

INSTALLATION OF BUDDHA STATUE - MONUMENT OF ENGINEERING & CULTURE

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SUMMARY

The magnificent statue of Lord Buddha installed on Gibraltar Rock in Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad City of India is an engineering marvel. It attracts not only attention of international tourists, but has become great symbol of Buddhism culture and faith born in India. The project involving stages of sculpting the statue, its transportation to the city, then to the pedestal in the lake had to face challenging situations which are brought out in the paper. While transporting it in the lake, there was mishap drowning the statue to the lake bed. Salvaging the statue and its subsequent erection on the pedestal added to the complexity of engineering operations and are covered in the article.

Keywords: *Barge, Pontoons, Moon-Pool, Ballasting, Cables, Lifting.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The name of ‘Gautam Buddha’ is one of the foremost in the Indian religious leaders who preached principles of non-violence to the world. It was therefore appropriate to have a statue of Lord Buddha in the city of Hyderabad (Fig.1) which is a confluence of various cultures in India. The Government of Andhra Pradesh therefore launched ‘Buddha Purnima Project’ under which a majestic statue of Lord Buddha was planned to be erected in centrally situated Lake in the city. The outcrop of rock popping up in the lake and popularly known as ‘Gibraltar Rock’ was developed into a pedestal to locate the statue. (Fig.2).



Fig.1. Location of Hyderabad city.



Fig.2. Lake and the Island.