

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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Editors : Frauке Quader, Padmini B Patell

Celebrating Nature and the Ancient Rocks



A ROCK WALK WITH A SPECIAL TOUCH



It was indeed a special Rock Walk on Sunday, 15th June 2014. The monsoon rains were still playing truant, but spectacular cloud formations and the cool air blowing over the hill of Venkateshwaragutta (near Shamirpet) made the walking and climbing through boulders and valleys a sheer pleasure. The reward for the final scramble up to the top of the hill was unique: Against the backdrop of two mighty boulders the dance troupe of Nayantara Nanda Kumar from Our Sacred Space gave a short Odissi performance on the ancient sheet rock. The setting sun broke through its cloudy cover just as Nayantara entered the stony stage from a gap in the rocks for the invocation dance. When the other seven dancers emerged, their colourful costumes and their graceful movements made for a truly magical experience. The short interlude of Taichi Master Babu Rao performing



on top of a boulder, his loose suit billowing in the strong winds, impressed us totally. If only the spray of rain at the end of the dance performance had ushered in the monsoon rains!

Nayantara's desire to contribute to the awareness of Hyderabad citizens about their 2.5 billion year old granite treasures has certainly been met, seeing the response from the media. We are most grateful to 'Our Sacred Space' for their effort to bring a very special event to a very beautiful rock venue to further our cause.

All this made us forget for a time that at this very place a huge water reservoir will be built, and even the sheet rock under our feet will disappear in a short while..... F.Q.



Photos : P. Vishwanath, Sangeeta Varma, F. Quader

See also article by Bhavana Nissima in TheBetterIndia at <http://www.thebetterindia.com/11989/odissi-dance-performance-rocks-hyderabad-save-rocks/> and our facebook page for more photos.

ROCK EVENTS

Dr Madhusudan Srinivas, our Committee Member, introduced the rock cause at Our Sacred Space on 12.4.2014 in the **SOCH-3** programme which provided a platform for change makers of the city to speak about their work.



Earth Day was marked by a Photo Exhibition and Bazaar at Goethe Zentrum on 19.4.2014 –Mihir, Padmini Patell, Dr. Madhusudan and Asha Mirakhur sold our wares.



"Thank you so much for being a part of our Earth Day celebrations at Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad! The 'Save the Rocks' exhibit was both attractive and informative, and the stall was quite popular. Thanks again for your time, effort and enthusiasm!" said Marie Solange from GZ

A Journey to the Planets & Deccan Rocks, a talk for children was given by Dr Senthil Kumar (our Life Member) and Dr Madhusudan respectively. It was much appreciated by the little ones, especially the interactive part of it, on 31.5.2014.

As part of the **Hyderabad Science Festival 2015 preparations**, Dr Madhusudan gave a brief at Lamakaan on 3.5.2014 about the Society and its work. The emphasis was on how children can realize the importance of science by exposure to our rocky environs through rock walks and rock related activities.

In a **TV Interview by TNews** (Telangana News) on 26.5.2014, Frauke Quader and Sangeeta Varma explained the rock cause and our concerns. The interview will be telecast in July when the channel will go on air.

Save Rocks = Save Man - a feature article by Padmini B Patell was carried by the Teacher Plus Magazine, June issue, which was exclusively a Geography Issue. The focus was on the importance of rocks from the teaching perspective and how effectively the message of conservation could be conveyed by teachers to school children nationally. (Full text of the article on our website www.saverocks.org)



On 15.6.2014 Padmini Patell represented the Society at the **United NGO Meet** which was a proposal initiated by Abhipraay. Chaired by Chief Guest V.K.Singh IPS DG(P) it was proposed that NGO's form a network and support each other in order to be noticed and heard. Hopefully all our worthy causes will be taken by the Government thereby bringing about improvements in many areas.

ROCK PARK AT DURGAM CHERUVU

We hear from APIIC that the government is planning to create a Rock Park in an 80 acre piece of rocky land at Durgam Cheruvu. This is between the Inorbit Mall and the bandh of the lake. Great facilities for recreation, entertainment and adventure are on the anvil, including an amphitheatre in the rocks! We are waiting with baited breath for further developments and start of works.



Meanwhile, the execution of the Rock Park plans at Fakhruddingutta supported by the Tourism Department seems to be still advancing at a snail's pace – but we are not losing our enthusiasm for this little jewel of a boulder hill and its development for the sake of all citizens.

Active and Student Members are requested to pay their Annual Fees and arrears, if any, soon. Members in arrears cannot participate in the Annual General Body Meeting which will be held in August 2014.

Rock Walks in July, August and September 2014

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday July 20, 2014	Peddagutta, near Jedcherla by Bus	8 a.m. at NMDC; return app 6 p.m. Bus fare Rs. 500. Bring lunch!
Sunday August 17, 2014	Ghaar-e-Mubarak, near APPA	3 p.m. at NMDC, Masab Tank
Sunday September 21, 2014	Bhongir Fort and visit to Organic Farm "Green Acres"	10 a.m. opp. St. Ann's High School Main Gate, S.P. Road, Secunderabad Bring lunch!

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are widely announced in the press and social media, and of course on our website. Everybody is welcome. Walking shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enrol a minimum of 2 days in advance with Ravi Setlem on 98662-41768 or with C.J. Rao on 98490-37240.

Managing Committee

President:	Narendra Luther	- 23399778	Members:	
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha	- 9849655363	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Secretary:	Frauke Quader	- 9849936248	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	- 8106072537
Joint Secretary:	Amita Talwar	- 9849010704	Ravi Setlem	- 9866241768
Treasurer:	Sangeeta Varma	- 9849044624	Dr. Madhusudan Srinivas	- 8886516222

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	—