

the kilometres ahead, on the SH 25. Armour and Pochampad Project are north of Nizamabad, on NH 7, en route to Nirmal. Mallaram Forest, Sirpur Fort and Bada Pahad Dargah are to the south of the city, along the Nizamabad-Varni Road. Dichpally Ramalayam is to the east, close to the Hyderabad Highway (NH 7). The Domakonda Fort is further south, on this road.

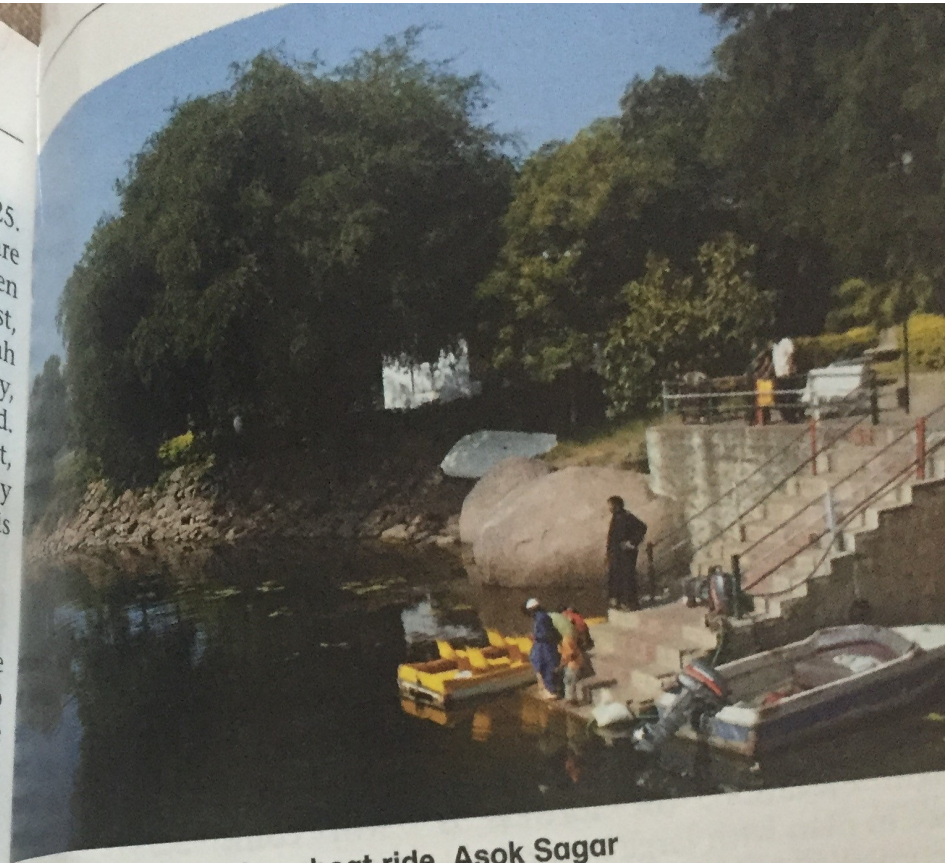
### Asok Sagar (7km)

If you visited Asok Sagar before 2001, you would not be able to recognise it today. Earlier, this lake was a rodent-infested swamp that was known more as a garbage dump rather than a tourist destination. However, the government conducted a massive cleanup operation which yielded stunning results. This lake resort, west of Nizamabad town, on the way to Bheemgal, has boating facilities, a rock garden and a few restaurants.

A 15-foot-tall Saraswati idol made of white marble stands majestically in the middle of its waters and is a sight to behold on moonlit nights. Many tourists stop here while en route to Basar and the neighbouring state of Maharashtra.

Interestingly, this lake, which was earlier known as Jankampet Cheruvu, was renamed after the collector Asok Kumar, who was instrumental in developing it. Few civil servants manage to get this rare privilege during their tenure.

There are boating facilities at the lake, though they were not functional at the time of research.



...s by the water waiting for a boat ride, Asok Sagar

### Asok Sagar (13km)

...ng by the number of couples sipping sweet nothings in broad light, this reservoir is certainly most popular weekend spot in Nizamabad district.

...panning an area of 33 acres, it all the trappings to draw crowds a lush forest with a summer use, well maintained lawns and restaurant and guesthouse, which set on an island in the lake. ... can take a cruise across the ... in a pedal or speedboat (not functional at the time of research). ... the adjoining Deer Park offers good walks. It is home to several species of deer, most notably the golden-bred deer.

The Nizams built this reservoir in 1931, while the park was established

in 1985. It is a short drive a from the Ali Sagar lake.

### Mallaram Forest (7km)

The Mallaram forest (not to be confused with the village of same name) is a patch of forests south of Nizamabad on the Nizamal Varni highway. Here, you find a 1.45-billion-year-old rock mushroom-shaped rock, which dates back to about 2 billion years ago. The lake known as Mallaram cheruvu and a watchtower.

While there were plans to develop the forest as an eco-tourism destination, no efforts have been made in recent times to make it more tourist-friendly. The jungle is known to have rich mineral deposits. Some say that consequently,