



Er.VEDAKUMAR MANIKONDA

Urban and Regional Planner

Chairman, DECCAN HERITAGE ACADEMY TRUST

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EDUCATION

- Civil Engineering from Manipal Mysore University (B.E.,).
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning (M.U.R.P) from JNTU, Hyderabad.

Heritage related responsibilities:

- Presently as **Governing council member, INTACH** (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), New Delhi for 3 Terms 2016-2019, 2019-2022, 2022-25.
- Served as **Co-convenor of INTACH, AP State Chapter** from 2011-2014.
- **Chairman, Deccan Heritage Academy Trust (DHAT).**
- **Chairman, Forum for a Better Hyderabad (FBH).**
- **Member, ICOMOS**(International Council on Monuments and Sites).
- **Member, Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI)**
- **Member, Institution of Engineers, India (IEI), Telangana Chapter.**
- He is the **Visiting Professor** for Architecture, Heritage and environmental design of JBR Architecture College (**JBRAC**), Hyd.
- Also visits School of Planning & Architecture (**SPA**), **JNAFAU**, gave many lectures in colloquiums since 2 decades.
- *ICOMOS India nominated as **OBSERVER** from South Zone ICOMOS India during the visit of Mission expert Mr. Vasu Poshyanandana, Thailand of **Technical Evaluation Mission to the Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways - Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District, Telangana State** in Sept, 2019.*
- *He is **AMBASSADOR** for **GA2023** for the **ICOMOS 21st General Assembly and Scientific Symposium** being held at **Sidney, AUSTRALIA** in Aug-Sept, 2023, he was also the **AMBASSADOR** for **GA2020** scheduled in Australia in 2020.*

HERITAGE ACTIVITIES:

Er.Vedakumar Manikonda has been working since mid-1980s for the protection of **Tangible and Intangible Heritage**, Monuments, Rock Formations and Vernacular Architectures in state of **erstwhile AP** particularly in the metropolitan region of **Hyderabad and Telangana**. He brought to the notice of then the Government of Andhra Pradesh the need to protect and conserve the heritage in the state.

He travelled extensively through **Telangana** combined **erstwhile AP State** with intellectuals and like-minded individuals to study the status of cultural heritage to represent to the State and National Governments.

He also visited historic buildings in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana, including Archeological Sites including Buddhists and Shatavahana sites, Built Heritage, Natural Heritage, Intangible Heritage, Museums, Public Buildings, Monuments, *Gadis* and *Devdis*. He impressed upon state policy makers on the necessity of protecting, preserving, conserving and restoring our **cultural heritage**.

As Chairman, Forum for a Better Hyderabad has undertaken numerous activities pertaining to Heritage Conservation, Urban Planning and Sustainable Development & Management, Lakes & Water Bodies, Drinking Water Supply, Underground Drainage System, Parks & Open Spaces, Traffic and Transportation, Water & Air Pollution and Solid & Industrial Waste Management.

STUDY: He headed **Hyderabad Heritage Listing Project**, which is one of the biggest projects in the country initiated in 2005 by **HUDA & INTACH** Hyderabad Chapter and identified more than 1400 HBs in 625 sq.kms. in the GHMC area of Hyderabad till the Year 2010.

TREE PROTECTION: Since 14 years his relentless persuasion he as the Member of Tree Protection Committee of the erstwhile A.P & present Telangana Forest Department took steps and saved more than 10,000 from felling and got translocated about 10,000 trees. Some of the TREES are more than a 100- years-old.

MUSI RIVER CONSERVATION: In 2007, with an intention to bring old glory to **Musi River**, he had an opportunity to **Head the Musi Conservation Study Project** of **Forum for a Better Hyderabad**.

He presented a paper on “Hyderabad’s Water Issues and the Musi River - Need for Integrated Solutions” at the International Water Conference held at Humboldt University, Berlin, during 12-14 September 2007.

He also attended as a Delegate at the **World Road Congress held in 2007 in Paris, France**.

TOURED IN THIRST OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION:

As a heritage activist and educationist, he visited cities such as Rome, Paris, Berlin, Isfahan and Hamedan (Iran), Istanbul, Konya and Ankara (Turkey), Marrakesh, Morocco, Ouarzazate, a world heritage city by UNESCO, Beijing, world heritage city Chengde, China . He had carried out documentation and comparative studies of the architecture of those cities with that of Hyderabad. In 2004, he visited the **ICCROM (International Centre)** for the **Study of status of the World Heritage City and the Sites** on the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome in 2004 to interact with heritage conservation experts, and learn aspects that could be implemented across India.

CINEMA: He in association with renowned filmmaker **Sri. B Narsing Rao** worked as a Executive and Co-Producer for making award-winning documentaries like **“THE CITY” (Hyderabad) 1986**, **“MAA VOORU” (The Village) 1987**, **AKRUTI, 1991** and **Feature Films like “DAASI” (Bonded Women) 1988**, **“MATTI MANUSHULU”(Men of Clay)1990**.

He was a recipient of the National Award from the then President of India, Mr R Venkataraman in 1991 as a co-producer for the Telugu Feature Film **“MATTI MANUSHULU”(Men of Clay)** directed by renowned film maker Sri. B Narsing Rao.

TELANGANA RESOURCE CENTRE: He is the **Founder and Chairman of Telangana Resource Centre (TRC)** in 2010, s a platform to interact people on various subjects like Art, Culture, Heritage, Agriculture, Irrigation, Water, Electricity, Forests, Flora & Fauna Natural resources etc., by inviting eminent speakers in their respective fields and **succeeded in conducting “200 TRC-CHARCHAS”** and published various books on the above subjects.

DECCAN LAND: Er.Vedakumar Manikonda as a **Publisher and Chief Editor** started **“DECCAN LAND”**, a Telugu Monthly Magazine started in 2012, which covers Cultural Heritage, Environment, Urban and Regional Planning and Social Engineering issues. It has completed 129 months in May, 2023.