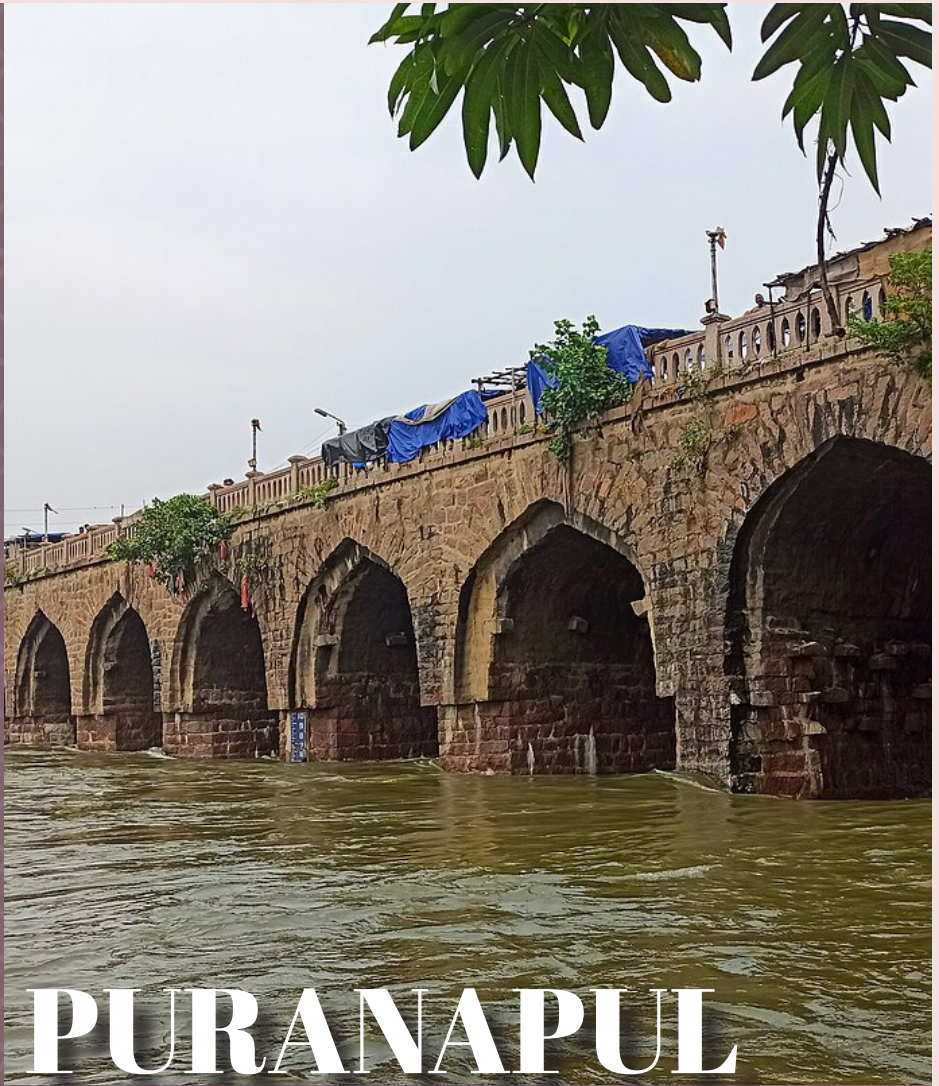




PURANAPUL

BRIDGE

MUSI

HERITAGE PARTNER SCHEME

Puranapul, which literally means “Old Bridge,” is one of the oldest bridges in Hyderabad, Telangana. It was constructed in 1578 during the reign of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth sultan of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.

The bridge served as a crucial link connecting the Golconda Fort with the walled city of Hyderabad, facilitating trade, movement, and communication across the Musi River.



About the Bridge

The masonry bridge, approximately 600 feet long, comprises twenty-two arches and is a significant example of early bridge engineering. The bridge has endured multiple floods and restorations, notably under the Nizams following the floods of 1820 and the catastrophic Musi Flood of 1908, making it the only bridge to survive the latter disaster. Once admired for its elegance and compared to Paris's Pont Neuf, Puranapul has since faced neglect.

Made of stone and lime mortar, the bridge features multiple arches that can withstand river currents, with sloped ramps at both ends providing access to varying riverbank levels.



**A timeless urban
landmark**

The PURANAPUL Bridge



Uniquely, Puranapul is not merely a crossing—it also serves as a commercial hub, with a small marketplace along the upper deck where merchants sell daily goods, spices, textiles, and other commodities. This makes the bridge a vital social space, integrating trade and transport within the city's urban fabric.

Its arches, vaults, and stone construction allowed the bridge to endure centuries of river flows and urban growth, resulting in a local marketplace atop.



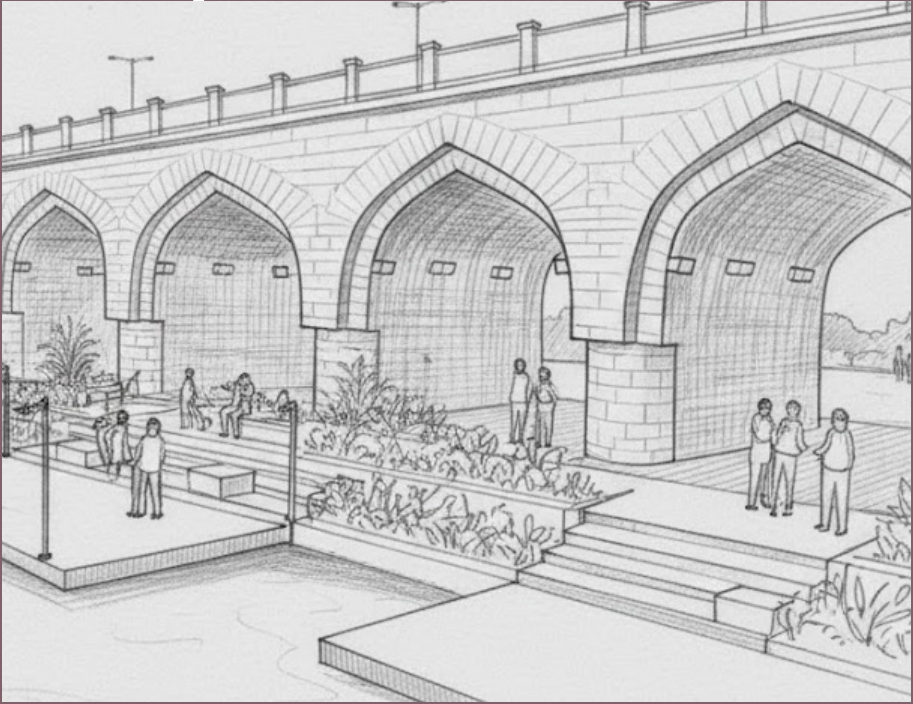
Merchants and traders set up stalls along the bridge's upper deck, selling essentials such as fruits and vegetables in stalls.



The bridge is now a heritage landmark, frequented by locals and tourists alike, often used for walking, photography, and guided heritage tours.



Reimagining a Historic Site: Future possibilities



The adaptive reuse of Puranapul envisions transforming the historic bridge into a living cultural plaza that celebrates Hyderabad's everyday heritage, pedestrian urban life, and local livelihoods. By introducing river-edge viewing points, a heritage-inspired food street, craft and artisan vending pockets, and storytelling panels, the bridge becomes an active space for community engagement, commerce, and cultural interpretation. The proposal emphasizes sensitive interventions that is safe, vehicle-free pedestrian use, creating a vibrant, multi-functional heritage corridor.

Historic Bridge Market



River Viewing Points: Create viewing areas offering framed views of the Musi River and the historic cityscape. Install subtle seating elements and shaded areas.



Heritage Food Street: Transform Puranapul into a vehicle-free food street, celebrating Hyderabadi street food. Introduce food kiosks offering local cuisine and illuminate the bridge.

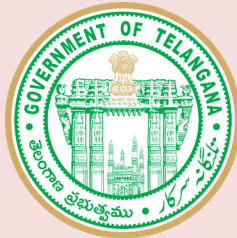


Craft & Artisan Bazaar: Allocate riverbank arch bays as craft vending pockets showcasing local arts. Integrate small live craft demonstration areas to enhance visitor engagement.



Cultural Interpretation & Storytelling: Install heritage interpretation panels narrating the bridge's history, flood survival stories, etc.

** 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.