

## Discovering Beloved Baba's Legacy in Hyderabad

Beloved Baba's visits and work in Hyderabad



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## Beloved Baba And Hyderabad

- Baba's comments on Hyderabad:
  - "I like Hyderabad best. It is a very great place both spiritually and materially. Its spiritual importance stems from ages past."
    - Lord Meher 2005, Vol 5, p2640 (1951 - during stay at Hyderabad in the New Life period)
  - "I like Hyderabad for its spiritual atmosphere; specially for its Hindu-Muslim unity in matters spiritual."
    - Glimpses of The God-Man, Vol2, p350
  - Indeed, in no other city in India did Baba work with so many masts as he did in Hyderabad – almost 70 in all!
    - Lord Meher 2005, Vol 4, P 2167

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## About Hyderabad

- Brief history
  - A 400-year old historical city
  - Founded in 1591 during the Qutub Shahi dynasty and became very wealthy
  - Aurangzeb captured and appointed Asaf Jah (Nizam-1, the Prime minister)
  - In 1798, Nizam II made pact with the British East India company and allowed them to construct the other Twin-city of Secunderabad for their cantonment. He also allowed British Resident to stay.
  - Merged with Indian union in 1948

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## Hyderabad - Prominent Monuments Golconda Fort

- Built by the Qutub Shahi Dynasty (of Shia faith) in 1500s
- Was the capital of this dynasty till 1600, before the capital shifted to Hyderabad.
- Golconda was famous for diamonds including Kohinoor
- Inside the fort - Kancharla Gopanna's (Bhaktha Ramadas) prison is located



## Hyderabad - Prominent Monuments Charminar

Built in 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah with a shift of capital from Golconda fort to Hyderabad



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## Hyderabad - Prominent Monuments

World's largest single-stone statue of the Buddha of 72 feet height, erected in the middle of Hussain Sagar lake in 1992



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## Hyderabad - Prominent Monuments The New Hyderabad

Today Hyderabad is  
a prominent IT  
hub in India



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## Table of Baba's stay at Hyderabad

Event	Year	From	To	# of days
First visit	1930	29-Aug-30	29-Aug-30	1
Blus Bus tour	1938	8-Dec-38	17-Dec-38	10
Mast tour - 1945	1945	22-Feb-45	24-Feb-45	3
Mast tour - 1945	1945	9-Mar-45	22-May-45	75
Mast tour - 1945	1945	29-May-45	6-Sep-45	101
Mast tour - 1947	1947	13-Aug-47	13-Aug-47	1
Mast tour - 1949	1949	16-May-49	18-May-49	3
Mast tour - 1951	1951	17-Jan-51	19-Jan-51	3
Mast tour - 1956 (Last visit)	1956	8-Sep-56	10-Sep-56	3
New Life period - 1950* (Helping the destitute families)	1950	Nov	Nov	9
New Life period - The Hyderabad Meeting and Manonash Seclusion	1951	27-May-51	24-Oct-51	151
<b>TOTAL days of stay at Hyderabad</b>				<b>360</b>

\* LM (2005 Ed), vol 5, p 2609

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## First visit to city

- *Baba's first visit to city is on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, 1930.*
- Baba was accompanied by Agha Ali, Vishnu, brother Jal, Karim and Raosaheb .
- In Hyderabad, a customs inspector named Dalanji Behram recognized Baba and beseeched him to visit his house. He showed Baba the sights of Hyderabad and Secunderabad in his car.
- Baba then visited the home of a man named Palanji, before leaving for Kolhapur

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## Blue bus tour - 1938



Baba during the Blue bus tour



The Blue Bus

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## Blue bus tour - Objectives

### Main objectives of Blue bus tour

1. To contact masts
2. To find suitable place to establish a new ashram or center
3. To give Eastern and Western women a chance to see the country and experience a different lifestyle than what they are leading
4. To visit the shrines and tombs of saints and Perfect Masters

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## Blue bus tour\* – Hyderabad.

- Baba left Meherabad with 23 members in Blue Bus on 8 Dec 1938 towards Hyderabad. Arrived on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.
- Accommodation arranged by Chanji with the help of Maharajas Kisan Prasad and Moula Ali at Palace garden, Lingampalli, Hyderabad
- Shifted to another bungalow at Begumpet, Hyderabad with the help of Nizam's brother Meher Ali.

*\*Lord Meher 2005, Vol 3, P 1688*

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## Blue bus tour – the proposed center

- Preferred a spot 11 miles outside of the city, between two lakes for the center
- A legend goes that robes of Jesus were buried in this area\*
- Helen Dahm and Walter Mertens were asked to prepare detailed architectural plan
- When the plans were about to be finalized, Baba went to Jabalpure with the group.

*\* Refer AMB Jubilee Hills center Inauguration souvenir*

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## Blue bus tour – Mast contacts

- Notable mast contacts
  - Mastani Mai (spiritual charginman of Hyderabad)
  - No direct contact by Baba



Courtesy: Photo taken from the Wayfarers, By William Donkin

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## Mast Tour – 1945\*

### Preparatory Visit

- Baba left Meherabad and arrived at Hyderabad on 22 Feb 1945 for the purpose of
  - Identifying a bungalow for a stay of 6 months (for mast work)
  - Doing preliminary mast work
- Companions – Pendu, Baidul, Kaka Baria
- Second World War time, Dr Donkin was working in the Military Hospital at Secunderabad
- Stayed in Rock Castle Hotel, Banjara Hills
- Identified a bungalow at the Banjara Hills, which was under construction. It had a garden and medium-sized swimming pool.
- It was owned by a wealthy muslim lawyer, who was constructing it for his use.
- Signed agreement for lease of 6 months
- Baba contacted few masts and left for Meherabad on 24 Feb.

\*Lord Meher 2005, Vol 4, P 2162

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## Mast Tour – 1945\*

### During The Second World War

- Baba left Meherabad for Hyderabad on 9 March, 1945
- Companions
  - 8 women - Mehera, Mani, Meheru, Naja, Walu, Rano, Kitty, Margaret
  - 14 men - Adi Sr, Baidul, Ghani, Gustadji, Kaka, Krishna, Eruch, Padri, Pendu, Kalemama, Jal (Baba's brother), Nilu, Vishnu, Venkoba Rao
- Stayed in Secunderabad till 1 April, then moved to the lawyer's bungalow at Banjara Hills – on lease till Sept
- Margaret Craske gave swimming lessons to Mehera and other Women mandali<sup>#</sup>

\*Lord Meher 2005, Vol 4, P 2165  
# Mehera Meher Vol 2, p 292

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## Mast Tour – 1945 Contd.

- Notable Mast contacts\*
  - Sayyed Mu'inuddin
    - Spiritual charginan of Hyderabad
    - Jalali mast of the 6<sup>th</sup> plane
  - Ghulam Hussein, nick-named "Gentleman saint" (contacted 4 times)
  - Rajiah Mastan, who was contacted twice in 1945
  - Shastri Bua
  - Ali Shah was brought to Hyderabad three times during this period from Meherabad

\* P 248-255, The Wayfarers, William Donkin

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## Mast Tour – 1945 Contd.

- Notable Mast contacts
  - Chaman Alishah
    - 40 year-old mental plane mast
    - Uttered "Merwan was to come yesterday, but he came today"
  - Abkari (captain of a ship)
  - Maqduum – an advanced mast of mental plane
  - Islam Chaus, sported most jolly temperament
  - Keshwanandji Sadhu, pilgrim on subtle plane
  - Khaki Saheb, salik of mental plane
  - Nuruddin, who was fond of toddy

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## Mast Tour – 1945 Contd.

- It is believed that Baba's visit to Hyderabad and Masts contact has 'connection' with the ending of the Second World war
  - April 30 – Hitler committed suicide. Baba expressed disappointment that he killed himself than facing the consequences.
- 10-day (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May) fast only on water with Glucose-D (an energy drink)
- May 3 - Kishan Singh took darshan of Baba for the first-time
- May 22 - 29 : Baba went to Meherabad – for the appointed meetings and interviews

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## Mast Tour – 1945 Contd.

- Tours from Hyderabad (base station)
  - Mast tour of near-by towns
    - April 10 – 14: Bidar, Nanded, Bhongir
    - May 14 – : Sangareddy, Udgir
    - May 16 : Jogipet
    - June 4-5: Vijayawada, Warangal, Kazipet
    - July 6-7 : Gulbarga and Yadgiri
      - Yadgiri– Contacted Jeevanmukta 'Ishwar Daru'
    - July 23 – 27: Madras (contacted Muhammed mast in a bank), Raichur (bowed down to 40 poor destitutes)

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## Mast Tour – 1945 Contd.

- Aug 6: First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- Aug 9: Second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki
  - During this period, Baba contacted Syed Moinuddin, Ghulam Hussain and Rajiah masts in Hyderabad
- Sept 2: World War II officially ended
- Sept 3: Narayan Maharaj dropped body in Bangalore, the last of the 5 Perfect Masters. On this day, Baba contacted an exceptional mast Abkari (Captain) for the second and last time.
- Sept 6: Baba left Hyderabad for Mahabaleshwar

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## Mast Tour – 1945 Contd.

*"Indeed, in no other city in India did He work with so many masts as He did in Hyderabad – almost 70 in all!"\**



One Mast of Hyderabad (Persian) Mt enters a Mast

Abkar Baba visits an unidentified mast he contacted in Hyderabad

Mast (Rajiah) of Hyderabad

Courtesy: Photos taken from the Wayfarers, By William Dinkin

\*Lord Meher 2005, Vol 4, P 2167

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## Mast Tour – 13 Aug 1947\*

- Baba left Satara by car on 10 Aug 1947, to contact advanced souls in Aurungabad, Purli, Tuljapur, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Zahirabad
- Baba arrived on 13 Aug 1947 for contacting Masts
- Contacted around 7 masts on 13 Aug
- Notable contacts
  - Ghulam Hussein
  - Rajiah
  - Mama mast
  - Ashaq Mian
  - Murshid

\* P 389-390, The Wayfarers, William Dinkin

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## Mast Tour – 1949\*

- Period of the mast work– 16 to 18 May 1949
- Worked with the Jeevanmukta - Ishwar Daru at Yadgiri
- Worked with 8 masts at Hyderabad
- Notable contacts: Rajiah Mastan, Kala Khan Majzoob, Ananda Swami (at Kachiguda locality), Shastri Bua
- At the end of these contacts Baba said, *"The burden has been lifted and my work is now completed"* and then proceeded to Mt Abu

\*Lord Meher 2005, Vol 4, P 2384

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## New Life Mast Tour - 1951

- Period: 17 to 19 Jan 1951
- Baba arrived in Hyderabad from Mahabaleshwar on 17 Jan
- Stayed at Guest house near Osman Sagar lake
- Total of 31 masts were contacted on this tour
- Contacted 24 masts on 17<sup>th</sup> itself and it made Baba very happy
- Notable contacts: Shastri Bua, Sayyed Mu'inuddin, Chaous

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## New Life – Help to the destitute families – Hyderabad\*

- After the notable contact at Gudur, Baba proceeded towards Hyderabad
- At an Idgah, Baba sat wearing langoti in seclusion for half-an-hour
- Contacted 11 destitute families at Hyderabad
- Notable contact:
  - An erstwhile Nawab - who was so rich that he had a saloon in his personal train for travels was reduced to poverty
    - Earns livelihood by selling beedies and matches, at Mud Fort, Secunderabad
    - Baba gave 500/- and seeing such a huge sum he fainted
    - Onlookers gathered and started abusing Baba and mandali
    - When the man became conscious and thanked Baba and mandali for the help, Baba just slipped out of the scene quickly and quietly.

\*Lord Meher 2005, Vol. 5, P 2609

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## New Life – Help to the destitute families – Hyderabad Contd.

- Interesting encounter with the Police commissioner Mr. Reddy
  - Eruch went to Hyderabad police station for obtaining identity documents so that they would not be stopped on their way
  - When Eruch approached him, he asked if his companion is Meher Baba. Eruch was surprised.
  - Police Commissioner happened to be Baba's childhood friend who played cricket with Baba at Pune



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### Mast Tour – 1956\*

#### *Last visit to the city*

- Period: 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Sept 1956
- Baba left Satara on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept by car on a 4-day mast tour of Hyderabad and neighboring places
- Contacted few masts, mostly of whom Baba contacted earlier
- Paid a sudden visit to Dr. Daulat Singh, Sikh Village, Secunderabad, as promised him during New Life period

\*Lord Meher 2005, Vol 7, P.3670

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### Manonash and The Hyderabad Meeting

- Period of stay : 27 May to 24 Oct 1951
- Stayed at the Nawab's Bungalow (House # 6-2-591, Banjara Hills), former residence of Nawab Ali Nawaz Jung.
- Baba contacted many masts.
- June 20-26 : Baba was involved in the preparations and arrangements for the Hyderabad meeting
- Baba's health – became weak due to 100-day fast prior to moving to Hyderabad, and suffering from piles
- Baba also had the last two teeth removed and dentures made from an European Dentist in Hyderabad\*

Nawab's bungalow

\* 'Mehera Meher' Vol 2, p 553<sup>9</sup>

### Manonash - The Hyderabad Meetings

- The Hyderabad meeting – for the declaration of the **God-determined Step**
- Meeting period: 28-30 June, 1951
- Old and New life companions – to stay for 7 days
- Others invited (39 men) – to stay for 3 days
  - Lovers from Hamirpur, Andhra, and other places attended



Nawab's bungalow

Courtesy: Photo taken from Lord Meher

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### Manonash - The Hyderabad Meetings contd.

- About the **God-determined Step** Baba said\* :
  - The **God-determined Step** will be executed from 16 Oct 1951 to 15 Feb 1952
  - It is like deciding to climb Mt Everest when his physical condition is such that he can move very little

\*LM 2005 Vol 5 p 2646-2647

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### Manonash - The Hyderabad Meetings contd.

- About the **God-determined Step** contd :
 

*"I have to attain the zenith of strength at a time when I am at the zenith of weakness, in an impossibly short period – impossible in the sense that what could be achieved in four crores (40 millions) of lives is to be achieved in four months!"*



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### MANONASH - THE HYDERABAD MEETINGS CONTD.

- About the **God-determined Step** Baba said that:
  - “You have been called here to bear witness to the declaration that I am going to make before God.”
  - “The step God wants me to take is one of complete and absolute (mental) annihilation.”
  - “... in the natural course of events, (I will) be facing physical annihilation as well without my actually seeking it.”



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### MANONASH - THE HYDERABAD MEETINGS CONTD.

- The Declaration was read in English by Donkin, Ghani in Urdu, Deshmukh in Marathi
- Out of 70 in the meeting, only 21 offered to go with Baba for Manonash work
- Baba finally selected the following: Gustadji, Baidul, Pendu, Eruch
- Baba discoursed on Manonash at length
  - Mind has to be annihilated for the limited ego (limited I) to get transformed as unlimited I.
- The 4 months period was divided into 4 phases:
  - First 30-40 days was to be spent in Khojaguda cave
  - Second 30-40, foot journey from Hyderabad to Aurangabad
  - Third, contacting masts at Khuldabad
  - Fourth, the final stage at Meherazad

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### Manonash – Selection of Khojaguda Hill

- Five specific points for the selection of a suitable spot for his Manonash seclusion work:
  - The place should be away from city
  - It should either be on a hill or close to the sea
  - It should have a small village nearby
  - It should have spiritual history
  - It should have a vast expanse at least on one side so that I may move about freely without being disturbed

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### Manonash – Selection of Khojaguda Hill contd.

- Eruch, Baidul and Pendu found a hill called Khojaguda, 8 KMs from Hyderabad
- On one side of the cave, there was a tomb of Baba Fakruddin, a 14<sup>th</sup>-century Muslim saint and on another side a Hindu temple of Lord Vishnu
  - \*The man who has shown the place is Kasturi Lingaiah and helped in constructing the wall on one side of the cave, had a paralytic stroke a few years after. He refused to take any medicines, but only drank a glass of water kept near Baba's photo in the night with all faith and got cured because of his faith in Baba.
- Models of five religious symbols (Buddhist temple, Hindu temple, Christian church, Mohammedan mosque, Zoroastrian fire-urn) made of alabaster were made at Agra for the seclusion work



Manonash cave photo tour

\*LM 2005 Ed, vol 8, p 4420  
Courtesy: Photo of the models in Baba's Museum, Meherabad 46

### Manonash - Khojaguda Hill

- Oct 13: Pendu, Gustadji, Baidul and Daulat Singh went up to stay for cleaning the premises
- Eruch's car incident: After parking, the car began rolling back negotiating curves as if someone is driving inside. No damage to models inside.
- Oct 15: Baba arrived in a decorated car at 2:30 PM

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### Manonash - Khojaguda Hill Contd.

- Oct 16: Prayers were held simultaneously at different places:
  - Baba and the group at the dargah of the Muslim saint
  - Meherjee at fire-temple, Udwarda
  - Keki Desai at Moinuddin Chistie's tomb at Ajmer
  - WD Kain at Krishna's temple at Mathura
  - Gaya Prasad Khare at Buddha's temple at Sarnath
  - Vishwanth Haldankar at Francis Xavier's cathedral in Goa
  - At Hyderabad
    - Nilu in a Buddhist temple
    - Vishnu in a Hindu temple
    - Kaikobad in a Parsi fire temple
    - Donkin in a catholic church
    - A selected Muslim priest in a mosque

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## Manonash - Khojaguda Hill Contd.

- Oct 18: Seclusion in the Cave
- Oct 20: Seclusion at the Hindu temple
- Oct 22: Baba communed with a mast named Ghulam Hussein
- Oct 23 (seventh day): Seclusion ended  
*"... my work in the cave has been 100% successful"*
- Oct 24: Foot journey started to Meherazad via Aurangabad.

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## Conclusion

The two aspects of Beloved Baba's work in Hyderabad that stand-out:

- The God-Determined Step of Manonash work
  - "I have to attain the zenith of strength at a time when I am at the zenith of weakness, in an impossibly short period – impossible in the sense that what could be achieved in four crores (40 millions) of lives is to be achieved in four months!"
- The Mast work
  - Indeed, in no other city in India did he (Baba) work with so many masts as he did in Hyderabad – almost 70 in all!

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- AMB Centers and present activities in Hyderabad

## AMB Centers in Hyderabad

The first center in the twin cities started in Oct 1960 at Secunderabad



AMB Secunderabad Center, Mudfort, Feb 1965 – Sarosh and Viloo Irani among others.

## AMB Centers in Hyderabad

### AMB Hyderabad [Koti] Center (alias Koti Center)

- Foundation stone laid by PD Pukar: 11 Feb 1973
- Inaugurated by Kusum M Singh: 18 July 1973
- Inauguration of Extended Hall: 18 March 1999 by Shri Bhau Kalchuri, Chairman AMBPPCT



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## AMB Centers in Hyderabad

### AMB Hyderabad [Koti] Center

- Weekly gathering – Saturdays, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
- Study Circle on Baba's literature : 6:00 to 8:00 PM twice a week
- Acupressure Clinic: 6:00 to 8:00 PM three times a week
- Blood Donation camp : first Sunday after Baba's birthday



Inside the center (2009)

## AMB Centers in Hyderabad Contd.

### AMB Hyderabad Center, Jubilee Hills

#### AMB Hyderabad Center, Jubilee Hills

- Foundation: 31 March 1982 by Aloba, Mandali member
- Inauguration: 14 Nov 1986 by Aloba, Mandali member
- Weekly gathering – Sundays, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon



## AMB Centers in Hyderabad Contd.

### AMB Hyderabad Center, Jubilee Hills

#### AMB Hyderabad Center, Jubilee Hills

- Later Guest house was constructed for accommodating Baba lovers visiting the place
- A beautiful garden is developed in the premises



## AMB Centers in Hyderabad Contd.

- AMB Secunderabad Center
  - Weekly gatherings – Wednesdays ,6:00 to 8:00 PM
- AMB Malkajgiri Center
  - ▣ Weekly gatherings – Mondays, 6:00 to 8:00 PM



## Main Activities - AMB Centers Hyderabad/Secunderabad

- Main activities in the Twin cities
  - Baba's Birthday celebrations at various centers
  - Nov 14 to Feb 25 – daily evening gatherings at various homes of lovers spread across all the areas
    - This was in practice when Baba is in physical form. Here is a message Baba gave in Feb 1965 on hearing of the 71 day-programme:\*

*I give my love and blessing to you and all my lovers in Hyderabad and Secunderabad that each of the seventy-one days of your program may be a blossom on the tree of my love.*

- Annual Blood Donation camp on the first Sunday after 25 Feb
- 10 July Silence Day
- Nov 14 – Jubilee Hills Center Anniversary
- Gurupurnima Day – Koti Center Anniversary

\*LM 2005 Ed, vol 8, p 4514

## GPS coordinates of places connected with Baba in Hyderabad

Place	Latitude	Longitude
1951 Manonash cave, Khojaguda, Hyderabad	17°24'34.72"N	78°21'50.41"E
1951 Manonash cave - Baba Fakruddin's darga	17°24'37.23"N	78°21'58.01"E
1951 Manonash cave- Vishnu temple	17°24'35.16"N	78°21'47.23"E
1951 Kohinoor bungalow, Banjara Hills	17°25'3.20"N	78°26'52.49"E
1945 Laywer's bungalow, Banjara, Hills, Hyderabad	17°25'19.20"N	78°26'35.70"E
1945 Hotel Castle Rock, Bajara Hills	17°25'16.53"N	78°26'32.37"E
1951 Dreamland theater, Secunderabad	17°26'58.00"N	78°29'36.82"E
1951 Old Tivoli theater, Secunderabad	17°26'53.65"N	78°29'35.66"E
AMB Hyderabad Center, Jubilee Hills	17°26'40.58"N	78°24'7.23"E
AMB Secinderabad center (old), Mudfort	17°27'9.84"N	78°29'29.15"E
AMB Hyderabad [Koti] Center	17°22'55.70"N	78°29'17.84"E

Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!!!