

FORUM FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

Nine years of Activism & Service

NEWS LETTER: I

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(Private Circulation only)

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ACTIVITIES :

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2008

Heritage-Golconda Fort:



Full fledged work is being carried on at the site

Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) without any formal MOU between the State Government and the Archaeological Society of India (ASI), as required by the later, had been going ahead with excavation and filling of about 50 acres Golf Course within the “Naya Quila” which is a part of the historic Golconda Fort, a protected monument under the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1951. HGA had also undertaken massive filling up and earth work around the walls of Nayaquila; a part of the Moat was filled up after dismantling the wall, two old mosques are under threat and about 59 families with agricultural land in Naya Quila some of them have refused to part with their land. The Hyderabad office of the ASI was a helpless spectator.



Handing over a complaint to the cops at the site.
Dr. M. Mandal, Mohd. Afzal and Mr. Masood are present.

Activists under the aegis of People’s Union for Civic Action and Rights (PUCAAR) and FBH lodged complaints with Golconda Police Station, made representations to ASI, Hyderabad, and arranged Press Meet on 6th Nov, 2008 at Nayaquilla near the site of illegal construction activities. The leading newspapers – English, Telugu, Urdu- gave wide coverage. Finally, as there was no redress, a PIL was filed by PUCCAR and FBH. in A.P.High Court. On 2nd Dec, 2008 the High court gave clear instructions that the HGA will repair and bring back to original shape to the demolished / filled up Moat. The next hearing would be on 20th Jan, 2009



Press Meet addressed by Sri.M.Vedakumar President, Forum Mohd.Afzal, Dr.M.Mandal, Sri.R.K.Sinha, Mohd.Turab and farmers who own the land in Nayaquilla are present

The High Court had also made a general observation that no activity is to be taken up within 300 metres from the walls of Naya Quila until disposal of the PIL. On 3rd Dec, 2008, FBH have submitted a detailed representation to the Director General, ASI, New Delhi pointing out various unlawful activities of HGA and also the anomalies/ loopholes in the clauses of the draft MOU submitted by HGA.

[INTACH \(Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage\) Hyderabad Chapter:](#)

INTACH Monthly Meeting on 15.11.2008 and General Body Meeting on 12.12.2008 were attended by Mr.M.Vedakumar and Dr.M.Mandal.

[G.O.111, Dt. 8.3.96:](#)

Dr.S.Jeevananda Reddy, a noted environmentalist and Secretary of Forum for a Sustainable Development had filed a PIL in A.P. High Court praying for strict implementation of the existing Government Order regarding Osmansagar and Himayathsagar lakes. FBH also had earlier filed a WP in the High court. Dr.Reddy received a life threatening letter on 5th Nov, 2008 from unknown

persons asking him to withdraw the PIL. FBH along with other Civil Society Organisations (COVA, CHATRI, CFPAH, AV, MAUP, PUCAAR, U-FERWAS, FAPSCO, IFHD, HSH, IAAB, APSA, NAPM, GAMANA, R2WF, HH) have sent representation dt. 10.11.2008 to the Chief Minister with copies to the Home Minister, the Chief Secretary, the DGP, the Commissioner of Police.

[District Level Tree Protection Committee:](#)

The Forum's representations to the State Government in the context of unplanned tree cutting and the need to save trees in the Twin Cities and Rangareddy district have been accepted. The Government through the Department of Environment, Forest , Science & Technology (FOR.III) have issued G.O.Rt.No.539 dt. 11.12.2008 have formed the Committee for Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts with members from Forest Department, HUDA, DFO Hyderabad, GHMC, R&B and NGOs like FBH, WWF and U-FERWAS. Addl.Chief Conservator of Forests (ENV) will be the Chairman, DFO is the convener. Functions of the Committee and the guidelines have also been indicated, in which the suggestions of the FBH have been incorporated.

[Tree Cutting/Tree Plantation :](#)

- FBH have written to Annapurna Studios on 8th Dec, 2008 seeking information on whether they plan to have a new entertainment complex in its premises, for which many trees in a forest known as "Seven Acres" , in Village Shaikpet, Golconda Mandal , are to be cut down. FBH have also written to DFO (Hyderabad) and GHMC on 5.12.2008 with request to enquire



Civil Society Groups and officials from Forest Department and Field Engineers at the translocation site at Proddutur (R.R.Dist)

into the position and withhold permission/not to grant permission for cutting the trees, till the matter is fully examined.

- Mr.M.Vedakumar, Dr.M.Mandal along with other Civil Society Groups, Dr.Rao V.B.J Chelikani, Engineers Radial Road, DFO, Mr. M.J. Akbar and officials from Forest Department visited the tree cutting sites on proposed Radial Ring Road, accompanied by site Engineers, on 24.12.2008. The team had observed tree translocation process which was attended meticulously by the concerned department. The team had also visited Proddutur, the place where the trees being



The members of The Forum and Civil Society group in Persuasion to contain tree cutting

shifted from Radial Roads and have been are translocated.



The site at Proddutur, where the trees are translocated

- FBH along with Federation of Residential Welfare Associations (FRWA) had taken up with GHMC for providing tree guards to associated NGOs to facilitate tree plantation in various slums/localities. 1000 tree guards have been allocated in the first instance. Dr.Rao V.B.J Chelikani has taken up with GHMC for proper co-ordination between Horticulture officers and Resident Welfare Associations in the matter of tree plantation programmes of GHMC.

Environment:

The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) and HMDA jointly organized a programme in Dr.Marri Chenna Reddy Institute, Hyderabad on 10th December, 2008 on the subject of Environmental Building Regulations & Guidelines. Mr.M. Vedakumar had attended on behalf of FBH.

Public Transport:

FBH members attended a meeting on 23rd Nov, 2008 convened by Citizens for a Better Public

Transport in Hyderabad (CBPTH) to plan further campaigns against Metro Rail Project in view of important clauses of the Concession Agreement between State Government and the consortia of companies being against the long-term interests of the citizens and state.



Silent protest to scrap Metro Rail

CBPTH had also arranged a silent protest in front of Metro Rail Bhavan on 26th December, 2008. FBH members along with other NGOs had participated. A signature campaign “Scrap Metro-MAYTAS Agreement-Save Hyderabad” was also started.

Solid Waste Management:

As suggested by FBH, Addl. Commissioner, GHMC had visited Umanagar (Begumpet) area and held discussions with Residents Welfare Association on steps to be taken to make the area free of garbage bins. Based on the results, the scheme will be extended to many such areas.

Heritage:

Centre for Deccan Studies jointly with FBH had organized a Seminar on 7th Nov, 2008 as a part of

History of the City’s 100 years after the historic flood in the Musi river. Dr.Omar Khalidi had made a presentation on “The Architectural Heritage of Hyderabad”. A project has been undertaken on the occasion to review the city’s developments and problems in some critical areas.

World Heritage Week :

Department of State Archaeology has organised the World Heritage Week Celebrations-2008 at State Archaeological Museum, Public Gardens. on 19th Nov, 2008. Smt.D.Laxmi Parathasarathi, IAS., Principal Secretary, Tourism, Govt. of A.P., Sri.Jayesh Ranjan, MD, APTDCC, Dr. Channa Reddy, Director AP State Archaeology & Museums were present. Mr. M.Vedakumar had attended as a Guest and presented a PPT on heritage buildings.

Dr. V.K. Bawa and Mr.M.Vedakumar have attended the Second Biennial Conference of Indian Heritage Cities Network held in Hyderabad on 18th – 20th December, 2008, organised by UNESCO, New Delhi and Government of A.P.,



Sri. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, MD, APTDC is addressing on the occasion of world heritage week day.