



Old MCH Office, Darulshifa

HERITAGE PARTNER SCHEME

For the management of the city of Hyderabad, the first Municipal Commissioner was appointed by Salar Jung I, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad in 1869. Prior to this, the Kotwal-e-Balda (City Police Commissioner) had carried out these functions.

After the catastrophic Musi floods of 1908, the City Improvement Board (CIB) was set up in 1912 by Nizam VII, Osman Ali Khan, with an aim to safeguard and develop the city in a holistic manner.



About the Building

During the initiation of the Municipal Services, this period, a municipal office building was constructed at Darulshifa to serve as the headquarters of the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad (MCH) and The City Improvement Board.

Up to 1990s The building continued to function as the MCH headquarters where key municipal decisions, council meetings, and administrative operations were conducted for Hyderabad city.



A model civic building of its time

The MCH Office



The Old MCH Office at Darulshifa was not a single monolithic structure but a compound of multiple building blocks, developed incrementally to accommodate expanding municipal functions.

The Old MCH Office, Darulshifa, reflects a colonial-era civic architectural style with simple Indo-Islamic influences. It features arched openings, thick masonry walls, high ceilings, and courtyard-based planning, emphasizing functionality, climate responsiveness, and institutional authority rather than ornamentation.

Admin Block (Engineering)

One of the Admin blocks which housed the Engineering and Health departments now lies in ruins.



Store Rooms, to the north of the Admin block, served as the primary space for archival storage, municipal records, maps, and land documents, ensuring the city's administrative operations were well-documented.



The primary road facing building originally housed the council hall, library and offices. The public facing works were carried out in this monumental structure.



Reimagining a Historic Site: Future possibilities



The Old MCH Office can be reimagined as a lively cultural and heritage hub, blending history with modern experiences. Visitors could wander through interactive digital museums, enjoy cafés and food courts, attend events, explore open exhibits, access city and tourist information, and join heritage training programs, creating a space where learning, leisure, and community come together amidst Hyderabad's historic fabric.

Tourist Gateway to the City



Heritage Café & Food Court: Introduce a café and food court offering local cuisine, creating informal social spaces for visitors. Indoor and outdoor seating can blend together to encourage leisure and interaction.



Digital Museum & Interactive Exhibits: A section can be dedicated to a digital heritage museum, showcasing Hyderabad's urban history, archival maps, and municipal evolution.



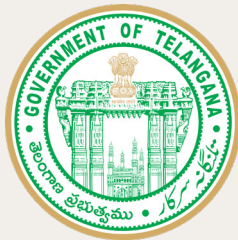
Heritage Education & Training: Host training workshops, seminars, and skill-building programs on heritage conservation, local craft techniques, and urban history.



Open Exhibits & Public Displays: Use halls and open spaces for displays.

Event & Performance Spaces: Flexible indoor and semi-open areas can host cultural events, workshops, exhibitions, and small performances

** Ideas and AI-generated images are for conceptual reference only, Partners are encouraged to share alternate proposals and their vision for the site.*



Scan for
details

The **Heritage Partner Scheme** seeks to form long-term partnerships to transform historic structures into active cultural spaces, and inspire a statewide culture of preservation, ensuring that our heritage sites are safeguarded for the next generations.