

DISCOVERING INDIA

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Buddha in the Rain: A modern Buddha nestled among artificial mountains in the centre of Bengaluru. It was drizzling and as with any place that rains frequently umbrellas were optional until the sky opened.

From Seth Osher's letter to the Editor: "... I am on business trip in Bangalore. The dichotomy is stark. On the same block as the clean glass and steel JP Morgan office there are corrugated shanties - a cow walking down the street udders full - and old man peddling a cycle Lori - and young tech workers going about their day, men and women acting as if they are in London or New York except that need to step past an old woman sitting on the pavement hand rolling yarn. This is a country that is at the same time growing and thriving and deeply impoverished. It strikes me even more obviously than in China. I got to see some of the older parts of city today. Visited a Buddhist Shiva temple. Saw the Sultan's palace. And got to take a stroll through a botanical garden. ... Yes I saw a lot of cows walking free on the streets. I think they are literally wild animals. There are tons of starving wild dogs. Almost as many as Rome used to have cats. ... There are families of four all on one scooter. Barefoot men driving rickshaws - with a smartphone GPS mount. ... What an interesting place! It would be fascinating to explore it more. But I couldn't live here. Heading north to Pune tonight..."



Street and dust: Along the ring road in Bengaluru is a mix of modern steel and glass office buildings and tin roofed shantys, often next to each other as in this photo. Men sitting around idle are a common scene everywhere.



Saturday at the gardens: Many people come out for a stroll on Saturday in the Bangalore Botanical Gardens. The gardens provide a respite from the constant din of the honking car horns.



Bricks: The cities appear in a constant state of construction. State projects can take decades to complete. Everywhere there are buildings being built, and even more that seem to have gotten half done and then work halted.



Free Range: Cattle (and goats) roam the city freely. This one is in Pune. Cows hold a special sacred place, but it is still odd to see them just walking on the street.



Tangled: Wiring of the buildings doesn't always seem to follow a plan. Here, many of the wires appear wrapped around other wires for support.



Alleyway: This alley sits nestled between two office buildings in Pune. It offers street food and shanty homes (complete with satellite dishes).



Ganeshan: Ganeshan Festival was in full swing in Pune. The streets of the old city were lined with stalls and throngs of pedestrians. As you can see, even though the streets were closed to cars it didn't stop scooters from trying to navigate the crowd. ■

* **SETH OSHER** grew up in Manchester, NH and has taken photographs since his mother first put a camera in his hands at the tender age of three. In high school he had his own darkroom where he polished techniques that have faded into obscurity thanks to Adobe™, though he still tries to practice their digital equivalent. Today he lives in London, England with his family and when not working loves to photograph the nature and people surrounding their travels.