

FORUM FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

Nine years of Activism & Service

NEWS LETTER: 2

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(Private Circulation only)

Compiled by : R.K.Sinha

ACTIVITIES :

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2009

Aims & Objects:

- 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 came into existence in the year 2000 and became a registered Public Trust in 2003. It is functioning through various sub-committees and networking with concerned NGOs. Forum is bringing to light issues pertaining to Urban Planning, Heritage Conservation, Lakes & Water Bodies, Parks

Forests & Open Space, Traffic & Transportation, Water & Air Pollution, Solid & Industrial Waste Management. These and other such 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 has also filed Public Interest Litigations whenever called for.

HERITAGE

Goldconda Fort: (tentative World Heritage Site):
Nayaquilla – Unauthorized construction work by Hyderabad Golf Course Academy: Despite



the High Court Order for restoration of excavated “Kandak”, newspapers reported continuation of construction work including finding of

century old coins. Forum jointly with PUCAAR have strongly represented to the Superintendent, ASI, Hyderabad on 24th February, 2009 and waiting for ASI response. Copies have been sent to Director General, ASI, New Delhi; the Secretary, Department of Tourism, A.P.; Historical Society of Hyderabad. Earlier on 3rd February 2009, PUCAAR and FBH members discussed the matter with ASI officers.

INTACH: Monthly Meeting of INTACH Hyderabad Chapter mainly to discuss its Silver Jubilee Programmes was attended by Mr.Vedakumar.M, Mr.Shravan Kumar, Mr.Susheel Kumar and Smt.Anuradha.P.

HAMPI: International Conference on Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Hampi organized by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore on 16-18 January was attended by Mr.Vedakumar.

Master Plan: Forum have represented to HMDA and GHMC on 24th Feb, 2009 for associating the Forum and other concerned Civil Societies in the matter of drawing up of

Master Plans for HMDA area and erstwhile MCH area.

Tree Cutting: Forum have represented to the Chief Executive of Secunderabad Cantonment Board against proposed cutting of over 600 fully grown trees along the roads from Mahendra Hills to Rastrapati Nilayam and from Safilguda Rail Crossing to Secunderabad Club.

Forum had succeeded in getting the G.O. 539 dt. 11.12.2008 issued on the subject of tree



Tree cutting at Mettuguda



protection. Forum's Associates like COVA, UFERWAS, CHELIMI Foundation, WWF have decided to depute representatives to the Tree Committee's meetings.

Pedestrians 'Woes': Banners received from Right to Walk Foundation were signed by members and associates of the Forum.

Water Bodies: The water body adjoining Taj Banjara Hotel on Road No.1, Banjara Hills is being filled up. Forum is trying to get in touch with concerned authorities



Transport: Forum along with Train and Bus Travellers Association and MMTS Travellers Group have appealed - through the Press - to all MPs and politicians of A.P. that they should demand approval and allocation of funds from the Railway Ministry for implementation of long pending MMTS Phase II.

Election Watch: Forum members have signed petitions to political parties for including in their election manifesto, an Agenda for long overdue police reforms and electoral reforms.

They had also had attended one NGO's meeting on Election Watch on 7th January at NSS Hyderguda.

Climate Change: Mr.M.Vedakumar on behalf of FBH was actively associated with Hyderabad CMS Vatavaran's Seminar on Climate Change on 5th February and the Workshop on Green Film Making next day i.e., 6th Feb, 2009 at Bhavan's College, King Koti. Many Forum members had participated in the seminar.



Liaison with other NGOs: Many Forum members attended "Hum Sub Hindustani Trust's" Workshop on 8th January on "Role of Civil Society" in the context of recent terrorist activities.

ENCROACHMENT AT NAYAQUILLA

