

FORUM FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

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PRESS RELEASE

The contemplated project will run directly counter to the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee, particularly, those under 6.1 to 6.3. No objections were filed by the State Government to any of the SC –appointed Committee reports before the Supreme Court in its final hearing in January 2014.

Hyderabad is fast becoming one of the most polluted cities, and so far no concerted plan for diminishing pollution has been spoken of.

We are not against the development of high rise building, but we consider Hussain Sagar as inappropriate site for such purposes. Prima facie we are opposed to the intended project, as reported in newspapers, of construction of high rises in and around Hussain Sagar. Many, if not all, the locations for such projects fall within the Shikam land of the Lake. The high rises, and the consequential increase in activities, will further add to the increasing pollution, air, ground and noise, of the lake and its surrounding area which is like a precinct, by increasing traffic and parking problems; disposal of garbage, sewerage water, etc. The core value of Hussain Sagar lake will be further diminished.

We shall study the matter in depth as and when the contours of the project become clearer. The relative extracts from the SC-appointed Committee report is appended:

"Hussain Sagar Lake, which is at the center of the city and its central business district (CBD), should not be allowed to become a part of the CBD or used for allowing picnicking, entertainment and commerce in the name of creation of parks. The lake should not be allowed to be converted into any more parks, and in any case no buildings or structures should be allowed in the lake area as a whole. By keeping the lake and its immediate surroundings relatively free from air pollution by not commercializing the immediate areas around it, the city would get some relief from the high asthma and other air pollution-related health effects that most other big Indian cities have been suffering from.

The lake should not be allowed to be encroached or be polluted. Restoration of the lake should be done by removing encroachments, as suggested in Section 4.2. **In regard to encroachments prior to 2000**, other than road and railway line, cases in courts of law should be pursued, and wherever the land reverts to the lake, the water body should be enlarged to that extent. Regularization in favour of the poor, who may have squatted in colonies, may not be wise. Instead they should be re-located outside the lake area in such a manner that it does not affect their livelihood and social interactions. The FSI of the colonies that are encroachments into the lake should be frozen at 1:1, and buildings above two storeys (ground + one floor) should not be allowed under any circumstance."

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