SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

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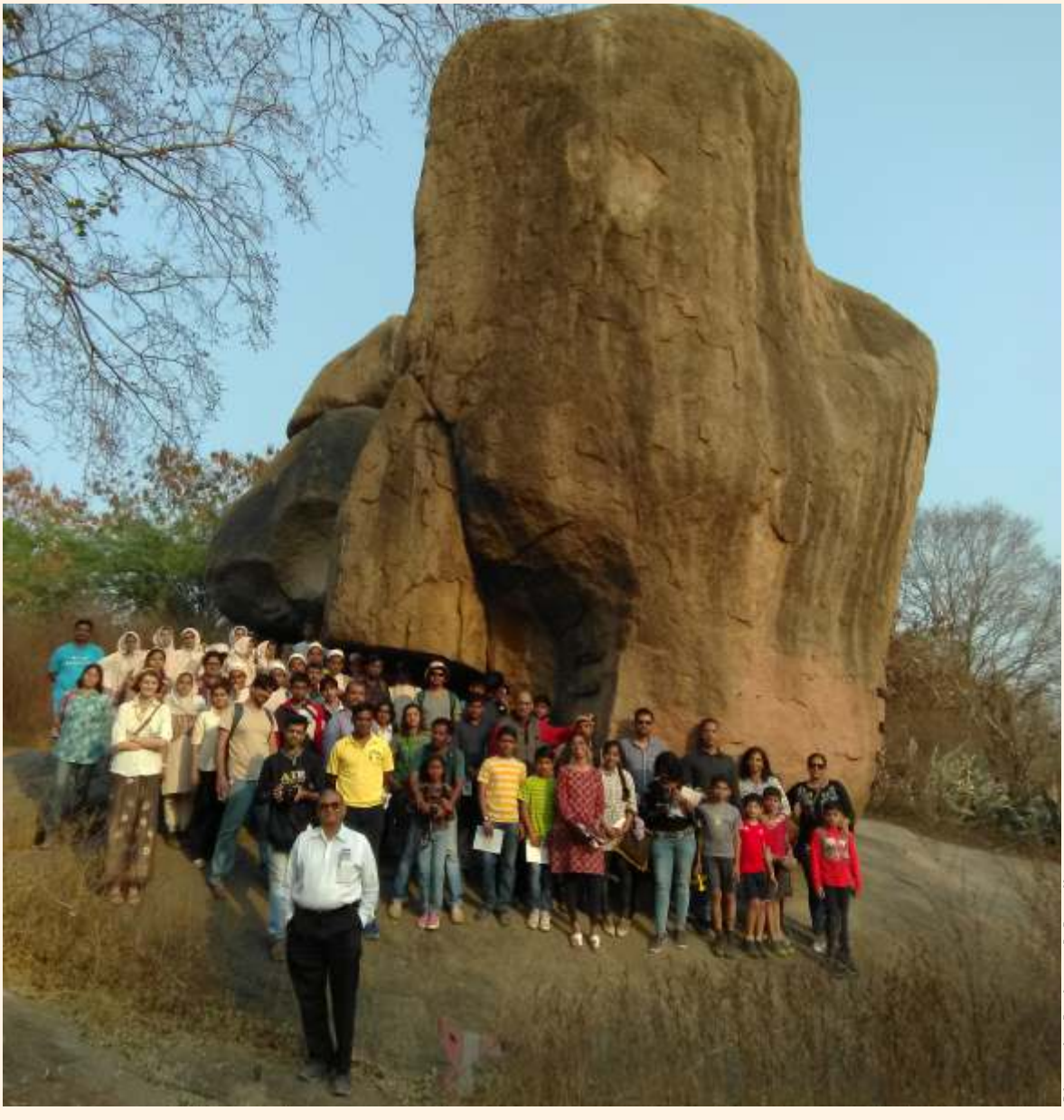

Photo by Padmini B Patell

The enthusiastic Rock Walkers at the **Hyderabad Literary Festival** all set to head out into the rocks that were opened up for the very first time for a public Rock Walk by the Society, at Hyderabad Public School.

ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

On 26th January the Society clocked 22 years of spreading an awareness about Deccan Rockscapes – and what better way to have marked this day than screening our very own film **"Hyderabad- City of Rocks"** directed by wildlife film maker Saravana Kumar for public viewing at HLF. Although the turn-out was small, the film got people thinking and curious enough to come out in overwhelming numbers to the Rock Walks planned inside the Public School campus on all three days. And what a walk this turned into, one had to be present to catch the excitement of all age groups, the adrenaline rush of first time climbers and the never-say-die attitude of both students and rock lovers ! Having expected a turn-out of not more than 30, we had almost 70 on all days. The hidden rock treasures of Hyderabad Public School wove their magic on the audience like all Deccan Rocks, with countless questions from kids and admiration from all. Our walk ended with the ceremonious cake cutting to mark our work of two decades of introducing fellow citizens to the Natural Heritage that is right here in their midst, oft missed in the melee of their hurried lives.

Young Khadija Vadnagarwala of class VII, a student of MSB Educational Institute, Secunderabad, shares her first-hand experience in her article here – proof of how our effort to introduce children to Rocks always pays off...

THE ROCK WALK

My experience of the rock walk at the Hyderabad Literary Fest is something which I am not likely to forget. It was an adventurous hike, more astonishing then I ever imagined it to be. First we moved up a rocky hill and saw a colossal rock which we climbed a few steps up and then stopped. It was not possible to climb it any more. Next we entered a small green eco-friendly area full of gigantic rocks. Here we climbed our first rock, the view was enthralling! We moved on to a rock which was so big that standing at its base we couldn't visualize its peak. We started climbing it, my friend and myself were the last ones to climb. Suddenly, while climbing my leg slipped and I went right down but all was fine and I was determined to try again. Though I was a bit scared I started climbing again and reached the top. What I saw was out of this world! I couldn't believe my eyes. The vast expanse of the old Begumpet Airport on one side and the green campus of HPS on the other was a mind blowing view. I couldn't believe that I was standing in the heart of the city!! I thank the Society to Save Rocks team for giving me such an extraordinary experience.

Society tunrs 22 !

Students enjoy the dizzy height

ROCK TALES

The Society invites stories, essays and poems involving rocks from our readers to offer a platform for creative expression and inspiration for more people to engage with the Deccan rockscape in more ways than one. Please email with images to secretary@saverocks.org

"HYDERABAD – CITY OF ROCKS", our Short Film on the city's Rocks, their history and importance in our lives, was first screened on 16. January 2018 at the Society's Annual General Body Meeting and for public viewing at HLF. More screenings will be taking place at the Apollo Hospital Amphitheare this summer thanks to Ms Sujata Sengupta, Curator & Cultural Manager, Apollo Foundation Theatre during their Cultural evenings.

Members and well wishers are requested to view the film on https://youtu.be/dd7vdwOZfAw We request you to facilitate screening of the same at your apartment complexes, Offices, Clubs and Educational Institutions. Hopefully this will result in converting more folks into Rock Conservationists!

THE HYDERABAD ROCKATHON AFTER - PARTY

The new couples Chaitanya-Vinutha and Meenal -Abhirup, surrounded by Rockathaon voluntters

Better late than never: the Rockathon team consisting of both members from the Society and Great Hyderabad Adventure Club toasted to Hyderabad Rockathon 2017 at a pleasant evening on the lawns of the Jubilee Hills Club. This was the ideal setting for unwinding even while planning ever more exciting Rockathon later this year. The group of organizers, team leaders and volunteers recalled the funny moments and some long standing friendships even marriages that have emerged while tying the knots on rappelling participants ! Frauke Quader expressed the Society's gratitude to the GHAC volunteers who spent hours in the blazing sun setting up equipment the day before the event, were on the job from dawn to dusk on the actual event day and cleared up the day after. Importantly, making sure that every participant was taken up and brought down the rocks safely with utmost caution and care.

PEERAN SHAH SADLY LOSES GIGANTIC MONOLITHS

The concerned citizens of PBEL City promptly reported the unauthorized slicing away of huge boulders in their neighbourhood of Peerancheru to the Society one sunny March morning. Barely 20 feet away from the old Dargah of Peran Shah Wali lucrative land deals have been struck and stone cutters engaged to clear the ground for construction. With not a flicker of concern for the rocks or fear of the implications of constructing in such close proximity to an ancient site of pilgrimage, the bulldozer are being brought in to pulverize our 2500 million year old rocks while we look on helplessly. We welcome ideas and suggestions on how we can save these gigantic natural resources from fast disappearing without a trace.

NO MORE A SECRET

The destruction of some of the beautiful steep shore rocks at Durgam Cheruvu, across the water from Olive Bistro, has shocked us. The land in Nandi Hills Colony had been plotted up decades back, and prominent citizens of Hyderabad had bought the steep slope next to the lake. Although we had informed the Nandi Hills administration long back that the land is under Heritage protection, and that the buffer zone around the lake had been increased from 30 m from the FTL (Full Tank Level) to 50 m, and they in turn informed the members, construction has been undertaken in the areas. But never so near to the water as this time!! The government of Telangana intends to beautify the whole lake area. Are they really willing to allow this beautiful lake scape to be disfigured and covered by private houses before they get down to that ??

Rock Walks in April, May and June 2018

Date:	Place:	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday, April 15, 2018	Naya Kila, Golconda	NMDC /8 a.m. or opp. entrance of Qutb Shahi Tombs at 8.30 a.m.; return app. 11 a.m.
Sunday, May 20, 2018	Ghare-e-Mubarak	NMDC 7.30am, return approx 11.30am
Sunday, June 17, 2018	Durgam Cheruvu	Jubilee Hills Checkpost opp. Petrol Pump at 8 am return 11am.

Rock Walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are 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 9866752114.

All Student and Active Members are requested to pay their fees for the year 2018-19.
Many of the Student and Active Membership Fees are long overdue. All members in arrears for more than two years have been informed individually. Please pay your dues before April 15th to avoid closure of your membership.

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	—