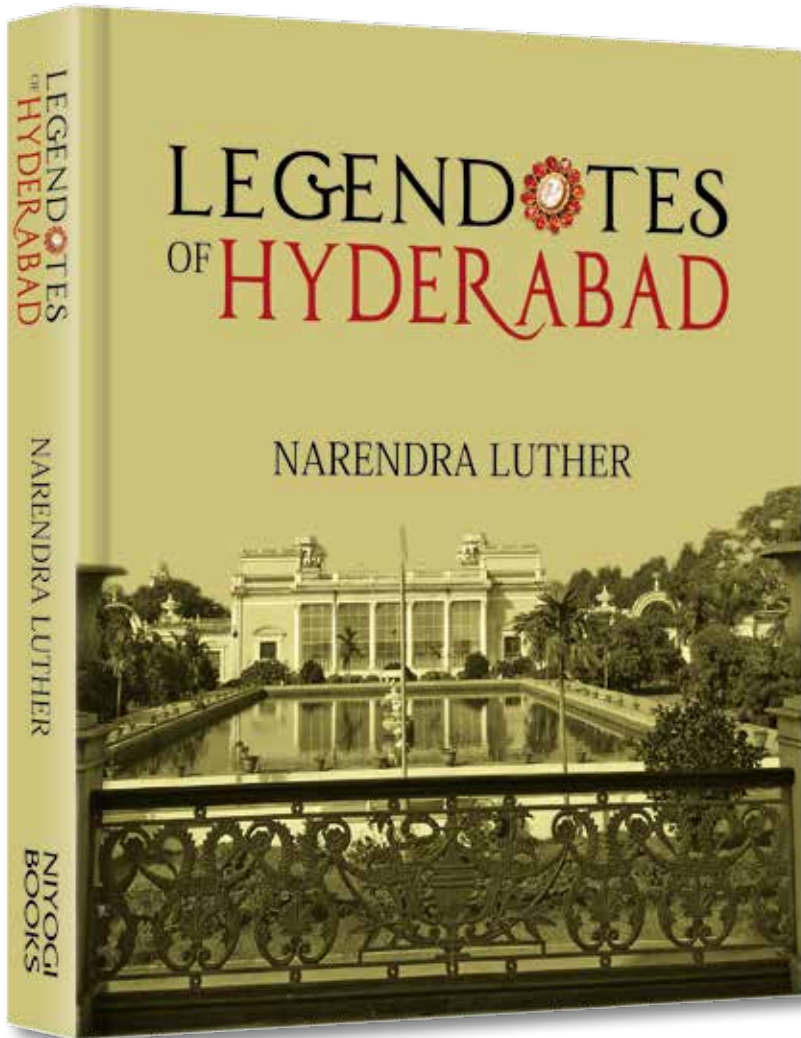


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# LEGENDOTES OF HYDERABAD

by Narendra Luther

The birth of Hyderabad is rooted in two legends. One is the early-teen love affair of Prince Mohammad Quli with Bhagmati, a beautiful singer and dancer. The other is the decree issued by him as the sultan of Golkonda that a new city should be constructed which should be a replica of heaven. When the city was ready, he named it Bhagnagar after his beloved Bhagmati. Over the five centuries following its founding in 1591, numerous new legends have come to be associated with the city, its rulers, and people.

Legends and anecdotes are generally considered as the 'gossip' of history. However, in some cases they are also the stuff of history. It was not very long ago that 'oral history' was acknowledged as a source of history.

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Narendra Luther is a former top civil servant who kept his hobby of writing intact all through his career. He occupied the high table of humour for a long time and organised the World Humour Conference in 1985. His four books and numerous articles in Urdu won him seven awards.

For close to half a century he has written extensively on the history and culture of Hyderabad and is regarded as an eminent authority on the subject. He has published a number of books on Hyderabad and the Nizams.

He is also contributing author of a number of books and has written columns for *The Hindu*, *The Times of India*, and the *Deccan Chronicle*. Some of his books and numerous other writings have been translated into some other languages. He can be contacted at [narendraluther@gmail.com](mailto:narendraluther@gmail.com) / [www.narendraluther.com](http://www.narendraluther.com)

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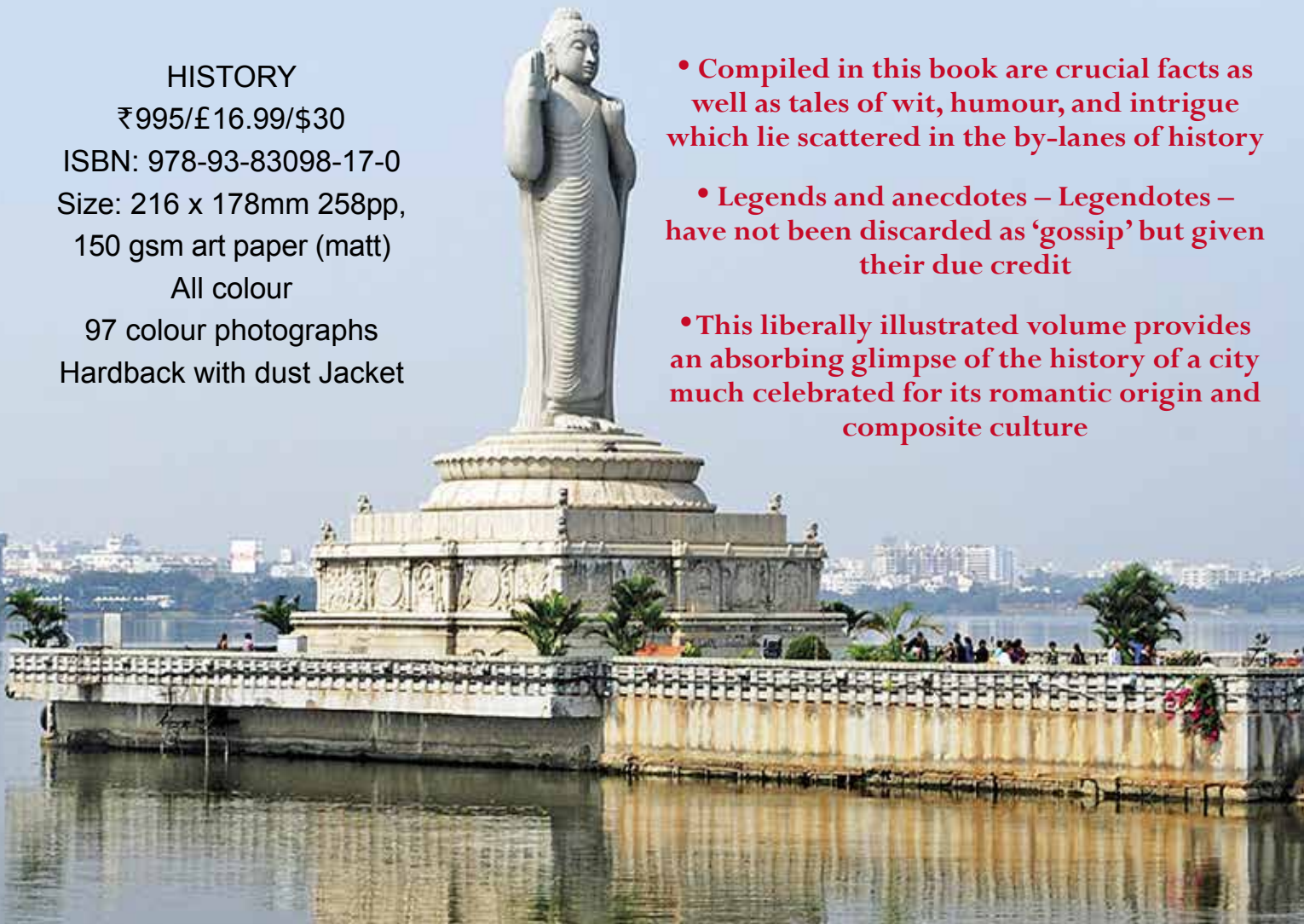
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