

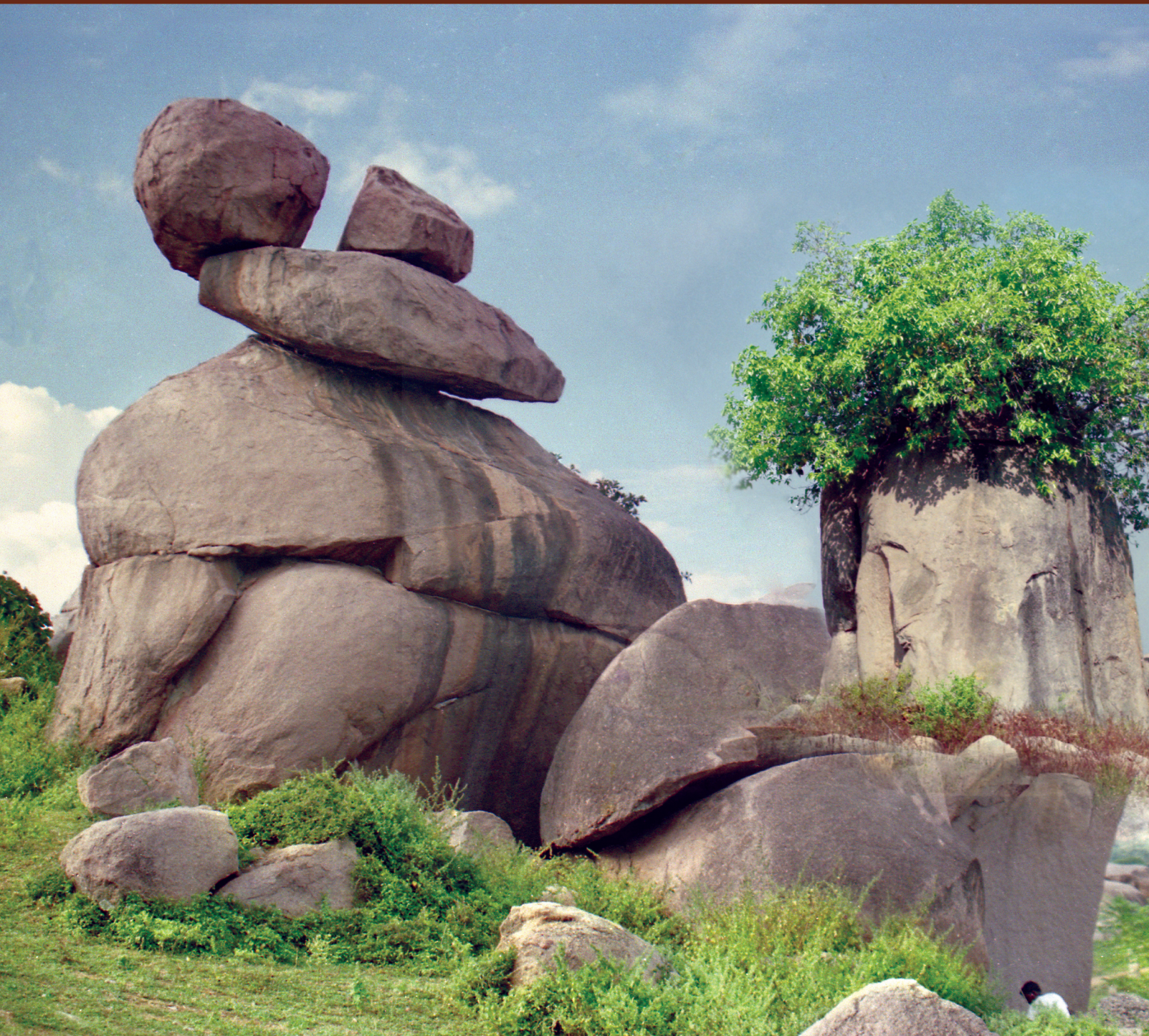
Annual Number
2013 - 2014

betterhyd@yahoo.co.in; www.hyderabadgreens.org

FORUM

FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

Fourteen years of activism and service





INNOVATIVE SCHEMES FOR POOR PEOPLE



Mid Day Meal for Rs. 5/-

- GHMC & Akshaya Pathra Foundation helping poor for their mid day meal.
- Rs. 11 crores have been allocated in the budget for the year 2014-15.
- A mid day meal of rice with 450 gms, 100 gms of dall, samber, pickle etc costing around Rs. 20/- where the GHMC is giving a subsidy of Rs. 15 and charging only Rs. 5/- for the sake of poor people.



e - Van (employment Van)

- A single missed call to the land line number 040-710 120 14 will register unemployed name and the concerned youth will receive call from GHMC on working days where he can pursue his employment and job opportunities.
- The GHMC is the only Corporation in the entire Country is providing such a unique scheme called eVAN (Employment Van) to get the jobs to the unemployed youth in the jurisdiction of the GHMC.
- The Youth can register their names in the eVAN where the GHMC and the TMI will collect all the details with regard to qualification and experience will be collected and will assess them provide jobs as per their qualification.



Driver cum Owner Scheme

- "Drive and Own Your Vehicle Idea" to make the youth of GHMC to be self sustainable
- Vehicle costing around Rs. 7 lakhs, out of which 15% of the amount will be contributed by the beneficiary and for the remaining 85% of the amount GHMC will assist in getting loan provision.



Sri Somesh Kumar,
I.A.S., Commissioner

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

For 24 x 7 GHMC Services Call: 040 - 21 11 11 11, www.ghmc.gov.in

FORUM FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

Fourteen Years of Activism & Service

Annual Number
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The FORUM's Objectives are:

- To be proactive and constructive.
- To mobilize public opinion.
- To stand up and make it heard on major issues exposing lack of concern or neglect of environmental consideration.
- To involve in decision-making on such issues.

The FORUM is focused on issues pertaining to Sustainable Development by highlighting the ecological and environmental problems caused by uncaring and unthinking developmental activities disregarding required prior assessment.

The FORUM is functioning through various committees, and is networking with NGOs, bringing to light issues pertaining to Urban Planning, Urban Development & Management, Heritage Conservation, Lakes & Water Bodies, Parks - Forests & open space, Traffic & Transportation, Water & Air Pollution, Solid & Industrial Waste Management, Rock Formations, Right to Information. Relevant issues are brought to the notice of the Authorities (and if required pressurizing them to take action) offering positive suggestions and optimum solutions. The FORUM also files Public Interest Litigations whenever called for.

**The Theme of World Environment Day
2014 (5th June) is:**
*"Raise your voice, not the Sea Level.
Save the Islands/Coastal Zones."*

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***"Every one thinks of changing the World.
But no one thinks of changing himself."***

- Leo Tolostoy

Foreword

M. Vedakumar,

Civil Engineer, Urban & Regional Planner

President, Forum For A Better Hyderabad

Forum For A Better Hyderabad has witnessed yet another year of its service towards burning social issues like Urban Development and Management, Heritage Conservation, Lakes and Water Bodies, Forest & Open Spaces, Traffic & Transportation, Water, Soil, Pollution, Solid & Industrial Management, Rock Formations, Right to Information and so on..

Any plan which exploits the natural resources of a nation but neglects the potentially more powerful heritage, is imbalanced and can never establish human equality.

Forum For a Better Hyderabad is the best that could happen for involving several socially aware dignitaries who actively liaise with Government Department and succeed in bringing suitable changes in framing Government orders by contributing appropriate suggestions. A kaleidoscope of events, interactions, friendships and a deep feeling within each heart to retain the unique culture and history of Hyderabad.

As Hyderabad grows in size and emerges as a metropolis, water problem and Save Musi Campaign are most prominent. Suggestions like channel modification, drainage improvement, sediment control are forwarded by Donthi Narsimha Reddy (Forum Member). The uniqueness of Banjara Hills is completely lost, the charm and enchantment of Banjaras has gone. Concrete buildings, swanky malls have taken the place of open spaces, beautiful rock formations and teeming hills / rocks as narrated by Deepankar Dutta.

Human Rights Activist S. Jeevan Kumar highlighted the way State Government failed to implement RAY (Rajeev Awas Yojna) successfully nor did it show enthusiasm to frame laws for the up-liftment of slum dwellers.

Mr. Sagar Dhara focused on Energy - The Fundamental change agent in history. He elaborated to give specific statistics on the consumption levels and sources of generation world wide and came out with wonderful ideas for solution of this contemporary issue in short term and medium term measures.

Forum's members worked out a road map towards sustainable society which cannot be visualized due to several impediments. Short and medium term programmes can be designed through dialogues and sustainable society can emerge.

Rock Governance, an issue raised by Frauke Quadar, Society to Save Rocks, was comfortably ignored by Government who should have taken utmost care to retain this rare asset to our urban environment. However, citizen support is proving a strong point in Save Rocks Movement.

City Bio-diversity Index is designed to encourage cities to foster biodiversity and embrace sustainable living. This served Forum a platform to share ideas and solutions to overcome increased urbanization, effects of climate change, city planning, governance and management.

One more striking feature of Forum is a crusade to save Lakes and Forests. Lake is a living entity. Forests are ecological wealth. Ancient sages experienced oneness with plants, animals and all creatures. Trees are base of life for other creatures.

Sajjad Shahid, historian and Core Committee Member of INTACH hopes that the new Government would include a comprehensive audit of city's built heritage as any further delay in assuming responsibility for the cultural assets of Hyderabad will prove to be disastrous.

Heritage Conservation Committee condemned the systematic destruction of heritage by Metro Rail and Ravage of Nayaqila by Hyderabad Golf Association. An immediate ordinance calling for a moratorium on works of the Metro Rail and Golf Course pending a comprehensive review will prove to be an effective check.

Forum For A better Hyderabad filed a Writ Petition challenging the action of the State Government diverting an extent of Ac-4067 Forest land in Ranga Reddy Dist., and 2400-36 guntas in Saroornagar for non-forest purposes which is arbitrary and illegal. Similarly many such issues were taken up with the State Government to protect environment. Energy conservation and Water conservation is the order of the day considering the faster rate of the depletion of both these resources.

Forum has insisted on allocation of special budget for the day to day maintenance of heritage buildings. A proposal is being forwarded to declare incentives to people who maintain heritage structures, therefore safeguarding our history, our ethnicity and our environment. Road widening without proper evaluation and perfect planning can be destructive to heritage structures.

Ecological imbalance is another concern over which Forum frequently debates on. Heritage walks, afforestation, offering positive solutions and obtaining optimum results are activities under the flagship of Forum.

Forum has adopted several infrastructural and social issues as its own. Its endeavours to educate people, works jointly with Government, canvasses for natural clay Ganeshas for immersion in water bodies specially in Hussain Sagar. It charges ahead taking in its fold people from all walks of life specially youth.

Energy and Water Conservation

Dr. Narayan Sangam

Associate Professor, Vignan Institute of Technology and Science, Deshmukhi(v),
Pochampally (Mdl), Nalgonda (Dist), A.P

Abstract

Energy and Water are the two most essential resources, and their importance have to be properly understood by the larger population in the country.

Energy Conservation and Water Conservation is the order of the day considering the faster rate of the depletion of both these resources

Energy is required in all the different sectors, namely, industry, agriculture, household commercial and transportation. The demand for its utilization in all these sectors has been increasing every day when compared to its production or generation. In other words, demand exceeds supply.

A lot of energy is lost during its transmission as well as being exploited through improper usage. There is no concern shown towards its judicious utilization in all the above mentioned sectors by the citizens in the country.

According to the latest reports based on survey, it has been reported that the country is heading towards darkness in near future (2017) since most of the fossil fuels are likely to get extinct. For this reason, we need to not only take steps to conserve energy but also start using alternate energy sources

like Solar and Biogas.

Water, next to energy is also a resource which is not only getting highly polluted but also becoming available in lesser quantities due to its overexploitation in all the sectors, especially agricultural and residential sector.

Unsustainable agricultural practices involving excessive use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides are leading to higher pollution of the existing surface and groundwater resources combined with its misuse, overuse and exploitation by a large population of the country.

Water Conservation is very essential in the present day which can be taken up by every individual through the scientific method of Rain Water Harvesting Structures which can be constructed in every house for conserving and storing rainwater and can be used as a substitute for water in the lean season. Apart from this, judicious utilization of water is also very important

There are several Energy and Water Conservation tips which every individual citizen of the country should follow and implement for better future.



Save Musi Campaign: Transforming River Musi into a Concrete Drainage Channel Would You Accept?

D. Narasimha Reddy

The flow in a river varies day to day and year to year. The volume carried is not the same every year due to complex meteorological factors and varying characteristics of the ground on which the rainfall occurs. A river is stated to be in flood when the flow exceeds the capacity within the banks. The magnitude of the flood depends on the intensity of the rainfall, its duration and also the ground conditions when the heavy spell of rainfall occurs. Arid and semi-arid regions where the rainfall is scant and infrequent have poor drainage characteristics. Consequently, whenever there is a heavy spell of rainfall as in a cloud burst, water accumulates and flooding occurs. Other factors which accentuate flooding are erosion and silting. The volume of runoff depends on the slope of the ground, the vegetation cover and intensity and duration of the rainfall. If the vegetation is grass, the run-off can be less than 4 percent. Forests have a retarding effect on the run-off.

A hundred rivers or more have asserted their ancient rights, defied man's arrogance, and rampaged across countryside long denied to them. Neglect and greed for land have made such floods inevitable.

The science of ecology pertaining to rivers is important. An integrated study of a river basin will help in the understanding of the river morphology. Only then a judicious plan for its development, having due regard to ecology and environment, can be drawn up.

A river course can be divided into three significant reaches: youthful stage, boulder stage, and the old stage. The Musi Project, on River Musi, aims to 'intervene' at this youthful stage, thus affecting the river characteristics in other stages. During floods, when the flow in the river is greater than the quantity

that can be confined within the banks, the water spreads out on both sides and deposits silt. This area is known as flood plain. The velocity having been reduced, the river cannot carry much of the silt and begins to deposit it especially on the banks.

Rivers in the world carry as much as three billion tons of material in solution and ten billions tons of sediment every year. The sediment content varies month by month, while it is negligible in winter and summer months, it attains maximum value in the monsoon months.

Sediment control in the river basin involves afforestation of the higher and steeper slopes, restricted grazing, and control of ravines by check dams, contour bunding and terracing, and control of bank erosion. Afforestation takes a long time to be effective but nevertheless affords a positive protection against slides and hill erosion. Restricted grazing and consequent grass cover that grows, reduces the rate of siltation in reservoirs and provide adequate storage space for deposition of silt for a reasonably long period.

The design of the diversion works normally provided for a divide wall to form a pocket in front of the canal head regular, so that the high velocity flow in the river can be damped out by imposing either still pond or semi-open flow regulation. In still pond regulation, there is the disadvantage of the pond area getting silted up requiring constant dredging.

With constantly changing velocities and volumes of flow, rivers are bound to have different quantum of energy at different times. These in turn result in bank erosion. The main object of training works is to ensure movement of sus-pended and bed load without damaging the banks. As maximum

aggravation occurs during the dominant flood discharge, the training works should be designed for this. Training works are generally based on empirical formulae as no rationally proved designs have yet been evolved.

Discharge measurements of a river are important for developing economically beneficial projects - in particular the maximum and minimum discharges, the total annual flows, and their variation. Catchment area themselves cannot give an idea of the magnitude of the flows.

The flood plains in India are not being developed in a regulated manner. Consequently, the damage and the loss of life and cattle due to floods are increasing year after year. The increase in damage due to the floods can also be attributed to the urbanization of the flood plains and the indiscriminate development of industries in areas normally liable to floods.

Man-made Disaster - River Management

There are four vital aspects which have to be considered:

1. Dimensions of the river.
2. The extent to which the purity of the water affected by land use, agricultural practices and the disposal of industrial wastes and domestic sewage.
3. Effects of aquatic life, the most important of which is fish.
4. Effects on plant growth.

Colin Throne, Professor of Geography at Nottingham University, United Kingdom, who had advised Bangladesh on the management of monsoons and the Brahmaputra river to prevent floods, says: "We can put a man on the Moon but science has found no way to describe adequately the dynamics of a river. There are so many variables, it just goes its own way. It's much better to work with nature and where possible leave rivers to overflow".

But Britain in the last 30 years has seen the unprecedented rape of many rivers in the name of drainage for farmers and flood controls for people who want to live in areas where nature never intended them to go. It is a feature of conservative Britain that developers have zeroed in on rivers and low-lying areas with "a view" - in the past left free precisely because they are prone to flooding. A coalition of groups are opposing a plan to channel 3,400 km. of the Paraguay and Parana' Rivers in South America for barge transport. The World Bank is partially funding two urban river channelization projects, which also have sanitation components. They are the Guaira and Tiete River Projects in Brazil.

Massively expensive, heavy-handed concrete drainage works along many British rivers are testament everywhere to man's arrogance over nature, developers' profit motives and farmers' desires to drain every last inch of lowland ground in the name of subsidies. Some British rivers are today little more than concrete drainage channels designed to take water away as quickly as possible. "They seem to work but when you get serious rainfall there's nothing that can be done", Throne says.

"Rivers are means to flood," he says. "They must have room to move. Ideally it should be three times as wide as their lowest channels. Not only would you immensely improve the looks of rivers, which would be good for people who like to enjoy them, you would provide a natural storage place for water.

Nothing can stop the one-in-50 year floods but as it is we've got a double whammy. We've lost the environmental features and often haven't got good flood control."

"There may be a connection between the fact that we have droughts one year in Britain, followed by floods," says Ms.Lianna Stupples, of Friends of the Earth. "If you try to get water away as fast as possible, which has been the basic strategy for years,

you deny the land the chance to take in water and let it out at a natural speed.”

“Floods are not a natural disaster,” says Jim Crabbe, a senior water engineer in the NRA emergency room at Tewkesbury, United Kingdom. “If they become disasters it’s entirely man’s fault. Those who have lived here a long time know and accept floods and see them as part of the price of living here. If you tinker with nature you don’t know where you’ll end up. I say keep it simple, just try and minimize what Nature’s trying to do”.

Channelisation: Narrowing Down the Rivers’ Width

Channelisation of streams consists of straightening, deepening, widening, clearing or lining of existing stream channels. Basically, it is an engineer-ing technique, the objectives being to control floods, drain wetlands, control erosion, and improve navigation. Of the four objectives, flood control and drainage improvement are the two most often cited in channel improvement projects.

Channelisation is completely antithetical to the reduction of fish and wetland wildlife, and that furthermore the stream suffers from extensive aesthetic degradation. In USA thousands of kilometers of streams have been modified. Inadequate consideration is being given to adverse environmental effects. Drainage of wetlands adversely affects plants and animals by eliminating habitats necessary for the survival of certain species. Straightening and modifying of the stream beds destroys the diversity of flow patterns, changes peak flow, and destroys feeding and breeding areas for aquatic life. Finally, the conversion of wetlands with a meandering stream to a straight, open ditch seriously degrades the aesthetic value of a natural area.

It is common experience that channelisation increases the flood hazard down-stream from the modified channel. Examples of channel works projects that have adversely affected the environment are well known. The Willow river in

Iowa and Blackwater River in Missouri emphasize some of the adverse impacts to streams that are channelised. Channel erosion needs to be examined.

Urbanization - the process of constructing roads, utilities, and buildings with associated sediment production - is sufficient to disrupt small streams. A river restoration project - to clean urban waste from the river, allowing the stream to flow freely and to protect banks by not removing existing vegetation, and trees - is often needed. The channel should be made as attractive as possible by allowing the stream to meander, and where possible by providing for variable, low-water flow conditions - fast and shallow alternating with slow and deep pools.

Channel modification on the Missouri river is an interesting example of river training in which the power of running water is used to maintain the desired channel. The project involves engineering improvements to produce a series of relatively narrow, gentle meanders rather than the previously existing succession of wide, straight reaches with a steep gradient and abrupt changes in flow direction.

If the primary objective is drainage improvement in areas where natural flooding is not a hazard, then there is no need to convert a meandering stream into a straight ditch. Rather the design might involve cleaning the channel and maintaining a sinuous stream.

Ecological Problems

Man is responsible for pollution, alteration in temperature of water, reduction of flow and changing the dimensions of the river. The first two can be grouped together as chemical and thermal pollution. These are directly harmful to the fish and plant life in the water. The cause of this is industrializa-tion and urbanization. The third factor results in siltation. This may be due to river characteristics or deforestation.

With development and population increase and the sense of security that goes with flood protection, drainage has deteriorated and the flood plain has

been increasingly invaded for settlement and development purposes. Wetlands and spill channels have been reclaimed or allowed to choke with silt and hyacinth. Floodways between embankments and the beds of drains have been occupied. Yet the same volume of rainfall and discharge, sometimes with extraordinary cloud-bursts, must pass through even more restricted channels without the benefit of bank storage. Embankments cause a rise in water levels and a greater velocity of flow as the river is squeezed between narrower confines, which can result in flooding both up and downstream and increase erosion. Low budgets and incomplete works as a consequence coupled with poor maintenance, invite trouble. With intensive development, more valuable investments and inflation, the value of flood losses has escalated. The National Flood Commission, appointed in 1976, in its 1980 report, recommended rigorous flood contour mapping and flood plain zoning as basis for regulating settlement and development which is world-wide practice and is one of the most practical and effective non-structural means of avoiding or mitigating flood damage.

Floods vary and different areas are affected differently in different years. This sometimes encourages the belief that the problem has been permanently solved and there is no danger in further occupation of the flood plain or in enhancing the density or value of investments made in what are still vulnerable areas. The authorities connive at this as it is politically expedient to do so. When there is high flood, there is obviously a hue and cry, a search for scapegoats and extravagant crash programmes to protect vulnerable investments and settlements that should never have been sited there in the first instance and can scarcely ever be permanently protected.

Providing for drainage and proper maintenance is important and all new development programmes, whether of urban expansion, laying of roads, rail tracks, canals and other structures and hard surfaces must be examined from the point of view of their

impact on drainage and changing the direction of drainage flows.

Long term prediction of environmental conditions over vast areas affected by channelisation is important, as also the evaluation of possible ecological consequences of river channelisation, including changes in productivity of biological systems. These considerations should inspire studies of heat and mass exchange, possible changes in meteorological conditions, agro climatic resources, and redistribution of water exchange budget in areas that receive additional volumes of water. These studies should include field experiments on land, stream and canals, statistical analysis of data on meteorological conditions and water vapor flux, and numerical simulation of hydro dynamical processes and fluxes of matter and heat, atmospheric circulation and water vapor transport.

Low Cost Solutions

Conventional sewage treatment is expensive. Freshwater polluted by metals and industrial or agricultural chemicals requires expensive, technologically advanced treatment. In the United States, government had provided \$57 billion since 1972 - as much as 55-75 percent of construction costs, depending on the type of sewage treatment plants. The United Nations has estimated that construction costs for treatment plants and submarine outfalls for the 539 Mediterranean coastal towns with populations greater than 10,000 would amount to more than \$5 billion.

Preventing pollutants from entering groundwater or surface waters can reduce treatment costs and downstream damage. Some existing, small-scale measures can also salvage nutrients for use in raising food and creating habitat for wildlife. As an alternative to conventional sewage treatment, Arcata, California, a small coastal town of 15,000, has transformed a local garbage dump into 63 hectares of wetlands that serve as a simple, low-cost waste treatment plant. Sewage is collected in sewers, held in ponds where solids settle out, then released into marshes, where it is filtered and

cleansed by natural processes. Some of the treated water irrigates other wetlands; the rest is pumped into the bay, where oyster beds thrive.

It appears that this approach requires more land than conventional sewage treatment plants. However, its cost-effectiveness depends on whether the land would produce greater value from the alternative use, such as agriculture or real estate development or road construction. One Swedish study concluded that the benefits of sewage treatment are greater than the costs of lost agricultural production on the same land.

In other areas of the world, partially treated sewage is used to raise fish. For example, a small fraction of the sewage generated by the 7 million inhabitants of Lima, Peru, is directed into holding ponds, where solids settle out and bacteria decompose many of the wastes. After 20-30 days, the water is clean enough to irrigate grain crops for cattle and to raise fish. A 1985 study for the World Bank described similar aquaculture operations relying on human excreta in Bangladesh, China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The largest single waste-fed aquaculture system in the world is the Calcutta sewage system, where water and sewage are fed into two lakes covering an estimated 2,500 hectares. After an initial bloom of algae, fish—principally carp and tilapia—are introduced, and additional sewage is fed into the lakes once each month. The system supplies about 7,000 metric tons of fish annually to the Calcutta market, or 2.8 metric tons per hectare per year.

Several measures can virtually eliminate human health concerns about fish from sewage-fed fish ponds, such as detaining sewage in stabilization ponds for at least 20 days before introducing it into fish ponds, or transferring fish and shellfish to clean water before harvesting.

River Musi under Threat

Musi River, a seasonal river flowing eastwards, is one of the major tributaries of the Krishna River.

It originates in the Ananthagiri Hills of Rangareddy district of Andhra Pradesh and joins River Krishna at Wadapally village of Miryalguda taluk of Nalgonda district. The length of the river is approximately 240 Km. This river flows through Rangareddy, Hyderabad, and Nalgonda districts. It has three tributaries, viz., Easa, Aleru and Paleru. While Easa is on the upstream of Hyderabad, the Aleru and Paleru rivers will join the river Musi in the down stream of the city.

It has a drainage area of 11,017 sq.Kms. Estimatedly more than 110 million cubic metres of waste water is joining river Musi annually (1989-90). Total annual run-off in the river is 1410 MCM, with an average rate of flow of 45 cumecs. The river Musi originates about 70 Km upstream from Hyderabad city. There is extensive deforestation in the hills, where it originates. Water flow is entirely dependent on the South-West monsoon. The annual rainfall period is between 20 to 90 days in a year. No studies have been done on the sedimentation, and/or soil erosion.

About thirty anicuts have been constructed across River Musi. These anicuts supply water to over forty villages. This enabled paddy cultivation twice a year, viz. Kharif and Rabi. The utilization pattern of these anicuts across River Musi, contrary to general trend, is 100 per cent more than what was originally planned. This could be a unique case in the history of Indian irrigation systems.

Being a seasonal river, waters in Musi were channelised into reservoirs and canals at various places as additional storage for the harder times, and/or second crop. Almost every village has this link to its tanks through canals.

Pollution

Presently, the river flow is majorly sustained by the sewage of the city, and the industrial effluents. In the last fifty years, the water quality in Musi has undergone tremendous changes owing to Musi becoming the ultimate destination for all waste waters of Hyderabad, domestic, industrial and other

purposes. Estimatedly, total quantity of waste water generated and released into Musi River is about 200 million gallons a Day (MGD). With such a volume of daily inflow, a seasonal river became a perennial sewage channel.

Also, the storm water drains carrying particulate matter drain into the river. This water contains often the pollutants of automobile pollution, since the rainwater in the entire area of the Hyderabad and Secunderabad is drained into the river. The area under Municipal Corporation limits is 172.6 sq.km. If urban agglomeration is added to it, the area occupied by the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad would be 727 sq.km. at present.

Though the total capacity of the reservoirs supplying drinking water to the twin cities is 150 MGD, the actual supply is only 120 MGD for domestic use. This supply does not sufficiently meet the present demand. Resultantly, ground water is extensively exploited by individual households through bore wells. Information on the number of borewells and their individual water withdrawal capacities is not available. If the ground water consumption is added to the volume of water supplied by Metro Water Works, then, the over all water consumption of Hyderabad city would be far higher. Thus, on an average about 150 MGD of water is released into the river, variously. The volume of this release had increased gradually, parallel to the growth and needs of the urban population, if not exponentially. It is likely to increase further.

It is interesting to observe that, the increased waste water generation drained into River Musi had 'helped' the down stream agriculture in several ways. Since the (waste) water is available throughout the year (in a semi-arid zone), more area was cultivated for the production of water intensive crops like paddy. Also, the down stream agriculture was stabilized with two crops in a year because of assured water supply. Moreover the ground water table was also recharged. All these had led to more production and employment in about forty villages down the river up to 100 Kms from Hyderabad. The irrigation

system was activated to the extent that the low level lands are irrigated through direct canals and the uplands through feeder tanks and lift irrigation system.

However, in the last decade, the quality of water in river Musi gradually degraded due to the joining of industrial effluents, and chemical-based cleaning in individual households. The color and taste of this water has undergone a tremendous change. Apart from domestic sewage, effluents released by the industrial units located in almost 7 industrial areas join the River Musi. Estimatedly, there are more than 12,000 industries in the catchment area of River Musi.

Effluents released by industrial units located in Jeedimetla, Nacharam, Katedan and other areas join the Musi. Many industries in violation of environmental laws are letting their effluents untreated into the natural courses. Some are discharging their concentrated effluents directly by tankers into Musi at two places, namely Nagole and Moosarambagh. The Jeedimetla industrial estate alone discharges 55 (Mld) Million litres of domestic waste and 15 (Mld) Million litres of industrial effluents daily, according to a survey made by the APPCB.

Industrial effluents are either being partially treated or not treated at all. The scheme of Common Effluent Treatment Plants miserably failed. In addition, now effluents from other parts of the State of Andhra Pradesh, and even from outside State like Bidar are being dumped into the catchment basin of river Musi. Even the sewage treatment plants are inadequate, and are not working properly.

These characteristics of these are more than the permissible limits prescribed for industrial effluents for discharge into inland surface water.

As a result ground water in the down stream of the river is also contaminated. The bore wells supplying drinking water are now lying unused as in a village called Peddagudem. Milk vendors of the villages who bring milk to the city go back from

city with drinking water in their containers. People working in the fields, particularly women during the sowing season suffered from skin allergies. The animals also suffer from the effects frequently.

Water quality of the Musi River is dangerously decoloured by the inorganic metals present in the industrial effluents which are directly released into the river by the industries of Hyderabad. There has been no adequate collective effort on the part of industries as well as the State Government in handling the problem of degradation of Musi River which in turn affects the downstream population. The polluted waters of the Musi River are now slowly poisoning downstream agriculture, affecting human and animal health.

There is an important need to study River Musi, especially downstream of Hyderabad, which involves an assessment of the impact of pollution on the people, agriculture, cattle and vegetation.

In the Eighth Five Year Plan Document, the Government of India admits, “Much of the water resources and air in the country continue to be polluted affecting human health. Besides traditional domestic pollutants, there is increasing contamination by chemicals, heavy metals and other toxic substances which are thrown in the rivers.....” There are various Acts which seek to prevent pollution of river waters. However, pollution of river Musi was not even regulated, leave alone its prevention. There is apparently no coordination between the Hyderabad Metro Water Works and Sewerage Board (HMWWSB), the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad (MCH), AP Pollution Control Board (APPCB), and the Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA). Each agency ignores the mandate of the other agency, their programmes and projects are taken up at cross purposes (sometimes contradictory), and they lack any approach in their work or methodology, hopping from idea to idea and project to project. APPCB had failed miserably in protecting this river from pollution despite the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme, Minimal National

Standards (for effluents and emissions), and the Environment Protection Act.

Tinkering with River Dimensions - Musi Projects

This river, in fact, was ‘channelised’ almost 70 years back, by the then rulers, within the city of Hyderabad. Boundary walls were constructed using ornate granite, with a river width of near about 1 KM., and depth of two to three stories. Along the boundaries, parallel roads were built. Bridges were also built across. While leaving the meandering flow pattern undisturbed, the remaining riverbed area was used for growing grass, fruits, gardens, parks, etc... In recent times, these boundaries were removed, and the banks of the river were encroached upon by people, and the government alike. At some places, this encroachment had consolidated, with no sign of the area being a river bank. Even the river bed was occupied. Government had built a station for the public transport buses, in the midst of the river, alongside a traditional graveyard.

Instead of improving the environs of this river, and maintain the existing situation, presently government intends to reclaim the river area, by expanding the existing parallel roads (reclaiming the river bed by resorting to landfills), and build shopping complexes, residential apartments, etc.. This proposal extends to more than 20 Kms of the river, within the city precincts. This proposal was inappropriately planned and named Nandanavanam. There is nothing ‘clean and green’ about this project. Its objective is to clean the ‘green’, and establish a ‘grey’ environment. Clearly, no thought has been spared to the fundamental problem of finding a wider source for flood waters of River Musi.

A full monsoon season could wipe out the ‘real estate’ gains, add to the human misery, entail enormous costs both for the government and the people, and devastate the entire environment surrounding this river.

Already the city is facing a serious water crisis.

With the limited water resources available, residents have resorted to ground water withdrawal. With excessive and fast withdrawal, ground water table had depleted drastically. Green areas like the river bed (open and free from encroachments) enables the replenishment of the ground water potential. Also river Musi had been helpful, in an unplanned way, in treating the raw sewage, through its meandering course, growth of grass and other vegetation. Further downstream, depending on the distance, the water sheds its high BOD content (sewage-related), but contains more dissolved solids, and chemicals (industrial effluents, detergents, cleaning agents, pesticides). Metallic pollution, oil and grease, normally do not reach beyond city limits, owing to the 'natural' slowing down of water flow (puddles are everywhere in the riverbed), and vegetative growth. Such a situation creates conditions for settling of solid particles, and anaerobic/aerobic conditions (increasing the oxygen content).

Instead of developing upon this situation, government wants to beautify the entire stretch, by constructing a central channel, with cement lining, in order not to allow waters to stagnate. According to them, stagnation is a major source for vegetation, mosquitoes, and bad smell. Central channel, it is believed, would carry the sewage waters faster beyond (to where?).

This river bifurcates the older parts of the city from the 'modern' city. Presently, with more employment, investment and business opportunities in the modern parts, the traffic flow is one-sided, twice a day, leading to congestion and chaos. Development of shopping complexes, residential apartments and roads will add further to this complex situation. Without looking at the situation comprehensively, government is going ahead with the project of creating additional road space. In an age, where the emphasis is on sustainable usage of resources (reuse and recycle), and the concept of sustainable cities, the 'Save Musi River Campaign' project apes conventional management

approaches, which only increase the costs, in all aspects.

With World Bank-assistance, two sewage treatment plants are being set up. But their capacity is nowhere near the current sewage production levels, and are ineffective with future growth. Investment will be very high, in terms of finances, land and institutional structure, to plan and establish a complete sewage treatment system for the city. Such an investment is beyond the capacity of the State government; leave alone the city authorities, and the city residents. And then there are other competing investments to be made in other cities/towns, precluding any emphasis on such a singular investment.

Musi Projects also seriously compromises the irrigation and drinking water needs of the villages downstream. Narrow channelisation of sewage water leads to faster flow, which is one of the objectives of the project, in order not to allow the sedimentation of solid wastes in city precincts which would improve the surroundings aesthetically. However, in the absence of any treatment systems, this water with all its pollutants is likely to strain the irrigation structures downstream, and pollute them to no end. This area being the source for vegetables and milk, catering to the needs of the city residents, a larger population's health is at risk through the direct entry of pollutants into the food chain.

Water resource management, in the case of River Musi in particular, and all other rivers in general, is in need of a new philosophy that considers geological, geographical, and climatic factors, and utilizes creative alternatives. River management is not a subject/matter concerning only the discipline of water resource engineering or that of the revenue department. It requires a multi-disciplinary approach which includes social, environmental and management dimensions, and a larger objective.

Depleting Groundwater levels, in Hyderabad.

Solution at Citizens' Door Steps

Subhash Reddy

The city of Hyderabad is expanding at an alarming rate every year and has become one of the fastest growing metropolitan cities in India. The growing population and its consumption patterns have created a rising demand mainly on limited water resources. When the Municipal Water Supply of the city could not cope up with the this demand of providing water to everyone and to all the areas the private companies saw this as a profitable venture to trade in water causing bore wells and lakes to dry up due to overexploitation of ground water. To add to the crisis, the tankers travel long distances to pump water from the lakes situated in the surrounding suburban and rural areas apart from the city lakes thus depriving the farmers of their supply for agriculture, challenging their livelihood, endangering their biodiversity, adding more traffic and pollution.

Ironically, Hyderabad receives an average rainfall of 700 mm annually, considering GHMC area of 650 sq km accounts to 4200 Million Cu mms. More than 90% of rain water goes into drains and gets carried away from city as infiltration into ground varies between 3% to 5% only under natural conditions & this further reduces with increased urbanisation. Natural replenishment of ground water reservoir is a slow process and is often unable to keep pace with this incessant downpour, concrete jungles/ roads, reducing open/ public places and excessive exploitation of ground water. The city receives abundant rains, gets flooded with every rain and many of the bore wells go dry between January and June but with improvised rain water harvesting (RWH) methods the infiltration rate can be increased to 10%. Hyderabad is situated on Deccan Plateau which is mainly underlain by rocks. Regular

methods of recharge pits are not very successful at all places because we can find sheet rock/ boulders beneath the proposed RWH pit or sometimes due to clay soil also where the percolation is minimum or not possible. The rainwater reaching the deep aquifers vertically is more important at present times than travelling horizontally through the weathered zone.

Rain water harvesting was in practice for many centuries and widely practiced all over the world & regarded as solution or supplement to address the increasing mismatch between available water resources and its rising demand. RWH feasibility is site specific as the site decides the design and the design decides the cost, which requires minimum expertise / knowledge, offers many benefits and its cost would be almost zero when it's done during the construction stage itself.

Inverse Bore Well (**IBW**) method of Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is widely promoted by **SMARAN** wherein dry or abandoned bore wells and even working bore wells (**WBW**), if there are more than two available are converted into recharging structures. In our city we find thousands of borewells abandoned (depths ranging from 120 ft to 1000 ft) when they go dry because of over extraction in the area or low ground water levels. The residents keep planning for new bore well points and for more depth to extract ground water while ignoring an abandoned bore hole in their premises which is worth thousands to lakhs.

SMARAN considers those abandoned or dry bore holes as assets. The **IBW** method of RWH uses those existing deep, dry and abandoned bore holes for artificial recharge. In this method huge volumes

of rooftop area rain water (60 thousand liters / 100 sq mtrs rooftop area per annum) collected from the buildings and also from selective surface areas are channelized through the rain water outlets to the proposed site into the RWH pit with proper silt traps before the pure rain water is allowed to dribble into the deep aquifers via bore well/ hole casing. Once this method is implemented, the bore well / hole keeps adding the rain water to the ground water deposits whenever rain occurs, thereby increasing the life, yield & quality of existing bore wells in their premises as well as neighboring areas. SMARAN is extending RWH technical support to **GHMC**, communities, Institutions etc and to name a few successful projects done are in **NIFT** at Madhapur which used to require 15 water tankers per day has now become a tanker less campus and so also the Nature cure Hospital at Balkampet.

This method increased the ground water level at many sites in the city and reduced the gap of the average dry period from January to June. Abandoned bore wells too have become productive apart from the increase in yield in neighboring bore wells. Continuous access to groundwater for the community is assured in a short time depending on

the potential available, which is site specific and the history of abandoned / dry bore holes is to be verified before such structures are proposed.

Best period for implementing such proposed structures are from the end of the rainy season to the start of the next rainy season since the execution will be continuous and will not get delayed due to rains. If it is implemented during monsoon period, there are chances of material and labour getting wasted.

There are thousands of abandoned bore wells in city which have dried up due to the depletion of groundwater and having more than one bore well in any premises in the city should not be ignored. They can be revived, made productive and can be used to replenish the aquifers which is the main source of sustenance for the community.

Help **SMARAN** in mapping dry borewells in the city. If you spot a dry borewell or if you have more than one working bore well in your premises, call/ mail Mr Subhash Reddy on +91 9440055253 / saverainwater@gmail.com.

To know more about SMARAN and its activities, visit www.smaran.org



Hussain Sagar Surplus Naala

A Lake In The Middle Of The Twin Cities

Sanghamitra Malik



Important information which no one reads

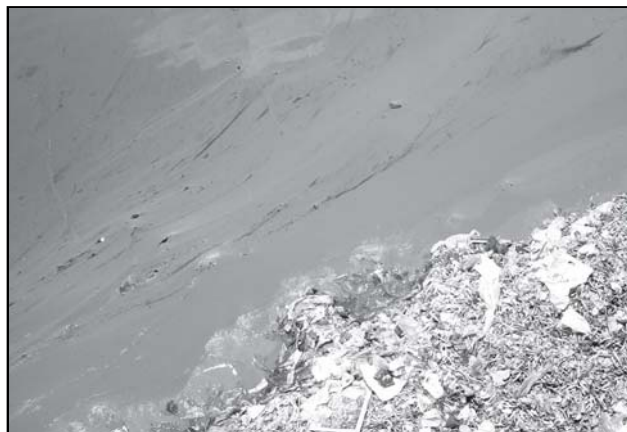
Visitors to our city of Hyderabad after paying a visit to the important tourist spots like the Golconda fort, the Qutab Shahi tombs, Salarjung museum, Chowmohallah palace, Charminar, Mecca Masjid, Taramati Baradari to name a few, are known to have that special attraction to pay a visit to Tank Bund. It is during the evening time that we see huge crowds who visit the area for the various attractions which are made available near this huge expanse of water. Sadly the lake has shrunk to one fourth of its original size. This is something that today's



Hussain Sagar from Necklace Road 1

generation may find hard to believe.

It is commonly referred to as Tank Bund but this artificial lake called Hussain Sagar was built on the tributary of the River Musi. It was constructed in 1562 under the supervision of Hussain Shah Wali during the reign of Ibrahim Qutb Shah. Hussain Shah Wali happened to be the son-in-law of Ibrahim Qutb Shah. Ibrahim Qutb Shah is known to have sent for Khaja Hussain Shah Wali a descendant of the first Peerzadah of Gulburga Shareef, who



The shocking state of Hussain Sagar



Some people searching for treasures in the dumped garbage



*What better place than the Hussain Sagar
to throw garbage*



State of Hussain Sagar in May 2014

impressed the king greatly. He was asked to take up the construction of this lake. It is known to have taken little more than three years and seven months. The digging of this lake cost Rs 254637/-. Today, we can construct a few Rainwater Harvesting Pits with this amount!!! Unfortunately, this tank remained empty for four long years.

A nobleman in the king's court named Nek Naam Khan was directed to make arrangements to fill this lake by cutting a channel from River Musi right up to this tank. It is believed that Nek Naam Khan himself paid for cutting of this channel. Water was actually brought to this tank in this manner.

As the tank had been constructed under the supervision of Hussain Shah Wali, people who visited the area began to call it Hussain Shah Cheroovu. The king must have been disappointed

on hearing this! The lake was thus fed by the Balkapur channel. Now it is fed by Kukatpally and Picket nalas too. The bund which was built and is situated between Hyderabad and Secunderabad actually links the two cities. The bund is about two kilometers long. On the Secunderabad side, there are four sluices which help to regulate the level of water in the tank.

Way back in the 19th century, water from Hussain Sagar was so clean that it was supplied to the Residency complex and areas around it for drinking purposes. Later on, this practice was discontinued after the construction of Osman Sagar in the early 20th Century. There are sailing clubs on both sides of the bund. On the Secunderabad side we find graves of some saints whose names are unknown.



Hussain Sagar has been made into a dumping ground 2014



Water Hyacinth in Hussain Sagar



Trash being dumped to fill up Hussain sagar



Gradual filling up of Hussain Sagar

So, Hussain Sagar popularly known as Tank Bund was one of the most attractive sites in the twin cities to which people both local residents and tourists came in large numbers to walk along the bund, in the soft breeze and have some simple roasted peanuts, Kwality icecream and Kebaab rolls from Bade Miyan's small kebab joint serving delicious fare!

Then, came, the days of encroachment of this beautiful water body. In the name of necessity and in the name of development, began the destruction of this most eye-catching spot of the twin cities.

The result of that is there for all to see. The Khairatabad flyover, the extension of the Secretariat, the NTR memorial, the NTR garden, the Prasad's Imax, the Necklace road with any number of eating joints, the Buddha Purnima park, the Laserium all

of which has shrunk the lake and is polluting the lake to such an extent that it has become difficult even to pass by that area owing to the dreadful stink. This is not all.

One needs to visit the Minister Road side. In the name of an Eco-Park, a whole big area of the lake has been filled up. Motor garages have come up along the lake. Temples are found to come up in close proximity to the lake which in a few years fill more and more of the lake as they keep growing in size!

Lord Buddha standing in the middle of the lake is unable to breathe. Boat rides in this filthy cesspool that our grand Hussain Sagar has been reduced to, is not the best idea of an outing in the evenings any more!!!



Hyderabad is losing this lake part by part



Destroying the Hussain Sagar bit by bit



Once part of Hussain Sagar Now grazing ground

There is no proper arrangement for waste disposal and we can imagine the kind of huge quantities of wet waste and plastic being generated

from the eating joints dotting the water-front.

Water Hyacinth, the perennial flowering, aquatic plant, is covering large stretches of the lake and the lake has got oxygen-deprived. Not a single fish has survived in the lake.

Since the last several years, we are hearing about this big plan to Clean Hussain Sagar. When is that actually going to happen? The lake is shrinking by the day and stinking as the breeze blows.

I would like to substantiate my story on this favourite spot of mine with a few pictures which I have been clicking from time to time. We can only hang our heads in shame!

The pictures are here for all to see.

Photographs by Sanghamitra Malik



DBR Mills

Rajeev Awas Yojana-a Mission Or A Dream?

S. Jeevan Kumar

Human Rights Activist

In March 2013, the Registrar General of India (RGI) published, for the very first time, a comprehensive plan on housing, amenities and assets in Indian slums, based on information collected during the 2011 Census. Up until this report, the assessment of challenges pertaining to urban poverty had no disaggregated numbers to substantiate or inform policy design.

The RGI report says that 68 million people, or one in six Indians, live in slum communities across 2,543 – out of a total of 4,041 – Indian towns. This amounts to 17.4% of the urban Indian population and is a dip from figures reported in the 2001 Census that estimated the number at 27.5% of the total urban population. While the figures imply a reduction in India's total slum-dwelling population, closer scrutiny of the data suggests the report does not depict an entirely accurate picture.

The Census makes a clear administrative distinction between what are termed “statutory” and “Census” towns. While statutory towns are those with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, Census towns are those that have a population of at least 5,000 individuals, with over 75% of the male workforce engaged in non-agricultural livelihood pursuits, and a minimum population density of 400 persons per square kilometer.

Since the 2001 Census, India has seen greater growth in the number of its Census towns than its statutory towns. The number of Census towns in India has grown by 186%, from 1,362 in 2001 to 3,894 in 2011. In the same period, the number of statutory towns increased from 3,799 in 2001 to

4,041 in 2011, representing a relatively meager growth of 6%.

The figures presented in the RGI report seem to suggest a decrease in India's urban slum population. However, the figures used only include the much smaller proportion of statutory towns. In essence, the existence of slums in the growing number of Census towns — that currently represent 49% of all Indian towns — has been disregarded by the report. As bottlenecks build in the face of rural to urban migration, Census towns have actually become home to a rapidly growing number of slum communities. This reality needs to be captured in any report clarifying the situation of the urban poor in order to give policymakers a more accurate view of what is happening on-the-ground.

The RGI data has also attempted to indicate the general demographic and spatial spread of Indian slums. The report suggests that 71% of slum communities are located in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Three cities in Andhra Pradesh have populations greater than 10 million people and also claim a higher proportion of slum households. The southern city of Visakhapatnam has recorded the highest proportion of slum households to total urban households in India at 44.1%, two rankings higher than famously overcrowded Mumbai.

While the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh report the highest proportions of slum communities to total urban population — with the numbers standing at 35.7%, 32% and 28%, respectively — Kerala and

Assam have much lower slum population proportions at only 1.5% and 4.8%, respectively.

A year before the census data was announced the Government of India came up with a programme known as Rajeev Awas Yojana(RAY).

RAY envisages a “Slum Free India” with inclusive and equitable cities in which every citizen has access to basic civic infrastructure and social amenities and decent shelter.

1. Improving and provisioning of housing, basic civic infrastructure and social amenities in intervened slums.
2. Enabling reforms to address some of the causes leading to creation of slums.

The Government said that RAY is not a programme but a mission. For the first time the document talked of giving tenurial rights to the slum dwellers thereby providing legal status on the land where the slum existed. *Rajiv Awas Yojana (2013-2022)* mission introduced by the Indian government’s Ministry of Housing and Alleviation, with the goals of helping the urban poor living in slums gain appropriate housing and addressing the processes by which slums are created and reproduced. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the launch of the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to be implemented in mission mode from 2013 to 2022. This scheme aims to make India slum-free by the year of 2022 by providing people with shelter or housing, free of cost. It is currently running as a pilot scheme, and will be launched shortly in mission mode. The Government has earmarked Rs. 32,230 crore for the implementation of this scheme during 12th Five Year Plan. One million beneficiaries are proposed to be covered under Rajiv Awas Yojana.

RAY Encourages States/Union Territories (UTs) to tackle slums in a definitive manner, by focusing on:

- A) Bringing all existing slums, notified or non-notified (including recognized and identified) within the formal system and enabling them
- B) to avail the basic amenities that is available for the rest of the city/Urban agglomeration.
- C) Redressing the failures of the formal system that lie behind the creation of slums by planning for affordable housing stock for the urban poor and initiating crucial policy changes required for facilitating the same.

The main objectives are:

1. Improving and provisioning of housing, basic civic infrastructure and social amenities in intervened slums.
2. Enabling reforms to address some of the causes leading to creation of slums.
3. Facilitating a supportive environment for expanding institutional credit linkages for the urban poor.
4. Institutionalizing mechanisms for prevention of slums including creation of affordable housing stock. Strengthening institutional and human resource capacities at the Municipal, City and State levels through comprehensive capacity building and strengthening of resource networks.
5. Empowering community by ensuring their participation at every stage of decision making through strengthening and nurturing Slum Dwellers’ Association/Federations.

RAY is to be implemented in a mission mode and will provide financial support to States/UTs/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Central Government Agencies, for providing housing and improvement of basic civic infrastructure and social amenities in each selected slums. Rental and transit housing will be admissible under the scheme. Operation and maintenance (O&M) of assets created under this

scheme will also be eligible for funding.

The scheme is applicable to all slums within a city, whether notified or non-notified (including identified and recognized), whether on lands belonging to Central Government or its Undertakings, Autonomous bodies created under the Act of Parliament, State Government or its Undertakings, Urban Local Bodies or any other public agency and private sector. It is also applicable to “urbanized villages” inside the planning area of the city, urban homeless and pavement dwellers. Slum dwellers would be given long term, mortgagable, renewable leasehold rights and reserving 15% of Floor Space Index or 35% of Dwelling Units, whichever is higher for Economically Weaker Sections and reserving 25% of municipal budget to provide basic services to the urban poor. It also talks of establishment of municipal cadre to deal with issues of slums and urban poor.

Mandatory Reforms to be done by the State Governments:

1. Bringing legislation for giving property rights to all slum dwellers.
2. Reform the rental and Rent Control Act and laws regarding urban housing.
3. Review of amendments to the legislation, rules and regulations and regulations governing the urban planning and development structures.

The Centre Government insisted that two reforms suggested in the JNNURM

Scheme should be implemented:

- a) Internal earmarking of budget within local body budgets for basic amenities to the urban poor. A clear G.O was also issued to this effect.
- b) Ear marking at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both public and private agencies) for EWS/LIG categories.

There is strong suggestion that the private enterprisers/builders be invited to play a proactive role by adopting PPP system. Government has announced some concessions to them.

Government of Andhra Pradesh was the first State to approach the Centre for implementation of this Mission. Our State has always been an early bird to catch the worm. When JNNURM was announced our State first approached with a City Development Plan and got grants. This time also our bureaucrats went to Delhi with survey report before any State could go. We have ASCI, an Institution where, we get readymade survey reports. Government of India, Urban Development Ministry laid down some latest methods to undertake survey and granted funds to do it. Our state initially submitted a proposal to carry out the programme in four Municipal Corporations, namely 1.GHMC (Hyderabad) 2.VMC(Vizag) 3.VMC (Vijayawada) 4.TMC (Tirupati), 14 towns in Seemandhra and 9 towns in Telangana.Eight towns with one lakh population from both regions were also listed for the programme.In four above Municipal Corporations, slums were identified and notified. In 18 Circles of GHMC, 1476 slums were identified for up gradation and implementation of RAY.GOI insisted that some pilot projects be completed and approach be made for grant of funds. One slum in Hyderabad, two slums in Vizag,one in Kurnool and two in Vijayawada were chosen. In the Seri-Lingampally Mandal of Ranga Reddy District, which is under GHMC, Keshavnagar slum was selected.

RAY envisaged that Community participation is the significant aspect in order to create community ownership and sustainability of the programme.

Detailed Project Report(DPR) has to be prepared with the active participation of the slum people. The whole process has to be operated through Slum Dwellers Association and slum level and Slum Dweller Federation at city level. Keshava

Nagar Slum in Hyderabad and Surya Tejanagar in Vizag were selected as pilot projects to be taken up on the instruction of the GOI. Let us examine, what happened in Keshava Nagar. This slum is in Gachi Bowli area surrounded by soft ware companies. The market prize of the land is very high. Keshavnagar is among the 61 slums in the Municipal circle spread out in an area of 12.10 acres currently and has a population of 1,026 persons living in 221 houses with an average family income of Rs.31,125. Just 22 among them are proper dwellings. There are also 160 semi-‘pucca’ houses and 39 ‘kutcha’ houses in the slum.

The redevelopment plan entails spending Rs.52 crore for reconstructing houses and basic infrastructure in an area of 7.38 acres leaving four acres for usage by the developer for building either residential or commercial complexes. Municipal officials, after extensive interaction with slum-dwellers, have realised that there was reluctance for the vertical development of ground plus three floors as was being proposed. A fresh plan has been prepared for the horizontal development where each household would be given individual housing units in the ratio of 60 sq. yards for a ‘pucca’ house, 45 sq.yards for semi-‘pucca’ and 36 sq.yards for ‘kutcha’ house.

The redeveloped slum would have 12-metre wide roads all round and internal roads with widths between seven and nine metres with a separate children’s play area and parks. Interestingly, slum dwellers are against equal compensation package to the tenants numbering 90!

About 40 houses already built under VAMBAY scheme have been given to beneficiaries. GHMC wants to build houses here under RAY by demolishing the existing houses. The fact is that the local MLA, who is notorious for land grabbing, is interested in the land that remains vacant after building G+3 Dwelling Units. People were not

consulted. Project planning and DPA preparation was given to a consultant. When the ex-Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy laid the foundation stone, people and the Housing Rights activists (CHATRI) present, raised objections. Since there was a large contingent of Police, they could not raise the voice vehemently. Later people demanded that they wish to have single dwelling units as enough land is available. But the GHMC said no. People are not cooperating to go ahead with the programme. Same is the case in Vizag, but with active persuasion of the activists (CHATRI) and proactive initiation of the Collector the DPR was discussed and peoples’ opinions were taken into consideration. Therefore, the project is progressing.

Though the Government claims that there would be slum free cities in the country, it is next to impossible.

In many cases the land titles of the slum is not clear. For instance in Hyderabad alone the existing land status of the notified slums is as follows:

No. of Slums on GHMC LANDS—	42
No. of Slums on State Govt.LANDS—	680
No. of Slums on GOI. LANDS—	502
No. of Slums on private LANDS—	125
No. of Slums on Defense LANDS—	2
No. of Slums on Wakf Board LANDS—	2
No. of Slums on disputed and other lands—	82

The State Government is not very serious about implementing RAY. It wants to get funds from the centre under this programme. It is not showing enthusiasm to bring out law on slum dwellers’ tenurial rights and is not making any effort to make the desired reforms and modifications in the planning.

I feel that RAY is not a Mission but a farce.

Lessons From The Campa Cola Case

Pronoti Datta,
TOI

May 6, 2013, 8.06 am by Pronoti Datta,
Reporter- The Times of India.

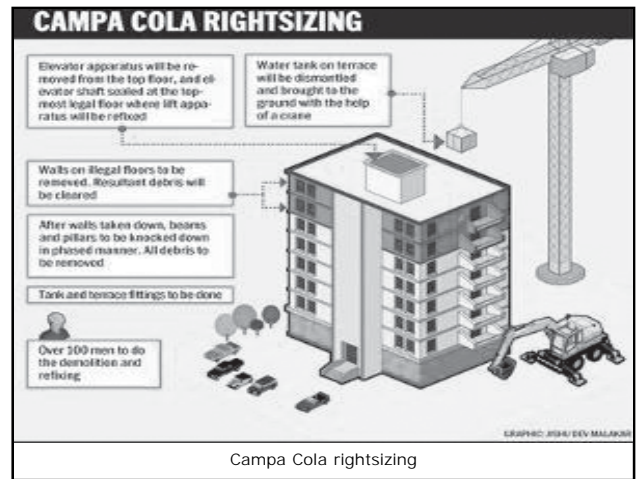
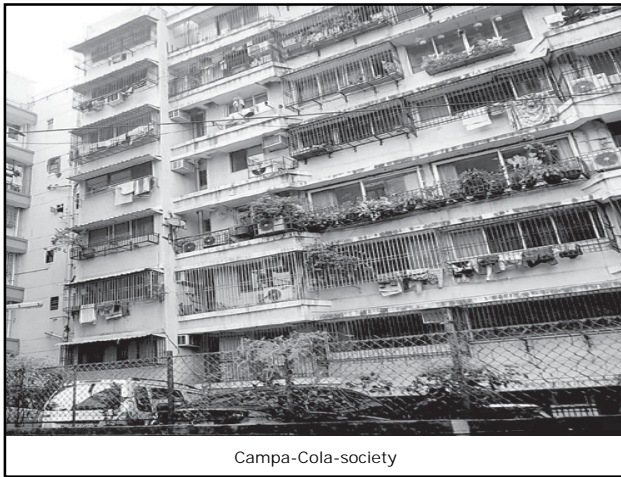
When the Supreme Court ordered the illegal floors of the buildings in Worli's Campa Cola compound to be demolished, people across the city must have felt a fraction of the residents' shock. This is the sort of thing that happens routinely to slum dwellers, not to folks living in Worli, not to "people like us". Even though millions of people like us live in illegal buildings that could, by a quirk of circumstance, face a similar tragedy.

The Campa Cola residents are both victims and participants in an irony that plays out all too frequently in Mumbai. In the 1980s, three builders constructed seven buildings on a plot that previously housed a factory owned by Pure Drinks. Despite having permission to build only six floors, the builders erected many more—one building has 17 floors, another has 20. One of the builders, B. K. Gupta, conveniently pinning the blame on the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. Gupta, who is now bedridden, says that it was understood that builders would exceed the permissible height and that the civic authorities would regularise the extra floors after charging penalties. Even though the BMC issued "stop work notices" between 1984 and 1989, it did nothing to actually prevent the illegal floors from being built and even collected penalties. As Gupta so aptly pointed out in a statement that can be applied to Mumbai's real estate crisis, "It was a breach but legally approvable."

The BMC had in fact promised to regularise the illegal floors in 1987. Rohit Malhotra, a resident

since 1987 who's been acting as spokesperson for those facing eviction, says that the civic body had agreed to regularise 67,000 square feet. It's not known why the BMC didn't go ahead. The same corporation is today tasked with the demolition of the illegal floors that it wilfully ignored. As is always the case with illegal constructions, it's the residents who suffer. Like the folks who died and lost their families when a cheaply constructed, illegal building crashed in Mumbra on Thursday, April 4. For once, the bureaucrats who colluded with the builders were arrested.

But residents are not always entirely above blame. The 140 affected families claim that they had no clue that their floors were illegal. "It was a complete bolt from the blue," Malhotra says. "The biggest bolt was that that BMC insisted (on evicting us) within 48 hours." The demolition, which was supposed to begin on Thursday, May 2, has since been postponed by the Supreme Court by five months. It was only in 2000, Malhotra says, that the residents found out that the buildings had not been given an occupation certificate by the BMC. However, moving into a building without the certificate is illegal and buyers should make sure the builders have it before they purchase a flat by asking to see it. Malhotra says that in 1986, buyers were told that the building plans had been approved. But they hadn't been, which is why the buildings had no water connection. For all these years, the residents have relied on tanker water. They applied for a water connection in 1999 but it was only in 2005 that they learned they were living in illegally constructed apartments. Understandably, Malhotra is upset that



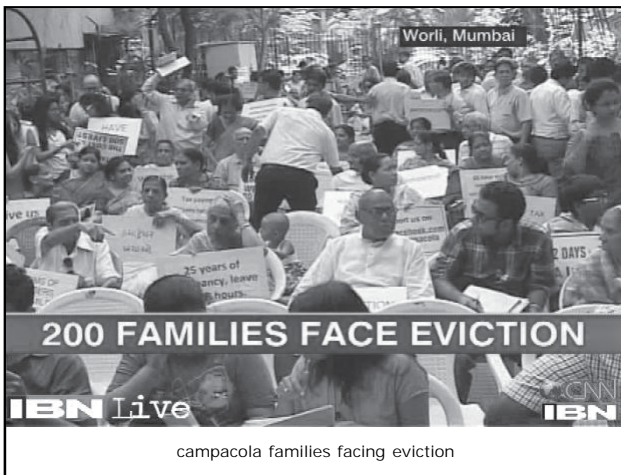
the court has chosen to make an example of Campa Cola while Adarsh continues to stand.

It's a vicious cycle. Builders collude with politicians and the BMC to construct buildings illegally. Perhaps tempted by a good deal, buyers overlook the irregularities. Given Mumbai's skewed real estate market where a 476 square feet MHADA flat costs Rs55 lakh, it's not hard to sympathise with desperate flat buyers who naively or knowingly invest in properties that aren't entirely legal and then have faith that the same system that allowed the buildings to come up will regularise them. When building violations are found out and flat owners are threatened with eviction, politicians lobby to regularise the buildings in order to gain brownie points with their vote banks. When they

get away with it, builders are encouraged. If the BMC were to take action against every unauthorised construction, then vast swathes of the city, especially the western suburbs, Thane and Ulhasnagar, would be emptied.

So the Campa Cola case is unlikely to be a deterrent for builders and buyers in the future. Like Pratibha building in the Sophia College Lane, which remains a shell of a building after eight illegal floors were demolished in the early 1990s, Campa Cola will be an ephemeral cautionary tale at the most. What's needed of course is an effective means to keep track of building plans and permissions. This would open builders and the BMC to greater scrutiny and buyers would no longer be able to plead ignorance while purchasing flats. Recently the BMC announced that it was considering putting the plans of buildings online so that buyers can keep tabs on their investments. But since making the relationship between builders and the civic authority transparent is not in the best interest of corrupt officials, it won't be a surprise if such a website remains only a plan on paper. In which case, breaches can continue to be "legally approvable".

(We can only say that it is time for Hyderabadis to wake up!)



In A Democracy The Elections Are Essential But Not Adequate

Dr. Rao V.B.J. Chelikani

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(This is a persuasive appeal to the urban citizens to involve themselves more actively in the governance of the city, particularly in view of the fact that their turn out (and interest) for the elections is very low)

I. All fairy tales end stating that the prince and the princess got, ultimately, married and they lived happily, ever after. However, we cannot, similarly, say that the people have elected their representatives, freely and fairly, and they lived, happily ever after. Our election exercise is taking place, as it should; however, it is, awfully, falling short of its mission.

We have observed during the general elections that took place, very recently, that the election process went off, largely, in a fair and free manner. But, is it not a lot of “sound and fury, signifying nothing” in the Shakespearian sense, contrary to our general expectation considering it as a ‘be-all and end-all’? We observe, out of experience that the process is ritualized in a typical Indian way and they are not, necessarily, leading to good governance and development. We are not getting good representatives. Further, there is a new class that emerged victorious out of this process, which is not able to deliver the goods. Since the political power is enjoyable in regal splendor with all protocols, privileges, immunities, it is corrupting absolutely all - those in Power and also those among them who are deprived of it. Firstly, the process though repeated regularly, is not enhancing the democratic temperament of the citizen. Consequently, the urban citizen does not believe very much that he can influence the process and its outcome, even though he does not challenge the credibility of the process. This reflects in low percentage of voting.

a). Democracy demands that the citizens, during the elections, carry out dialogue, sharing and reconciliation of views by adopting dialectic process and also agree to disagree, while living together. The candidates during the election process are supposed to filter and refine the aspirations and the particular interests, by dialectical discussions. The people are supposed to choose between sets of syntheses for political and social cohesion. This should have to happen at every step, including at the level of group-identities and parties. The election process that promotes maximum dialogue and convergence is the best and not that which elects the best representative (rep). How can we make it possible, in the context, in which the political parties are identifying and freezing the differences or divisions for constituting vote banks? Talking about the ‘ritual’, the elections are taking place in a theatrical, ‘gladiator’ style in which the candidates are out to eliminate each other for their own survival instead of bringing together people for building common projects of social cohesion and solidarity. The citizens, during the elections are not made aware of the basic issues and the kind of efforts needed by the citizens to solve them. The candidates vie with each other in devising programmes of robbing Peter to pay for Paul. The citizen is lulled into somnolence of sweet promises and instantaneous inducements in order to vote for the wrong candidate. At every election, the political parties are degrading the citizen and humiliating him or her by transforming him or her into an object of solicitation. S/he became a commodity to be

purchased. But, at the same time, the highest bidder or the 'seducer' has no conclusive proof that would be proportionately successful.

The elections are not a 'gala' event, nor a technique and a mechanism. It is to be an educative and empowering process in democratic spirit, values and practices. The mission of the candidate is to commit himself to restore the 'personal sovereignty' of the individual, by way of re-empowering him or her and to facilitate the citizens' participation in designing and pursuing his or her personal destiny which, ultimately, has collective dimensions. In India, we have, successfully, retained the form of elections but the spirit has started slipping away, after each exercise. How it is happening is too evident to be described here.

b). Our Representative system has not been functioning as expected. The elected rep. is given a blank cheque that is valid for five years. The political class is enriching itself, after lavishly spending in the elections, to the detriment of right kind of development of the common man. Further, in view of increasing public watch, it might not be, in future, easy to recover the bet amount. There is an age-old notion till the end of 20th century that people, as an abstract entity or a collectivity need to be guided by some wiser leaders for common good. The reps. are supposed to represent the General Will of the people. Since they are not seen as individuals with their personal meaning of life, they are expected to give their consent, by numerical majority, to one of those aspirants to rule, like rulers, in the place of the former kings. Further, the reps. are considered as reps. for everything and for everybody in a given piece of territory, in the image of a king. In a massive society like ours, with low rates of literacy and poverty, it is regarded as normal and even necessary. Thus, the rep's mission is reduced to just to reflect the state of mind of

the peoples, mechanically. They are representing sectional interests, the addition of which is expected to contribute to the general welfare, which proves to be a wasteful exercise. At the same time, unfortunately, there is no pre-determined 'general will' or pre-formed public opinion, merely, to be 'revealed' by a rep., just like some kind of 'divine will'. The general will is to be forged into multiple choices which are to be conceived, discussed, contradicted, reconciled, synthesized, personalized, customized and presented before the individual voters for selection by the candidates.

We must ensure that rep. works for further democratization of the society in social, economic and cultural spheres. How are we to ensure that there is inclusive economic growth, more human rights, more expressions of individual freedom and that politics do not divide the society but harmonize human relations? In the name of the representatives, the political parties have monopolized Power in some kind of political cartel.

- c). The institutions of Legislative Assemblies and Parliament have, no doubt, been very great democratic inventions for collective decision-making. But, now, they have become political stadiums of gladiators, who employ all their energies and genius only to demolish all other pretenders to capture and wield power. There is no room for remembering common good and collective progress. It is also a race where the winner takes all. We have lost 'legitimacy' in the representative process, since they deploy no time, energies and interest in doing legislation, for which they are not equipped.
- d). How far is the territorial representation and numeric majority legitimate and relevant today? Is the exclusive representation by some people, of some people living on a bit of land, adequate? This resembles the territorial rule by

the kings. Why is it that no other criteria is taken into account for representation, such as, age, gender, profession or skills or knowledge or competency? Going beyond the reminiscence of kingdoms, does this mode reflect our primitive, atavistic obsession with the ownership of land? Much later, the same attachment to land is reflected in nationalism, colonialism and imperialism. We have still such a mind-set that considers soil as holier than human life. Underlying this attachment is the quest for Power. The political class is creating a Leviathanic state of which they are the high priests and before which the citizens are simple devotees.

Further, this representation attached to a piece of constituency with a varied number of voters for each constituency. Why not one rep. for every one lakh or ten lakhs? The elections are also decided by numerical majority and the reps. take decisions, mostly, by numerical majority again. Are they the only methods that can be considered as democratic?

II. Democracy is a framework for free and organized expression of individual liberty. It includes among other things, participation in the governance. However, the question is, whether the state is soliciting or tolerating the cooperation of the individual or simply resisting it? In non-democratic governments also, governments solicit the participation of the individual to fight for the glory of the dynasty or kingdom or nation or empire or to construct monuments for their immortality. Another approach is possible only in a democracy, which is being spurred by the civil society activism. We have, so far, practiced consent democracy and we need to upgrade it to a participatory democracy, if we want to sustain democracy. Yet, the citizen's participation, particularly, political participation is essential but, it is inadequate to sustain and promote a democratic society. That is why, we should move very soon, towards participative and associative

democracy from the present form of representative democracy, in which the urban citizen can feel fully interested and involved.

- a) There is stagnation, to-day, and we are helplessly watching the reps. who are resisting further democratization in all other spheres. We have exclusively depended upon political democracy to bring democracy in all aspects in a citizen's life. The need of the hour in our country is not to make more electoral and other political reforms to bring more political democracy, as they are not likely to be any more effective at this juncture. The conclusion, we draw is not end the system but to mend the deeply-entrenched practices, which need many reforms and they can come only from the civil society activists.

Therefore, in order to get out of this blockage, the citizen has to participate, firstly, in order to supervise and control the representatives so as to keep them tied down to their initial mission and not to get corrupted by Power and secondly, to self manage themselves as many aspects of their life as possible, as the representatives are proving to be, inherently incapable of handling the representation of complex, complicated and sophisticated life goals and human aspirations. We are travelling towards a society, where none can represent another, as every human being is unique and nobody can speak for others. In the evolution of democratic processes, the phase of representation is over and participation is the next aspiration and a challenge, particularly in the societies which need total transformation in all spheres, as a phase of post-feudal society and the post- welfare state. In participatory democracy, the citizen participates in defining and organizing his life, along with others, not just only in political sphere.

It means the citizens must express themselves in some other ways also in an uninterrupted

manner and not only periodically. One should participate in the management of all social institutions round and, also to participate in supervising, correcting and remedying the malpractices of the reps. more directly or creating new mechanisms of political control. The citizen must govern himself directly, wherever it is possible, like in local self-governing institutions and for the rest, one should follow the principle of subsidiarity. Those things that can be done at the lower level should not be allowed to be performed by a higher body.

Direct democracy tools do exist in Europe at national and municipal levels in varying degrees. Since 1st April, 2012, there is a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) as a direct channel to communicate with the legislative and executive wings of the inter-governmental Union. It enables a direct, transnational and original form of citizens' participation. An ECI can be moved on any issue by a core group of citizens and has to be, eventually, backed up by at least ten lakh citizens from at least seven out of 28 member states. In the USA, over 70% of the population lives in a state, city or town in which citizens' initiative or referendum is available.

- b) What are the ways in which an urban citizen can directly participate individually or through an association of like-minded people ? Vigilance in governance implies both public and private sectors.
 - i) Paid or unpaid collaboration in the implementation of public works, such as, laying roads or schools or hospitals, laying play-grounds, parks, community halls in one's street or area; restoration of historical sites and buildings, when solicited by the local, state and central authorities;
 - ii) Claiming participation, as stake-holder or

consumers in the production or delivery of goods and services, whether in public or private sectors;

- iii) Organising campaigns for voter registration, participation in elections, clean and green environment, disaster management and for massive measures of health and hygiene;
- iv) Solicited or independent initiative in terms of social audit in order to improve the quality of the goods and services rendered either by the private or public sectors;
- v) Solicited and unsolicited voluntary expressions of the civil society (which is a recent phenomenon) of making suggestions, proposals, comments or sharing one's mind regarding the governance matters in policy or in implementation to the attention of the political authorities as well as the officials; notably, to the Parliamentary Standing Committees, where one can obtain opportunities for oral presentations;
- vi) Where direct dialogue is not reciprocated by the authorities, resort to media to inform the public of such a non-responsive attitude of the authorities is necessary; in order to avoid the media misusing the criticism of the citizen for partisan purposes, alternative media i.e. social media should be extensively used;
- vii) Participation in Election Watch activities before, during and after the elections, so that the spirit and not only the form is respected; notably, watching the follow up being given to the FIRs registered against the candidates for election related offences;
- viii) Setting up at several stages new corrective or remedial mechanisms against the

political reps. as well as the officials, as the existing measures are insufficient;

- a) Regarding the conduct of a local politician, complaints, preferably through an association, can be made to the political party to which he belongs, as some parties have started dressing a code of conduct to their members;
- b) All corruption-related complaints against political reps. can be forwarded, preferably through an association, to the Lok Pal, Lokayuktha; and against all officials to the Central Vigilance Commission, State Vigilance Commission, Nodal Grievance Officers, Independent External Monitors, ACB, etc.;
- c) Regarding the general code of conduct of an elected rep. complaints can be sent to the attention of the President, Governors, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Chairperson of Rajya Sabha or to the Speaker of the state Assembly or the chairperson of the Council, as the case may be;
- ix) Introduction of Gandhian techniques to protest and to oppose under the guidance of the civil society activists, as the legislators might not be forthcoming to adopt any legal measures against their interests;
- x) Exercising due diligence and extending cooperation to the 'institutional activism' that is emerging within our constitutional frame-work, in the functioning of the constitutional institutions like the Central Election Commission of India or Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Independent Administrative Authorities and other regulatory bodies;
- xi) Joining the civil society organizations or

associations that are emerging in all spheres of life for promoting citizen activism for better governance and faster development, without expecting the Government to do everything;

- xii) Resorting to and encouraging citizen vigilance in the utilisation of the Right to Information Act, or the Citizens Charters or the Consumer Protection Act;
- xiii) Resorting to judicial bodies to re-interpret the constitution and to challenge the laws so as to empower the citizen and not the political reps. and to highlight democratic deficiencies in the functioning of the organs of the State (PIL, etc.);
- xiv) Participation in social media to increase citizen awareness and for alternative participation in governance relations with the public or private institutions or about social institutions which have nothing to do with the government;
- xv) Exploring alternatives to check the elected representatives in the model of initiating no-confidence motion or Censure motions or re-call from inside the councils or committees or introducing the citizens' initiatives as it is being done in the Western democracies.
- xvi) Direct participation in self-governance at the 3rd-tier of our polity by being ward committee members and area reps.
- xvii) Further, the citizen is carrying out a fourth-tier of governance at the level of the Resident Welfare Associations. This needs to be officially recognized and supported by financial devolution.
- ix) Further, the citizen is carrying out a fourth-tier of governance at the level of the Resident Welfare Associations. This needs to be officially recognized and supported by financial devolution.

‘Quality Of Life’ Role Of Welfare Associations

Capt. Manohar Sharma

President-Umanagar Residents’ Welfare Association

Who does not want a good Quality of Life, especially in an urban environment? In cities, stress & strain is plenty – so are the problems. They are related to pollution, traffic, lawlessness, basic amenities i.e., water, electricity, drainage, roads etc. apart from the timely services from police, telephones, municipalities, water works etc.

After a day’s hard work in office/factory you return home and there is no water supply or you want to rest and the construction work next to your house is found making a lot of din. Your life becomes miserable. Like this, there are many small pin pricks we face in our lives every day and our Quality of Life goes down and it is not to our satisfaction. This creates total dissatisfaction in life.

I can share my experiences. The welfare association is a boon to the society in solving basic problems of the people. Maintaining parks and clean roads, proper electricity supply, street lights, drinking water, security of the families, entertainment, sports,

recreation etc are well taken care of by the welfare associations.

The associations are mostly run by the retired senior citizens who devote their time and energy to make people comfortable. Seniors are big think tanks. The experience they carry with them can do lot of good to the society. This way the Quality of Life of the people, improves. This gives positive signals to the society.

I feel it is a big satisfaction to do something for the society. The society has given us a lot in life. We need to keep solving the problems whenever they come up. Residents certainly feel happy when they get a helping hand from the welfare associations and their problems are taken care of as and when they arise.

A few live examples to share with you: Daughter not well at 2 am.

A resident came to the colony and joined as a member of the welfare association. Their daughter took seriously ill in the middle of the night and the couple did not know what to do. They got in touch with the association. A proper support in organizing ambulance, timely medical facility, hospital etc was extended and the child recovered. It was worth being the member of a welfare association.

Elderly lady – Police protection.

An elderly lady was not ready to be the member of R.W.A. At one time she was facing the problem of some miscreants pelting stones at her house, being a lonely lady she came to the RWA and the RWA promptly alerted its members in and around her house, complained to the police and



The beautiful Umanagar Park

installed CC TV cameras to protect her. Her problem was solved, she felt safe and her quality of life improved.

Aadhar Card issued

The URWA helped its members in various ways to have a better Quality of Life. One such thing was issue of “Aadhar Cards”. The RWA organized a 15 days camp in the colony to make sure that all the residents got their Aadhar cards at their door steps.

Property tax payment at your door steps

Similarly, in URWA the yearly property tax

payment is arranged in the colony so that the residents need not go out for payment of the property tax.

All these services done by the Resident Welfare Associations do save valuable time for all residents which ultimately give them a comfortable Life.

In today’s world, these types of help and support play an important role in the life of the urban population. We all must go all out to take such help/support from the local organizations/ RWAs to enjoy a better life. I am sure more people would take up voluntary work to help the society.



‘G’ Block, Secretariat

Graffiti Is Bad

Adhya Kartik

Age: 8 Years, Oakridge International School

Graffiti is very bad, because, destroying the walls is not good at all.

Last year, in Begumpet some students from j.n.t.u had painted the walls.

Beautifully, but people had constantly started to stick posters , and then they were removed also.

It has been done so badly, that half of the posters are still stuck to the wall.

Then, there is also graffiti all over the walls. I look at the walls and i see Graffiti.

What, if a foreigner comes and looks at the walls? What would he/she think?

How would you like it, if someone writes on your walls? I would not like.

It if any one would come to my house and write something on my walls.

However, not a single person would like that.

So , it is time to think, discuss and take some action.



What is our share of energy in nature?

How should we distribute it?

Sagar Dhara

Search for a roadmap to a sustainable, equitable and peaceful human society

To become sustainable, equitable and a peaceful society, humans must power down by at least 60%, become solar beings, distribute energy equitably and manage it democratically. For this, global outlook must change from Gain maximization for a few to Risk minimization for all species. The formulation of sustainability indices and a wide public discussion for short and a medium term programmes for such a transition should be conducted.

Energy—the fundamental change agent in history

The history books that I had read in school and later got it wrong. They had me believe that rulers and the powerful were the fundamental change agents in history. No. It is energy that is the fundamental driver of social and natural history. Rulers were only bit players through whom energy flows happened and changed the world.

World War Zero has been fought for the last 250 years by fossil fuelled Europe and North America to project their power through factories, railroads and gun boats to vanquish solar and animate energized countries in Asia, Africa and South America. Yet, history books tell us about how Robert Clive played a key role in establishing military and political supremacy of the East India Company in India and securing the wealth that followed for the British crown.

Energy theft and overshoot

Of the primary energy sources, solar energy has been the most important in shaping and changing

the world. It energizes inanimate processes, e.g., climate, biogeochemical cycles, as well as life, including human society. While inanimate processes and life forms other than humans have consumed more or less constant quantities of energy, humans have continuously increased their consumption as they created improved knowledge of energy conversion.

Since the advent of agriculture 10,000 years ago, humans have usurped increasing amounts of energy from other life forms, primarily plants. The driver for this process is class society—slavery, feudalism, capitalism—that creates the need to maximize energy surplus (profit) accumulation by increasing energy use.

HANPP (Human appropriation of net primary production = NPP_h + NPP lost due to land use change and fires caused by humans), a measure for the amount of energy usurped by humans from nature, grew slowly till the industrial revolution began, and exponentially in the last 250 years. In the last century, it has doubled from 13 to 24% of the Net Primary Production (NPP) estimated to be 65 GTC (Giga tonnes of carbon). Human theft from nature, or HANPP, is today estimated to be 15.6 GTC, i.e., equal to the energy in 7.5 million Hiroshima sized atom bombs.

Peak oil

Fossil fuels began to be used 250 years ago when the industrial revolution began. By the end of the 19th Century, they overtook biomass use the primary energy source. From a consumption of 300 MToe/year (million tonnes of oil equivalent per year) in the year 1900, fossil fuel use today is 10 GToe/year (Giga tonnes of oil equivalent per year), a jump of

33.5 times and a growth of 3.2% pa.

The party is over. We have hit peak oil, i.e., oil production peaking, followed by a decline as new oil resources have not been discovered in large quantities. Peak gas is to follow in a few decades. Declining energy resources has grave implications for the future human society as it has the potential to cause economic crises, exacerbate inequity, and even throw society into chaos.

Energy use and inequity

The total energy consumed by humans today is 18.47 GToe/year. Of this, 64% is from commercial TPES (total primary energy supply), ie, fossil fuels, nuclear and hydro-energy, 5% from biomass and 31% from NPPs (net primary production-solar energy fraction, which is the contribution of solar energy to Net primary production energy harvested—NPP_h, and appropriated by humans from crops lands, pastures, forests) by way of photosynthesis (Table 1). NPPs is free of energy cost and contributes to surplus energy, which can be variously called surplus value or profit.

* For India, biomass includes dung cake (0.04 GToe) used extensively for cooking energy and which is a non-market good.

The per capita commercial TPES + biomass energy consumption in the European Union and North America is of the order of 2-4 times the world average and 5-10 times that in India. There is great inequity in energy consumption between nations and within nations.

The ratio of commercial TPES + biomass energy to total energy is higher for the European Union and North America than for Asia, Africa and South America, as the former regions use a greater proportion of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels provide about 80% of the world's (Table 2) commercial energy. Fossil fuel addiction, which began in North countries, has now become global. Biomass supplies a significantly higher proportion of the total energy consumed by India and China in comparison to Europe and North America.

Tipping points

Driven by class society's greed, a massive energy overdraw is the most important cause for today's environmental crisis. It manifests as global warming, rapid deterioration of air, water, land and biodiversity quality, and disturbance to the biogeochemical cycles, in particular the carbon and nitrogen cycles. Earth's environment's life support systems have been badly compromised. The carbon cycle will not correct itself for centuries even if we stopped emission of excess carbon completely today.

Perception that there is inequitable distribution of energy between various sections of people—class, caste, gender, colour, nations—has caused conflict throughout human history. In the last century, three types of human conflicts—interstate, colonial and civil wars—have killed no less than 100 million people.

Peak oil and climate change are tipping points that have the potential to collapse human

Table 1 Energy supply today by type

Region	Commercial TPES	Biomass	CGAR-Commercial TPES + Biomass 1990-2013 (%)	NPPs	Total Energy	Popu-lation	Per capita energy consumption (Toe/Yr)		
	GToe/Yr	GToe/Yr		GToe /Yr	GToe /Yr	Billion	Commercial TPES + Biomass	NPPs	Total
World	11.83	0.89	1.8	5.75	18.47	7.16	1.8	0.8	2.6
India	0.62	0.13*	3.6	0.53	1.28	1.23	0.6	0.4	1.0
China	2.14	0.29	5.1	0.45	2.88	1.36	1.8	0.3	2.1
USA	2.13	0.09	1.0	0.58	2.78	0.32	6.9	1.8	8.7
EU27	1.56	0.06	0.4	0.56	2.18	0.51	3.2	1.1	4.3

Table 2 Commercial TPES and biomass energy supply by type

Region	Commercial TPES + Biomass	Supply (%)						
	Gtoe/Yr	Oil	Coal	Gas	Nuclear	Hydro	Biomass	Renewables
World	12.72	34	25	20	5	6	7	3
India	0.75	24	44	8	1	5	17	1
China	2.43	20	57	2	1	6	12	2
USA	2.2	36	20	26	8	3	4	3
EU27	1.62	35	16	26	13	Negligible	4	6

civilization. Such collapses have happened in the past, e.g., Mayan and Roman civilizations, but they remained local. In a globalized economy, collapse will be global. As the global economy's EROEI (energy return on energy invested) drops to >9-10, supporting an industrial civilization will become increasingly difficult. At an EROEI of 13 today and dropping, we are not far from a collapse.

Sustainable capitalism—an oxymoron

Sustainable development, trickledown theory and green energies are myths that capitalism has created to make us believe that it is sustainable and has solutions for the maladies of environmental injury and economic inequity. These solutions have not worked till date, nor do they show any promise to do so in future.

Development, as understood today, requires energy. Peak oil is here. In the 20th Century, North nations used massive quantities of fossil fuels and energy stolen from South nations through unequal exchange for their development. These sources are no longer available to South nations. They can never develop to become like North nations.

Trickledown theory is dead. At current growth rates, it will take over 100 years for the world's poorest 1.5 billion to creep above the poverty threshold of \$1.25/day (2005) PPP, and centuries to cross the \$5/day poverty line. With peak oil being here, whether the current global growth rate of 2.6% pa will sustain for the next 100 years for wealth to trickledown to the poor is moot.

Green energies do not have the energy density or the high EROEI of fossil fuels to replace them. Nuclear energy is expensive and hazardous. Moreover, uranium ore at current consumption levels, will run out within this century. While there are coal reserves for over 100 years (at current consumption levels), its use will hasten global warming as it releases twice the amount of carbon dioxide as oil per Joule (J) of energy.

Ideologies that support inequity and unsustainability

If the EROEI of coal is 50, a coal mine owner is able to harvest 49 J of surplus energy for every joule invested. That 49 J becomes her property which she can use whichever way she wishes, including in mining more coal to increase her surplus energy accumulation. Those denied such ownership remain poor. Since slavery began 5,000 years ago, private ownership of energy resources has created and perpetuated class society and inequity. Today capitalism justifies private ownership over natural resources as an ideology that works best for human development.

It took 300 million years for nature to bake coal from dead plants and animals of the Carboniferous period. Humans created private ownership rights over coal when in fact they played no part in making it. The same logic holds for other natural resources used in artefacts and services. Humans therefore have no ownership claim over nature or its products; at best they have a usufruct

claim.

Anthropocentrism is the belief that humans are the most important species on earth and the rest of nature is for their use and enjoyment. It is epitomized in v 1:26, Book of Genesis, “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*” Anthropocentrism legitimizes unbridled use of nature for humans, energy overdraw being its direct consequence.

Without fighting the ideologies of private ownership of nature, first of land, then water and very recently of the atmosphere; and its products, and anthropocentrism, a sustainable, equitable and peaceful human society is impossible.

Vision for a future society

To become sustainable, equitable, and peaceful human society must replace its current global outlook of *Gain maximization for a few* with *Risk minimization for all species*. We must believe and act in a manner that make us a part of nature and not apart from it, and strive to achieve equity between species.

Two things must happen first—powering down and energy equity. We must reduce our commercial TPES + biomass, currently 12.72 GToe, by 60%, and rely largely on the sun for our energy needs. We must have only usufruct and not ownership rights over nature, and must put energy resources—energy sources, converters, conveyors, storage devices and knowledge of energy conversion—under social and collective management.

With a population of 7 billion, equitable distribution of energy will give each person 0.75 Toe/year of commercial energy (current average annual per capita consumption: US-7.5-Toe, Europe-3.7 Toe, India-0.57 Toe, World-1.8 Toe), including of eMerger (embodied energy—energy

used to produce a good or service). This was the annual per capita energy consumption prevalent in the 19th Century; which is adequate for a good life at current lower middle class levels in India, but without the possibility of luxury consumption. A smaller global population would give each person more energy.

Sustainability energy indices

Sustainability energy index 1: How much energy can we take from nature without disturbing it? We do not know. This question has neither been asked nor answered adequately. The answer would depend on how we define what we consider disturbance to nature. A wider discussion of this question will contribute significantly to our understanding of sustainability. For such a discussion to take off, an attempt is made below to define two sustainability indices.

How much should HANPP be, for human society as a whole, and for specific communities in different environments? One clue to finding an answer is by determining the band of redundancy that nature creates for various life forms. HANPP can be the energy available within this band.

Sustainability energy index 2: What mix of energies will help human society become more sustainable? The higher the proportion of solar energy used, the greater would be the energy sustainability of a society. A good measure for understanding the sustainability of various countries/ regions would be the ratio of NPPs to total energy use. The ratio of NPPs to total energy for India is 0.41, whereas it is half that for North nations and as low as 0.16 for China (Table 3). India’s energy use is more sustainable than that of North nations and that of China.

To get a better picture of the energy sustainability of a region/ country, energy consumption should be computed by adding energy in imports and excluding energy in exports. NPPs should include solar energy not just in goods and

services produced locally, but also in imports and exclude that of exports. Likewise, total energy use should add embodied energy of imports to energy expended locally, and subtract embodied energy of exports. If this were done, China's energy sustainability would improve slightly, that of India would worsen a bit, and USA and EU would be seen as being even more unsustainable.

Renewable energy's, discounting hydro power,

Table 3 Ratio of NPPs to total energy

Region	Total Energy	NPPs	Sustainability energy index 2
	GToe/Yr	GToe/Yr	NPPs/Total energy use
World	18.47	5.75	0.31
India	1.28	0.53	0.41
China	2.88	0.45	0.16
USA	2.78	0.58	0.21
EU27	2.18	0.56	0.26

contribution to energy supply is very small, and hence can be neglected in this index. As it becomes significant, its contribution to energy supply can be added to the numerator.

Roadmap towards a sustainable society

A well worked out roadmap is difficult to visualize at this stage due to several imponderables. Social change may happen in many ways—global economic collapse, peoples’ groundswell, slow but incremental change, changes in specific local areas without human society as a whole changing. In the past, change has happened through each of these pathways.

A clearer roadmap will emerge only through a dialogue. To contribute to this dialogue, a short (next 10 years) and a medium term (10-50 years) programme are presented below. These programmes are not exhaustive and are indicative of the direction society should take.

Short term programme

A short term programme must be

implementable immediately with popular people’s support and without making fundamental changes in the social or political system we are in, ie, capitalism.

- ◆ **Define sustenance energy, tax luxury energy:** North and South nations must set up per capita sustenance energy consumption standards. A good standard is 0.75 Toe per annum. Consumption beyond 1.2-1.6 Toe pa, does not increase wellbeing. Incomes that allow consumption over 0.75 Toe per annum (which is what ~\$5,000 PPP can buy) should be taxed telescopically. This model is already being followed in Scandinavian countries.
- ◆ **Optimize solar and animate energy technologies:** The world’s poor are sustained largely by two energy sources—NPPs and animate (animal and human) energy. Both energy sources are not accounted for in national energy balances as they are not considered to be commercial sources. The first priority must be to optimize the use of these energies for the benefit of the poor. This can be done by adopting low cost appropriate technologies, eg, light-weight animal carts, bicycles, to increase efficiencies of animate and energies; and appropriate choice of crops and vegetation to improve photosynthetic energy conversion.
- ◆ **Sustainability energy index 2 goals:** Get all countries to agree to raise their NPPs/Total energy ratio to be >0.5. This standard can be progressively raised in time.
- ◆ **Universal risk standard:** Establish a universal health risk standard for all people, considering all manner of health risks—malnutrition, diseases from natural and manmade causes, disasters—natural and manmade, etc. Food and water security must be given importance. Some areas and some people are more vulnerable than others. Greater investment must be made for such areas and people to reduce their risk and bring it on par with the standard.

- ◆ **People's environmental governance:** Impacted people should be mandated to do environmental impact assessment (EIA) and not the impacting entity.
- ◆ **Restrict new energy plants:** Do not build new fossil fuel energy (power and refineries) plants in North nations and new nuclear power plants in the world.
- ◆ **Uniform environmental standards:** Set up uniform global ambient and shopfloor air quality and drinking water quality standards. Set up a single set of emissions standards throughout the world, including for per capita emissions of greenhouse gases.
- ◆ **Reparations:** North nations should pay reparations to South nations for using 80% of fossil fuels consumed since the beginning of the industrial revolution.
- ◆ **Transport energy reduction plan:** Transport and residential areas are two major energy consuming sectors (Table 4). Transport consumes a higher per cent of commercial energy consumed in the developed world in comparison to India and China.

Car travel consumes the maximum energy—2.9 mega joule (MJ) per passenger-kilometre (p.km)—in comparison to all other modes (Table 5), and train travel the least (0.1 MJ/p.km). Car travel's share of the p.km done in India in 2012 was just 8%, but consumed 40% of energy spent in transporting people by fossil fuelled prime movers.

The corresponding figures for bus travel was 66.4% of all p.km and 28% of energy consumed.

Energy reduction for passenger transport requires two things—reducing the p.km travelled and moving away from private to public transport.

- ◆ **Neighbourhood schools, coaching classes:** In the field of education, energy reduction can be done by having neighbourhood schools (which is already in vogue in countries like USA), and getting rid of entrance exams for higher education courses and abolishing coaching classes. Implementing neighbourhood schools in Hyderabad would save 7,150 Tce per annum, which is equivalent to 7.8 million T of diesel costing Rs 43 crores.
- ◆ **Similar exercises for other sectors:** Similar energy-saving exercises can be done for every sector.
- ◆ **Bicycle and car share:** Bicycle and car shares make these vehicles available for shared use. These systems allow share subscribers to pick up a vehicle from one point and drop it off at another. There are around 535 bike-sharing programmes around the world with an estimated fleet of 517,000 bicycles, the largest being in China. Car share systems have become popular in cities like York. Such systems should be encouraged to reduce transport energy expense.
- ◆ **Local currencies:** Encouraging the development of local currencies will give

Table 4 Commercial TPES and biomass use

Region	Commercial TPES + Biomass	Energy Use (%)				
	GToe	Transport	Residential	Commerce & services	Industry	Agriculture
World	12.72	28	25	18	27	2
India	0.75	13	36	8	35	9
China	2.43	8	13	7	70	2
USA	2.22	38	16	12	33	1
EU27	1.62	32	27	14	25	2

impetus to localism and help reduce transport energy expenditure. This has already been done in several places by the transition town movement.

- ◆ ***Soft borders:*** Moving towards soft borders will reduce energy spent on standing armies and large foreign missions. Despite problems, the European Union has demonstrated how to do this.
- ◆ ***Increase forest cover:*** The global goal of having at least one third land mass of each country under forest cover should be implemented, except in such regions where such a goal is not possible to meet.

Medium term programmes

Medium term programmes are geared to moving towards an eco-socialist society, and to minimize human suffering and environmental injury during the transition.

- ◆ ***North countries to reduce consumption drastically:*** To move towards an equitable energy world, North America must reduce its commercial energy consumption by 90% and Europe, Japan & Australasia by 75%. Only such a measure will allow South nations to catch up with North nations at a per capita energy consumption of 0.75 Toe pa. Tapping existing known sources of energy will not help them achieve equity with North nations.
- ◆ ***Creating a borderless world:*** Ten per cent of the global energy consumption that is spent on standing armies will be saved by abolishing national boundaries. Such a move will not only bring greater peace and security to all of humanity, but will revert to moving people to energy sources, a cheaper way of doing things that was followed throughout human history until oil was discovered.
- ◆ ***Entropy minimization:*** The rest of life on earth creates negative entropy by using only as

much energy as is required for survival and reproduction. Humans have caused entropy increase because they continuously improve their knowledge of energy conversion. Humans need to learn from nature to minimize entropy creation. This includes doing eco-restoration programmes on lost forest lands.

- ◆ ***Technology size:*** The size and scale of production technologies should be relatively small to prevent excessive power from accumulating with those managing technologies. Following the *Small is beautiful* concept also reduces energy investment costs per workplace.
- ◆ ***Collectives:*** Energy resources (means of production) used for producing goods & services for public consumption should be managed collectively and not individually.
- ◆ ***Small administrative areas:*** Administrative areas should be relatively small to allow for grassroots democracy to function effectively.
- ◆ ***Cities to shrink:*** Cities are energy consumers, not producers. One square kilometre of an urban area requires all the biomass produced on 100-200 km² of hinterland. Cities have a relationship of unequal exchange with hinterlands. Cities must therefore shrink.
- ◆ ***Eco-socialist democracy:*** It is in the interest of working people (and not working class only) to discard capitalism and establish eco-socialism. Social transformation should not be defined as merely abolishing a capitalist state and replacing it with a “socialist” state, but must include moving towards a genuine people’s democracy that manages usufruct claim over natural and energy resources collectively rather than through leaderships. It also means living in harmony with nature.
- ◆ ***Steady state economy:*** One of the principles of eco-socialism is to achieve a steady state economy operating within the bounds of

negative entropy goals set by society

- ◆ **Abolish banks:** Banking as we know it today must be abolished. Banks operate on the notion that future energy surpluses will be larger than the present, and therefore on the concept of growth. Banking is not in consonance with a steady state economy.
- ◆ **Minimizing ravages of the collapse of capitalism:** A civilizational collapse implies that the foundations of social fabric will be shredded—rule of law, food and water security, health, education and other social services will no longer remain what we have known them to be. Attrition in terms of human health and life will be very high. Minimizing the ravages of the collapse of capitalism will become an important task.
- ◆ **Non-Violence:** Throughout history, incalculable violence has been done to nature (we have expended energy equivalent to 20,000 Hiroshima sized bombs every year for deforestation and divert the equivalent energy of 7.5 million Hiroshima sized bombs away from nature every year) and humans (in the last century, interstate, colonial and civil wars were responsible for 100 million deaths; the energy yield of one million Hiroshima sized atom bombs is expended to keep the global war machine up and running). The essence of equity is being non-violent towards the other, be that human beings or nature, for there is nothing to derive forcibly from them. If equity is our goal, we will lose all moral authority if we use violent means—whether by using (or possessing the means to use) violence, or use the state to settle scores or extract something from the other. If one of the fundamental issues we face today is extreme inequity, to get to think and act equitably, we cannot use the same level of thinking as we did to become inequitable. All social justice issues and social change must now be done in an absolutely non-

violent manner.

Some questions

There are many questions for which there are no easy answers. I am flagging a few that I felt were important to discuss.

- ◆ If we accept that humans are a part of nature and not apart from it, what should our relationship be with it?
- ◆ How much energy can we actually take from nature without disturbing it?
- ◆ How much energy accumulation is good for human society?
- ◆ How do we distribute energy equitably?
- ◆ How do we power down without the Jevons's paradox coming into play?
- ◆ What configuration of renewables will work best for an equitable and decentralized society?
- ◆ How should we define per capita sustenance energy levels?
- ◆ How do we restore management control over natural resources to people?
- ◆ How can technology down-sizing be done?
- ◆ How can re-localization be done along with true internationalization (sans borders)?
- ◆ How can population control be achieved without tackling poverty and inequity?
- ◆ Is all knowledge good? Or should we voluntarily eschew such knowledge that increases entropy and encourage knowledge that decreases it?
- ◆ What are the agencies of change?
- ◆ How can a societal transition be made with minimum pain to society and nature?

The roadmap to get to a new society is hazy and will have to be worked out by dialogue between those who wish to avoid the mistakes of class society.

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Need New Ways of Thinking

Babu Rao

All truth passes through three stages

First, it is ridiculed

Second, it is violently opposed

Third, it is accepted as self-evident

- Arthur Schopenhauer

We've built a world based on the assumption that we will have endless energy to subsidize endless economic expansion, which was supposed to magically produce justice. That world is over, both in reality and in dreams. Either we begin to build a different world, or there will be no world capable of sustaining a large-scale human presence.

- Robert Jensen

Society has been made to accept the dominant ideology that road to prosperity lies in economic growth through industrialization. Human economy has evolved from an era in which manmade capital was the limiting factor in economic development to an era in which remaining natural capital has become the limiting factor. That is from a world relatively empty of human beings and manmade capital to a world relatively full of these. Herman Daly, an eminent economist says, **"The global economy is now so large that society can no longer safely pretend it operates within a limitless ecosystem. Developing an economy that can be sustained within the finite biosphere requires new ways of thinking"**

David Suzuki, eminent scientist, author and environmentalist appearing on TV show of Bill Moyers on "Time to get real on climate change" says **"Well, I keep saying that the economic system is a human invention. The idea of capitalism, free enterprise, corporations, markets, these are not forces of nature for heaven sakes. But you**

talk to a neo liberal and you say economy, the market and they go: oh, the market! Praise the market! Free the market! It'll do — we invented the damn thing. What's going on here? Like, we act as if these are forces of nature. You know, there are some things in nature we have to live with. Physics, chemistry, biology, those tell you things. But why is it we bow down before human-created ideas? We can change those things. We can't change our dependence on the biosphere for our wellbeing and survival. I just, I don't get it. If it ain't working, change the darn thing."

Scientists and thinkers have been warning us for at least two decades on the dangers of the collision course with nature we have adopted. I quote from Nobel laureates and other scientists to deliberate on before deciding on the path.

Under the auspices of the Union of Concerned Scientists, about 1700 scientists from all over the world including 102 Nobel Laureates made a joint statement warning the world on the occasion of the UN Summit on "Environment and Development" held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

"Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. Human activities inflict harsh and often irreversible damage on the environment and on critical resources. If not checked, many of our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know. **Fundamental changes are urgent if we are to avoid the collision our present course will bring about."**

Nobel symposium on Global Sustainability held in October 2011 released a statement that says **“We cannot continue on our current path.** The time for procrastination is over. We cannot afford the luxury of denial. We must respond rationally, equipped with scientific evidence.

Our predicament can only be redressed by **reconnecting human development and global sustainability**, moving away from the false dichotomy that places them in opposition.

In an interconnected and constrained world, in which we have a symbiotic relationship with the planet, **environmental sustainability is a precondition for poverty eradication, economic development, and social justice.**

Our call is for **fundamental transformation and innovation in all spheres and at all scales** in order to stop and reverse global environmental change and **move toward fair and lasting prosperity for present and future generations.”**

State of the planet declaration made at London by the **Planet Under Pressure Conference**, a gathering of 3000 experts opens with: **“Research now demonstrates that the continued functioning of the Earth system as it has supported the well being of human civilization in recent centuries is at risk.”**

A group of scientists from different disciplines concerned with earth systems met at Stanford University and after deliberations released a statement **“Scientist’s Consensus on Maintaining Humanity’s Life Support Systems in the 21st Century”** in May 2013.

“Earth is rapidly approaching a tipping point. Human impacts are causing alarming levels of harm to our planet. As scientists who study the interaction of people with the rest of the biosphere using a wide range of approaches, we agree that the evidence that humans are damaging their ecological life-support systems is overwhelming.

We further agree that, based on best scientific

information available, **human quality of life will suffer substantial degradation by the year 2050 if we continue on our current path.”**

A recent study on human – nature interaction predicted dire possibilities of collapse of industrial civilisation. **“Collapses of even advanced civilizations have occurred many times in the past five thousand years, and they were frequently followed by centuries of population and cultural decline and economic regression.** Although many different causes have been offered to explain individual collapses, it is still necessary to develop a more general explanation. Given economic stratification, collapse is very difficult to avoid and requires major policy changes, including major reductions in inequality and population growth rates. Even in the absence of economic stratification, collapse can still occur if depletion per capita is too high. However, **collapse can be avoided and population can reach equilibrium if the per capita rate of depletion of nature is reduced to a sustainable level, and if resources are distributed in a reasonably equitable fashion.”**

According to a December 2013 report *“Abrupt Impacts of Climate Change, Anticipating Surprises”* of National Research Council of the National Academies, USA “The history of climate on the planet— as read in archives such as tree rings, ocean sediments, and ice cores— is **punctuated with large changes that occurred rapidly, over the course of decades to as little as a few years.”** Indian coast is highly vulnerable and coastal Andhra will disappear from the global map if humanity fails to prevent climate change. The 1000 km long sea coast is highly vulnerable to increasing sea level and severe cyclonic storms that become frequent. A publication of Andhra University indicates submergence of about 4000 square kilometers for a sea level rise of 1 m. A joint publication of Oxford University and Potsdam Institute in a prestigious journal Science in December 2009 stated **“During the Middle Miocene, when temperatures were ~3° to 6°C warmer and sea level**

was 25 to 40 meters higher than at present, pCO_2 appears to have been similar to modern levels.” All the coastal metropolis such as Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata will disappear. Even Vijayawada will go under the sea if the sea level increases to that extent. It may take a century or more or may happen in decades if the tipping points are exceeded. We cannot afford to continue on the current path of development centred on fossil fuel consumption. People resisted coal fired power plants but political parties have been sabotaging the struggles. Kakarapalli is a clear example.

According to IPCC report released on 31 March 2014 in Yokohama, Japan the impacts of climate change are set to be “severe, pervasive and irreversible”. This usually conservative report also says **“Throughout the 21st century, climate-change impacts are projected to slow down economic growth, make poverty reduction more difficult, further erode food security, and prolong existing and create new poverty traps, the latter particularly in urban areas and emerging hotspots of hunger.”**

Latest National Climate Assessment report for USA released in May 2014 clearly states **“Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present.”** It also says **“Evidence for climate change abounds, from the top of the atmosphere to the depths of the oceans. Scientists and engi-neers from around the world have meticulously collected this evidence, using satellites and networks of weather balloons, thermometers, buoys, and other observing systems. Evidence of climate change is also visible in the observed and measured changes in location and behavior of species and functioning of ecosystems. Taken together, this evidence tells an unambigu-ous story: the planet is warming, and over the last half century, this warming has been driven primarily by human activity.”**

Every indication from science is bringing us

an unequivocal message on the need to transform our selves fundamentally to reverse the ecological catastrophe due to industrial civilization. Ignoring these messages, in planning our future will worsen the situation rather than improve it. Mark Twain once said “Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.” Let us pause and reflect if we could set right our failing democracy and governance by simple change of rules.

We are not in ordinary times and this description taken from an article by Rebecca Solnit in The Nation dated March 11, 2014, of the actual experience of a survivor who was present in the south tower of WTC on September 11, 2001 when the planes were crashed into the towers, illustrates how an extraordinary situation demands departure from normal reaction.

“A high-powered financial executive, he had just arrived on the sixty-sixth floor of his office building and entered his office carrying his coffee, when he saw what looked like confetti falling everywhere—not a typical sixty-sixth floor spectacle. Moments later, one of his friends ran out of a meeting room shouting, “They’re back.”

It was, of course, the morning of September 11th and his friend had seen a plane crash into the north tower of the World Trade Center. My interviewee and his colleagues in the south tower got on the elevator. In another fifteen minutes or so, that was going to be a fast way to die, but they managed to ride down to the forty-fourth floor lobby safely. A guy with a bullhorn was there, telling people to go back to their offices.

Still holding his cup of coffee, he decided—as did many others in that lobby—to go down the stairs instead. When he reached the twentieth floor, a voice came on the public address system and told people to go back to their offices. My storyteller thought about obeying those instructions. Still holding his coffee, he decided to keep heading down. He even considered getting back on an elevator, but

hit the stairs again instead. Which was a good thing, because when he was on the ninth floor, the second plane crashed into the south tower, filling the elevator shafts with flaming jet fuel. Between 200 and 400 elevator riders died horribly. He put down his coffee at last and lived to tell the tale.

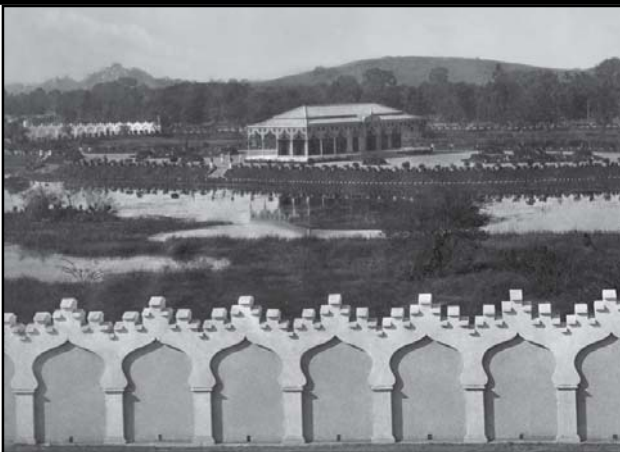
The moral of this story: people in power and bureaucrats seem exceptionally obtuse when it comes to recognizing that the world has changed and the old rules no longer apply. The advisors in the towers were giving excellent instructions for a previous crisis that happened to be profoundly different from the one at hand. That many had the good sense to disobey and evacuated early meant the stairwells were less crowded when the second round of evacuations began. Amazingly, the vast majority of people below the levels of the impacts made it out of both buildings—largely despite the advice of the building’s management, not because of it.

Going Nowhere Fast

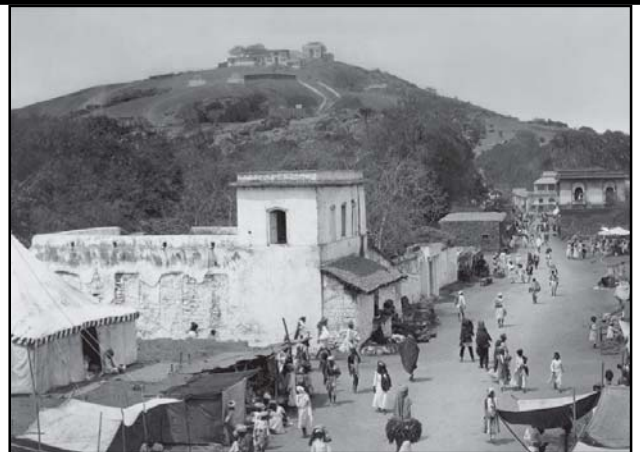
Sometimes the right thing to do in ordinary times is exactly the wrong thing to do in extraordinary times. That’s easy to understand when something dramatic has happened. It’s less easy to grasp when the change is incremental and even understanding it requires paying attention to a great deal of scientific data.

Right now, you can think of the way we’re living as an office tower and the fossil fuel economy as a plane crashing into it in very, very, very slow motion. Flaming jet fuel is a pretty good analogy, in its own way, for what the burning of fossil fuel is doing, although the death and destruction are mostly happening in slow motion, too—except when people are drowning in Hurricane Sandy-style superstorms or burning in Australian firestorms or dying in European heat waves. The problem is: How do you convince someone who is stubbornly avoiding looking at the flames that the house is on fire? (Never mind those who deny the very existence of fire.) How do you convince someone that what constitutes prudent behavior in ordinary times is now dangerous and that what might be considered reckless in other circumstances is now prudent?”

Major concern today in the world is about degeneration of democracy and governance. Whomever the people vote in or vote out, the ultimate winners are the richest. Indian government is an Ambani et al dukan. First challenge for us is to restore and rejuvenate democracy, empower the people to participate and decide for themselves and not get limited to voting once in 5 years. We need new ways of thinking.



Public Garden's



Moula-Ali Pabad

An Urban Equilibrium: the City Biodiversity Index

Aishwarya Muralidhar

Since the dawn of urbanisation, our notion of the natural world has been subjected to what scientist Daniel Pauly calls a ‘shifting baseline syndrome’.¹ The theory expounds the impact of your first experiences with nature on your future perceptions of nature. Essentially, your first encounter forms the baseline on which you would scale subsequent changes in the natural world. The crux is that, with climate change and urbanisation, every successive generation sets a new baseline, each less ‘natural’ than the one before.

This shifting baseline has successively increased the drift between nature and urban dwellers. We have learnt to pit ‘natural’ and ‘unnatural’ as opponents, separated by set boundaries of sanctuaries, wildlife parks and the lone stretches of wilderness. Our urban aspirations force us to pit nature against development, weighing whether to preserve the former or make way for the latter. It was either this or that, never both.

Urban coexistence was always in play, with animals especially adapting to urban spaces. But the idea that cities functioned as unique ecosystems capable of nurturing a plethora of natural life was only recognised in the 1990s. With increasing popularity and importance in the urban lifestyle, the concept of Urban Nature assured a vibrant, refreshing, healthy and wholesome environment for citizens while reconnecting them to the beauty and complexity of nature.

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a means to promote this belief. Conceptualised in Singapore in 2008, the CBI was designed to encourage cities to foster biodiversity and embrace sustainable living. The creation of a self-assessment tool to determine

biodiversity conservation efforts triggered cities across the world to gauge their capacity. The index’s objectivity puts all cities on an equal footing; it set a standard with which a city can compare and improve upon its own efforts. To dispel the possibility of fuelling a worldwide race for the most sustainable city, the CBI doubles up as a platform to share ideas and solutions to overcome increased urbanisation, effects of climate change, and city planning, governance and management.

Measuring urban biodiversity quantitatively is not an easy task. The Index covers 25 indicators under three components: native biodiversity present in the city, ecosystem services provided in city spaces, and the governance and management structures set to conserve the city’s biodiversity. Admittedly, urban spaces are woven with complex threads, demanding face time for socio-economic, political, cultural and aesthetic expression. The indicators’ expanse envelopes these factors, providing a holistic view to urban nature and its conservation.

Hyderabad was the first Indian city to conduct a CBI; the results were officially announced at the Convention of Biological Diversity in the Conference of Parties (COP) 11 hosted in Hyderabad. With a score of 36 out of a total of 92, the city fell short on indicators regarding policies to protect biodiversity, educational visits to biodiversity parks, and partnership with NGOs and other entities in biodiversity activities and programmes. A year later, in 2013, the GHMC revised the score to 59, marking enormous improvement in educational initiatives as well as governance along the lines of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The Hyderabad Index seems well on the path to improvement with the AP Government’s new

Biodiversity Wing promoting engagement, research, and development of urban nature.

Even as cities are officially conducting and submitting index reports, the scope of the CBI sees more potential if scaling *down* from the expanse of a city to smaller pockets of urban management. The rising number of industrial townships, IT parks, and residential gated communities are testimony to a collective consciousness towards urban organisation. Almost all of these establishments set their own rules and standards, almost creating an almost independent, efficient self-governed space. If one were to follow the old adage—every drop counts in making an ocean—then an advocate of urban biodiversity will not fail to recognise the potential to be found here. By making personalised ‘Biodiversity Indices and Registers’ for townships and residencies, the inhabitants can partake in creating cleaner and greener communities for their own benefit. In turn, the city receives green spaces that do not require government intervention for management.

This idea can reach fruition if communities realise the need for green space and biodiversity in a city. The services that urban biodiversity provides are irreplaceable: food, clothing, medicines, air/water filtering mechanisms, erosion prevention, entertainment and relaxation. Vegetation regulates clean air, water and soil; insects facilitate pollination and dispersal of vegetation; higher vertebrates like

reptiles, birds and mammals keep pests in check; scavengers clean up all the debris—all in all, a veritable ecosystem in itself!

Our failure to recognise this vibrant, thriving ecosystem within our own walls has cost us something greater than an environment already lost. It has caused us to view urban colonies and natural grounds as two separate realms strongly defined by set boundaries: nature does not enter the city, and the throbbing city stays clear of any virgin ground. Citizens have fixed notions about nature and biodiversity, and these never roam far beyond exotic forests and oceans.

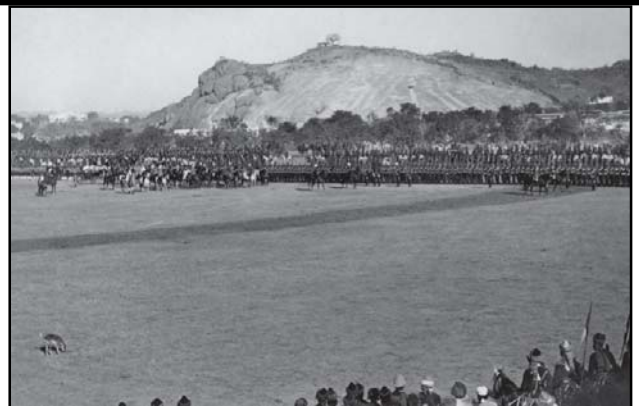
The idea of peaceful, sustainable cohabitation of man and natural environment in the *urban* context sounds oxymoronic to the mind, but it is a system that has been present in our cities for thousands of years, an underground movement that turns the wheels while we run the car. In accepting the presence of urban biodiversity and enhancing it, cities could stabilise, or even reverse, the more harmful impacts of urbanisation. And this step alone would redefine all future baselines, eliminating the stereotypical notion that nature is found only in the wild, and finally find the equilibrium to knit nature and mankind together.

1. Pauly, Daniel. “Anecdotes and the Shifting Baseline Syndrome of Fisheries.”

Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 10, no. 10 (October 10, 1995): 430



Basheerbagh Palace



Navbath Pabod

Main Streaming Of Environment *Challenges And Opportunities*

B.V.Subba Rao

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Every action has equal and opposite reaction – this fundamental principle of Newton's law of force holds true for all the human actions on nature and vice versa.

Environment issues cannot be viewed and addressed in isolation. In fact they should be viewed and considered as an integral component of the development strategies. Further, it needs to be integrated with mainstream developmental policies and strategies.

The paper makes an attempt to demystify the notions on mainstreaming of environment and emphasizes the need to promote & integrate principles and practices of environment at all levels of human interventions.

Environment movements came long way over a period of time and successfully exposed the ill effects of lop-sided developmental activities on environment. Further, made the system to understand and realize negative impacts of environmental degradation on human health.

1970's witnessed the struggles against illegal logging of forests and poaching & trading of wildlife. These movements focused not only on wild life and forests' conservation issues but also the livelihood rights of tribal communities. Chipko in northern India and Appiko movement in Karnataka, down southern India received the attention of system including judiciary.

Second phase was experienced during early 1980's. These movements focused on impact of unregulated industrial pollution. Bhopal gas tragedy in the year 1984 shattered the faith on system and pin-pointed the ineffective regulating mechanisms

towards controlling the industrial pollution. Several similar struggles followed in the country in this direction. Citizens against industrial pollution in Patancheru, Hyderabad, A.P. India, had a long legal battle of more than 15 years. The movement began around 1986 and the final judgment was delivered by the Supreme Court in the year 1996. Unfortunately, concerned authorities are yet to execute the court directives completely.

Last decade of the 20th century witnessed the third phase of environmental movements focusing on urban environmental issues. Cities are vital cogs in State and National economy and further they are seats of excellence, Education, Science & Technology, Research & Development and Trade & Commerce. Further, supposed to offer effective governance and expected to deliver quality of life. Interestingly the third phase exposed negative impact of rapid and unregulated urban growth in all most all the metropolitan cities. Third phase is experienced since early 1990's.

Today, on the contrary cities are known for the pollution, traffic congestion, water shortage, poor sanitation, increased urban heat pockets, increased percentage of concrete structures and pavements aggravated the storm water run off, leaving no scope to recharge ground waters, escalating inflation, increased stress & strain and fissured social life and declining quality of life.

In the year 1994 epidemic plague broke out like a wild fire in Surat city, which is the capital city for diamond trade. This incident explicitly highlighted the inefficiency on part of municipal administration to handle and manage the municipal solid waste and also, the indifferent attitude of

citizens' towards their civic sense and responsibility. For the first time, the country witnessed rapid decline in foreign tourists particularly in Gujarat state. Further, in the year 2005 Mumbai experienced intensive rainfall and total collapse of urban infrastructure in handling the gushing storm waters.

Ironically rural sector is no exception to these phenomena, increased application of chemical inputs in agriculture contributed risks both at occupational and consumer levels. This is evident from increased number of cancer patients and presence of DDT in mother's milk.

Direct release of untreated municipal wastewaters and industrial effluents not only contaminated the lakes & river systems of the country but also polluted groundwater resources. Polluted fresh water sources resulted in drastic decline in aquatic life (fish), thus depriving the livelihood opportunity for fisherman communities. Today, more than sixty percent of population is deprived of access to safe drinking water and environmentally safe sanitation facilities.

Review of the present developmental activities explicitly indicates the negative impact on well being of nature and society at large. Further, it poses a threat on very survival issues of all living forms on earth, including human beings. This impact has its direct and indirect bearing not only at the micro level but also at global level – global warming and changing rainfall trend.

The incidents occurring since past three decades throw adequate light on interdependent relations between environment [natural system] and human actions [development projects]. The fact is environmental issues touched every facet of human activity.

At this juncture one needs to understand that the natural system [environment] is rapidly losing its regeneration capacity through physical destruction and also the inherent assimilation capacity due to excess discharge of chemicals. One

needs to understand, appreciate and recognize the true value of natural systems.

The fact is environment does not recognize the caste, religion and class barriers and also the geo political boundaries. Environmental issues are not just restricted to forests and industrial pollution. They cut across all the developmental sectors of nature and human habitation.

Need of the hour is to study understand and identify the mechanisms and strategies and tools for course correction to enable to set developmental direction on a safe track in terms of environmental sustainability. This thinking is more apt when we realize our moral responsibility towards young and upcoming generations. The present generation has a moral responsibility to pass on healthy and productive environment to future generations.

Present day environmental issues are challenges but not problems. This changed perception helps, promotes and facilitates in focusing on viable solutions. One needs to understand the root cause of environmental issues in terms of 'cause and effect' than in isolation. Further, we need to identify and relate ourselves with the environment, both as individuals and also in terms of professional perspectives.

Environment is the story of every body and every thing around and within us. It defines a set of natural elements [land water, air, energy and space] in relation to social, cultural and economic conditions. Environmental conditions vary from on geo-climatic locations and are locale specific in nature. However, the cumulative impact of the local conditions does have direct bearing on macro & global levels.

Mainstreaming of environment is an attempt to integrate environmental policies as an integral component of all the developmental sectors. Mainstreaming systematically takes into consideration environmental issues as early as possible in the decision-making process where

decisions can best benefit from environmental opportunities and avoid negative impacts on the environment. In this way, mainstreaming can help align policies, programmes and operations with the long-term requirements of sustainable development, help modernise development policy content and procedures, and promote a pro-active approach rather than responding to impacts as they unfold.

Main streaming attempts opened up new avenues in the area of inter disciplinary understanding and multi disciplinary approaches – particularly between the academic and Research& Development sectors. For instance – application of fundamental principles of natural sciences gave way to promoting subjects like ‘industrial and urban ecology’, health & environment, biotechnology interventions to address municipal and industrial wastes, application of bio remediation techniques to treat municipal & industry waste waters.

The recent academic exercises helped in understanding the functions of natural systems in terms of carbon sinks, flood mitigating systems, silt control and flood water regulating mechanisms etc. There is a long way to go in promoting such inter disciplinary approaches in the areas of commerce, economics and health care systems. The concept of ‘green building’ is making attempts to promote application of environmental principles in

developing eco – friendly constructions. Further, efforts to mainstream gender issues is making strong dent in the area of environment and development.

The main challenge to environmental mainstreaming is finding a strategic nexus and compatibility between development priorities and environmental management objectives where tradeoffs can be addressed pragmatically and capitalize on potential opportunities that benefit both environmental resources and functions and development priorities. Environ-mental mainstreaming is, therefore, a policy principle, placing the environment at par with economic and social aspects of decision-making. Environmental mainstreaming goes far beyond the mere application of the conventional Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to each project, and is regarded as a key component of an institution’s broader environmental strategy. Stand-alone environmental initiatives are considered insufficient in addressing environmental issues.

Effective mainstreaming involves an integration process to pursue environmental policy interests in coordination with other development policies and programmes. Sustainable development involves integration of environmental considerations in substantive, procedural, and methodological dimensions.



Secunderabad Contonment



Mir Alam Tank

Global Environment: Our Moral Responsibility

Dr.K.L.Vyas

Environmentalist

Such a precarious situation has never arisen in the history of the Earth. Human interference for the past two hundred years has destroyed its entire self driven Natural Balance. It seems as if the sick mother Earth is wailing as polluted poisoned air is being transported all around. It seems as if all elements, soil, water and air have turned poisonous, life sustaining oxygen is decreasing and unwanted gases are increasing in the atmosphere. Tons of chemicals are being poured into water resources. Not only rivers, ponds and seas, but underground water resources have also become polluted. Soil is losing its fertility due to poisonous chemicals. Forest areas and wild animals are fast dwindling in numbers. Some species of Flora and Fauna have even become extinct. The factors responsible for this awful situation are rapid urbanization, population explosion, industrialization, wars and the blind greed of man. Mahatma Gandhi said – “Nature has plenty to fulfill every one’s needs, but not everyone’s greed”.

The result of such mindless exploitation in the generations to come will have their lives full of difficulties, sufferings and scarcities. The question now is how to overcome the problems of environmental imbalance? That is the solution to these problems.

The nations of the world must forget their differences and put their heads together to sort out some long term problems. The Nations have to rekindle the thoughts of co-operation, co-existence, sympathy and equanimity. We have to make these ideas of “one World” universally acceptable. “Save the Earth” is a challenge and is a collective result oriented activity. The money being spent on armies and ultra-modern weapons have to be used for protecting Earth, educating masses, eradicating deadly diseases, hunger, poverty, unemployment and

protecting our Mother Earth. Human activities have caused lot of damage to Environment in the past and present. This has caused great threat to human existence itself. This can lead to many disasters on the Earth. 1360 environmentalists from 95 countries said so in a research-Millennium Eco-system Assessment Presentation.

The question of Environment protection is universal in nature. The activities of one man, one industry or one nation can affect the whole world. Wind, water, radiation, clouds and polluted matter have no boundaries. They spread from one country to the other very easily. So there is great need to deliberate on the future of the whole humanity. Only if man behaves responsibly towards environment, his future will be safe, happy, prosperous and peaceful.

Deforestation, polluting the rivers, global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, Tsunamis, etc. are the consequences of human misdeeds. They bring about disasters.

Thermal pollution caused by conversion of fossil and nuclear fuels into heat could cause a general rise in terrestrial temperature resulting in a “Catastrophe”. Though thermal pollution does not influence the climate in isolation yet in conjunction with the effects produced by atmospheric carbon dioxide, it could cause greater environmental damage. It is estimated that addition of heat to the ecosphere by thermal plants in combination with carbon dioxide, could raise the mean terrestrial temperature by 10°C, which is about 5% of that contributed by solar radiation. Global Warming will melt all the ice caps at the poles and raise the mean sea level by 8 m. which could submerge most of the major cities around the world.

The Sun's energy is emitted as heat rays consisting of radiation in the infrared portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. The balance between the sun's rays that strike the planet and the heat that is radiated back into the space determines the temperature at the surface of the earth. The near infra-red rays from the sun penetrate the earth's surface nearly uninterrupted. Some of the heat is absorbed and retained by the earth or objects on its surface. The heat thus absorbed by the earth's surface is reradiated as longer wave length radiation. Much of this does not escape through the air envelope to the outer space as it is absorbed by carbon di-oxide, ozone, water vapour in the atmosphere and adds further to the heat that is already present. Thus carbon dioxide acts like the glass of green house, and on a global scale tends to warm the air in the lower levels of the atmosphere. Thus comes the green house effect into the picture, which damages the vegetation and causes ecological disaster.

A vast quantity of air pollutants lodged in the atmosphere over the past century can be traced mostly to the industrial North. It is because of extensive use of fossil fuel and Industrial chemicals. But in recent times, the contribution from the South is also increasing. It is because of extensive deforestation of tropical forests and changes in land uses. Combined together they contribute about 1/3rd of carbon di-oxide that human activities produce each year.

Seas around the Antarctic are losing krill and crucial animals of the marine and terrestrial food chain. The krill population is on its way to extinction. Is global warming to be blamed?

It seems that the first manifestations of global warming have already induced damages to the planet's ecosystem. Scientists supported by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA'S) Antarctic program recently reported that this decline in krill population, which occurred gradually over the past decade matches a corresponding decline in winter sea-ice development caused by warmer air temperatures. And this, they suspect, was caused by global warming. If these

indeed are manifestations of global warming, then the study provides unique perspectives on one of its important biological effects with the decline in krill population, the scientists point out that dependent species, penguins and seals for instance, may soon experience an acute shortage of food, thus affecting the food chain.

At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) when over 180 countries participated in Rio De Janeiro in Brazil., a warning was given about the warming of the earth and that oceans will swell and flood millions of kilo metres of coastal areas mostly in developing countries, since a 'very high population of fishermen live all along the coast, The warning was given by the developed world stating that these countries, where rice is the main crop, is causing depletion of ozone layer which will result in warming of the earth by a few degrees.

It is well known that flouro carbon is directly responsible for depletion of ozone, The RIO Environment Conference unanimously resolved that refrigerators and air conditioners and automobile pollution is the cause for ozone depletion, A phased programme has been drawn by all countries to phase out production of CFC. But they are silent about automobile pollution, In order to escape the blame that they are the countries responsible for ozone depletion and consequent earth warming, they are cleverly passing the blame on developing countries. India being a leading rice producing country is considered to be the culprit for methane production from rice fields and consequent blame for earth warming due to ozone depletion, Experiment conducted by Rice Research stations all over India and at the International Rice Re-search Institute, Philippines, have shown that there is no methane production from rice fields, Rice plants need oxygen for its roots and there is aeration and consequently production of methane gas does not take place, Only under ill drained stagnant and anaerobic conditions, methane gas comes out. Such conditions are detrimental to paddy as rice plant needs aeration and its roots are structured to have plenty of air cells

to breathe when there is standing water.

Hence earth warming is due to automobile pollution and CFC from refrigerators and not due to cultivation of rice. All developing countries should not remain silent spectators to the unlimited automobile pollution of countries like U.S.A. where atmospheric smog results in the morning, due to auto pollution. They are fully aware of the seriousness of auto pollution and in order to gain time, the blame is shifted to developing countries.

The Icebound Antarctica continent may melt and cause the ocean level to rise a few metres resulting in millions of kilo metres of ocean belt going under the seas. The developing countries are stated to be the victims. This is because of ozone layer depletion.

The Lakes-Our Heritage:

A lake is not just a store house of water. It is an organic habitat unit. Lake is a living entity. Five miles around the radius of the lake the underground soil is humid and wet. The water entrapped to the soil particles is known as colloidal water. Roots of the trees use this water and trees grow. Because of the wetness of soil, earthworms present in the soil make the soil porous leading to its fertility. That is why where there is water, the wet soil is 'alive'. Where the soil dries up, there is no life activity and the soil becomes 'dead'. That is how the lakes maintain Flora-Fauna inter-relationship between plants and creatures.

The lakes recharge ground water. So the wells situated under the lakes always maintain their water level. The lakes maintain the micro climate and keep the surroundings temperate, neither very hot nor very cold. Our aesthetic sense is gratified by the presence of a lake.

In fact, forests are our Ecological Wealth. Indian Culture is basically Forest Culture. Our ancient sages experienced oneness with the plants, animals and all creatures. They also experienced the Supreme power God pervading all over Nature. Tagore called Indian Culture as "Forest Culture".

Trees are the basis of life for other creatures. They give us oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. In any country 33% of Land should be covered with forests to maintain its environment. According to Forest official, only 21% of Indian Land is covered with the Forests. But studies through Satellite have revealed that only 11% of Forests have survived in our country and that is alarming. That is why 'Forest Culture' is now changing into 'desert culture'. Protection and growth of 'Forests' is essential for happiness. Hence, every citizen of the country should strive for aforestation and tree planting. Forests, rivers, mountains, animals, birds, lakes, rocks, air, water, soil, sunlight and sky form an important part of Nature. If Nature is protected, we too are protected. As the time passed, our country faced the problem of population explosion. More and more forests were cleared to provide agricultural land for the hungry bellies. Likewise, wild life and birds also fell prey to the growing population. Industrial growth and rapid urbanization also contributed to the loss of natural assets. The air, the soil and the water was polluted to such an extent that it has gone beyond repair. Hence, the writers reflected these events in their writings.

Ultimately, the conclusion is derived that the humanity will find the solution to environment problems in Indian culture alone. The Indian Philosophy believes in the expansion of the sphere of love and reverence to all the animate and inanimate objects. We believe in the all pervading consciousness in all objects. Once our consciousness is awakened, it will automatically extend to all animals, birds, trees, rivers, mountains, lakes and every particle of Nature. In this situation, our consciousness will not permit to kill any animal, cut any tree without any reason. We would neither pollute the water bodies nor cause unwanted pollution. We will be controlled by not the external compulsions, but by the internal moral and ethical compulsions. The world will gradually turn to be an abode of love and beauty. Let all the art forms, literature and media carry the message of reverence of Mother Nature.

A New Dawn For Telangana And Hyderabad

Sajjad Shahid

Member FBH & Co-Convenor INTACH

*Aao ké koî khwâb bunêiG kal ké vâsté,
Varna yé raât âaj ké sangîn daur kî;
D\$as légî jân-o dîl ko kuch aisé ké jân-o dîl,
Tâ 'umr ph“r na koî haseen khwab bûn sakéin.*

———— Sahir Ludhyanvi

Formation of the Telangana state reinstates the region's status as a distinct political entity after a lapse of five centuries. The last time that the region asserted itself successfully under this identity was when Sultan Quli Qutub-ul Mulk, the Bahmani Governor of Telangana, assumed de-facto control of his province at the close of the 15th century. Ruling from the citadel of Golconda, Sultan Quli and his successors held sway over the region for almost two centuries. The markers of regional identity nurtured during Qutub Shahi rule, formed a cohesive corpus which has efficaciously faced challenges and survives despite repeated attempts to dilute its essence.

Telangana has a long history of fervent regional assertions and in the past these have been translated into affirmative action time and again when attempts have been made to either deconstruct or reconstruct the concept of a distinct identity for the area. Very often during the recent turbulent phase leading to emancipation, detractors have claimed that the regional identity in the case of Telangana was not real but constructed; forged primarily to cater to a political exigency.

A perusal of history and literature of the region dispels such bizarre claims by providing frequent instances of passionate expressions bordering at times on adulation. Mulla Wajhi, the poet laureate of Golconda who lived through the reigns of four

sultans; Ibrahim, Mohammed Quli, Sultan Mohammed and Abdulla Qutub Shah, lauds Telangana like no other poet in history. In his magnum opus Qutub-Mushtari, Wajhi idolizes the Deccan but concludes that within it Telangana is supreme.

Dakhan sâ nahîG mhâr sansâr méG,

Panch fâzilân kê hai îs mhâr méG.

(The Deccan; in the world unique,

Abode of the gifted; the intellectual clique.)

Dakhan hai nagîna angomhî hai jag,

Angomhî kuG hurmat nagîna hai lag.

(Deccan is the gem, the world a ring;

Sans the gem; worthless is the ring.)

Dakhan mulk ko dhan ajab sâj hai,

Ké sab mulk sar hoar Dakhan tâj hai.

(The Deccan is embellished with a unique renown,

If all other lands be the head, the Deccan is their crown.)

Dakhan mulk bhautîj khâsâ âhay,

Télangânâ us kê khulâca âhay.

(The Deccan, incomparable for sure,

Telangana its essence; absolutely pure.)

The mandate for the first elected government of Telangana is therefore very clear. Essentially the focus should be on ensuring renewed patronage for the region's culture. A productive step in that direction entails comprehensive assessment of the state and condition of heritages which have been subject to gross neglect, and in quite a few cases

abuse, for long. Only such an exercise will ensure that the seeds, in which the essence of Telangana lies dormant, sprout and bloom once again. However, it appears that the TRS government, while waiting to take charge, failed to comprehend the gravity of the situation. The lackadaisical approach of the Telangana leadership towards the protection of heritages in the past may be condoned due to their preoccupation with political dimensions of the movement. Tardiness in reacting to recent developments will be viewed as tantamount to failure on their fundamental assurance; that of reviving the glory of Telangana.

Having successfully championed the cause of Telangana, the TRS now possesses the requisite clout to deliver on its promise of redressing injustices which has plagued the region for long. Unfortunately, critical issues concerning the city, including the urgent need to protect what little remains of its glorious built heritage have neither been evaluated nor understood properly. This lack of understanding when it comes to urban issues is evident in the declaration by the TRS President, K. Chandrasekhar Rao that he intends to reclaim Malakpet Race Course for redevelopment. In arresting and reversing the decay of Hyderabad's urban fabric and prescribing a holistic remedy, the party will have to work hard towards first establishing ground realities through interactions with stakeholders. Such an exercise will also impart an understanding that protection of heritage involves much more than the safeguard of select iconic structures.

The city is abuzz with speculative debates on certain actions, initiated by the administration since the end of the election code. It is said that the widespread consternation at the prospect that even after a clear mandate, there remains a serious threat of 'a slip between the cup and the lip' is not totally unfounded. It has widely been reported that the administration has prepared exhaustive inventories where every item of value, "from the smallest pin to the largest generator" has been listed out for an

equitable split between Telangana and residual Andhra states in the ratio of 42:58 as per the reorganization directive. While the officials charged with the responsibility can, and in all probability will, ensure a fair split when it comes to articles that can be evaluated on the basis of their monetary worth, the same will not be possible in determining who gets what when it comes to intangible or cultural assets. The haste with which the division was undertaken makes the process suspect and rumors allude to some very strange goings-on being afoot in the city's cultural repositories.

The contents of the State Archives, the Oriental Manuscripts Library (OML) and the State Museum are said to have already been divided; their collections split using the magic formula.

Records of the departments of the erstwhile Hyderabad State, including Mughal documents pertaining to the Deccan administration inherited by Asaf Jah I, form a bulk of the Archives. The OML was established with its core collection coming from the Kutub Khana Asafia and a majority of the manuscripts are those collected and donated by the learned scholar, Imadul Mulk.

Similarly, a majority of the artifacts in the State Museum are those put together in the reign of Nizam VII, Mir Osman Ali Khan. Hence, by no stretch of imagination can these collections be considered as joint assets and divided among the successor states. Hyderabad was and should remain the sole owner of all pre 1956 cultural assets.

It is said that for the time being, the manuscripts and artifacts will not be moved out of their present premises and will merely be stored in separate, clearly demarcated sections. Little consolation as eventually the 'share' of residual AP will be taken away and lost forever.

The division of assets itself is unjust and unfair without stakeholder participation. Their presence is obligatory as citizens have a fundamental right to object, dispute or reject any award which may prove

detrimental to the safeguard of their cultural identity. With total control of the city and its cultural assets in the hands of an insensitive administration determined to bring about division purely on the basis of a numerical allocation, one can do little more than hope that at least Hyderabad's repositories are spared the ignominy of dismemberment.

Recent media reports indicate acceleration in the pace of works for the Golf Course within the Naya Qila precinct of the Golconda Fort. The impunity with which orders of the Hon'ble High Court are being violated at the protected site post declaration of election results is itself a matter of grave concern. With Chandra Babu Naidu repeatedly bellowing his intentions of reclaiming Hyderabad as a personal fiefdom, and with his old cronies returning to power at the center, the golfers are understandably upbeat. This very political combination was responsible for endorsing the detrimental project when it was first mooted more than a decade ago. Despite repeated censure against alienation of public property to private enterprise, government departments continue their patronage and unqualified support to entities like the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA). One wonders as to how the allocation of over a hundred acres of prime urban land at a measly rate of one rupee per acre annually to HGA is justified when the High Court has declared the alienation of rural land at a subsidized rate to St. Ann's, an institution with over a century of commendable service to society, as "loot of public wealth".

Hyderabad will be the acid test for the Chief Minister and his ability to govern effectively will largely be determined by the dexterity shown in handling disasters that threaten the city. Rekindling hope for a beleaguered city, TRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao had asserted during his election campaign that Hyderabad Metro Rail would go underground in heritage sensitive areas of the city. To date, KCR remains the only political leader to have openly stated his position in favour of protecting the city's heritage. Repeated attempts to

garner support from leaders cutting across political lines proved futile, resulting in an unmitigated rape of heritage in the name of development and progress. Though conditional and specific to only the Legislative Assembly, Moazzam Jahi Market and the Sultan Bazar precinct, it was expected that the stand of the TRS would force Metro Rail to take note of numerous issues raised by the public against blatant violations of regulations affording protection to the city's cultural assets. Unfortunately the tough posturing by KCR on the issue seems to have been brushed off as lightly as the protests of the concerned citizens of Hyderabad and the pace of works, especially on the crucial Assembly stretch, continues un-slackened.

The apathy of successive governments towards Hyderabad's built heritage is evident in the woefully small number of buildings included in the heritage list. Attempts at enhancing the list, have been repeatedly stonewalled and currently over 30 recommendations of the HCC are pending notification. Adding insult to injury, reconstitution of the committee after the term of the last one expired has been kept in abeyance for almost a year now. Meanwhile, in a repeat of what occurred four years back, vested interest are making most of the situation by escalating their assault on heritage.

Deplorably, once again it is agencies of the state government that are at the forefront of this rampage now as they were then. The R&B department, claiming insularity from regulations and habitually prone to ignoring even the mandatory requirement of obtaining municipal permission as stipulated by law, continues to hold the dubious distinction of being the prime violator of heritage norms. ***Ironically, the department which has no inkling of conservation has now been entrusted the work of restoring the Assembly building; God save Hyderabad and its heritage!***

It is sincerely hoped that the TRS Government will demand an explanation for the arbitrary and detrimental actions of the administration, especially

during the period of President's Rule. The orders that Mr Rao issues in the coming days will establish how serious his government is in honoring its commitments and avowed intentions of safeguarding heritages. Hopefully these will include a comprehensive audit of the city's built heritage as any further delay in assuming responsibility for the cultural assets of Telangana will prove to be disastrous.

It is also essential that the motives behind ignoring recommendations of the Heritage Conservation Committee (an advisory body constituted by the government itself) be investigated thoroughly. The HCC has repeatedly condemned the systemic destruction of heritages by Metro Rail and the rampage of the Naya Qila by the HGA. Keeping in view their past record, only an immediate

ordinance calling for a moratorium on works of the Metro Rail and the Golf Course pending a comprehensive review will prove to be an effective check.

There is also the long pending issue of reconstituting the Heritage Conservation Committee for Hyderabad and clearing the proposal for resurrecting the Urban Arts Commission on which MA&UD have been sitting for eons. Any delay in initiating pro-heritage action will result in a conclusion that under the TRS, the long awaited sunrise over Telangana has ushered in no better than a 'pock marked dawn'.

(Parts of the article have been published in the Times of India, Hyderabad Edition in the author's weekly column; *Tamarind Tales*.)



'G' Block, Secretariat

Banjara Hills Calls No More

Deepankar Dutta

Those were the days when time stood still in Banjara Hills, about four decades back - an unspoiled place dotted with very few houses, far & wide, where the nobles from the Nizam era lived. The only other inhabitants were the Banjara's or the lambdas as they were called who were seen once in a while, with the women folk conspicuous in their heavily decked up colourful costumes and very distinct jewellery.

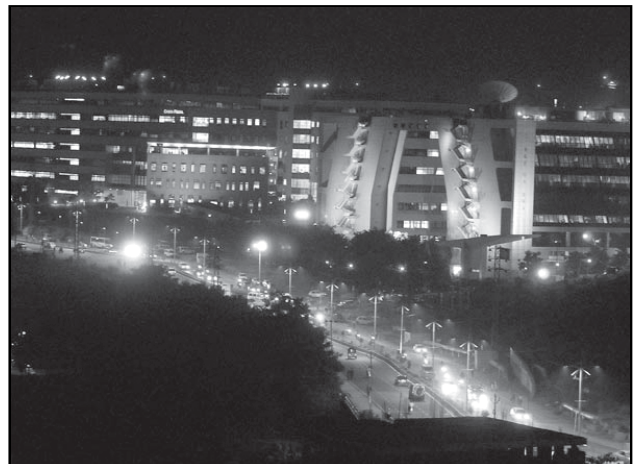
In the nights the distant sound of their drums filled the air, cutting the monotony of the soundless environment. Very few vehicles were found on the roads, which were narrow, winding and extremely steep at places. In fact the registration numbers of the cars were known by the younger generation living in that area, just by the looks of them.

It was a place, where no one ventured out of the house beyond 7 PM as there would be no public transport. A lone bus service (Route No 20 later changed to 127) catered to the sparse population who did not have their own transport. It was an experience traveling in that bus as everyone knew each other, mostly out of compulsion as they were the only commuters. There were times when the

bus driver used to stop the bus on the other side of the road, in case he saw one of the regular commuters still on the other side of the road, waiting for a chance to cross the road or was a couple of minutes late in catching up. Such considerations are hard to believe in the present times and no one really minded if the bus stood a good five minutes at one stop to collect the passengers. Perhaps no one was in a hurry to get anywhere nor there any deadlines to be met.

Life moved at a sedate pace and people lived in perfect harmony with nature which was extremely beautiful and enchanting. One could take long walks in the lesser traveled roads of Banjara Hills admiring the unusual rock formations, the scanty greenery amidst stones & boulders and large trees which have survived & grown over the years in the harshest conditions. Life was something different in Banjara hills and very few people ventured to make it their permanent dwelling address.

However, things have changed in the last 15 years. life is not the same. All that Banjara Hills was known for has faded into the distant past. It is no longer the home of the banjara's nor is it the abode



of the nobles. Swanky malls have occupied the open spaces where there were only rocks & boulders. Dazzling showrooms & modern offices have replaced sprawling mansions which had huge compound to boast. The concrete buildings have come up everywhere and the density of population has increased drastically. It is now the address of the rich & famous of the city and can be compared more with Malabar & Pali hills of Mumbai.

The vehicular traffic has increased so immensely that the roads which have been widened in the recent times are not able to cope up with the number of vehicles plying on them. Everyone seems to own huge cars which are a status symbol and want to rub shoulders with the high & the mighty. All open spaces, beautiful rock formations and teaming hill rocks have been occupied, demolished and constructed upon. The very identity of the Banjara Hills has gone for a toss. It has become a just another locality in the city, which has no uniqueness or distinct character to be different in anyway.

Many may say it is the order of the present times, when a prime area cannot be left untouched, everything has a commercial & business value which has to be exploited, come what may. It is a sad reflection of the present thinking that unspoilt nature has to give way to bigger buildings, malls, multiplexes, up market hotels (much unlike hotel rock castle which was literally built on the rocks) and umpteen eating joints.



The pollution load has increased many folds in the area. The city municipal corporation is not equipped to handle such amount of garbage being generated on daily basis. Banjara Hills should have remained as an extremely low density zone and rampant commercialization should have been restricted by the city planners. The main access to the hi tech city should not have been through banjara hills, by pass roads should have been planned to overcome the present scenario, where traffic jams & accidents keep happening every now & then.

All said & done, Banjara Hills can now no longer be a place where time stood still. There is no charm or that enchantment left.

It has lost its calling card for ever!



The Miniature Residency

Sanghamitra Malik

The Residency Building which used to house the British Resident in the Deccan Region has been written about since times immemorial. The story about how the young James Achilles Kirkpatrick arrived as a Resident in Hyderabad in 1795 to conquer India but got conquered by the beautiful young Khairunnisa, the young teenage granddaughter of Nawab Mahmood Ali Khan has been written and rewritten and read by thousands of people. Construction of this building was supposed to have begun in 1803. Much later, it became the University College for Women in 1949.

As I was a student of the University College for Women, Kothi, I would like to share with you my years in Women's College during the early 1970s. The Residency Building in those days was an impressive building and in a fairly good condition. Entrance to the college was through the imposing gate opposite the Bank Street traffic signal and the security guy at the gate actually greeted us as we took a long walk which led us to the façade of the main building. The first time I had seen the building I was very impressed and felt proud that this was my college.

The grand Durbar Hall with its breath taking ceiling and shimmering chandeliers was the venue of so many lectures and talks by eminent personalities as well as the place where elocutions, debates and music competitions as well as several cultural programs were conducted throughout the year and I was an active participant in all such activities. The North Front of the building was in Palladian style and the South Front was in Indian Style. 22 flights of steps with eight Corinthian pillars which were forty feet high and two majestic lions on either side took us to the landing which led us to

the Durbar Hall which in turn took us to another landing, from where two flights of steps from either side of the landing led us to the upper floors. We sometimes sat on those steps looking at other students pass by.

When we climbed down the steps that went down from either side, we would reach the scary dungeons. That was the place where a group of my close friends would force me to sing at least two or three songs for them during the recess. Sometimes we gathered on the lawn between the main building and the Science Department at the back just to chat as well as sing for a bigger group of friends. On a few days of the week the lunch break was reserved by the lecturers for me to sing for them in the staff room and they had so many farmaishs (requests)!!!

At times, I simply refused to sing and a few of us would go exploring the huge big compound. Nobody really knew what was what. On our own we would go further and further and discovered a few things like the graveyards where many of the Residents were buried. There were secret pathways, secret rooms, tunnels, wells and moats and cannons too. We would feel a little scared after all that adventure! But, the entire compound was well maintained. There were proper lawns, flower beds and flower bushes as well as big trees with a lot of monkeys sitting on them who would come down to snatch food from those who sat and ate in the front lawns.

When we walked from one class to the other in the building, it gave us a feeling of walking around in a beautiful mansion. When we came out, there were the lawns and well maintained gardens to walk around.

Among all this grandeur, there was what was referred to as the Begum's Garden. Along with some of my friends, I would sometimes visit this Begum's Garden especially to admire a charming model of the main Residency Building. This brick and mortar miniature building in a scaled down form less than six feet high was probably constructed to give Begum Khairunnisa a chance to see what the main Residency Building looked like as she observed purdah and stayed in her own quarters, the Rang Mahal and had not seen the main building from outside. We would stand in close proximity to this miniature building admiring the manner in which it was built incorporating all the finer details of the actual mansion. Despite its scaled down size, it was built to perfection.

Those days, we had no mobile phones or digital cameras. It is such a pity that even after being in the college, I hardly took any pictures of the building. But, one day I carried my box camera to college and clicked a couple of photos of this miniature building. Those photos were safely tucked into an old album. The last time I saw the model building was when I was leaving college. It was in perfect shape without the tiniest damage to it.

I must disclose that the main Residency building, the surrounding buildings housing different departments, the Principal's office, the miniature building in the Begum's Garden as well as the girls' hostel were in good condition and not in any way like the dilapidated haunted house that the entire building has been reduced to.

I visited Hyderabad regularly to see my parents but never went to the college. In 1986 I came to stay in Hyderabad permanently but being busy bringing up my children did not visit Women's College and also did not have any idea that this building of great heritage value was being neglected and left to crumble to its present sorry state.

In mid 2001, my very good friend, the late Mrs Bilkiz Alladin asked me to accompany her to the Women's College to see the present condition



Original look of Miniature building in Begum's Garden in the early 70s

of my college and also meet an American delegation headed by Elbrun Kimmelman visiting the Residency building to study this mystery of the miniature building which was being referred to as a 'Doll House'. Mrs Kimmelman was the wife of Peter Kimmelman, a board member of World Monuments. To my great surprise, in Women's College I met my Philosophy lecturer Dr Pramada Devi who by then had become the Principal of the college and even remembered me by name.

The Americans were very impressed to see the Residency building and hoped that it would be suitably preserved. Nobody had the right to allow this splendid mansion to be destroyed. But, large amounts of funds were required for its repair and renovation.

But at that time the focus of the six-member Conservation team from America was on the miniature building which was lying in a pathetic condition. One thing was clear that the sixty two acre compound which was reduced to forty one acres was lying in a state of neglect. I was in shock seeing the miniature building damaged so badly with most



The perfect Miniature building in Begum's Garden in Residency. Sanghamitra Malik is behind the pillars



Present broken down state of the Miniature building in Begum's Garden in Residency

of the building lost and small pieces of that cute structure lying scattered in the vicinity with no sign of the beautiful Begum's Garden or the well maintained surroundings of my college days. Dr Pramada updated us on how the small model building got severely damaged when in the eighties, a tree fell on it!!!

Out of all the people present that day, Dr Pramada and myself had seen the miniature building in a perfect condition. But, seeing the unkempt gardens and the model building virtually covered with overgrown trees, shrubs and bushes, one thing was clear that every part of the heritage building and its surroundings were crying for attention. Even staff members were unaware of its existence till recently. It was only when the college authorities cleared the shrubs to organize an alumni meeting that they found the crumbling miniature.

A few students who had walked up to our group, out of curiosity, told us that until a couple of days they did not know any thing about the existence of any garden or any miniature building. Some branches had been cleared for a meeting and a shamiana tied on top of the almost fully broken structure and students passing by were coming to see what was there.

The photos of the miniature building that were clicked with my camera are here for all to see. One

photo shows me inside the tiny building behind the pillars and the other photo shows a few of my class mates outside the miniature building. Will some people come and clear the entire Begum's Garden and restore the beautiful miniature building to its past glory? Please do.

That day in July 2001, I went into the main building which was in a serious state of neglect. I could not believe that my beautiful college building had turned into a neglected haunted house! The plaster had fallen off and bricks were exposed. There were cracks on every pillar. The entire place was shabby and actually crumbling down. It was only the Principal's room which had been renovated and good enough for us to sit.

In 2002, Mrs Bilkiz Alladin was instrumental in getting the World Monuments Fund in New York to raise a donation of \$1,00,000 for its restoration.

It is only the Principal's room which functions from the main building. All other classes have been moved to other buildings. Plenty of funds need to be raised to save the Residency building, the miniature building and the entire complex. We cannot afford to lose this historical building. No, we cannot.

The unfortunate part is that the archaeology department has been employing rather inexperienced people to work on Hyderabad's

important monuments and sites as is evident from the outcome of the job when it is being carried out. When the restoration and renovation should be carried out under the able supervision of experienced conservation architects, the department of archaeology has made blunders by choosing inexperienced engineers of the Public Works Department who have no experience whatsoever in taking up such important projects for restoration work. The Department of Archeology must rise to the occasion and engage staff who have sufficient technical knowledge to carry out the renovation

work meticulously and help to get back the original look of every part of the grand Residency building and now the Miniature building as well. We have lost much of our built up heritage. It is time to save every remaining building and monument and restore them to their past glory.

As an ex-student of Women's College, I am waiting to see my college building and the model in Begum's garden looking like they did decades back.

Photographs by Sanghamitra Malik



Oxford

Grammar School

Street No. 12, Himayatnager



I go to Oxford (ogs)

to learn life!

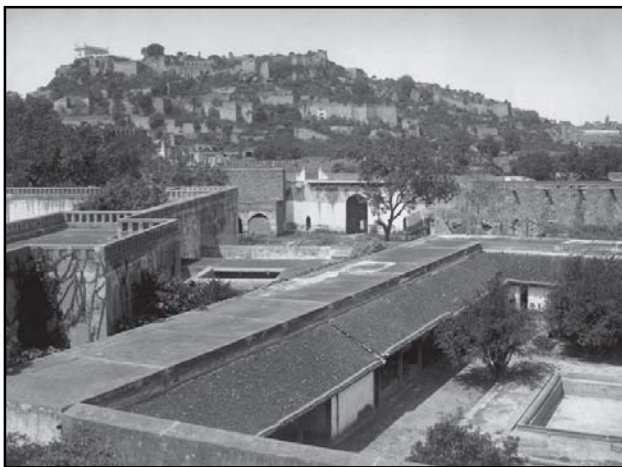
CBSE & SSC





Phone: 040-27636214

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Golconda Fort



Nayapool

Where Visitors Are Considered As Trespassers!!!

Sanghamitra Malik

It was only a month back that I happened to go to the Golconda Fort for some personal work. After I finished my work, I decided to visit the Naya Quila area.

I had entered the fort through the Banjara darwaza and taking a left turn, went straight ahead past the Jamali darwaza to the left and moved forward till I reached the first hurdle also known as the entrance to the Naya Quila area.

For sometime now, the Naya Quila and its surrounding areas have been fenced which was totally against the normal practice of keeping a historical site open for visitors to visit and look around. After all, it is a place that gets visitors from far and near who come to see the Golconda fort as well as the Baobab tree and the two mosques within the Naya Quila area.

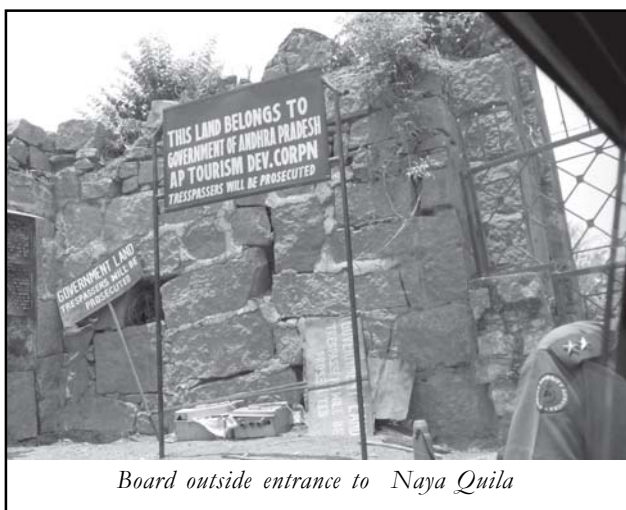
Seeing the security personnel looking at our vehicle with suspicion and making us halt with a stern look, we stopped at the gate. A register was provided to us to enter our name, contact number

and purpose of visit! Purpose of visit, did I say? Yes. We should write why we were visiting the Naya Quila area.

My eyes fell on the shabby board on the left side of the entrance to the Naya Quila. On it was written that the land belonged to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, A P Tourism Development Corporation. Trespassers will be prosecuted .

I thought that was a rather strange way of welcoming visitors to see the Naya Quila area.

The Naya Quila was constructed during the rule of Sultan Abdullah Qutab Shah. During his rule a rampart was constructed and turrets round about the hilly country situated to the north-east outside the fort and included it in the fort. This was the Naya Quila. Within the area was the Naya Quila talaab, the Naya Quila bagh, a mosque built by Mustafa Khan, a Minister of Ibrahim Qutub Shah, the Baobab tree also known as Hathiyan ka Jhaad, with a circumference of over 85 ft. and next to it was the Mulla Khyali mosque. This was a place for



visitors to see and feel happy about. So, such a strangely worded board was rather out of place.

At the entrance we were told that no photography was allowed. I have visited this place a couple of times earlier too. But at that time there was no such restrictions. Why this difference now?

A security guy was following us on his motor bike. As we made our way towards the Hathiyan ka jhaad, I could not get the vehicle to stop to take some photographs but managed just a couple of them from the moving vehicle.

As I mentioned that, earlier there were no restrictions at all and what amazed me was the wire mesh fencing that had been put on both sides of the path leading to the Baobab tree. On the left side of the path was the Naya Quila Talab. On the right side of the path was the Naya Quila Bagh.

On my earlier visits, I had seen the talab having water and plenty of greenery. But, what I got to see that day was grass which had been deliberately burnt in order to remove them. Trees had been cut and there were JCB machines working on leveling the ground and there were trucks waiting to carry away the surplus mud.

There was no sign of the earlier lake except some wet patches. Mud was being used to fill the lake and level the area. It was clear that preparations were being made to extend the grassing of the Golf Course ground. The talab was just not there and I was sure that on my subsequent visit, I would be seeing the green lawn extending up till the mesh barricade. A number of workers had been hired to work tirelessly to achieve this at the earliest. The entire lake had just vanished. This was not the way that I had seen this place during my earlier visits.

We drove past in horror, right till the entrance to the African Baobab tree. Although I had seen the tree on my earlier visits, I wanted to see this unique tree once again. A place, where on my earlier visits I had seen few visitors, was completely deserted. It must be the horrendous, uninviting and threatening



The present state of Naya Quila Talab

wording on the board at the entrance that had put a stop to visitors coming to see the Naya Quila and its surroundings.

After spending a few minutes going around the tree and walking past the Mulla Khayali mosque, we turned back. On our way out, I noticed that much of the natural rocks and greenery that had been there since years had been forcibly removed and some kind of leveling had been done and grass had been laid on the other side of our path. As we proceeded, I noticed that there were labourers cutting grass growing in the Naya Quila Bagh area which was on the opposite side of the path. They had been hired by the HGA to cut grass for a living. This was in preparation for leveling that vast area and extending the Golf course. This was quite evident. Farmers who owned this land had no access to the land which in reality belonged to them. Within minutes, we were out of the rickety mesh gate with the security personnel continuing to keep an eye on us till we had disappeared out of their sight.

The mesh inside had been put to restrict the golf balls from hurting people and photography which was previously allowed, was being stopped to prevent visitors if any from having any evidence of the clandestine activities that were going on by a selected few rich people in a historically important site with the connivance of some government officials!

The poor were being trampled upon by the rich who had come from elsewhere and some people in government were encouraging this to happen. History was being destroyed for pleasure as though that place alone was available in Hyderabad for a new golf course in a city which already had a few more courses. What was most distressing is the fact that the ASI who is the custodian of the monument has actually signed a deal with the Hyderabad Golf Association to open a golf course.

This is the manner in which Hyderabad is losing its valuable built up heritage and its precincts. HGA had given their word about not changing the contours but they have not kept their word. The lakes are lost, a large number of trees have been cut and rocks have been removed.

Do we citizens of this city have no say about what belongs to us because we are trespassers???

Photographs by Sanghamitra Malik



Saroornagar Lake Encroachment



Mir Alam Tank Encroachment

Rock Governance

Frauke Quader

Secretary, Society to Save Rocks

The Government has many arms. They reach into the most diverse fields of governance. But are they the executing tools of a cohesive body, or are they working independently of each-other, or even working at cross-purpose?

Take the case of our 25 Rock Sites notified under Heritage Conservation Regulations of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority. For any development in the sites or cutting of rocks, the opinion and no-objection of the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC)/HMDA has to be obtained. But do government bodies care to do that?

In two Rock Heritage Sites – Allabanda Hill near Sitarambagh and Venkateshwaragutta at Shameerpet Lake - the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Works have started massive construction of water reservoirs without referring to the HMDA at all. Reason given in both cases? They “did not know” that these were Heritage Precincts!! Rather unbelievable statement! Meanwhile, a huge amount of rocks have been destroyed, marring the sites forever.

Rock Heritage Precinct Moula Ali: The Commissioner of Police erected a tall communication tower on top of the famous rock dome without consulting the HCC. The mast absolutely disturbs the peaceful atmosphere of the old shrine and destroys the visual integrity of the area.

With proper consultation of the HCC, solutions could have been found for either re-locating the projects (the police tower could easily have come up in Addagutta/Mahendra Hills which is just as high as Moula Ali and not far from it!) or placing them in such a way as to cause least damage to the rocky environment.



Allabanda



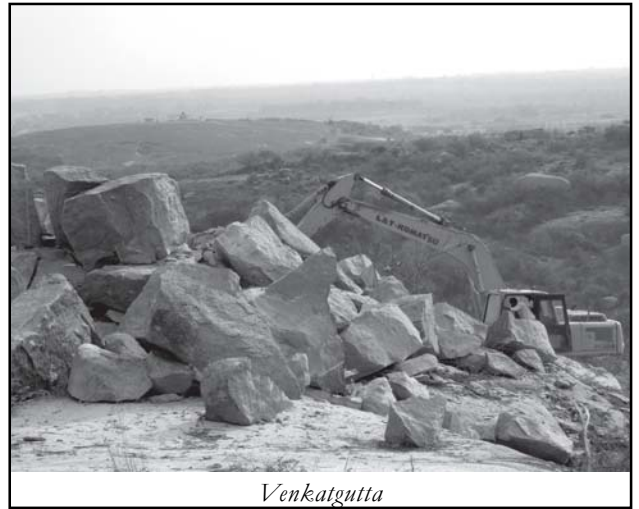
Moula-Ali

And the Tourism Department: Do they consult the Heritage Committee when the Durgam Cheruvu Lake Resort is being expanded in the Heritage Precinct “Hillocks around Durgam Cheruvu”, by a restaurant with more and more concrete buildings? A resort with more and more “tents”?

The blatant disregard of government ‘s arms for other government’s arms’ regulations is amazing and wholly incomprehensible to the citizen.

But since the arms don’t even follow their own rules – i.e. policemen riding triples on motorbikes and without helmets– it seems to be something that is just “like that” .

In the case of our 2,500 million year old stunning Deccani Rocks, though, a treasure that we harbour right in our city and which will never grow



back, Government arms had better take utmost care to retain this rare asset to our urban environment. Citizens’ support is coming forth and will grow when it is realized that efforts are not in vain.



Have Presence Of Mind

Omim Debara

Do take 5 minutes to read this.

It may save your life or a loved one's life. In daylight hours, refresh yourself of these things to do in an emergency situation. This is for you, and for you to share with your wife, your children, & everyone you know.

1. Tip from Tae Kwon Do- The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!
2. I learnt this from a tourist guide. If a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse **DO NOT HAND IT TO HIM**. Toss it away from you. Chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you, and he will go for the wallet/purse. **RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!**
3. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out of the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.
4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc. **DON'T DO THIS!** The predator will be watching you and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side and could even put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. **AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE..** If someone is in the car with a gun to your head **DO NOT DRIVE OFF**, Repeat: **DO NOT DRIVE OFF!** Instead gun the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your Air Bag will save you. If the person is in the back seat they will get the worst of it. As soon as the car crashes bail out and run. It is better than having the police find your body in a remote location.
5. A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage:
 - A.) Be aware - look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor, and in the back seat.
 - B.) If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars.
 - C.) Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out. **IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.** (And better paranoid than dead.)
6. **ALWAYS** take the elevator instead of the stairs. Stairs are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot. This is especially true at **NIGHT!**
7. If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, **ALWAYS RUN!** The predator will only hit you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; and even then, it most likely **WILL NOT** be a vital organ. **RUN**, preferably in a zig-zag pattern!

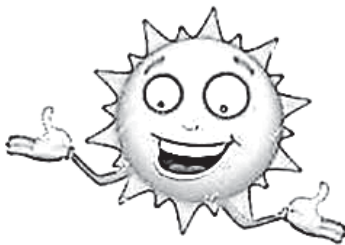
8. Women are always trying to be sympathetic. It may get her raped, or killed. A serial killer, could be a good-looking, well educated man, who ALWAYS played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He could be walking with a cane, or a limp, and often ask for help into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he would abduct his next victim.
9. Another Safety Point - A friend once heard a crying baby on her portico the night before last, and she called the police because it was late and she thought it was weird. The police told her 'Whatever you do, DO NOT open the door.' The lady then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window, and she was worried that it would crawl to the street and get run over. The policeman said, 'We already have our staff on the way, whatever you do, DO NOT open the door.' He told her that

they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a baby. He said they have not verified it, but have had several calls by women saying that they hear baby's cries outside their doors when they're home alone at night.

10. Taps running! If you wake up in the middle of the night to hear your taps outside running or what you think is a burst pipe, DO NOT GO OUT TO INVESTIGATE! These people turn on all your outside taps full blast so that you will go out to investigate and then attack. Stay alert, keep safe, and look out for your neighbours! Tell all the women you know. It may save a life. A candle is not dimmed by lighting another candle.. If you love your mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, etc., do tell them, as well.

42°+ temperature....

Dear Sun, Please go to
settings>display>brightness
and lower your brightness!
Please its too hot to handle!



LAUGHING
Colours

Sun replied, I have not changed any settings.

Please go to your settings and...

1. Increase number of trees...
2. Reduce carbon emissions levels...
3. Reduce concrete jungles...
4. Increase number of lakes...

Basically, switch to human mode from auto mode....

ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION & FORUM'S 13th ANNIVERSARY

As usual, **FORUM** celebrated its 13th Formation day on 5th June 2013, coinciding with World Environmental Day, at Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Raj Bhavan Road. **Dr.R.Hampaiah**, Chairman, A.P.Biodiversity Board released the Annual Number of the Forum on the occasion. **Dr.RamaS.Melkote**, President, Caring Citizens Collective, **Sri.Sajjad Shahid**, Secretary-Centre for Deccan Studies & Co-convenor of INTACH Hyderabad Chapter, and **Prof. Sheela Prasad**, Centre for Regional studies, School of Social science, University of Hyderabad, were the Guests of Honour. The programme was presided over by **Sri.M.Vedakumar**, President, Forum For A Better Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri.R.Hampaiah emphasized that the disaster projects taken up in the name of development can be contained under Bio-diversity Act. He praised the efforts of Forum to protect the environment. It can seek the help of Bio-diversity act when it is necessary. There is ample proof of this Act's efficacy that recently the populace of Ananthapur district succeeded in the case concerning allocation of 15,000 acres of land to Leepakshi Knowledge Park. Similarly, at Sompeta on construction thermal power project, local populace formed committees and fought by using biodiversity act and succeeded in their efforts. It was a matter of regret that we were able to show only some selected places and water bodies to the foreign delegates of COP- 11.

FBH President Sri.M.Vedakumar narrated that to co-ordinate various issues of the city, social activists of different NGOs joined hands together to establish Forum For A Better Hyderabad. He explained that the Forum will bring the issues to

the notice of the officers of concerned departments. On non- response the Forum will approach the media to enlighten the need to solve the issues. As a final resort the Forum will approach the court, after all the above efforts failed. The Forum even approached Supreme Court in certain issues. Eminent people with experience and expertise in various fields are members of the Forum. Even before establishment of the Forum they were involved in various social activities. He advised to prefer small and clay Ganesha idols to be worshipped, to avoid water contamination by use of big size Ganesha idols with harmful colours and steel material and emphasized for immersion at their respective localities. Forum is putting efforts to bring awareness amongst the people. It is a matter of regret that even a single heritage building or heritage site of this city has not been recognized as world heritage precinct/site. He also said that the rules and regulations meant for protection of heritage buildings have been violated over the years. There are more than 225 heritage buildings to be notified, but only 137 have been enlisted. He also insisted for correction of certain shortfalls in the city's master plan.

Sri O.M.Debara, General Secretary of the Forum presented the annual report by mentioning the various issues pursued with the concerned Govt. departments.

Dr.Rama S.Melkote said that every citizen has right to live with respect; this was supported by the Supreme Court on several occasions.

Sri Sajjad Shahid said that our identity is our heritage; hence it has to be preserved. He questioned why assembly building is not been declared as a heritage building. He asserted that new development

works should not be taken up in Public Gardens. The Managing Director of Metro Rail on several occasions mentioned that upon completion of Metro rail the pollution will be reduced upto 35%. Sri Sajjad insisted that MD, Metro Rail should show evidence in this regard.

Prof. Sheela Prasad insisted on need for protecting the environment, and not only Hyderabad's historical heritage. It is a wrong notion

that Environment and Development will not go in hand in glove; even in many small countries, adequate importance is given to environment simultaneously with development projects. She quoted example of Curitiba in Brazil. She also advised that consumption of local food, fruits and vegetables to be increased.

The programme came to an end with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. M. Mandal, Member of the Forum.



Balkapur Channel Encroachment



Fakhrud dingutta



Moulali Hills

Glimpses from Forum's 13th Anniversary (5.6.2013)



Release of Annual Number



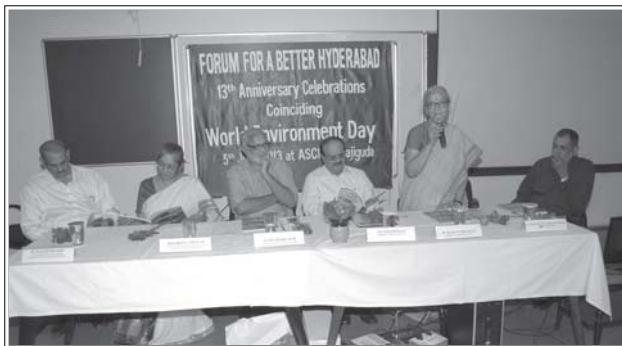
Audience at the function



Dr. R. Hampaiah, Chairman, A.P. Biodiversity Board speaking on the occasion



Sri. Sajjad Shahid, Secretary, Center for Deccan Studies, Co-convenor, INTACH Hyderabad Chapter speaking on the occasion



Dr. Rama S. Melkote, President, Caring Citizens Collective addressing the gathering



Prof. Sheela Prasad, Centre for Regional studies, School of Social Science, University of Hyderabad speaking on the occasion



Distribution of curry leaf plant



Audience at the function

Glimpses from Forum's 12th Anniversary (5.6.2012)



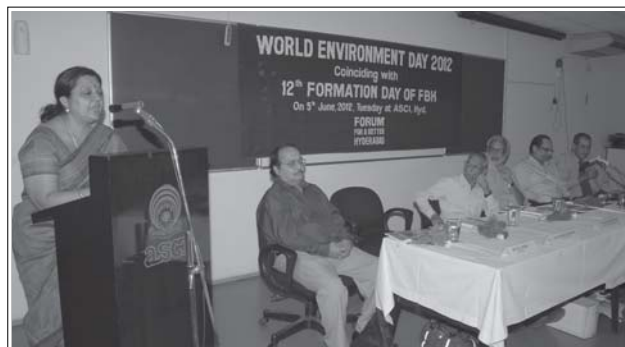
Release of Annual Number of the Forum: From Left to right: Sri. R.K.Sinha, Sri. K.L.Vyas, Smt. Chandana Chakrabarthi, Sri. Ch.Hanumantha Rao, Sri. M.Vedakumar, Sri.Neerabh, K.Prasad and Sri. O.M.Debara



Sri. Ch.Hanumantha Rao is addressing the audience: From L to R: Sri. K.L.Vyas, Smt. Chandana Chakrabarthi, Sri. M.Vedakumar and Sri. O.M.Debara



Sri.Neerabh K.Prasad is addressing the audience: From L to R: Sri.K.L.Vyas, Smt.Chandana Chakrabarthi, Sri.Ch.Hanumantha Rao, Sri.M.Vedakumar, and Sri.O.M.Debara



Smt.Chandana Chakrabarthi is addressing the audience: From L to R: Sri.K.L.Vyas, Sri.Ch.Hanumantha Rao, Sri.M.Vedakumar, Sri.Neerabh K.Prasad and Sri.O.M.Debara



Sri.K.L.Vyas is addressing the audience: From L to R: Smt.Chandana Chakrabarthi, Sri.Ch.Hanumantha Rao, Sri.M.Vedakumar, Sri.Neerabh K.Prasad and Sri.O.M.Debara



Sri.Ch.Hanumantha Rao is receiving curry leaf plant from Sri.V.B.J.Chelikani Rao, Member, FBH



Audience at the function



Audience at the function

Glimpses from Forum's 11th Anniversary (5.6.2011)



Release of Annual Number: L to R ;
Smt. Kulsum Reddy, Sri. M. Jagadeeswar, IAS,
Sri.M. Veda Kumar, Smt. Karuna Gopal, Sri. O.M.Debara



Smt. Karuna Gopal addressing the audience



Sri.M. Jagadeeswar, IAS., addressing the audience



A section of audience



Mr.Afzal of PUCAAR during Question & Answers session



Mr.Vijayaraghavan offering curry leaf plant to Mr. Abdulla Ansari



School students who performed in the inaugural function



Students of Oxford Grammar School performing the inaugural song

Status Of Court Cases As on 30-4-2014

I.W.P.NO.6725/2009

The above writ petition was filed by Forum For A Better Hyderabad, challenging the action of the state government in diverting an extent of Ac. 4067 forest land situated in Imarath Kancha village, Maheshwaram Mandal, Ranga Reddy District and further an extent of Ac. 2400-36 guntas situated in Mamidipally village, Sarooranagar Mandal Ranga Reddy District to non-forest purposes without obtaining the prior permission of the central government under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 as arbitrary and illegal. Court ordered notice to the government and forest department and the same is pending for adjudication.

II. W.P.No.3258/2008

The above writ petition was filed by Mr. O.M. Debara, challenging the action of the GHMC demanding an amount of Rs.46,000/-for providing sanction plan of Big Bazar at Ameerpet, Hyderabad under RTI Act. The writ petition was admitted and Hon'ble Court directed the GHMC to provide the copies of the plans by collecting Xerox charges. The writ petition is pending for adjudication.

III. C.C.476/2008

The above Contempt case was filed by Mr. O.M. Debara, against Principal Secretary, Revenue in allotting 275 acres of land at Ranga Reddy District to the Housing Societies of MLAs, MPs, Hon'ble High Court Judges, All India Service Officers and Journalists contrary to the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court in W.P.NO.13730 of 2006. Notice was ordered to the Revenue Secretary and the same is pending.

IV. W.P.No. 18483/2008

The writ petition was filed challenging the

notification of the MOEF which denies the right of citizens to participate in public hearings when the METRO Rail Project is taken up. Former Secretary Ramachandriah and present Secretary OM Debara filed this writ petition. Even before the case was taken up for hearing, the alignment was changed to avoid Hussain Sagar, water body. There was an order that all further actions are subject to further orders in the main case. The case is pending.

It is ripe for hearing and will be listed shortly along with cases filed by Sri Tarakam and Ameerpet residents.

V. WP No.18896/2007

When the State Government sought to amend the GO 111 Forum filed this case. The interim order not to issue final notification deleting some areas from G.O.111 is still in operation.

VI. WPNNo. 24623 of 2009

In the name of Golf course the Golconda Fort is being ravaged. Forum along with PUCAAR filed this case. Interim order was passed restraining the officers from taking up any construction activity and any other works which will change original contours. The HGA wanted the stay to be vacated for which the court refused. The grassing of the area was permitted without changing the contours. The final MOU between the ASI and the state government is also challenged by way of miscellaneous petition. The main case is awaiting final adjudication.

VII. W.P.No. 29300 of 2012

The above writ petition was filed seeking courts intervention in demarcation of QutbShahiBagh in the NayaQuila. Based on undertaking given that no work would be undertaken until the demarcation is done by the ASI the case was disposed of. The Forum has now filed a contempt petition re non-

demarcation of QutabShahiBagh.

VIII. PIL No.276 of 2012

When illegal excavation works in the name of channel was done in Golconda fort, a PIL was filed.

The High Court called for a report and police case was registered. The case was disposed of while directing the GHMC to restore the wrongly excavated portions. The order is dated: 31-12-2012.

A contempt case was filed complaining of non implementation of Court order.

Report of Compliance was filed and the contempt case is closed.

IX. CC case no 1820 of 2012

A contempt petition was filed by the Forum for violating various orders of the A.P. High Court, the provisions of the AM & ASR Act against ASI, YAT & C, GOAP, Hyderabad District Collector, the HGA. The case came up for hearing and counter-affidavits have since been filed by YAT& C (GOAP) and Hyderabad District Collector, but not yet by ASI. The case has not come for further hearing.

The Bench has to be constituted.

X. NayaQuilaTalab/ Langar House Talab:

A case has been filed with AP High Court in March 2013alleging *mala-fide* and/or colourable exercise of power for reducing the extent of the FTL water spread of NayaQuilaTalab/ Langar House Talab ostensibly to favour persons with vested interests in the surrounding lands; that there have been impermissible activities in the catchment areas of the Talab affecting the water inflows and due to these unregulated activities the water spread has been shrinking and that no action had been taken by the authorities to expeditiously fix the FTL.

XI. W.P No.22765 of 2009

The above writ petition is filed challenging allotment of Ac.1.20 guntas open space in financial

district layout at Madhapur by APIIC for the construction of multi-storied building. The case is admitted and interim order of status quo is granted. The case is pending for disposal.

XII. W.P No.29207 of 2009

The above writ petition is filed challenging allotment of Ac. 20.00 guntas land to Mr. Subash Ghai company opposite to Taramati Baradari at Golkonda without calling for applications or tenders. The above case was admitted and interim order of suspension of allotment of land was granted. The case is pending for disposal.

XIII. WP No. 11918 of 2009

Monty's Bar is old structure at Secunderabad. This old heritage building was sought to be denotified by the government from list of Heritage Buildings. The new builders got a report that there is no architectural value! The bench dismissed our writ petition saying that there are reasons for the government to arrive at a decision and no one including the Forum bothered to file any objections when the notifications in newspapers calling for objections were issued.

XIV. WP No. 8167 of 2010

Fateh Darwaza is part of Golconda Fort to be protected by ASI. Aurangzeb passed through this gate after his victory. A new building was built within 10 yards of the Fateh Darwaza. Further constructing activity and usage for commercial activity are stayed. Notices have been issued to the authorities. The officers have been issuing notices but have not acted to demolishor / stop the usage. The final hearing is awaited.

XV. WP No. 25212 of 2010

Moula Ali Rock formations notified as heritage precincts. The police have constructed a wireless tower adjacent to the Darga on the rock. No permission was obtained. There is fear that further construction of watchman's room etc will continue on the rock. The case was admitted and counter

affidavits were filed by the officers.

The case was closed as the permission granted by WAKF Board was withdrawn and we have been asked to take further steps

The bench observed “In the counter-affidavit filed by respondent No.6, it is stated that the Andhra Pradesh Wakf Board has accorded permission for erection of the communication tower vide proceedings dated 26.10.2003 and pursuant to which the transmission tower has been installed on the Moulali Hillock at a huge cost. Thereafter, for the reasons best known to the Wakf Board, such permission was withdrawn on 18.08.2009 by the time the construction of the tower was completed.

After hearing the learned Counsel for the parties appearing before us, it appears that there is nothing on record to show that the aforesaid order withdrawing the permission by the Wakf Board has been set aside or quashed. However, the fact remains that when the construction was made, there has been permission by the Wakf Board. Whether the earlier permission was lawful or not and further whether the subsequent orders of withdrawal of permission is lawful or not, are not the questions before us and we cannot decide the same.

In view of the subsequent development during the pendency of the writ petition, we cannot adjudicate the matter. Since the Wakf Board has cancelled the permission, the construction appears to have been made without permission at present. However, when the construction was made, there was a lawful permission by the Wakf Board.

Under the above circumstances, we close this writ petition giving liberty to the parties to take steps in accordance with law as may be advised.”

XVI. WP No. 1636 of 2010

The above writ petition filed in public interest challenging the action of the Government in alienating government land to an extent of Ac.55.00 in Sy, No. 31, Neknampura village, Rajendranagar

Mandal, Hyderabad district vid G.O.Ms. No. 509, Revenue (ASN.V) Department, dated 14.06.2010 and an extent of Ac.100.00 in Sy, No.923 to 926/p, 935, 946, 952 and 957 to 961/p situated at Jawaharnagar village Shamirpet Mandal, R.R. District vid G.O.Ms. No.509, Revenue (ASN.V) Department, dated 14.06.2010, in favour of The A.P. Secretariat Employees Mutual Aided Coop. Housing Society Ltd., as arbitrary, illegal, offending Article 14 of the Constitution, and contrary to the orders passed by this Hon’ble Court in W.P.No.13730/2006, dated 8.10.2007 and W.P.No. 7956, 7997/2008 dated 5.1.2010 etc. The Hon’ble Court admitted the case and granted status quo orders. The writ petition is pending for disposal.

XVII.PIL No.70 of 2012

The above PIL was filed by Mr. Debara seeking court intervention and monitoring the ACB investigation into Liquor syndicates. Directions sought from the court on making ACB an independent organisation with freedom in financial matters etc and further directions also sought on review of more than 450 cases of corruption in which the Government rejected prosecution proposal of the ACB. The court started monitoring the investigation and several status reports were submitted to the court. The ACB completed the investigation and recommended action against 1000 persons. The court also issued series of directions including not to transfer the officials involved in the investigation without Court’s permission. The case is disposed of giving series of directions to the Government and anti corruption bureau to complete the investigation into the role of politicians in liquor scam within three months and to take action accordingly. The court further directed that no permission of the Govt is required to investigate the crimes against the public representatives and to give permission to prosecute the public servants within three months.

XVIII. W.P.No.24591 of 2011

Banjara Bhavan which was visited by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and where he stayed was sought to be clandestinely demolished, though it was a listed heritage building. Forum for Better Hyderabad along with ApnaWatan and Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH) Hyderabad Chapter filed the Writ Petition. There was Statusquo Order dated 2-9-2011 and ultimately the case was disposed of on 1-10-2012. The Government was directed to maintain Statusquo till it takes a final decision regarding delisting.

XIX. PIL 93 of 2013

When the Government declared decision to delist the Banjara Bhavan without considering the opinion of Heritage Conservation Committee, PIL 93 of 2013 was filed by Forum for Better Hyderabad. Statusquo was granted on 19-3-2013. The Government has filed its Counter Affidavit. In the mean time the Building had been demolished. Hence the case was closed.

XX. PIL 282 of 2012

Was filed complaining that in the name of Metro Rail, the heritage structures are being destroyed. The Division Bench of AP High Court directed the Metro Rail authorities and the Govt. to look into the matter and take final decision especially in view of opinion of the Heritage Conservation Committee. The order is dt.13-8-2012.

The Alignment was changed after our case, as can be seen near the Assembly.

XXI -W.P.No.12953 of 2013

The above Writ petition is filed calling in question the continuation of Sri.Dharmana Prasada Rao as Cabinet Minister in charge of R & B portfolio in the A.P.Government even after he is charge sheeted under S.120B r/w 420,409 of the IPC and Section 13(2) r/w 13(1)© & (d) of the

P.C.Act, 1988 and the competent CBI court had taken cognizance of the same as arbitrary, illegal, unconstitutional, contrary to the doctrine of public trust, good governance, unreasonable, unfair and violation of Article 14,21, 164 of the Constitution of India etc. The Hon'ble court had issued the notice and after the notice is issued he tendered resignation as cabinet minister and the same was accepted. The case is disposed off noting the resignation of D.Prasad Rao.

XXII. 1) P Srinivas filed the case PIL No 507 of 2013 complaining against the cutting of trees near Golf course at Golkonda fort.

The bench allowed the case directing planting of 10 times the saplings for the trees cut. The forest department was asked to collect the money from ASI of nearly two and half lakhs .

The bench observed “ 3. We think that the Forest Department is under an obligation under the Statute not only to recover the fine amount but also to see that the trees which have been felled must come up afresh. Accordingly, we pass an order that in the event the fine amount is not recovered, it shall be recovered in accordance with law from the party concerned within a period of six weeks from the date of communication of this order.

4. We find that in maintaining ecological equilibrium and combating air pollution, the role of trees is scientifically recognised and accepted, for the trees during the day release oxygen because of photosynthesis process and eliminate carbon dioxide in the air. This was found on scientific study. It was also found that at least 17 plants are required for one human being. Oxygen is consumed during night not only by living beings but also by plants and trees. Therefore, during the night, quantum of oxygen is reduced to a great extent. However, this is supplemented during the day by photosynthesis process by trees and plants.

5. We, therefore, direct the Forest Department to forthwith plant healthy saplings of the same varieties and same species in the place of the trees felled in 1:10 ratio meaning thereby, that if 10 trees are felled, then 100 saplings have to be planted. There is no guarantee that all the saplings planted would survive and for this reason, the aforesaid number of saplings are required to be planted. This planting exercise shall be done within four weeks from the date of communication of this order.”

Supreme Court Case Re: Hussain Sagar

Dr. G. Haragopal's affidavit in reply dt. January 2013 (on behalf of the appellants) to the I.A. no. 33-34 of 2012 has been filed, in Civil Appeal No. 2905-2906 of 2005. Through the affidavit, the appellants are contesting an application (of one Shri Modi) seeking permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to construct a commercial complex/multiplex in the lands covered by Sy.Nos.207/1 and 207/2 stated to be correlated to T.S. Nos. 4/1 and 4/2, Khairatabad Village and Mandal, Hyderabad district. In support of their claim of ownership over the said lands, the applicants have relied on a registered 'General Power of Attorney' dated 08.05.1980, a validated sale deed dated 03.09.1981 and the order dated 20.01.2005 passed by the special court under A.P. Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act, Hyderabad in L.G.C. no. 71 of 1999 whereby the application under Land Grabbing act was dismissed. This Order has been challenged by State of Andhra Pradesh in Writ Petition W.P. No. 25163 of 2005 before the High Court. As the Writ Petition is admitted and pending before the High Court,

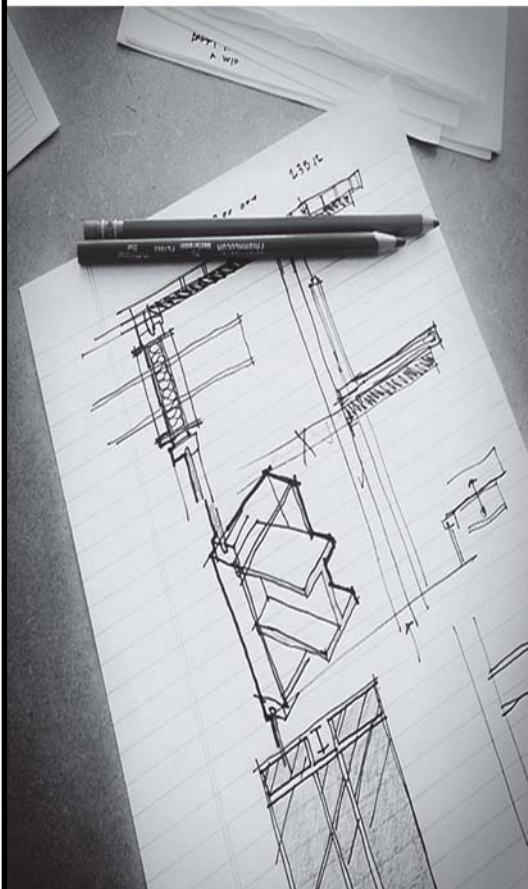
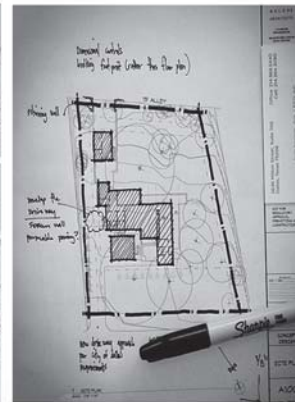
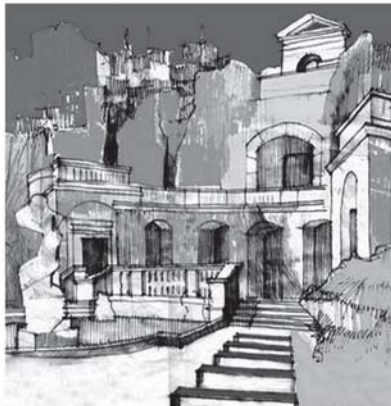
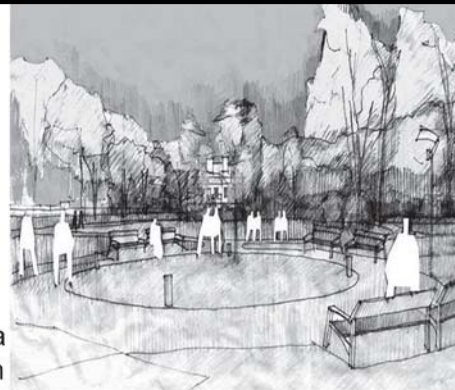
the 12 applicants cannot claim exclusive and absolute ownership of the said lands. The applicants have incorrectly correlated the Sy. Nos. 207/1 and 207/2 with T.S. Nos. 4/1 and 4/2 thereby creating complete confusion and wrongly identifying the site for proposed construction of a Multiplex, for misleading to garner the government Shikam lands of Hussain Sagar Lake. In support of appellants' contention, true copy of various records have been produced. While the applicants have tried to justify that the lands under reference are completely different from Sy.No. 9, in which Hussain Sagar is primarily located and other survey numbers mentioned in the report of Three Member Special Committee appointed by Supreme Court, they have admitted that a portion of the said lands covered by T.S.No.4/ 1 and 4/2, is nearer to the peripheries of Hussain Sagar lake. The applicants have suppressed the fact of having already undertaken unauthorized construction activity and continued dumping of debris at the said site forming part of Hussain Sagar lake and not disclosed to the Hon'ble Court the various notices and letters sent in this regard. Further, the "Schedule 'A' Property" as given in the Sale Deed on 03.09.1981 annexed by applicants executed between the vendors and the applicants, are as per the Land Use Certificate issued by HMDA, earmarked for Natural Conservation (Green Buffer along River, Nalas, Lakes, Kuntas). Therefore the land use of the area covered by T.S. Nos 4/1 and 4/2 cannot be changed irrespective of the ownership of the lands and the land use directives permit the use of this land only and specifically for natural conservation.



JBR ARCHITECTURE COLLEGE HYDERABAD

(Sponsored by Joginpally B.R. Educational Society)

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STEWARDSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



SCCL - An Engine of Economic Growth

Synonymous for coal in the Deccan, Singareni symbolizes the face of modern mining in the country. It all started when some pilgrims bound to the temple town of Bhadrachalam unexpectedly witnessed a burning stone at Singareni village in Khammam District in Andhra Pradesh. That was in 1870, and it led to the discovery of huge coal deposits in the Godavari valley by Dr. William King, the enterprising Geologist. The rest is history, the history of man's quest to exploit mineral wealth to enrich his life. Sequel to this discovery, Coal Mining operations began at Yellandu in 1889 by the Hyderabad Deccan Company and gradually began to acquire operational breadth & depth under the renamed Singareni Collieries Company Limited. Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., popularly known as SCCL, today accounts for nearly 9% country's total coal production with 7% of nation's coal reserves. SCCL supplies coal to more than 2500 medium and small industries including cement, paper, textiles, tobacco, ceramic, pharmaceutical and brick units, apart from major power plants in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Our Technology - Open Cast

Surface Miner | Dragline | Shovel & Dumper | Inpit crusher-Conveyor-Spreader | Highwall

Operation Profile

16 Mines | Coal: 39.92 million tonnes; OB: 170 million cubic metres | Stripping Ratio: upto 1:6 | Gradients operated: upto 180 | Depths operated: 170m |

Depths Planned: 400m

Our Technology - Underground

Conventional Mining | Side Discharge Loader | Load Haul Dumper |

Road Header | Longwall | Blasting Gallery | Continuous Miner

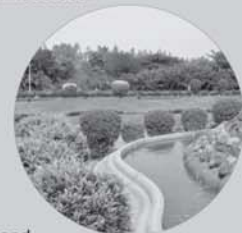
Operation Profile

32 Mines | Coal: 10.55 million tones | Depths operated: 400m | Depths Planned: 650m

The Sole coal producer in South India and a key partner in the country's economic and industrial progress, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) is more than committed to caring for the environment.

Company's mission statement aptly reflects the emphasis given to protection of environment and ecology. Company has established benchmark practices and internationally accepted soil conservation, Overburden bio-engineering measures in its Open Cast mines. Mine plans include development of Siltation ponds, timely back filling and regeneration of original species on the back filled areas etc. Company has raised plantations in 5600 Ha.

- Monitoring of air/water/noise/ambient pollution at each mine on a regular basis. Establishment of 18 effluent treatment plants (Oil and Grease traps) at mines/stores/workshops
- Constructed 7 Sewerage Treatment Plants
- Introduced LPG to its staff for cooking in lieu of the supply of 20,000 tonnes of coal per month
- Rehabilitation of minesites/over dumps with due emphasis on biological engineering. This has been done through protective and mechanical engineering works like gabions, cribs, rock fill dams, toe walls, garland canals, siltation ponds and contour stretches along with plantation of saplings of local suitable species
- Adoption of environment friendly technologies like Input Crusher, Conveyors for reducing consumption of diesel and oil. Replacement of timber supports in mines with steel supports resulting in a 20% reduction in usage of wood and protection of natural resources



THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government Company)
Registered Office: Kothagudem Collieries - 507 101.

One Family. One Vision.. One Mission... - The Spirit of Singareni



శ్రీ కల్వకుంట్ల చంద్రశేఖర్ రావు
తెలంగాణ ముఖ్యమంత్రి



తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్రం - కావాని దేశానికే ఆదర్శం!

స్వతంత్ర భారతదేశ 29వ రాష్ట్రంగా ఏర్పడిన తెలంగాణను ఆదర్శ రాష్ట్రంగా తీర్చిదిద్దుకోవడం మన బాధ్యత.

తెలంగాణా రాష్ట్రాన్ని సకల రంగాలలో సర్వోన్నత, సమున్నత రాష్ట్రంగా తీర్చిదిద్దుకుందాం.

తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వ సంక్షేమ కార్యక్రమాలు

- అమరవీరుల కుటుంబాలకు రూ.10 లక్షలు, అర్హులైన కుటుంబ సభ్యుల్లో ఒకరికి ప్రభుత్వ ఉద్యోగం, వ్యవసాయంపై ఆధారపడిన అమరవీరుల కుటుంబానికి భూమి
- రైతులకు రూ. లక్ష రుణమాఫీ
- నిరుపేద దళిత కుటుంబానికి భూపంపిణీ పథకం ద్వారా మూడెకరాల భూమి.
- కేజీ నుంచి పీజీ వరకు ఉచిత, నిర్బంధ విద్య
- పెడ్యూల్డ్ కులాల కుటుంబాల ఉన్నతి కోసం ఐదేళ్ల లోగా రూ.50,000 కోట్ల వ్యయం
- వెనుకబడిన తరగతుల ఉన్నతికి ఐదేళ్ల లోగా రూ.25,000 కోట్ల వ్యయం
- ఎస్టీలకు 12 శాతం రిజర్వేషన్లు, గిరిజన ఆవాసప్రాంతాలకు గ్రామపంచాయతీలుగా గుర్తింపు
- బలహీన వర్గాలకు అన్ని సదుపాయాలతో 2-బెడ్ రూమ్ల ఇళ్ళు
- మైనారిటీలకు రూ.1000 కోట్ల బడ్జెట్, 12 శాతం రిజర్వేషన్లు
- వృద్ధులకు వితంతువులకు రూ. 1000 పింఛను, వికలాంగులకు రూ. 1500 పింఛను
- పూర్తిస్థాయి వై-ఫైతో గ్లోబల్ సిటీగా మైదరాబాద్
- ఎలక్ట్రానిక్ హార్డ్ వేర్ మాన్యుఫ్యాక్చరింగ్ యూనిట్స్ హబ్ ఏర్పాటు చేసేందుకు ఐటీఐఆర్ ప్రాజెక్టుకు ప్రత్యేక హోదా
- ప్రతి దళిత, గిరిజన ఆడపిల్ల పెళ్ళికి కళ్యాణలక్ష్మి పథకం ద్వారా రూ. 51 వేల ఆర్థిక సాయం.





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శ్రీ కల్వకుంట్ల చంద్రశేఖర్ రావు
తెలంగాణ ముఖ్యమంత్రి

తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్రం - కావాని దేశానికే ఆదర్శం!

స్వతంత్ర భారతదేశ 29వ రాష్ట్రంగా ఏర్పడిన తెలంగాణను ఆదర్శ రాష్ట్రంగా తీర్చిదిద్దుకోవడం మన బాధ్యత.

తెలంగాణా రాష్ట్రాన్ని సకల రంగాలలో సర్వోన్నత, సమున్నత రాష్ట్రంగా తీర్చిదిద్దుకుందాం.

తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వ సంక్షేమ కార్యక్రమాలు

- అమరవీరుల కుటుంబాలకు రూ.10 లక్షలు, అర్హులైన కుటుంబ సభ్యుల్లో ఒకరికి ప్రభుత్వ ఉద్యోగం, వ్యవసాయంపై ఆధారపడిన అమరవీరుల కుటుంబానికి భూమి
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- కేజీ నుంచి పీజీ వరకు ఉచిత, నిర్బంధ విద్య
- షెడ్యూల్డ్ కులాల కుటుంబాల ఉన్నతి కోసం ఐదేళ్ల లోగా రూ.50,000 కోట్ల వ్యయం
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- బలహీన వర్గాలకు అన్ని సదుపాయాలతో 2-బెడ్ రూమల ఇళ్ళు
- మైనారిటీలకు రూ.1000 కోట్ల బడ్జెట్, 12 శాతం రిజర్వేషన్లు
- వృద్ధులకు వితంతువులకు రూ. 1000 పింఛను, వికలాంగులకు రూ. 1500 పింఛను
- పూర్తిస్థాయి వై-ఫైతో గ్లోబల్ సిటీగా హైదరాబాద్
- ఎలక్ట్రానిక్ హార్డ్ వేర్ మాన్యుఫ్యాక్చరింగ్ యూనిట్స్ హబ్ ఏర్పాటు చేసేందుకు ఐటీఐఆర్ ప్రాజెక్టుకు ప్రత్యేక హోదా
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TELANGANA STATE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION (TSIIC)

I. CORE FUNCTIONS OF TSIIC:

- Identification of potential sites for industrial areas.
- Acquisition/Alienation of lands for Industrial Parks.
- Providing infrastructure facilities in Industrial Parks/IT Parks/Biotech Parks/Apparel Parks/SEZs with its own engineering divisions.
- Allotment of land/plots/sheds for various industries.
- Identification and development of infrastructure projects under PPP mode.

II. STRENGTHS OF TSIIC:

- TSIIC spread over in all districts of Telangana State with 7 Zonal Offices.
- TSIIC has Industrial Parks which include sector specific IT, Biotechnology, Apparels, Pharmaceuticals, Autonagars, Automotives and Special Economic Zones.
- TSIIC exercises the local authority powers under Telangana State Panchayat Raj and Municipal Acts in Industrial Parks.

ROCK PARK AT DURGAM CHERUVU HYDERABAD

I. INTRODUCTION:

- Durgam Cheruvu also known as Secret Lake surrounded by hills of the Deccan Plateau, is promoted as a tourist destination.
- HMDA proposes to develop an Eco park adjacent to the lake and an area of 32 acres (mainly hilly and undulating terrain) in the first phase of the project.

II. PROJECT AREA:

- Areas Proposed : 32 Acres of TSIIC land abutting Durgam Cheruvu in the proposed Hyderabad Knowledge City, Raidurg abutting the road to I - Lab and In-orbit mall. The site is elevated with hilly terrain with a scenic view of the Durgam Lake and is ideal for development of an Eco-Park with a beautiful Rock garden and adventure sports like Rock climbing, Trekking, Rappelling.

III. OBJECTIVES :

- Build community and public awareness about the importance of preserving the rocks naturally formed.
- Provide a serene and natural gathering place for joggers, families, Outdoor enthusiasts and IT professionals in the vicinity

IV. AMENITIES PROPOSED IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA:

- Walking track • Amphitheatre • Kids Play Area • Water Falls • Zen Garden / Rock Garden • Afforestation - Flora/Fauna • Hiking/biking trials



Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited

6th Floor, Parisrama Bhavan, Fateh Maidan Road, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad -500 004, Telangana, India.
Ph: +91-40-23237625, 23237626 Fax: +91-40-23240205, 23241385 Email: vcmd_tsiic@telangana.gov.in

NIZAM PALACES TOUR

Tour covering below places on
Saturdays & Sundays from 1:30pm from Tourism Plaza, Begumpet



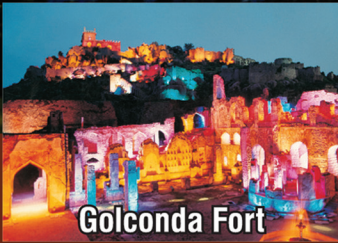
Falaknuma Palace

Tariff for Adult: ₹3,100/- Child: ₹2,950/-

Includes A/c Transportation, Entry Tickets and
Tea & Snacks at Falaknuma Palace with tour escort services



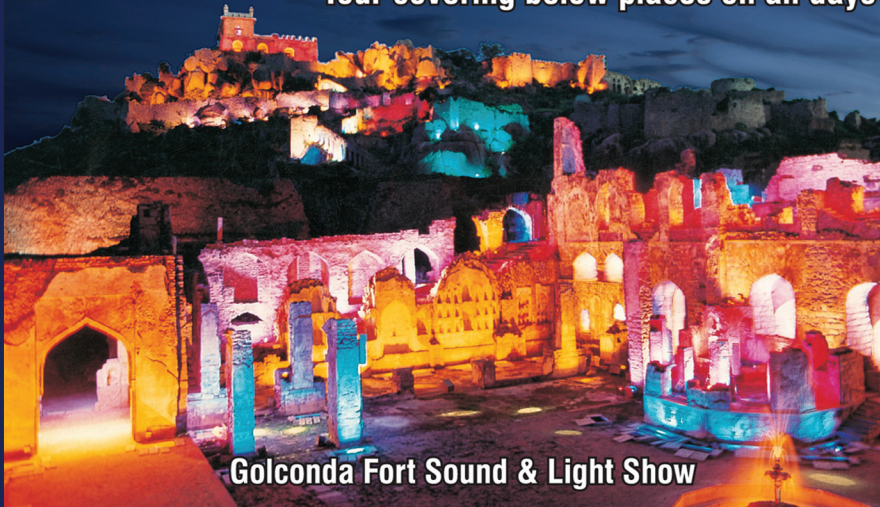
Chowmahalla Palace



Golconda Fort

HYDERABAD BY NIGHT HERITAGE TOUR

Tour covering below places on all days starts from 5 pm



Golconda Fort Sound & Light Show



Taramati Baradari Cultural Complex

Tariff for Adult: ₹650/- Child: ₹520/- (Veg Meals) Adult: ₹750/- Child: ₹600/- (Non-veg Meals)

{Includes A/c Transportation, Entry Tickets and Meals with Guide}