

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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

Tel. No. : +91-40-23552923

e-mail: frauqe@saverocks.org

www.saverocks.org


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Editors : Frauqe Quader, Padmini B Patell

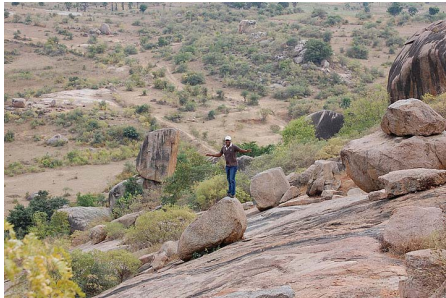
## DRAFT OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN – 2031 FOR HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN REGION

 Rock sites proposed  
as Heritage Precincts



## HMDA MASTER PLAN 2031

Our contributions are ready. The scouting for rock sites in the new zones of the HMDA region for inclusion as **Heritage Precincts** in the **Master Plan 2031** has yielded **25 sites** which we think worthy of protection. 6 scouting groups fanned out over the vast new area of the HMDA (more than 5000 sqkm) for which the new **Master Plan** is prepared.



*Enjoying the scout*



The destruction of innumerable rocky outcrops, the widespread quarrying of the beautiful rocky lscape around Hyderabad was a shock that hit us almost everywhere we went. Entire rocky hills being ground into powder – literally – , boulders being cut to pieces haphazardly, brazen illegal stone cutting ....

Resigned to the fact that the great hunger for building material and space has carried far out of the city, we combed the countryside for undisturbed remnants of the ancient geological history of the Deccan. With not much rock knowledge in the new HMDA areas (extending to upto 60 km into the country: to Sangareddy, Shahbad, Tupran, Bhongir)



*Quizzing the locals*

we found many formations on the north, east and south-east sides and fewer in the south and west of the city. The cover page gives you an idea of the **Master Plan** area: everything outside the Outer Ring Road and its 2 km growth corridor - the pink snake around the old HUDA area – was supposed to be surveyed by us.



As President N. Luther says in his covering letter for the submission of the proposed Rocksites to the HMDA Commissioner: “You will appreciate that persons with full-time jobs have given their time without any compensation for a cause that

should concern all of us”. It WAS difficult to make time for scouting sites at far-away places, to criss-cross vast areas in search of rocky ridges and formations still worth putting under Heritage protection.



*Too much destruction...*



We thank our scouts for their enthusiasm and perseverance. They were : John Ellingboe, Page Hartwell, Dr. Sudheer Bhan, C.J. Rao, Shanker Narayan, Sangeeta Varma, Ravi Setlem, Vasu Nugala, Y.S.R.K. Prasad, Padmini Patell, Sandeep Raj, Aparajita Sinha, Frauke Quader, and some of their friends. Dr. Vasudeva Rao helped with maps of rock areas.

We do not claim to have found all rocky areas possible, but surely tried to make a contribution to listing a good number of natural heritage sites. All the sites proposed will be published on our website "saverocks.org" under "Preservation".

Frauke Quader

### **FAKHRUDDINGUTTA – ROCK PARK OR HOUSING COLONY ?**

The Adarsh Nagar Housing Society (a group of government servants) had been allotted land for 120 houses on the hill amongst the picturesque boulders and caves, although Fakhruddingutta had been declared a Heritage Rock Precinct in 2009 and was intended by the Department of Tourism to become a Rock Park. The Rock Park plans were much acclaimed and published by the press as recently as June 2011.



The Heritage Conservation Committee of HMDA, in their meeting of 17.1.2012, objected against the plans of the Adarsh Nagar Housing Society to build a colony in the Heritage Precinct.

We have just had official intimation that the Housing Society has revised its plans and will now build at the foot of the hill without touching the heritage area. This is good news indeed, and the Society to Save Rocks can congratulate itself on a concrete achievement viz of ensuring the implementation of a critical recommendation by the Heritage Conservation Committee.

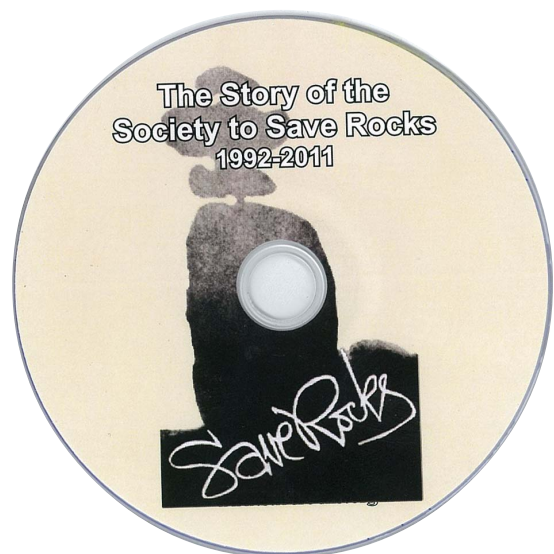
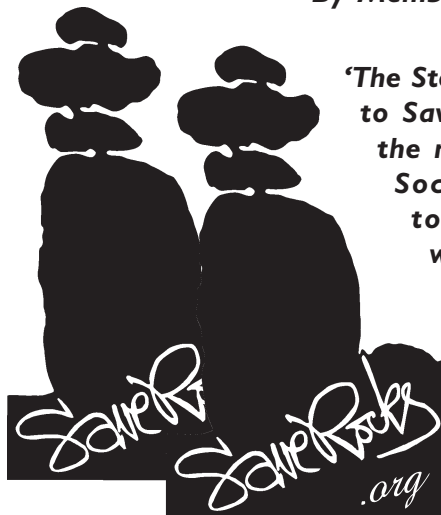
What is urgently required is to protect the Heritage Precinct from encroachers and poachers of rocks. The area has also become a corridor for the IT crowd as well as people living in Gachibowli. Its location and history both give it great tourism and recreational potential. It will be in the interest of both HMDA and the Adarsh Nagar Housing Society to protect the area, the Dargah and the heritage of the Deccan for posterity. The Society to Save Rocks has already played its part but this was only the first step. We could also play a more significant role in advising them on practical methods of preservation.

***The Society has printed stickers with our logo and website. These are available for Rs. 250. Sticker size is A4 (29 x 21 cm). We request you to create awareness by having these on your vehicles.***

***By Members,***

***For Members:***

***‘The Story of the Society to Save Rocks’ traces the milestones of the Society from 1992 to 2011. You can walk down memory lane with a DVD available on sale for Rs. 200/- at the Society office.***



**Active and Student Members are requested to pay their Annual Membership Fees  
for the Accounting Year 2012-2013 which starts on 1st April 2012**

**Rock walks in April, May and June 2012**

<b>Date :</b>	<b>Place :</b>	<b>Time / Meeting Point:</b>
Sunday April, 15th	Naya Qila	7 am. NMDC, Masab Tank. Return by 12 noon
Sunday May, 20th	Durgam Cheruvu	4 p.m. Jubilee Hills Checkpost
Sunday June, 17th	Bodugutta (Near Ramoji Film City)	10.30 am. Opp. St. Ann's School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad Bring Lunch, return 5-6 pm

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 condole the death of our Life Member D.L. Jain (Artist).  
He joined the Society early on in 1996. May his soul rest in peace.**

<b>Managing Committee</b>		<b>Members:</b>	
President:	Narendra Luther - 23399778	C.J. Rao	- 9849037240
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363	Dr. Hina Gokhale	- 9440893983
Secretary:	Frauke Quader - 9849936248	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Joint Secretary:	Uma Maheshwari - 9866019402	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	- 8106072537
Treasurer:	Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624	T.R. Subramaniam	- 9849018199
		Ravi Setlem	- 9866241768

<b>Membership Fees</b>		
<b>Class</b>	<b>Admission</b>	<b>Annual Subscription</b>
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	—