

## HERITAGE- GOLCONDA FORT- Golf Course

### Fencing by HGA around Majnu Burge and around Graveyards near Mustafa Khan Mosque: Violations of AMASR Act, MOU and AP High Court Orders.

Forum's representation dt 27-04-12 was printed in previous News Letter. Spl. Dy. Collector & Estate Officer of APTDCL in letter dt. 08-05-12 has requested the Supdtg. Archaeologist, ASI, Hyderabad to verify whether any violation being taking place in the land in question and furnish a report, so as to take further action in this matter. On 8-6-12, the Estate Officer was reminded: ..... it is important that the work of fencing by HGA be stopped forthwith.....

Forum has been representing to APTDC, ASI, YAT&C deptt. by fax, SMS without any response. On 14-05-2012 Forum again wrote mentioning the violations by HGA. Copy was forwarded to the Spl. Chief Secy. YAT&C-GoAP with a mention that MOU dt. 23-09-2009 imposes on the Secy. YAT&C the responsibility to ensure compliance with the provisions of the MOU by HGA. Spl. Chief Secy. was requested to immediately intervene- to stop the fencing work, to instruct HGA to remove the fencing done, and to stop laying Tees in the burge.

### On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012, Forum has sent a representation to SA-ASI- Hyderabad; contents are reproduced:

Fresh violations by Hyderabad Golf Association ( HGA ): e.g., Filling up of channels of water along Moat wall; Dumping of mud etc in Survey no 40, changing contour. Absence of any official of ASI on site.

1. The HGA has recently filled up a channel of water along the Moat wall towards the north of Roshanburj after the spill way, and extended the area of grassing.

This constitutes change of contour. Further, this violates the Court's order dated 27.3.12, that "the walls of the Golconda Fort should also not be defaced in any manner."

2. The HGA has further dumped mud and sand, in some affected areas, violating the affidavit given by HGA, on the basis of which the Court passed its order on 27.3.12.

" The 6th respondent ( HGA ) has since filed an affidavit in which it is stated that it will only undertake to grass the land for the golf course and maintain the same in accordance with international practices in an area admeasuring 28 acres in Survey No.40, NayaQuila, Golkonda in the following manner: ..... "10. In our opinion, the walls of the Golconda Fort should also not be defaced in any manner."

The undertaking has been violated. Besides, the action of dumping amounts to change of contour.

3. Please advise us how this work was allowed to be done, and what supervision was exercised over the work, as none of your officials was present on site, while supervision by concerned authority(ies) is mandatory under the Court order dated 8.6.2010. Your Golconda station-in-charge did not even answer the phone when telephoned to inform him about the event. Please send us a copy of your approval if the work was approved by you.

4. We fail to understand how the HGA can violate Court orders and the AM&ASR Act recurrently. Please have the violations removed without delay and take deterrent penal action against the HGA; also proper action against your officials responsible for allowing and / or not supervising the work/ not answering telephone to inform him. Please let us have your advices early.

### On 06-06-2012, FBH has written to the SA- ASI- Hyderabad re: correct area of QutabShahi Garden. The contents are given below. ———— Y o u

were directed to earmark the area of the QutbShahi Garden within a stipulated period vide A.P. High Court Order, which period has elapsed. The area of the Garden is now determined to be 28.212 acres instead of 10 acres as stated by you and 8+ metres actually marked in your approved lay out plan. A copy of a map obtained

from ASI, Hyderabad( which ASI, Hyderabad had all along denied having it ) further nearly confirms the area stated by us. There should be, therefore, no scope for doubt. **You can, therefore, work on that basis in modifying the lay out of the golf course.**

Meanwhile, due to delay at your end, the QSBGarden, one of the few surviving Persian gardens in the world is falling into irreparable decay. Please, therefore, take immediate steps to restore it to its original condition. To this end, please start by clearing and sifting the mud, recover the water channels, fountains, restore the chabutaras, etc. Please also arrange to carry out scientific clearance operations of the area to expose the buried structures beneath the earth, prior to the landscaping of the Golf Course ( under article 9 of the MOU). Please advise us of action taken. — —

#### HERITAGE

On 14-06-12, FBH has requested Shri B. Srinivas, newly appointed Director of State Archaeology & Museums, for a meeting with him to discuss protection of State's heritages, many of which are in bad state of maintenance and/or facing encroachment.

#### HERITAGE- ASMAN MAHAL (Lakdika Pul)

Forum had represented to HMDA in May & June 2011 about demolition of a portion of this Gr.III Heritage building. HMDA have replied vide their letter dt.18-05-12, that GHMC, responsible for conservation and maintenance of heritage buildings, had forwarded on 29-08-11 revised building plans for Asman Mahal. Heritage Conservation Committee in its 113<sup>th</sup> meeting "examined the revised proposal and considered for issuing NOC from heritage point of view. Other aspects of land use..... shall be examined by GHMC."

#### WATER BODIES- HussainSagar- Proposed Floating Restaurant

Forum's (-jointly with SOUL-) reasoned objections to the Govt. proposal for setting up a floating restaurant were printed in the previous newsletter. APTDC in response to Forum's letter under RTI Act, have since furnished (letter dt. 16-06-12) following information:

- i) MOU has been signed on 13-01-12 between APTDC Ltd and Hotel Kamal Pvt. Ltd., S.D.Road, Secunderabad, i.e. the Promoter, who will set up a Classic Floating Double Decker Moving Yacht with international standards of food & beverages project with investment of about Rs. 2 crores.

- ii) APTDCL shall provide required land to the project on lease basis, subject to availability at preferred location, and shall make best efforts to enable the Promoter to get eligible incentives and concessions.
- iii) MOU shall be valid for 180 days or as extended by mutual agreements.
- iv) No clearance of Supreme Court has been obtained, as the project is at preliminary stage and project will be implemented only after getting clearances from concerned agencies.
- v) APTDCL did not contact other deptts. like HUDA, HMWSSB, BPA, LPA, etc. as the project is under initial stage.

#### WATER BODIES- Hussainsagar and Shameerpet Lakes

On 18-06-2012, FBH has sought from YAT&C Deptt. authentic and detailed information on Media reported (a) Giant Wheel Project along Hussainsagar Lake Front, and (b) Mini-India Project near Shameerpet Lake.

#### ENVIRONMENT- Cell phone Towers

Based on AP High Court judgement that cell phone towers constitute Structures and need permission from GHMC, Forum has requested GHMC Commissioner on 25-06-12 to make a survey of all cell phone towers and obtain clearance from APPCB before granting approval.

#### ENVIRONMENT- TREES & FORESTS

On 06-06-12, FBH has written to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of AP, under RTI Act, enquiring about (i) area of forest cover in AP during 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, & on a recent date, (ii) Govt.'s plans for increasing forest cover, and (iii) studies made to explain decline in forest cover.

#### FORUM'S 12<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY : 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012

As usual, Forum's 12<sup>th</sup> Formation Day coincided with World Environment Day 2012 and was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June at Administrative Staff College of India, Raj Bhavan Road. Prof.ChHanumanta Rao, Founder Member- Centre for Economic and Social Sciences (CESS), Former member- Planning Commission of India and Member- Advisory Council- Gol was the Chief Guest. Sri Neerabh K. Prasad, IAS, Metropolitan Commissioner HMDA, Smt. Chandana Chakrabarti, Social Activist and Convener-The MARCH (Medically Aware & Responsive Citizens of Hyderabad), and Dr. K.L. Vyas, Social Activist- Water Warrior, graced the occasion as Guests. Sri

M.Vedakumar, President-FBH presided over the function.

The programme started with a Telegu song “Let us protect our environment” by a group of students of Oxford Grammar School, followed by welcome address by **Dr.M.Mandal**, a senior member of FBH. He dwelt on the concept of Green Economy- all inclusive economy. Time has come when we should place environment at the top and then may be equity & growth together. Everyone is a part of it. But it is obvious that the Govt and, to some extent, other players are away from this position. We the public are also awfully apathetic and engrossed in addressing our own problems. There has to be task intensive organizations with central coordination towards a common goal.

**Sri O.M.Debara**, General Secretary, FBH read out his report on Forum’s activities during the year. He requested those present but not members of FBH to join the Forum and work on major issues confronting Hyderabad. Prof.**Ch.HanumantaRao** then released the Forum’s Annual 2011-12.

The salient points of the speeches that followed are given below.

**Prof. Ch. HanumantaRao-** In the late 50s and 60s, environmental problems were not that serious. It was beginning to be felt at the planning level; understanding was population growth and poverty were responsible for degradation of environment. Now the consensus is that affluence is the greatest cause, also lack of proper regulatory framework. In Hyderabad, greatest air pollution comes from vehicles: one phenomenon, car vs. bus. What has happened and is happening depends very much on the kind of urban planning we have around Hyderabad. It should be rational in the sense, urban development should be broad based. At least 1/4<sup>th</sup> to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of economic growth is redundant- coming at the cost of environment. Should we say that lower growth is better for environment?

Unfortunately not, because there is no symmetric relationship in this. The pattern of expenditure, pattern of lifestyle arising out of increasing wealth will not change. But public expenditures, which impact the livelihood of the poor and have effect on the environment, may suffer. For lowering fiscal deficit, expenditure cuts are done in a very mechanical way due to which sanitation, waste disposal, public health, primary education, and so many welfare activities will

be adversely affected. Because of the financial crisis, it is very likely that our environment will suffer to a greater extent than in the days when growth rate was high.

**SRI NEERABH K. PRASAD** lauded the efforts of FORUM towards attaining Sustainable Hyderabad. He said, about 501 lakes of various sizes are existing in and around the city, out of which only 169 lakes are notified by the Govt. The immediate micro objective of HMDA is of cleansing & saving of HussainSagarlake and its catchment areas by involving civil society groups. Subsequently, focus will be on other water bodies.

Between sustainability vs. output/ growth, there are conflicting situations which are not easy to resolve. We then talk of Sustainable Growth. It is better to have a conflict so that the ultimate solution is broadly the best solution acceptable to majority.

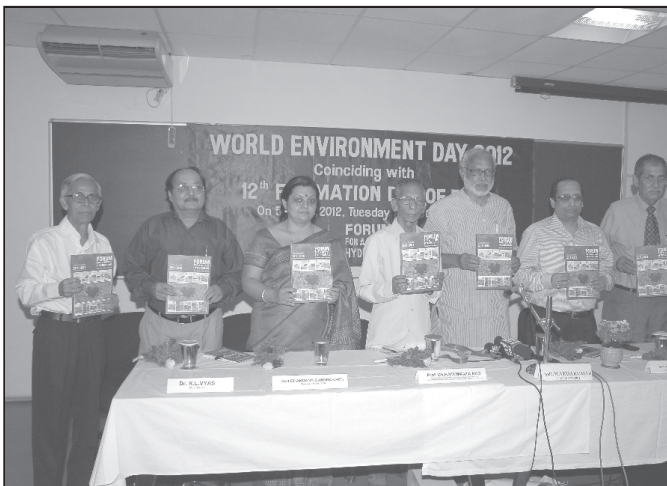
**SMT. CHANDANA CHAKRABARTI** desired World Environment Day to be a specific day for every individual and organization to think specifically about environment and its protection. But this has to be continued every day instead of confining it to 5<sup>th</sup> June. India was a great hotspot of rich bio-diversity. But all aspects of environment- air, water, soil- are being destroyed. Hyderabad was once a beautiful garden city with pure water. The situation has changed so much for the worse. Cancer & asthma cases have increased considerably. Lack of governance and institutional failure are there. But at individual level, there is inaction or irresponsible action. We as individuals should first start taking small steps for saving our environment.

**Dr.K.L.VYAS**, mentioned the importance of water by quoting an example that VII NizamMehboob Ali Khan used to carry Mir Alam Tank water for drinking purpose, whenever he used to visit other parts of India. When Aurangzeb laid siege to Golconda Fort, his SepoySalar wanted to stay back and not go to Delhi, because of cool & soothing air and greenery everywhere. It is every citizen’s responsibility to contribute his or her might to keep the air and water away from pollution. Two things: Having lot of knowledge is useful, but translating knowledge into action is more important. Second, one should follow the concept “City in the Forest - Forest in the City”. Water harvesting- rooftop water & surface water- is a must, but is not being practiced seriously. If we only plant, plant will not survive, something must be done to hold the water.



**SRI.M.VEDAKUMAR:** Once upon a time Hyderabad city was very beautiful with full of gardens, lakes; now it has become concrete jungle. During the period of AsafZahi's, drainage and sewerage system was very well planned. All these are now being neglected by the Govt. Drainage system in Hi-tech city is worst and drain water is being diverted into nearby lakes, causing pollution. Urgent measures are needed to salvage the damage. He dwelt on issues like vanishing lakes, polluted lakes, high level of pollution in villages downstream of Musi,

totally inadequate civic facilities even in notified bastis, regularization of illegal constructions, denotification of Heritage buildings, etc. and Forum's continuous dialogues with the Govt. on such issues. On Third Master Plan for the extended area, prepared by HMDA, Forum had given suggestions for changes. Most important, Master Plan does not have Regional Plans- this is a big question mark. Hyderabad should have an Urban Art Commission as in Delhi



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



Audience at the function



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