

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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### HYDERABAD ROCKATHON



Rock balancing - a family treat



Dr B.Venkatesham speaking  
at Rockathon



Doing the balancing act

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Hyderabad Rockathon held on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov organized by the Society & GHAC was once again generously sponsored by the Telangana Tourism. The event was graced by Dr B.Venkatesham, Secretary Youth Advancement, Tourism & Culture, Govt of Telangana. He admired the ambience and urged that people should strike a balance between nature and lifestyle. He said, "We have no right to damage a train because we have bought a ticket to travel, likewise God's gift of Nature is to be enjoyed during the time that we live here. We only have a right to enjoy Nature not destroy it." He reiterated that open places need to be left as open places.

500 adventure enthusiasts relished the rocky Khajaguda area and enjoyed all the adventure activities such as zipling, rapelling, trail biking etc. The beat boxing, poetry and music by NRB- Nations Rock Beat with the added attraction of a magic show by hearing impaired magician Ravi Chandra kept the audience entertained. As always Friends of Snakes held the rapt attention of kids and adults alike breaking popular myths and displaying these oft dreaded reptiles.



Enjoying the launching rock pad !

**WISHES  
FOR A  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**



Defying gravity

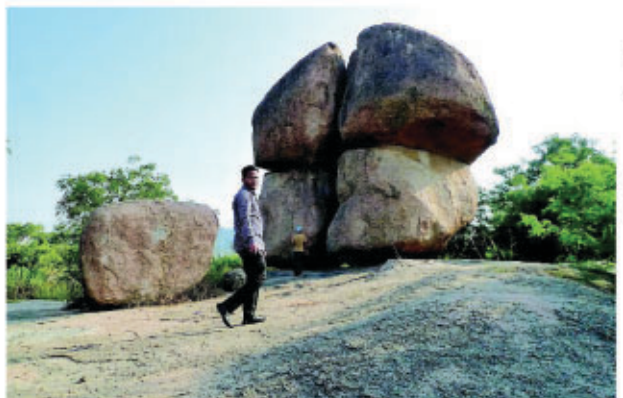


## PRESERVATION PERSONIFIED AT THE NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY

The December rock walk to the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Gachibowli was inside the campus that has a substantial expanse of rocks amidst academic facilities of classrooms, hostels, canteen etc spread over many acres. The University representative Mr. Ayoob Khan along with Irfan took 20 of us to view the rock formations around the University on the chilly evening of 17th. With the University being rather new, having been created during the fag end of the 20th century, one notices that the rocks have been fairly untouched by its builders – an initiative that is well deserving of our appreciation. On many occasions, the Society had indeed conducted rock walks to the land in which the University stands today. While the Society has been trumpeting the cause of the rocks and its preservation, our participants were rather bemused by publicity signs placed by the University administration amidst the rocks which stand to tell-tale about their heritage value as well as their legal sanctity. Rocks in the forefront of some of the buildings have been well-preserved amidst lush lawns and stand as witnesses of our rich rocky heritage. Added to this, the serene atmosphere and a sense of discipline prevailing in the University, our young participants were taken in and kept enquiring as to what the University was all about, thereby creating a sense of charm not only around the rocks but to the institution as well.

In spite of going around three rock formations, the young children were keen to explore further but we had to call it a day when the sun went down. Everyone gathered around for the ceremonial rock walkers tea to which our friends from the University added a treat of gulab jamun. Nothing like chai and snacks in the midst of our stunning rocks !

– **G.R.B.Pradeep, Joint Secretary,  
Society to Save Rocks**



Heritage Rocks on MANUU Campus

Photos by Sangeeta Varma



## SOCIETY UPDATES



**Hyderabad: Props & Rocks** was an Ikebana exhibition that was the culmination of a three day workshop organized by Ohryu Rekha Reddy, First Master, Ohara Ikebana on the occasion of Children's Day. The theme was inspired by various aspects of our city – it's monuments, food, culture including rocks. The purpose being to encourage children to be creative while developing an appreciation for nature.

**A rock walk** was led by Ravi Setlem for the students of the United World School from Pune. 15 teenagers were introduced to the Deccan rockscape. and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

**On behalf of the Society**, our member Amardeep Singh presented "Notification of the Identified Heritage Sites with Natural Rock Formations with development of Natural Rocks Conservation Parks / Gardens in & around Hyderabad City" at the Ideas Conclave for Better Hyderabad held on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> of Dec. by "Awareness in Action", at CESS Begumpet.



**Four students of Gitanajali Devshala - Nayanna, Aarav, Akshan and Surabhi** of class eight have made a 2 minute video called " Rocks Role" on the spectacular granite formations of the Deccan Plateau for a competition held by INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage). The purpose of the footage was to create awareness about saving of rocks from urbanization and industrialization which has led to the destruction of our natural heritage- our rocks. Frauke Quader introduced them to Fakhruddingutta where they captured a sample of the Deccan rocks. More important was the fact that they themselves were captured by the beauty of the rocks that they had hardly noticed before !



**Art Sundowner by Rajat & Rajika Mitra** of Asian Art House was an open house for Art appreciation – a unique first of it's kind event at their own home at Villa Greens. The Society to Save Rocks was chosen as the beneficiary NGO for this event with the stunning Deccan rock photographs in the midst of Vietnamese masterpieces aimed at spreading Art awareness.

**The Society's 22nd Anniversary** falls on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. Members are invited to celebrate our two decade journey at the prestigious Hyderabad Literary Festival being held at Hyderabad Public School. HLF has included a Rock walk on the HPS campus for Society members and the general public at 4pm on 26th and 27th. Take this unique opportunity to get a glimpse of the rocks that are seldom accessible to the public. We shall have the opportunity to show our new documentary "Hyderabad - City of Rocks" during the HLF. Visit our website for more details and be there to reaffirm your active support for our Deccan rocks that make the Telenagana landscape special !!



## ROCK WALKS IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2018

Date :	Place :	Time /Meeting Point :
Sunday, January 21, 2018	Yedupayala, Medak	8 a.m./Opp. Maithrivanam, Ameerpet – This is going to be a full day rock walk to the rocks surrounding the Yedupayala Dam, the Medak Cathedral and the Fort; Rs.500/- for travel by van; Return approx. 8 p.m. Bring lunch.
Friday and Saturday Jan. 26 & 27, 2018	Rocks at Hyderabad Public School	4 p.m./Hyd. Literary Festival, HPS
Sunday, February 18, 2018	Bhongir	9:30 a.m./Opp. St. Ann's School Main Gate, West Marredpally side; Return approx. 6:00 p.m.; Bring lunch.
Sunday, March 18, 2018	Central University	7 a.m./Main gate of Hyderabad Central University, Gachi Bowli

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are widely announced in the press and social media, and on our website. Everybody is welcome. Walking shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enroll with G.R.B. Pradeep at 98667 52114.

### Managing Committee

### Members

President:	Narendra Luther	- 040-23399778	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha	- 9849655363	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	- 8106072537
Secretary:	Frauke Quader	- 9849936248	Anand Madabhushi	- 9849033763
Joint Secretary:	G.R.B. Pradeep	- 98667 52114	Dr. E.Sathya Prakash	- 9440057846
Treasurer:	Sangeeta Varma	- 9849044624	Ravi Setlem	- 9866241768

### 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	—



**A BONSAI TREE** – the autobiography of Narendra Luther was released on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. The fascinating narration gives the reader an insight into the trials and tribulations of our President's life besides a brief mention of his contribution to the Society in terms of books and films.

Makes for an interesting read!