

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

1236, Road No.60, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500 033.

Tel. No. : +91-40-23552923

e-mail: frauke@saverocks.org

www.saverocks.org

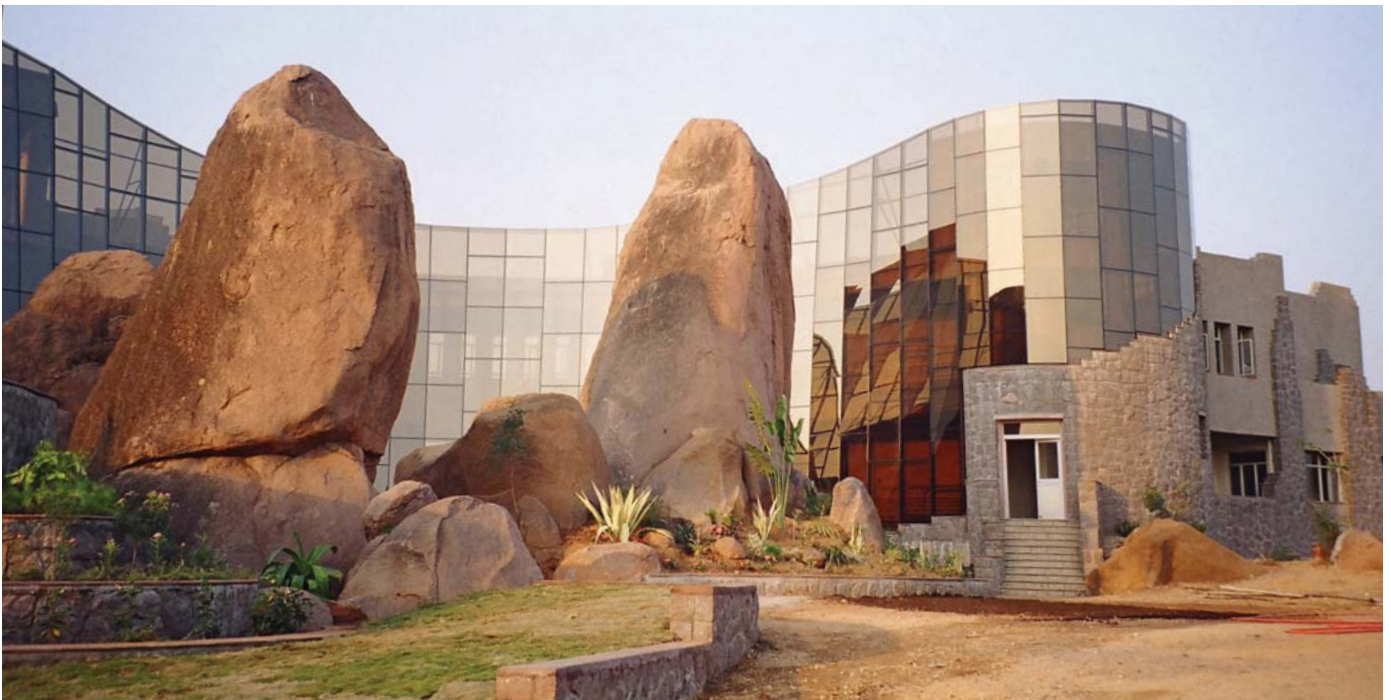
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NEWSLETTER

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Editors : Frauke Quader, Padmini B Patell

PROTECT and INTEGRATE - OUR FOCUS in the NEW YEAR



LABORATORY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES (LaCONES) – A FINE EXAMPLE OF INTEGRATING ROCKS INTO ARCHITECTURE

LaCONES, set up by the Government of India, constitutes Annexe I of CCMB at Attapur, Hyderabad. It is a unique laboratory for the conservation of endangered species through research on reproductive biology and in-vitro fertilization. The design of the campus responds to the attitude of respecting and restoring Nature and its biodiversity.

Says Shirish R. Beri, Architect, LaCONES: “On my very first visit to the site, the rocks beckoned me to dialogue with them. I requested my clients to acquire more land around the rocks to make them an integral part of the design. Making the rocks the focal point was my way of paying homage to the million year old Natural Heritage.”

The rocks, greens, the people and the building fuse into one beautiful inseparable spatial relationship that has won the Arcasia gold medal 2009-2010 for the best designed public-institutional building in Asia, Cityscape + Architectural review Award 2006 at Dubai –in the first three from 260 worldwide entries, amongst others.

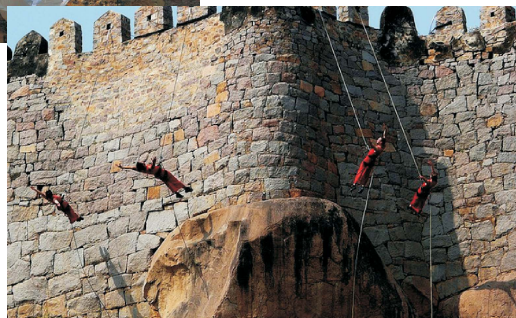
GOLCONDA and the ROCKS come alive

For just one sunny afternoon the Golconda Fort was reverberating with close to 4000 people all at once who watched in awe as Project Bandaloop, a dance company from San Francisco performed on rock and Fort wall. With dancers in vertical suspension making flowing aerial movements with the ease of being on a flat stage Golconda provided the ideal setting. An engrossing performance that did equal justice to the manmade Fort and the million year old Deccan rocks. The Indian touch was given by students of Ananda Shankar Jayant's Shankarananda Kalakshetra with a short Bharatanatyam prelude.

Project Bandaloop was brought to the city by The U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad in cooperation with the A.P. Department of Tourism & Culture to honor the work of the Society to Save Rocks. We appreciate the assistance provided by our members and student volunteers from University of Hyderabad, National Institute of Tourism & Hospitality Management and United World.



Photos by
Sangeeta Varma

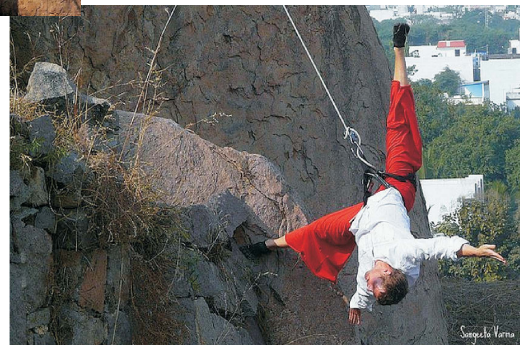


A MOMENT OF PERSPECTIVE

by Mark Stuver, performer with Project Bandaloop

I hung from the southeastern corner of an inner wall of the Golconda Fort preparing for the late November performances of Project Bandaloop. Along the built, vertical stone contours to the north were five fellow dancers listening to the calls from our director and seeing the riggers' head popping up from time to time to make sure we were safe on our dance lines. Looking to the horizon, Hyderabad stretched into the distance, its hills crowned with rocks just like the ones that fortified Golconda below us. It was a moment of unique perspective, myself a guest to India, performing on a structure of cultural and environmental significance.

The American Center, New Delhi, and the US Consulate General in Hyderabad brought us here. The Society to Save Rocks helped us find the perfect place to perform, and helped us learn more about it. I thought of what I had heard thus far of Golconda's location, centered between rich diamond mines on the Deccan Plateau, on rocks 2500 million years old. It is a place whose story can be told through the abundance and loss of natural resources, a place rich in history and experiencing rapid expansion. The Society informed us of the many outcroppings of the unique rocks of the Deccan, and they told us of the destruction of many of these outcroppings to make way for urban growth and for building materials.



I heard the story of a man from Hyderabad who had traveled far from home for school but had since returned. He said, when he first left and found himself in a new country, he wondered where the rocks had gone. It was strange and lonely for him to not have the rocks, these hands of the earth, reaching out to greet him as he made his way across the foreign landscape. Only when he returned home to Hyderabad did he realize how unique the rocks here are, only then did he realize he had taken them for granted.

*As I looked out from my perch on the Golconda Fort at this truly rare landscape, I felt sadness thinking that the rocks might be diminished. In the bustle and growth, how could everyone have the appreciation of a newcomer, or of the man who left only to be lonely for what before seemed unimportant ? How can we quantify a natural resource of the imagination? That, more than anything else, is what I believe the Rocks of the Deccan Plateau to be. They are reminders of the Earth below our feet. Part of their home, the Rocks greet the people of Hyderabad and the greater Deccan Plateau everyday. They are part of what makes this place, and being from this place, singular and distinctive. Without them, some of the character of the land and the resource of its people would be lost. Feeling the honor and privilege of visiting and dancing in this majestic place for the people that live here, I hoped for everyone a moment of perspective.... **I hoped for a moment when the simple significance of the Rocks that they pass everyday could be seen and felt in a new perspective.***

**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY NEW YEAR –
LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR ROCK SOLID COMMITMENT
AND INVOLVEMENT !!!**



beautiful sentinel that greeted every motorist on the busy new thoroughfare. In fact, the then HUDA Vice-Chairman had written to the ORR Authorities several years back, with regard to this special rock, and requested minor correction of alignment in the case of such great rock formations being near the Ring Road. What was the need to do away with a beautiful piece of nature for a few metres of service road? This is what is indeed called mindless destruction!!

MINDLESS DESTRUCTION - EXACTLY WHAT WE CANNOT AFFORD

A rock standing high above the Outer Ring Road just out of Gachibowli, has been blasted and destroyed. The rock was called Brahma for its four faces (i.e. four top boulders). It would have taken only a small adjustment of the service road (not even the main road) to save this



Brahma Rock on Outer Ring Road - Destroyed

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

A power point presentation was given to the Project Bandalooop team to make them aware of our rock heritage and the Society's role.

The Society put up a stall at the Sloka School's Annual Mela. Literature was distributed and some parents and students enthused to take up our rock cause !

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Vedant Kidambi, an active member of the Society, in a road accident on 23rd October 2010. As was typical of his adventurous spirit, he was on an outing with a motorcycle club to Nagarjuna Sagar at the time. Vedant had been active in the Society for about a year, and was a member of the Monitoring Group for Durgam Cheruvu. He was a Master's student at IIT Hyderabad, and was active and liked in many circles for his enthusiasm and warm nature. His parents, N. Uday Kumar (architect) and Girija (educator), are also members of the Society. We extend our deepest condolences to them on their loss.

ROCK WALKS IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2011

Date :

Place :

Time / Meeting Point:

Sunday January, 16th	Moulali	2.30 p.m. Opp. St. Ann's High School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad
Sunday February, 20th	Rachakonda (near Ibrahimpatnam)	10.00 a.m. at Gun Park Opp. Public Gardens Main Gate (return appr. 6 p.m.)
Sunday March, 20th	Baatasingara (near Ramoji Film City), see also above	2.30 p.m. at Gun Park Opp. Public Gardens Main Gate

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are announced in Channel 6, WOW Hyderabad, The Hindu, Times of India, fullhyd.com and of course on our website. Everybody is welcome. Sensible shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enrol a minimum of 2 days in advance with Frauke Quader at Tel. 23552923 or with C.J. Rao at 98490-37240.

We Welcome Our New Members:

1. J. Pascal Moeffaert, Life
2. A. Vasantha Vani, Student
3. M. Nishita Reddy and
M. Sudarshan Reddy, Active Couple
4. M.G. Vaidhyanathan, Life
5. P. Ramesh Kumar, Life
6. P. Charitha, Active
7. Ranjini Prabhakar, Active

Managing Committee:

President:	Narendra Luther - 23399778	Members:	
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363	C.J. Rao	- 9849037240
Secretary:	Frauke Quader - 9849936248	Dr. Hina Gokhale	- 9440893983
Joint Secretary:	Uma Maheshwari - 9866019402	Padmini B Patell	- 9912865299
Treasurer:	Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	- 8106072537

Membership Fees :

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription
Active (Single)	Rs. 100	Rs.200
(Couple)	Rs. 100	Rs.300
Student	Rs. 100	Rs.100
Life (Single)	Rs. 2,000 for Life	—
(Couple)	Rs. 3,000 for Life	—
Institution	Rs. 10,000	—
Corporate	Rs. 50,000	—

We would like to mention with gratitude that our website is fully financed and monitored by our Life Member Vasu Nugala and his company Codon Software, and that our Life Member T.R. Subramaniam has taken up the painstaking task to create a documentation of all our members and membership data.