytrax in 2013.