



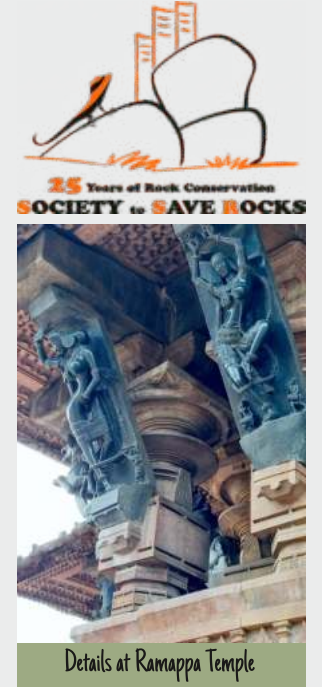
SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

Editors: Frauke Quader & Padmini B. Patell

www.saverocks.org



Rock Walkers at Madikonda



Details at Ramappa Temple

Excursion to Warangal ~ By Farida Sultana

The Rock Excursion to the Thousand Pillar Temple, Pandavula Gutta and Ramappa Temple was memorable for many reasons! From an event that stood every chance of getting canceled due to bad weather, it turned out to be an event where everything worked out wonderfully in our favour.

First stop: The rock formations at Madikonda, especially the two columns of rocks, formed with rocks stacked one on top of another, makes one wonder how they reached there, and stayed there for so many years!

Prof. Pandu Ranga Rao, of REC Warangal, captivated us with his archeological expertise, when he very patiently, shared the details of the restoration of the Thousand Pillar Temple and its Mandapam, the sand box technology, the mortar mix, the sourcing of the material, the dismantling of the Mandapam and putting it back together. He was very accommodative of us, when answering our questions on the historical, cultural and geological aspects of Warangal and its heritage structures.

The Pandavula Gutta, beautiful rock formations spread over a vast area, are a rock climber's / trekker's delight. We lost track of time there, while scrambling, chimneying & caving. We were fascinated to see how the rocks took curious shapes. The ancient wall paintings under an overhang, though, were faded and difficult to decipher.

Our next destination was the Ramappa Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was no wonder that this temple received this honour for its engineering marvels. Mr. Vijay, the guide, led us around the temple and explained interesting facts about the design and architecture of the temple. The intricately carved pillars, ceiling and the outer walls of the temple, the light reflection from the stone pillars, everything about the temple left us mesmerized and speechless! We had lunch by the Ramappa Lake, and started back to Hyderabad, enriched by the experience and knowledge gained over the weekend.



Rock Formations at Pandavulagutta

The Society is grateful to Prof Panduranga Rao, the Collectorate of Bhupalpally and Mulugu. Addl. Collector of Mulugu, Smt. Ramadevi Garu who accompanied the members of the Society to the Ramappa Temple. The guide Vijay Garu, Mr. Manohar, MD TSTDC and Ms. Manjula, Ramappa Mandal Officer for the gracious hospitality extended to the Society. Kudoos to our Treasurer G.R.B.Pradeep for organising excellent accommodation at Khazipet.

Wishing all our readers a Happy New Year



Annual General Body Meeting

The 25th Annual General Body Meeting of the Society was held on November 8th 2021 at the Jubilee Hills International Centre (Jubilee Hills Club). It was commenced with cake cutting by our newly co-opted President Prof. Fatima Alikhan and was well attended by Members who were joyous to be meeting in person.

Mr B.P. Acharya IAS, Life Member was co-opted as a Committee Member. Both Members were very positive and enthused us with their ideas and support.

Professor Fatima Alikhan, is a retired Professor of Geography from Osmania University and a Life Member of the Society. She was actively involved with our Scientific Survey proposal and is very keen to create Rock Awareness in schools and colleges together with field visits to cultivate a continuing interest in the natural environment.

MANUU honoured for preserving rocks

CLIPPING FROM TELANGANA TODAY NEWSPAPER. HYD TODAY EDITION. PAGE 3 OF 6TH DECEMBER 2021.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) was recently awarded a plaque by the Society to Save Rocks, Hyderabad, for planning the development of the campus with the protection of many ancient granite formations in mind and for taking special care of the 'Pathar Dil' heritage rock by highlighting its stunning form through night-time illumination.

MANUU vice chancellor, Professor Syed Ainul Hasan received the award which was presented by professor Fatima Ali Khan, president and Frauke Quader, secretary, Society to Save Rocks.

Speaking on the occasion, professor Ainul Hassan



lauded the efforts of the Society to conserve heritage rock formations in and around Hyderabad and to

create awareness about it among the public. He also expressed interest to host a photo exhibition and work-

shop by the Society in collaboration with the HKS Centre for Deccan Studies of the MANUU.

The Munsif, Siasat, Alhubab (Delhi) and United News India Newspaper featured the presentation.

Georges Moucheron, Life Member, Belgium, writes: "I would like to express my warmest congratulations to our new President, Professor Fatima Alikhan, visibly the right person at the right place. Even if I'm living far away from Hyderabad, I'm convinced that your obstinate work to save the rocks is also mine. This planet is our common planet. And we don't have any alternative. Best regards to everyone and especially to our indefatigable Secretary!"

Plaque of Appreciation to the L.V.Prasad Eye Institute >>



On 3rd Dec Prof. Ismat Mehdi, Founding Life Member along with Committee Members Sangeeta Varma and Padmini Patell presented the Plaque of Appreciation to the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute for their effort to conserve the million year old rocks in the reception area of the Hospital. The plaque was received by Dr G.N.Rao, Dr Prashant Garg and Dr D. Balasubramanian.

Run for Rocks

As for a few years now, the early-morning Run for Rocks was organized in cooperation with the Hyderabad Runners on October 31st from Fakhrudgingutta to Ghar-e-Mubarak (behind Taramati Baradari) and back. 50 Runners took part in the 6 k and 21 k runs, and helped create awareness for the protection of rocks in Hyderabad. A generous breakfast was arranged and sponsored by our member Neha Chopra.



Awareness Programs

Our member Uma Maheshwari gave a talk at the new FCRI- Forest College and Research Institute, Mulugu on November 16th. In attendance were 70-80 students of the undergraduate program and staff. Ms. Priyanka Varghese, Dean, IFS was also present for a few minutes. Uma mentioned how the spectacular rocks were formed. The students showed much interest about opportunities to use the rocks for adventure activities such as Rock climbing, Rappelling, Bouldering, etc. They were eager to take part in future Society activities.

On November 16th 2021, our Committee Member Amardeep Singh along with 2 trained volunteers (From GITAM University & Osmania University) presented the orientation on saving the natural rock formations and the biodiversity on our Deccan Plateau, while also highlighting its importance in our environment to children of Udbhav School, Fatehnagar Slum and 2 more schools. The children responded enthusiastically.



Urban Trails (called Metropolitan Trails in Hyderabad) – an initiative by the French Group “Bruit du Frigo”



Bruit du Frigo wants to bring to metropolitan citizen a new experience of the city they live in. The group started 20 years ago in Bordeaux, their home town, and expanded to other European cities: Paris, London, Istanbul and want to expand to Asian cities now. First: Hyderabad! Four days of intense walking (between 10 and 15 km per day) showed a group of keen explorers how rewarding a trip to unknown territories of Hyderabad can be. Thank you Alice Guillermier, Hocine, Ivan and Arnaud for this eye opener and all your work for it, especially also the concluding exhibition at the Alliance Francaise that summed up the trails, the many photos taken and the philosophy behind it.



Ms Karin Stoll
German Consul General
& her colleagues
from Delhi and Chennai

“I had the great pleasure of doing a rock walk guided by Frauke Quader and Dr. Sathya Prakash. What an impressive sight and a great way to start a Sunday morning: between stones that have seen history and above a city, that combines tradition and innovation. I wish the Society to Save Rocks all the best for their important endeavor and hope that coming generations will have the chance to spend their mornings amongst the rocks.” Dr Katharina Goergen, Head Max Muller Bhavan, Chennai.

UPCOMING PROGRAMME DETAILS TO BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE

The finale to our Silver Jubilee celebrations on our Foundation Day, 26th Jan 2022.
The Society's participation in the virtual Hyderabad Literary Festival scheduled from 28th to 30th of January 2022.
Hyderabad Rockathon 2022 scheduled for February.

Rock Walks in January - February - March 2022

Day and Date	Place	Time and Meeting Point
Sunday, Jan 16, 2022	Forenoon: Yedupalaya Dam Temple & Rocks Afternoon: 'Medak Cathedral and Medak Fort'	7:00 a.m. Next to Hindu Office, Somajiguda. Note: Please bring lunch. Return about 08:00 p.m. Register by 12th Jan 2022 with G.R.B Pradeep* and pay Rs 500/- online to Society to Save Rocks, Bank of Baroda, Jubilee Hills Branch, A/C 18090100003047 IFSC: BARBOJUBILE (fifth character is a zero), with your name.
Sunday, Feb 20, 2022	Bodugutta Off Ramoji Film City	7:00 a.m. Next to KFC, LB Nagar, Cross Roads 8:00 a.m. Opposite Ramoji Film City Note: Please bring lunch. Return about 02:00 p.m
Sunday, Mar 20, 2022	Moulana Azad National Urdu University	7:30 a.m. Entrance Gate of Univeristy, Gachibowli (Behind Telecom Nagar)

Rock Walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are announced in the press and social media and on our website.

Everybody is welcome. Walking shoes and long pants should be worn.

*Please enroll with G.R.B. Pradeep at 9866752114. (Participants are expected to follow adequate Covid 19 protocol)

Welcome to our New Members

Shaad Mehdi, Life	Akhilesh Washikar, Active	Peter de Padua, Active	N. Gayathri, Student
Rajesh Sharma and Sunita, Life Couple	Zainab Alikhan, Life, and	Kobita Das Kolli, Life	

Managing Committee

President:	Prof. Fatima Alikhan	9849 362 944	Padmini B. Patell	9912865299
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha	9849 655 363	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	8106072537
Secretary:	Frauke Quader	9849 936 248	Dr. E. Sathya Prakash	9440057846
Joint Secretary:	Sangeeta Varma	9849 044 624	Amardeep Singh	9246150207
Treasurer:	G.R.B. Pradeep	9866 752 114	Sajid Mehmood	9810528070
			B.P. Acharya, IAS(Retd)	--

Membership Fee

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription
Active (Single)	₹ 100.00	₹ 500.00
Active (Couple)	₹ 100.00	₹ 600.00
Student (Under 18 Years)	₹ 100.00	₹ 200.00
Life (Single)	₹ 3000.00	Active and Student Members are requested to pay their Subscription Fees and Arrears. Please contact the Office at 9849936248 for details of your dues.
Life (Couple)	₹ 5000.00	
Institution	₹ 10000.00	
Corporate	₹ 50000.00	

To initiate widening the reach of the Society, the following Sub Committees have been formed.

Kindly WhatsApp your willingness to volunteer:

1. Rock Walks and Recces
2. Awareness programmes - Educational and other Institutions
3. PR and Publicity
4. Geo Heritage and Scientific Survey
5. Government Outreach