

FORUM FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

Nine years of Activism & Service

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ACTIVITIES :

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HERITAGE

GOLCONDA FORT - Fateh Darwaza – Illegal construction within the protected area

On 6th Feb, 2010 Times of India had reported how a nursing home is being constructed within 20 meters of Fateh Darwaza without any approval, in gross violation of the relevant Acts & Rules. Forum For A Better Hyderabad immediately took up the matter, on 9th Feb, 2010 supported by photographs, with ASI, Hyderabad and Director General, ASI, New Delhi, Hyderabad District Collector, Additional Commissioner, as also Chief City Planner, GHMC, and State Government Tourism and Culture Dept. Forum officials also met the ASI officials and the Collector. ASI Hyderabad has informed that they have lodged a complaint with Golconda Police Station on 6th Feb, 2010, have approached District Collector for initiating

immediate action for eviction, and have issued show cause notice on 8th Feb, 2010 to the person who has been constructing the Nursing Home. Collector, Hyderabad in letter dt. 16.2.10 has issued instruction to the Tahsildar, Golconda to evict the encroacher and remove the encroachments in the prohibited area. But construction has not stopped. The feasibility of filing a PIL is being examined.

GOLCONDA FORT - Proposed Golf Course

It was gathered that the Golf Club had hosted captain's dinner in which Government officials were invited, (presumably to create good will for the proposed Golf Course).

The case in the High Court has not come up for further hearing till date.

Moula Ali Kaman

It is the gateway to the famous Hazrat Ali Shrine. The gate is 200-250 years old Kutubshahi structure



The nursing home under construction at Fateh Darwaja



Mr.M.Vedakumar is talking to local populace

with great architectural value, but not yet notified as “Heritage”. It has developed cracks after being hit by a trailer in 2006. FBH along with other Civil Society Groups had represented to GHMC for immediate restoration. On a PIL filed by a local person, the A.P.High Court had given directions to GHMC for restoration of the gate. But nothing happened. Now the State Government has entrusted the responsibility to the State Archeology Department vide G.O. I Dt. 2.1.2010. FBH with other Civil Society Groups held a press meet at the Kaman Gate on 8th Jan, 2010 and demanded that GHMC in co-ordination with Archaeology Department take up restoration work without further delay. FBH President has also explained to the local populace about the need for restoration by regulating the traffic.

Old Jailkhana in Monda Market

As per newspaper reports, a portion of the 150 year old historical and heritage building has collapsed. FBH and INTACH had many times represented to GHMC and HMDA for proper upkeep of the old Jailkhana complex, but in vain. On 9th June, 2006 Forum jointly with Deloitte



Outside portion of Old Jailkhana in Monda Market



The collapsed portion inside Old Jailkhana

Support Services had attended to some small repairing and painting work. On 5th Jan 2010 FBH have written to GHMC, HMDA and INTACH for taking immediate steps to preserve this heritage building.

JAMIA Masjid, Gudimalkapur

This 400 year old mosque is a notified heritage building. Jam Singh Balaji Venkateshwara Temple, approximately 200-year old, is located just across the road. But a shopping complex is under



Construction of shopping complex near Jamia Masjid

construction in the extreme proximity of the mosque in violation of Regulation 13 of HUDA Zoning Regulations 1981 and also Building Regulations of GHMC. Forum have requested the Commissioner, GHMC, Chief City Planner and Addl. Commissioner (Heritage) of GHMC on 15th Feb, 2010 to stop /remove the construction.

Victoria Maternity Hospital

Alleging a dilapidated condition of the old hospital building and considering the urgent need to construct additional accommodation for the High Court, the State Government (MA & UD Department) have de-notified the old hospital building from 'Heritage' List vide G.O.Ms.No.47 dt. 4.2.2010, despite representations from the Forum to maintain its heritage status. The Forum is reviewing the matter.

Heritage Conservation-Suggestions

Heritage Buildings/precincts and Archaeological sites are fast disappearing in the city, due to non-implementation of the laws and rules passed by the State Government itself and due to non-allocation of required funds by the Government. On 22.1.2010 FBH have written to the Secretary-Tourism Dept., Secretary-MA & UD, Commissioner-HMDA & GHMC, requesting formulation of a comprehensive strategy for heritage conservation and offering some specific suggestions. A few of these suggestions are mentioned below: (Readers may refer to the Forum's website for full text of the suggestions and enclosures)

- Restoration of Heritage Conservation Committee (lying defunct since April, 2009 despite repeated requests from FBH).
- Allocation of a regular budget for maintenance of Government owned Heritage Buildings.

- Maintaining a panel of conservation architects/engineers. R & B Dept. on its own is not properly equipped to maintain or value heritage structures and recommend the desirability of their continuance or otherwise.
- Formulation of an incentive scheme for owners of privately owned heritage buildings, on the lines of the scheme submitted by INTACH Hyderabad in 2005.
- Annual survey of the condition of heritage buildings.
Provision of adequate security staff to the Department of Archaeology & Museums to enable them to prevent encroachment.

WATER BODIES

Proposed YSR Memorial near IMAX near Hussainsagar Lake

As per decision of the Group of Ministers of A.P.Government, HMDA have initiated steps for construction of a memorial on the land now used by Dr.Cars and IMAX parking. State Government is also filing a Special Leave Petition in Supreme Court for permission to develop the land and to construct the Memorial, in view of the Court's interim order in 2005 giving direction that no further construction shall be carried out except with leave obtained from the SC in, on, or around the lake.

OHRI's Hotel on Necklace Road – Permanent construction

Forum have not yet been able to elicit information from Tourism Department, who as per HMDA-BBPA, have given the land on Necklace Road to Jalvihar on 30 years' lease. Feasibility of filing a public interest litigation is being examined.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of Building Regulations— Role of GHMC

Forum's letter dt. 29.12.2009 to GHMC with copies to MA & UD Dept., to the Minister in-charge of MA & UD Dept., citing nature of rampant violation of building regulations and BPS, also suggesting some concrete measures to tackle the situation, has not evoked any response. Meanwhile, the collapse of a five storied building under construction on Narayanguda Main Road on 5.2.2010 causing death of 12 persons and severe injury to some others, has focussed attention to the functioning of GHMC including absence of any disaster management plan. On 6.2.2010, FBH have written to GHMC condemning the failure of the Corporation in preventing such a mishap and demanding compensation of Rs. 5 lacs to the family of each deceased and Rs.1 lac to each injured.

Apart from loss of lives, perhaps of the only earning members in the families, several more are running



The collapsed 5- storied building under construction on Narayanguda Main Road

the risk of permanent/partial disability. The matter has obviously a human rights angle. Forum have therefore submitted a detailed representation dt. 6.2.2010 to Justice Sri. B.Subhashan Reddy, Chairperson of A.P. State Human Rights Commission, seeking an investigation of the incident, as also the role of State Construction Labour Welfare Board. FBH have also requested that the investigations and action taken against delinquent officials and builder be monitored by SHRC. Forum's earlier letter dt. 29.12.2009 to GHMC and State Government has been furnished to SHRC.

Revised Draft Master Plan of HMDA for Core Area

FBH have been participating in the Circle-wise meetings. Based on the feedback, initial comments have been furnished to HMDA and MA & UD Dept.: Examples: * **Fundamental objection is that the plan of the so called core area has not been part of the Master Plan for the entire State and as part of Master Plan to develop anti-magnet towns and cities.** * **Land use Zoning Regulations are ambiguous.** * **Non-provision of parking requirements, Etc.**

ENVIRONMENT & POLLUTION

Under RTI Act, Forum have sought information from GHMC regarding extent of availability of toilet facilities in individual households and for construction workers. The main purpose is to sensitize GHMC on the issue, through initiatives of Civil Society Groups.

Concluding remarks: The Forum has many tasks to perform but few people to work. We request our readers to help the Forum either by joining or by working with us on issue basis.

The interested persons can contact Forum's office to get Membership Form.

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