

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

Quarterly Newsletter

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Painting by Nishta Shah, 11 years, at the Children's Painting Competition held by the Society at the Rock Park, Methodist Colony, Begumpet, on 28 May 2022

Annual General Body Meeting

The Election to the Managing Committee was held at the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society on 27 July 2022. The Committee Members elected are:

President	Prof. Fatima Alikhan
Vice President	Sangeeta Varma
Secretary	Frauke Quader
Joint Secretary	Padmini B Patell
Treasurer	G.R.B. Pradeep
	Dr. Sudheer Bhan
Members	Sajid Mahmood
	Amita Talwar
	Ravi Kumar Vundavalli



We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of our outgoing Committee Members Aparajita Sinha, Mr. B.P. Acharya, Dr. E. Sathya Prakash and Amardeep Singh.

Awareness Webinar

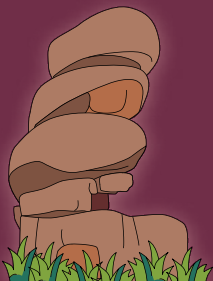
Sangeeta Varma addressed the students of Indian Universities and Exeter University UK at the Global Leaders webinar and spoke about rock preservation and the role of the Society on 20 July 2022. The Webinar was organized by a Kolkata based group called "Immersive Trails".

Appreciation of the preservation of rock formations

On 6 Aug 2022, a plaque in appreciation of the preservation of rock formations in GHMC parks in Jubilee Hills and other areas of Hyderabad was handed over by Committee Members of the Society to the Zonal Commissioner GHMC, J. Shankaraiah, and officials from the Biodiversity Wing of GHMC. The venue was a beautiful small rock park in Road No. 72, Prashansan Nagar.



International Geodiversity Day



International Geodiversity Day

Society to Save Rocks celebrates UNESCO'S 1st International Geodiversity Day with a talk by Geologist **Ravi Kumar Vundavalli** followed by the screening of the documentary film '**Hyderabad - City of Rocks**' and a Q & A session.

On Saturday 15th October 2022, 5:30p.m. to 7p.m., at Lamakaan, Banjara Hills.

School Programmes

After a long pause, School Programmes were taken up once again by Uma Maheshwari and team. They started with a Rock Walk for the students of Sloka School on 17 Sep 2022. Rock Walks, lectures and film screenings can be arranged at schools and colleges on request.



Hyderabad Rockathon 2022

A day-long fun and adventure event

**On Sunday 27th November 2022, 7a.m. - 4.30p.m., at
Ghaar-e-Mubarak, behind Taramati Baradari.**

9th Edition

Rocky activities for all ages:

- **Rapelling**
- **Ziplining**
- **Bouldering**
- **Rock Walks**
- **Treasure Hunt**
- **Rock Quiz**
- **Snake Demo & more**



Updates

Moula Ali Road Construction

During a site visit to the ongoing road construction at Moula Ali on 15 Sep 2022 by our Architect Shankar Narayan, Frauke Quader and young architects from Urban Labs together with the EE of GHMC B. Gopal (in charge of the construction) and his team, the continuation of the road was discussed. After the high retaining walls which are disturbing the view of the majestic rock dome so badly, are taken as a done deed, it was assured that the remaining road will now follow the profile of the slope till the top where a parking space will come up near the existing transmission tower. This part of the road will have small parapet walls, though the excavation for their foundations will still have to be dug 1 m into the solid rock.



Excavation on the rock slope for wall construction

Fakhruddingutta (Khajaguda Rocks)

While we are still waiting for the land Survey of Fakhruddingutta to be carried out by the authorities so that fencing can be done, we found out during a visit to the hill on 19 Aug 2022, with Ritwik Reddy and Chanakya from the Hyderabad Adventure Club (who both are very efficiently tracking the government follow-up) that the alignment of the road being constructed at the back of the hill has indeed been shifted away from the rocky foot hills, as was one of our demands. The Engineer in charge Mr. Murli Krishna from the Road Development Corp. and Contractor Mr. Madhu explained the new lay-out and assured us that no more rocks will be cut in the hill. On the western side, though, a big swathe of flat land falling in the protected survey nos. is being readied for development. Though construction in the area has been explicitly prohibited by the latest court order, the temple area is also building up at a fast pace.

"Other Kohinoors - The Rocks of Hyderabad" Screening

Filmmakers Uma Magal and Mahnoor Yar Khan completed their elaborate cinematic work "Other Kohinoors - The Rocks of Hyderabad" (45 min.) After much research into the topic of the astounding rocky landscape of our city being a vibrant part of the local culture, they created a beautiful pictorial history of rocks in painting, poetry, music, language and even food of the Deccan.

With lively musical accompaniment, the film is captivating and inspiring, despite the underlying sad note of the rampant destruction of our rocky environment. The film was launched at Prasad's Imax Auditorium on 04 September 2022 to a dense crowd of enthusiastic Hyderabadis and visitors. The film is being screened on request at schools and colleges.

For queries regarding special screenings,
please contact, Mahnoor Yar Khan 9959222159



Enthusiastic crowd at launch of "Other Kohinoors"

Schedule of Rock Walks



**16 OCT
SUN**

Rocks near Peerancheru (see also below*)

7:00 a.m. / L&T PBEL City
apartments entrance gate,
Behind TS Police Academy,
Bandlaguda Jagir

**20 NOV
SUN**

Antharaganga in Kawadipally

7:30 a.m. / Opposite Ramoji Film
City, Vijayawada Highway

**18 DEC
SUN**

Kesaragutta in Keesara

7:30 a.m. / Opp. Sanghi College,
Next to St. Ann's School,
Tarnaka

*Banyans of Chevella

The October rock walk will be followed by a short walk through the banyans to support "Save the Banyans of Chevella" and to promote a holistic understanding of Geodiversity. Please proceed on the Chevella Road and assemble at the Prayer Mountain, Kanakamamidi by 9.30a.m. on 16 Oct



Scientific Survey of Rock Areas

A meeting with our geologist and geographer members has taken place to get the Scientific Survey of Rock Areas back on track. They will soon fan out for their first assessment of rock areas in and around Hyderabad.

Become Our Member

CLASS

Active (Single)
Active (Couple)
Student (Under 18 Years)
Life (Single)
Life (Couple)
Institution
Corporate

ADMISSION

₹ 100.00
₹ 100.00
₹ 100.00
₹ 3000.00
₹ 5000.00
₹ 10000.00
₹ 50000.00

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

₹ 500.00
₹ 600.00
₹ 200.00
NA
NA
NA
NA

We Welcome our New Members:

Sreecharan G., Life (single)

Ravi Sambari, Life (single)

S.S. Prasad, Life (single)

E.V.R. Parthasaradhi, Life (single)

Ramya Nadella, Life (single)

T. Srinivasa Rao, Life (single)

P.H. Bhavana, Active

Kunal Gadhalay, Active

Obituary

Radhika Rajamani, daughter of late R. Rajamani IAS, and his late wife Prema, passed away on 24 Aug 2022. As her parents, she had been a long-time Life Member of our Society and was devoted to the cause of preservation of the beautiful rocks of Hyderabad and the Deccan. Our deep-felt condolences go to the Rajamani family.

Dr. Abhijit Debnath studied at Hyderabad Central University and later became Assistant Professor at VIT University. He organized many Rock Walks for us in the campus of HCU and helped with other programmes by recruiting volunteers from the student community. He initiated a Sunday Club at HCU which went on rock excursions every week and had explored every corner of the campus. He suddenly passed away on 17 Aug 2022. We will dearly miss his cheerful presence and enthusiasm!

