

FORUM FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

Nine years of Activism & Service

NEWS LETTER : 4

MAY - JUNE- 2009

(Private Circulation only)

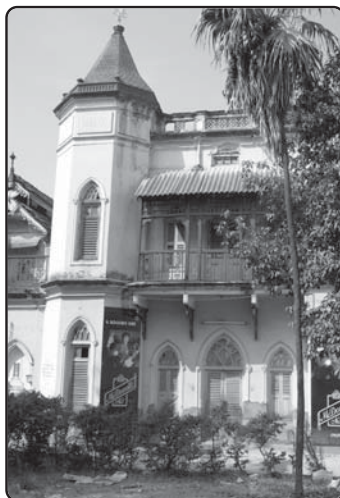
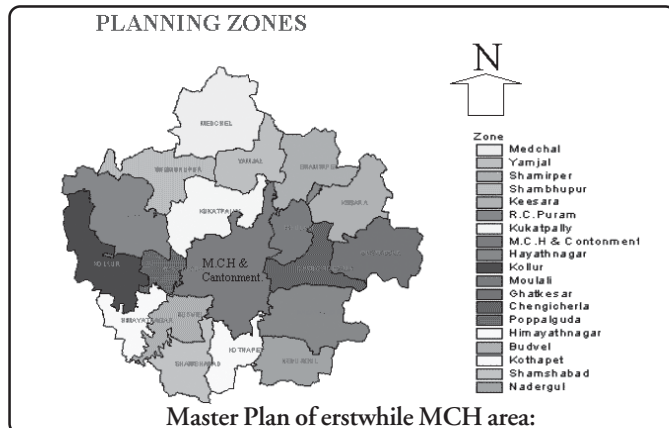
Compiled by r: R.K.Sinha

ACITIVITES:

MAY - JUNE- 2009

Urban : Master Plan of erstwhile MCH area:

HMDA has proposed revision/ extensive modification to the earlier notified Master Plan. The Draft Plan has been prepared by a private consultant. HMDA had convened a consultative meeting on 28th May'09 to seek views/suggestions Sarvasree M.Vedakumar, Dr.M.Mandal, C.Ramachandraiah, Sri.C.Sarvotham Rao and S.Jeevananada Reddy and also Members from ITPI and Builders Association, Architects, Planners, and faculty members of SPA JNTU, were present. Most of them suggested the Commissioner, HMDA to have a Two Day workshop on the Proposed Draft Master Plan before submitting to the Government for a wider technical inputs. They also wanted a copy of presentation on the Master Plan for detailed study.



Monty's Hotel

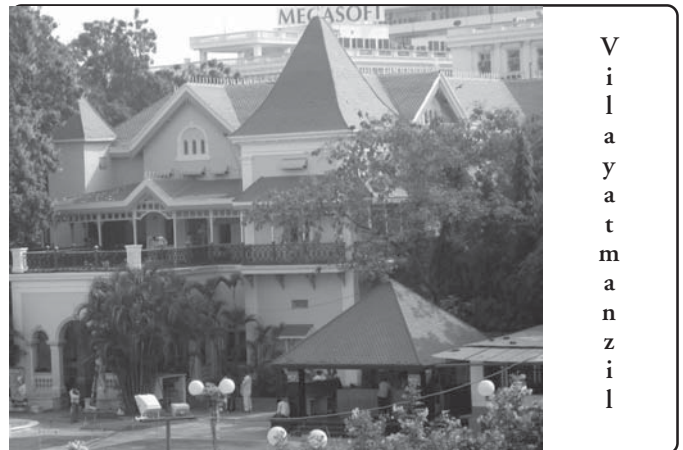
Heritage:

Delisting of MONTY'S Hotel, Park Lane, Secunderabad:

This Hotel is a heritage building Sl No. 65, code No 2.67, Grade II B, opened during 1880-1890 AD. On getting information about delisting by the MAUD, Forum filed a PIL in the AP High Court, who have granted a stay on the demolition until disposal of the case.

Demolition of a part of Vilayath Manzil Building:

It is a Heritage building SL No 76, code No 3.32, Grade –II B. It is partly under occupation of the Country Club. The other part of occupied as residence by the owners has been completely razed to the ground. Forum's letter dt 9th June'09 to Principal Secretary, MA & UD, Commissioner & Spl. Officer GHMC, Commissioner HMDA, seeking information on whether and which authorities had given permission to the demolition of a heritage building have not elicited any response so far. They have been reminded again on 20th June'09.



Golf course in Golconda Fort Area:

Despite an earlier order of A P High Court restraining the Golf Club and APTDCL from taking up any construction activity, new construction work preceded by blasting of walls had continued. On a further petition filed by the Forum and PUCCAR, a Division Bench comprising the Chief Justice and Justice Ramesh Ranganathan on 16th June directed the District Collector, Hyderabad to file a counter affidavit within two weeks. GHMC and HMWSSB had informed the Court that they were not taking up any work around the Fort. Forum had earlier written to the Commissioner & Spl. Officer, GHMC as also the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad on 26th & 30th May'09 regarding the illegal activity of digging the Kandak (moat) and Safil (wall) adjacent to Shah Hatan Talab, but to no effect. Representatives of FBH and PUCCAR had also a meeting with Commissioner of Police on 27th May'09.

Chief City Planner of GHMC in his letter Dt 27.1.09 had forwarded for Heritage Conservation Committee's consideration. Golf Club's



Google map of Golf course

proposal for construction of Club House with Cellar, Ground +2 Upper Floors to the existing Golf Club House in TS No 1. Qila Mohammed Nagar, Hyderabad. Forum have written to the Director General, ASI New Delhi on 11th June'09 requesting the latter to take immediate steps to cancel permission for additional construction if already granted by GHMC. GHMC has replied to the Forum's enquiry dt.12.6.09 on the subject under RTI Act that ASI had permitted it as it was located 103 metres from the rampart wall. This statement is not true according to our information, which shows the club to be within 100 metres.

A booklet furnishing all the facts regarding the Golf Course and the danger to Golconda Fort is being circulated to all the political parties and MLAs, requesting them to intervene and save the Golconda Fort. The booklet is being circulated also to newspapers, in particular to Urdu and Telugu newspapers.

Environment: Let's strive for a Clean and Blue MUSI:

Forum For A Better Hyderabad in association with A.P. Environment Cell (A.P. Forest Dept.,) jointly organized "Musi River Walk" on 2nd June, 2009 from Attapur Bridge upto the place where STP is proposed by involving Civil Society, Environmental Groups along with Government Departments HMWS& SB, Dist. Collector, GHMC, HMDA. It is reported that the participants have observed the violations happening in the Bed of the Musi and also on the Southern and Northern side of the Musi from Attapur to Mogalnala. The Project Official explained their inability in controlling encroachments. There was a good participation and also there was an exhibition of the Maps and Photographs arranged by the Forum, HMWS&SB and GHMC.



Mr. Sajjad Shahid, Core Committee Member, INTACH is observing the Exhibition



The Forum and Civil Society Group walk along the Musi from Attapur to the new STP point



Sri.P. Raghuvver IFS, CCF (Environment Cell), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh is addressing the participants.



The Forum and Civil Society Group is observing the Map

International Bio-Diversity Day:

Shri M.Vedakumar and Dr.Kodarkar Mohan had attended the meeting organized by A.P.P.C.B on 22nd May, 2009 at FAPCCI Auditorium. Chief Guest was Shri.P.Raghava Reddy, Vice Chancellor of ANGRAU. Key Note address was delivered by Sri.M.Vedakumar. Mrs.Shoba, Special Member Secretary spoke on the occasion.

Tree Cutting:

- Forum was invited to participate in the District Level Tree Protection Committee Meeting in Hyderabad on 30th June. The Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad circle was earlier suitably informed about threat to trees on account of widening of Kurnool, Kadapa stretch on NH-18 and Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway no 9 and some suggestion for future. Mr.Vedakumar and Dr.M.Mandal had attended the meeting.
- Engineer in Chief (R & B), National Highways Authority, District Forest Officer, GMR Infrastructure Ltd. and KMC group have been requested in Forum's letter of 8th June'09, to take steps to protect the trees as far as possible and to take up compensatory plantation programme, in the light of the Provisions of WALTA 2002. GMR infrastructure and KMC group have received contracts for widening of Hyderabad. Vijayawada National Highway No.9 and Kurnool, Kadapa stretch of NH 18 respectively.

- Forum has also represented on 8th June'09 to the Minister for Roads & Buildings, A P Govt. on the aforesaid two issues.
- Steps for conservation of trees along these routes were explained by the concerned authorities in the meeting. The deliberations of the District Level Tree Protection Committee Meeting will be advised in the next issue of the News letter.



The Forum and Civil Society Group inspection



The transplanted Trees

THE WORLD FORESTRY DAY

The concept of having a World Forestry Day originated at the 23rd General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture in 1971. Later that year, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization gave support to the idea of believing that the event would contribute a great deal to public awareness on the importance of forests and agreed that it should be observed every year around the world on March 21st. The day is chosen to disseminate information on the importance of forestry, its protection, production and use for recreation.

Source: The Hindu, March 22, 2009.

EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIONS

Since 1974, the major environmental enactments which have been passed by the Parliament are as follow:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:(6 of 1974)

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- The Air ((Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:(14 of 1981)
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:(29 of 1986)
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991:(6 of 1991)
- The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995:(27 of 1995)
- The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997(22 of 1997)
- The Biological Diversity Act,2002
- The Indian Forest Act, 1927
- The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- The National Forest Policy, 1988

In addition to these Acts, several Rules have also been incorporated under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Acts and Rules are important guidelines to sort out the environmental problems. Some of the major Rules notified are

- The Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-Organism
- Genetically Engineered or Cells Rules, 1989
- The Hazardous Wastes(Management and Handling) Rules, 1989
- The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules,1989
- The Chemical Accidents(Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules ,1996
- The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules,1998
- The Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999
- The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling)Rules,2000
- The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules,2000
- The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules,2000
- The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001

Source: EPTRI-ENVIS Newsletter April-June, 2009

Aims & Objects:

The FOURM came into existence in the year 2000 and became a registered Public Trust in 2003. It is functioning through various sub-committees and net-working 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 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 a Public Interest Litigations whenever called for.

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.

9th Formation Day of the Forum:

This was celebrated on 5th June, 2009 in the Conference Hall of ASCI, Hyderabad coinciding with World Environment Day. Sri.J.M.Lyngdoh, Former Chief Election Commissioner was the Chief Guest. Sri.J.M.Lyngdoh has joined us as an Adviser. , Sri.K.S.Jawahar Reddy, Commissioner, HMDA released the Annual Number of Forum. Sri.K.Madhusudan Rao-Member Secretary, APPCB, Smt.C.S.Ramakshmi, Addl. Forest Conservator, Smt.Sheela Prasad, Professor in Central University, Hyderabad also graced the occasion and spoke on issues relating to environment, pollution, development of greenery, ecological audit etc., Besides members and associates of the Forum, many others from different walks of life were present.



Release of Annual Number by Dr. K.S. Jawahar Reddy (3rd from left) Sri O.M. Debara, Smt.Sheela Prasad, Sri.J.M.Lyngdoh, Sri.K.Madhusudan Rao, Sri. M. Vedakumar, Sri .R.K. Sinha and Smt. Sanghamitra Malik



Sri.J.M.Lyngdoh is addressing the invitees



Dr. K.S. Jawahar Reddy is receiving a curry leaf plant from Sri. R.K. Sinha



The invitees in interaction

The Annual Number of FBH can be viewed in the website of FBH: hyderabadgreens.org

Edited, printed and published by M.Vedakumar, President, Forum For A Better Hyderabad, 3-6-712/2, Street No. 11, Himayathnagar, Hyderabad-500 029.

Tel.No. 040-27636214 ; Fax: 0-40-27635644 E-mail: betterhyd@yahoo.co.in Website: www.hyderabadgreens.org