

Hyderabad
6th October, 2015

PRESS NOTE

400 years old Charminar is the most important monument of Hyderabad. It is also declared as a national monument. Anybody visiting Hyderabad makes it a point to visit Charminar. The traditional craft of Jewellery & other craft and pearl industry located around Charminar is an excellent shopping centre.

Due to population pressure, today Charminar is reduced to a traffic Island. Visible only in fleeting glimpses from the thousands of vehicles playing around it. Traffic problems, pollution, environmental degradation conflicting land use have to be solved in order to bring back the lost visual, cultural, economic and social importance of this historic monument. To improve surroundings of Charminar government in the year 1999 have prepared a plan called “Charminar Pedestrianisation Project. The idea of the project was to regulate traffic by widening the inner and outer ring roads to develop greenery, Land Scaping, Fountains and illumination (focusing lights) around Charminar. For visibility improvement it is proposed to restrict high raise building in the vicinity of Charminar.

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In the year 1999 an amount of 9.5 crores were sanctioned for carrying out Charminar Pedestrianisation project. Though the sanctioned amount was spent not much work was turned out. Again in the year 2006 the matter was referred to CRAPHTS consultants Ahmadabad who prepared Detailed Project Report. Government vide G.O. No. 1218 dated 31-10-2006 gave sanction for the Charminar Pedestrianisation work second time for an amount of Rs. 35.10 crores. Since then the works are said to be going on. Few years back RTC buses were stopped playing around Charminar to ease congestion, never the less, there is no respite in traffic congestion. At many places foot paths are dug to lay tiles. The shop owner on the four sides of Charminar have encroached the foot paths, the push cart people have flourishing business on the roads. As no place to walk the Pedestrianians walk in the centre of the road, the vehicular traffic has no open road to move. Today common man depending up public transport has to walk more than a Kilometer negotiating spending vehicles to reach Charminar. R.T.I. quarry reveal that out of 35.1 crores sanctioned in the year 2006, about Rs. 10 crores spent for compensation to building owners likely to be demolished, Rs.9 crores for roads, Rs.2 crores for footpaths and granite paving and Rs.37 lakhs to consultants.

Government of Telangana is committed to making Hyderabad a smart city and a tourist hub. This to happen beautification of Charminar and its surrounds is a must. In India most of the historic monuments like Tajmahal, Victoria memorial etc. have greenery, fountains and illumination around them where people can stroll and spend time. Unfortunately Charminar has no such facility. It is like a busy traffic island where it is difficult to stand for a while.

Forum for Good Governance request the government to take the Charminar Pedestrianisation Project on top priority. The roads from Nayapool to Faluknuma palace via pattar ghatti, Charminar, Shalibanda, Engine Bowli and other road from Murgi chowk to Etebar chowk via Lad Bazar, Charminar, Sardar Mahal to be improved. Uncontrolled encroachments, mushrooming sign boards hanging precariously on the roads are un ugly scenes covering the visibility of Charminar from all directions.

Yours Sincerely

M. Padmanabha Reddy
Secretary
Forum for Good Governance