NATIONAL
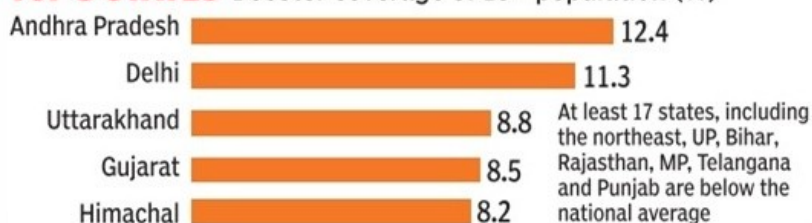
➢ **The government - has reduced the gap between the second dose of the Covid vaccine and the precautionary dose from 9 months to 6 months.**

✓ The government's advisory body on vaccination, the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) had recommended reducing the gap between the second dose and the booster dose.

NAT'L COVERAGE 5.1%, BEST STATE AT 12.4%

Age Group	Population (cr)	Booster Shots (cr)	% Covered
18-59	80.1	0.6	0.8
60+	13.8	4.1	30.1
Total	93.9	4.7	5.1

Source: Health ministry. Data as of 7am on July 6. Figures rounded off

TOP 5 STATES Booster coverage of 18+ population (%)

State	%
Andhra Pradesh	12.4
Delhi	11.3
Uttarakhand	8.8
Gujarat	8.5
Himachal	8.2

At least 17 states, including the northeast, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, MP, Telangana and Punjab are below the national average

✓ At present, precaution dose is available free of cost at government vaccination centres to the priority groups, which includes frontline workers, healthcare workers, and the elderly population aged above 60 years.

✓ For those aged 18-59, the precaution dose is available only at private vaccination centres.

✓ On January 10, India rolled out third 'booster' dose to health care workers, frontline workers, and citizens above 60 years with comorbidities

✓ Later, on 16 March, the vaccination drive for precaution dose was extended to all adults above the age of 60 years.

- ✓ On April 10, the government announced the rollout of the precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccine for the 18 plus population
- ✓ As per the official data, India has administered 4.75 crore precaution doses, as on date.

- ➢ **On July 6, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and RCP Singh - resigned from the Union Cabinet, a day before completion of their Rajya Sabha terms**

- ✓ Naqvi was in charge of the minority affairs ministry while Singh was the steel minister.
- ✓ Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and women and child development minister Smriti Irani have been given additional charge of the ministries of steel and minority affairs, respectively.
- ✓ Resignations of both Naqvi and Singh was necessitated after BJP and JD(U) decided not to give fresh terms to them.
- ✓ Naqvi, lone Muslim face in the Union Cabinet and also BJP's deputy leader in the Upper House, served three terms in addition to a two year-spell he got because of a vacancy.
- ✓ Singh, solitary representative of JD(U) in the Union Cabinet, also served three full terms.
- ✓ His resignation leaves food processing minister Pashupati Kumar Paras of Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) as the only member of the Cabinet who is not from BJP.

- ➢ **The number of elephant reserves in the country - has now increased to 32 spreading over 68,700.4 sq km across the country**
- ✓ This is after the Tamil Nadu government setting aside 1,197.48 sq km area of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve for the purpose of Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve
- ✓ An elephant reserve is a management entity notified by state governments as per the recommendations of the Centre.
- ✓ It includes protected areas, forest areas, corridors and private/reserve lands.
- ✓ Elephant has been recognised as a national heritage animal of India and the highest degree of protection has been given to it under Indian Wildlife Protection Act (1972).

✓ India has the largest population of Asian elephants with 30,000 wild and about 3,600 captive animals.

➤ **The strategic disinvestment process of government-backed Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) - has been completed on July 4, as announced by the Ministry of Finance**

✓ In January 2022, Tata Steel arm - Tata Steel Long Products (TSLP) won the bid to acquire a 93.71% stake in Odisha-based NINL for Rs 12,100 crore
✓ The amount has been utilised for settlement of dues of employees, operational creditors, secured financial creditors and sellers (operational and financial dues) and for equity of selling shareholders
✓ TSLP's bid was more than double the reserve or base price of Rs 5,616.97 crore for NINL
✓ NINL is the second successful privatisation by the current government.
✓ Incidentally, Air India -- the first company on the privatisation list -- too was bought by Tata Group.
✓ The sick NINL's 1.1 million ton integrated iron and steel plant at Kalinganagar industrial complex in Jajpur district was shut in March 2020 due to continued losses.
✓ The company was India's largest exporter of saleable pig iron since 2004–2005
✓ NINL is a joint venture of four central public sector enterprises namely Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) with 49.78% stake, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) (10.10%), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) (0.68%), Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants Limited (MECON) (0.68%) and two State government PSUs namely Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) (20.47 %) and Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) (12%).

➤ **On July 6, Google India - announced the launch of Startup School India (SSI), as part of the Google for Startups initiative, to guide 10,000 startups in tier II & III cities in the country**

- ✓ Startup School is a series of guided online trainings designed to provide early-stage startup founders with the required tools, products, and knowledge
- ✓ This is a platform under which Google will bring together investors, successful entrepreneurs and programmers to guide the startups.
- ✓ The nine-week programme will also feature fireside chats between Google leaders and eminent collaborators from across the startup ecosystem
- ✓ Within this programme, the subjects covered would include fintech, language, job search, social media and networking, business-to-business and business-to-consumer e-commerce
- ✓ With close to 70,000 startups, India is the third largest country in terms of startups, after the U.S. and China

- ➤ **The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) - has introduced a unified credit framework for easing entry and exit in BE, BTech programmes.**
- ✓ As per the unified credit level, a student completing Class X will be treated as level 3 and completing Class XII will move them to level 4.
- ✓ As per the new regulations, a student exiting a first year UG degree will get an undergraduate certificate and the level would be 4.5 while students exiting second year will get level 5 along with the diploma.
- ✓ Meanwhile, quitting in third year will earn them B.Voc degree and 5. 5 level, whereas, completing a four-year degree will get them unified level 6
- ✓ The entry level qualifications were also modified to accommodate students who exited their degree at different levels.

- ➤ **A 100-metre suspension bridge on the Kali river connecting India and Nepal at Jhulaghat in Uttarakhand - was closed on July 6 for maintenance work.**

- ✓ This is the first time in recorded history of the bridge, built by the British in 1877, that it was closed for repairs.
- ✓ Currently, only temporary repairs are being done on the bridge
- ✓ However, a proposal worth an estimated Rs. 20 lakh will be sent to the Uttarakhand government for more comprehensive renovation of the structure.

- ✓ The Jhulaghat suspension bridge is an important link between the two countries, India and Nepal.
- ✓ When it was closed for a few months due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, markets in Pithoragarh had incurred heavy losses.
- ✓ On an average, around 500 persons from both countries use the bridge daily.

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- ➢ **On July 5, the Karnataka high court (HC)'s Dharwad Bench - upheld the state government's order enhancing the retirement age of employees in the private sector from 58 to 60.**
- ✓ The state government had enhanced the retirement age by modifying the Model Standing Orders of the Karnataka Industrial Employment Standing Orders (Amendment) Rules 2017 that was gazetted on March 28, 2017.
- ✓ The Court pronounced the verdict while hearing a petition filed by management of the Harihar unit of Grasim Industries Limited challenging the order
- ✓ The earlier petition by Grasim Industries Limited had been rejected by a single-judge bench of the HC and the appellant had moved the division bench.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ➢ **Researchers at IIT Madras - have developed a pathbreaking tool that can identify cancer-causing genes in individuals.**
- ✓ The Artificial Intelligence-based tool called 'Pivot' will help doctors devise personalised treatment strategies for patients based on their genetic profile.
- ✓ The tool is built on a Machine Learning model that classifies genes as tumour suppressors (which cause malignant or benign tumours), oncogenes (which cause cancer), and neutral genes.
- ✓ The model has been developed to identify rare genes that cause cancer.
- ✓ The model is fed with genomic data of cancer patients and uses information such as the number of times a gene mutates, its properties, the kind of mutations, and number of deleterious mutations, to identify the cancer-causing gene in an individual.
- ✓ In a standard strategy, an important cancer-causing gene is identified after studying samples of many patients and finding out that the gene that has mutated quite often.
- ✓ The team has built models for three different types of cancer including breast invasive carcinoma, colon adenocarcinoma and lung adenocarcinoma.
- ✓ While cancer is an uncontrolled growth of cells that can occur due to mutations in oncogenes or by tumour suppressor genes or both, not all mutations necessarily result in cancer.

044-24339436, 044-42867555, 9840226187

✓ Therefore, identifying genes responsible for the initiation and progression of cancer can help determine the most suitable combination of drugs and therapy.

DEFENCE

➢ **The IAF - has received almost 7.5 lakh online applications under the new Agnipath scheme, the highest number till now in any recruitment cycle**
✓ Meanwhile, the registration drives for the Army and Navy are currently under way.
✓ The IAF was the first to kick off the registration process, which began on June 24 and ended on July 5.
✓ The Army and Navy, in turn, launched their recruitment drives on July 1.
✓ According to the IAF, compared to 6,31,528 applications in the past, which was the highest in any recruitment cycle, this time 7,49,899 applications have been received
✓ Under the radical Agnipath scheme announced on June 14, a total of 46,000 Agniveers (40,000 for Army and 3,000 each for IAF and Navy) will be recruited this year
✓ Among them, only 25% will be eventually selected after four years for induction into the regular military cadre to serve for another 15 years.

ECONOMY

➢ **On July 6, Reliance Retail - announced its long-term franchise partnership with Gap and plans to bring back the iconic American fashion brand to India.**

✓ With this, Reliance Retail has become the official retailer for Gap across all channels in India
✓ Earlier, Gap had a franchise business relationship with Arvind Fashions, a company from the Lalbhai Group.
✓ It was mutually terminated in September 2020 amidst Covid pandemic.
✓ Founded in San Francisco in 1969, Gap is considered as an authority on modern American style.
✓ It continues to build on its heritage grounded in denim.

APPOINTMENTS

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➢ **On July 6, the government - nominated four acclaimed celebrities from the south — legendary music composer Ilaiyaraaja, athlete P T Usha, script writer of 'Bahubali' and 'RRR' K V Vijayendra Prasad and Dharmasthala temple head Veerendra Heggade — to the Rajya Sabha.**

PT Usha
➤ Kerala-born sprinter is one of India's most iconic sportspersons
➤ Popularly known as Payyoli Express, she won medals at various international sporting events, including World Junior Invitational Meet, Asian Championships and Asian Games
➤ In 1984 Olympics, she missed India's first medal in track and field, coming 4th in women's 400M hurdles and lost bronze by 1/100th of second.
➤ Post-retirement, she started the Usha School of Athletics, which offers world-class facilities to talented youngsters.
➤ She is a recipient of Arjuna and Padma Shri awards

Ilaiyaraaja
➤ Born in a Dalit household in Tamil Nadu, Ilaiyaraaja is regarded as one of India's greatest music composers
➤ Ilaiyaraaja had to face innumerable hardships and caste-based discrimination
➤ In his five decades-long career, he has composed over 7,000 songs for more than 1,000 movies and performed in more than 20,000 concerts across the globe.
➤ In 2018, he received the Padma Vibhushan.

Veerendra Heggade
➤ Veerendra Heggade has served as the Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala Temple in Karnataka since the tender age of 20.
➤ He has led various transformative initiatives for rural development and promotion of self-employment.
➤ He established Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute (RDSETI) to provide awareness on self-employment opportunities and train rural youth
➤ He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2015

KV Vijayendra Prasad
➤ Born in Kovvur in Andhra Pradesh, KV Vijayendra Prasad is one of the country's leading screenwriters and film directors. He has written for the story for many Telugu and Hindi movies.
➤ His notable works include some of the highest-grossing Indian movies, such as RRR, Baahubali series and Bajrangi Bhaijaan.
➤ Some of the movies he wrote have transcended sharp regional boundaries and become blockbusters

✓ All these four nominated members - Ilaiyaraaja (Tamil Nadu), Usha (Kerala), Prasad (Andhra/Telangana) and Heggade (Karnataka) - have had illustrious careers in their respective fields and received national and global recognition for their contributions.
✓ The announcements about the nominated MPs were made by Prime Minister Modi on Twitter
✓ Considered modern India's one of the greatest musicians, maestro Ilaiyaraaja – in a career spanning more than five decades – has composed over 7,000 songs for more than 1,000 movies and performed in over 20,000 concerts internationally.
  ✓ Born in Pannaipuram village in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district, Ilaiyaraaja is also a five-time national award winner and a recipient of Padma Bhushan.
  ✓ He was honoured with a Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 2018.
✓ Born in a small village in Kerala's Kozhikode district, PT Usha is one of India's most legendary sportspersons who has set and broken many national and Asian records
  ✓ PT Usha, popularly known as 'Payyoli Express', has represented India and won medals at several international events such as the World Junior Invitational Meet, Asian Championships, and Asian Games.
  ✓ In the 1984 Olympics, she missed winning India's first medal in track and field by a narrow margin of 1/100 second and stood fourth in women's 400 m hurdles.
  ✓ She is a recipient of the Arjuna award and the Padma Shri.

- ✓ Since the age of 20, Veerendra Heggade has served as the administrator of the Dharmasthala temple located in Karnataka.
    - ✓ He has been a devoted philanthropist for more than five decades and has led various transformative initiatives for rural development and promotion of self-employment.
    - ✓ 73-years old Heggade, who was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2015, established the Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute (RDSETI) to provide awareness about self-employment opportunities and train rural youth.
    - ✓ The Centre replicated this successful model and established Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) across the country.
    - ✓ He has also conceptualised the Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project, an initiative for inclusive rural development and self-employment in Karnataka.
    - ✓ Currently, the project has more than 6 lakh SHGs and over 49 lakh members.
    - ✓ He also heads the Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Educational Trust, which provides quality and affordable education through more than 25 schools and colleges.
- ✓ Born in Andhra Pradesh's Kovvur district, Vijayendra Prasad is one of the country's leading screenwriters and film directors.
    - ✓ He is known for many prominent Telugu and Hindi movies, including some of the highest-grossing films such as RRR, the Baahubali series, and Bajrangi Bhaijaan.
    - ✓ Prasad has won numerous awards for story writing, including the Filmfare Award for best story in 2016 for Bajrangi Bhaijaan.
    - ✓ His son SS Rajamouli is one of the most famous film directors in the country
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha should consist of a maximum of 250 members—238 members representing the States and Union Territories and 12 members nominated by the President
- ✓ The President proposes 12 candidates for the Rajya Sabha from among those with unique expertise or relevant experience in the fields of art, literature, science, and social work.
- ✓ The idea behind this nomination process is to provide notable individuals a seat in the Rajya Sabha without having to go through the election process.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution.
- ✓ However, one-third of the members retire every second year and are replaced by newly elected members.
- ✓ Each member is elected for a term of six years.
- ✓ The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ The House also elects a Deputy Chairman from among its members.
- ✓ The senior-most minister, a member of the Rajya Sabha, is appointed by the Prime Minister as Leader of the House.

RANKINGS

➢ **On July 5, Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal - released the first edition of 'State Ranking Index' for implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**

✓ The index was released during the conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs on 'Food Nutrition and Security in India' organized by Department of Food and Public Distribution at New Delhi

IMPLEMENTING FOOD SECURITY

How the 20 'general category' states ranked in terms of NFSA implementation

TOP THREE

Rank	State	Index score
1	Odisha	0.836
2	Uttar Pradesh	0.797
3	Andhra Pradesh	0.794

BOTTOM THREE

18	Delhi	0.658
19	Chhattisgarh	0.654
20	Goa	0.631

✓ Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that India is now 100% connected under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).
✓ Overall, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh scored the highest and secured the top three positions amongst the General Category States in the index
✓ Among the special category states (the northeastern, Himalayan, and the Island states), Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim obtained the top positions
✓ Further, among the 3 UTs where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)- Cash is operational, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu is the top ranked UT.
✓ Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana had the best delivery platform displaying the efficiency of the TPDS supply chain
✓ Tamil Nadu was ranked at 9th place among the larger states in the index, while the state was ranked 10th in the comprehensive country level index
✓ The Index for ranking the states and UTs is built on three key pillars which covers the end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS.
✓ These pillars are NFSA— Coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act, Delivery platform, and Nutrition initiatives.
✓ The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted on July 5, 2013 to ensure food security across the entire country

- ✓ The NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to "eligible households" to receive foodgrains at subsidised price – rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Re 1/kg — under the TPDS
- ✓ One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) programme has been implemented across the States from July 2021

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➢ **World Kiswahili Language Day - July 7**

- ✓ The first World Kiswahili Language Day is being celebrated on the 7th of July this year following a declaration by UNESCO member states in this regard
- ✓ On November 23 2021, the United Nations designated July 7 as the World Kiswahili Language Day to celebrate the Swahili language
- ✓ The announcement was made by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) during its 41st Member States' session held in Paris, France.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Kiswahili for peace and prosperity'
- ✓ Kiswahili — also known as Swahili — is a Bantu language native to Eastern and Central Africa where it's spoken by an estimated 80 million people
- ✓ It is among the 10 most widely spoken languages in the world, with more than 200 million speakers in many countries within East, Central and Southern Africa as well as in the Middle East
- ✓ Kiswahili language is one of the official languages of the African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC)
- ✓ In the 1950s the United Nations established the Kiswahili language unit of United Nations Radio, and now, Kiswahili is the only African language within the Directorate of the Global Communications at the United Nations
- ✓ On July 7 1954, Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) under the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, first President of the United Republic of Tanzania, adopted Kiswahili as a unifying language for independence struggles
- ✓ In addition, on 7 July 2000, the East African Community (EAC) was re-established to rekindle the spirit of cooperation and integration among the East African people

of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda where Kiswahili language is widely spoken

HYDERABAD OR BHAGYANAGAR - REPORT

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Was Bhagyanagar really the original name of Hyderabad?

By calling Hyderabad 'Bhagyanagar' at BJP's recent national executive committee (NEC) meeting, PM Narendra Modi stirred an old and emotive poll issue. Other BJP leaders said the city would be renamed if BJP wins next year's Telangana assembly elections. However, there is no historical evidence of Hyderabad ever being known by another name, writes **Syed Akbar**

TIMES *Special*

CITY OF LIONS

1518 | Quli Qutub Shah breaks away from the Bahmani kingdom, establishes Qutub Shahi rule

1591 | Foundation of Hyderabad laid as old capital Golconda is overpopulated

1687 | Last siege of Golconda by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb ends Qutub Shahi rule

1687-1724 | Hyderabad under Mughal rule

1724 – Mir Qamaruddin Khan establishes Asaf Jahi dynasty under the title Asaf Jah I

1798 | Nizam Ali Khan aka Asaf Jah II enters into subsidiary alliance with the British

1806 | Sikandar Jah, also known as Asaf Jah III, founds Hyderabad's twin city Secunderabad

1948 | India annexes Hyderabad state

Who was Hyderabad named after?

Historians say Qutub Shahi rulers, who were Shias, named Hyderabad after Haidar-e-Karrar, the title of Hazrat Imam Ali, son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad. Haidar in Arabic means lion, so Hyderabad means lion city.

There are others who believe Hyderabad was first called Bhagyanagar after Bhagmati, legendary love interest of Qutub Shahi ruler Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah V, who founded the city in 1591 CE and built Charminar. They say its name was changed after Bhagmati was conferred the title Hyder Mahal.

Any historical evidence?

All historical evidence, including the coins minted during the Qutub Shahi period, shows the city has been called Hyderabad from its inception. It was not called Bhagyanagar under the Qutub Shahis or the Asaf Jahi regime that lasted until 1948. Coins minted by the city's founder Quli Qutub Shah V had Hyderabad inscribed on them.

Is there another explanation?

In some old texts Hyderabad is called Baghnagar or the city of gardens (bagh), as fruit orchards and flower gardens "extended as far as the eye could see". The name was also interpreted as the city of fortune (from bhag/bhagya) because of its enormous wealth, diamond and pearl trading, and the higher value of the Golconda sultanate's currency vis-a-vis Mughal currency. But the Sanskritised name Bhagyanagar does not occur before the 20th century.

Was Bhagmati a real person?

Historian and researcher Dr Mohammad Safiullah says Bhagmati is a fictional character popularised by the Mughal historian and author Farishta (died 1620 CE), who never visited the Golconda kingdom or Hyderabad. He says the most prominent non-Muslim Qutub Shahi woman of that time, Bhagirathi Bai, a Vijayanagara princess, was married to Ibrahim Qutub Shah IV, when he sought refuge in the Vijayanagara Kingdom between 1543 and 1550 CE. Saramma was a consort of Abdullah Qutub Shah VII (1626-1672 CE). Taramati and Pemmamati were the most important courtesans of the Qutub Shahi period, and the Qutub Shahi genealogy clearly states that Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah V was only married to a daughter of Mir Shah Mir, the Qutub Shahi Peshwa.

Painting depicting Sultan Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah of Golconda bringing home his bride Bhagmati

Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

What about the name Hyder Mahal?

Dr Safiullah says proponents of the Bhagmati legend have not been able to show any contemporary proof – manuscript, miniature, inscription, coin, or tomb/grave – of her existence, or her elevation to the title of Hyder Mahal. The two miniatures they cite are from the 18th and 19th centuries, whereas she is believed to have lived in the 16th century.
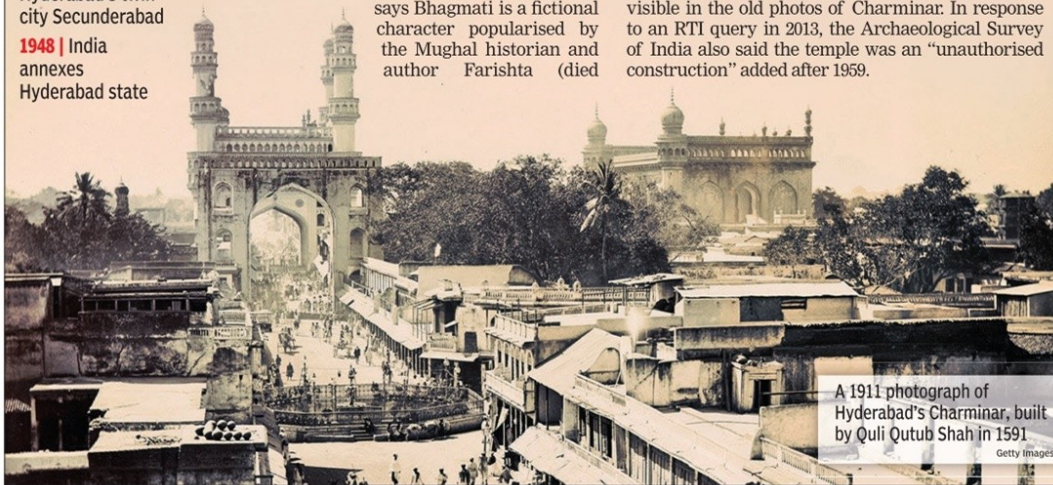
There is no historical record of Bhagmati's marriage to Mohammad Quli, nor is her grave/tomb in the Qutub Shahi necropolis, which has the graves of all the important royal women.

What about the Bhagyalakshmi temple?

This temple is attached to the Charminar. Proponents of Bhagyanagar say the temple is centuries old, and the city was named Bhagyanagar after its deity, goddess Bhagyalakshmi. The other camp says the temple was built only about four decades ago, and it is not visible in the old photos of Charminar. In response to an RTI query in 2013, the Archaeological Survey of India also said the temple was an "unauthorised construction" added after 1959.

A 1911 photograph of Hyderabad's Charminar, built by Quli Qutub Shah in 1591

Getty Images