

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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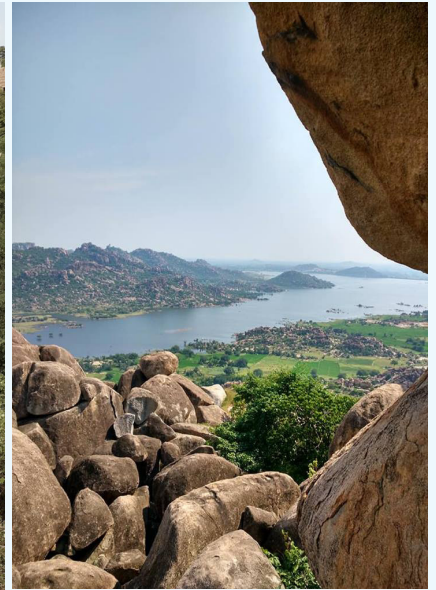
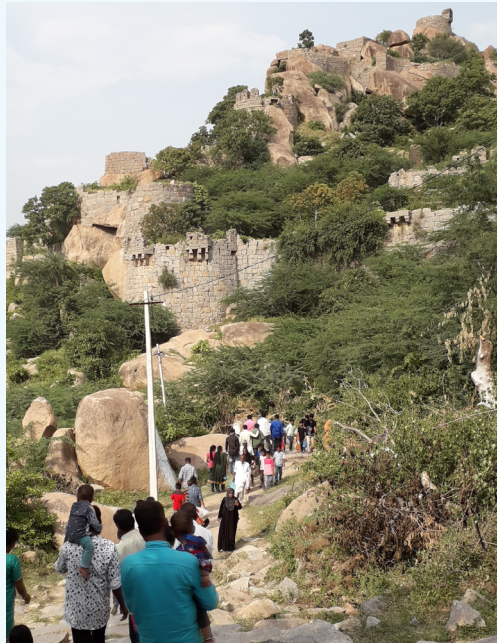
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**NEWSLETTER**

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Editors : Frauqe Quader, Padmini B Patell

## KOILKONDA



Dear Rock lovers,

*If you have been in love with rocks for a while now and have missed visiting Koilkonda in Mahbubnagar Dist, please wait no further. For this is a rocksite that should feature in your must-do list especially if you are one among us who feels happy being in the great rocky outdoors. No surprise then that our September rock walk was eagerly awaited to this vast expanse of Deccan granites off NH7 that we reached after travelling 125 km from Hyderabad.*

*Imagine our surprise when our mini van was met by thronging crowds all heading up the very same mighty hills to the Koilkonda Fort where we had anticipated peace and quiet ! As luck would have it hundreds of pilgrims both Muslims and Hindus from far and near were making a beeline for the Ashur Khana of Bibi Fathima being the week of Moharram. The road was lined with a village shandy of food, trinkets, religious offerings even folks skinning goats for their meal of biryani. As we ascended the roughly cut steps we first encountered the giant metal chain of luck that offers every visitor the chance to fulfill a wish by hooking the chain across the path with one hand. Even us rockwalkers fell prey to this money making gimmick !*

*Soon we were welcomed by the singing of folk songs by the local tribals recounting the blessings of visiting Koilkonda. Well, we could do with blessings for sure, what with 500 steps and lots of bouldering to reach the outer most 7th wall of the dilapidated Fort built by Ibrahim Qutub Shah. However, the breath taking view from the top with the sprawling Koil Sagar reservoir down below and rocks of every shape and size were well worth the climb and it was clearly evident why the Qutub Shahi dynasty choose these hills.*



The granite rocks here are dime a dozen strewn around like huge pebbles some offering a great challenge to climbers. One such rocky over-hang gave us ample shade for our favourite rockwalk picnic lunch complete with dessert. Now with tummy full and the last glance at the magnificent Deccan giants we headed down in the scorching heat. A wee bit tired we stopped at frequent intervals to catch our breath and click some photographs. The flow of pilgrims was still relentless and we were happy to leave them behind and head back. Koilkonda is surely the winner this quarter and one we hope you will manage to visit out of sheer curiosity. A word of caution though- avoid any festival week to get the best of the rocks !

With wishes for more exciting rock walks to follow,  
Padmini B Patell

## **AWARENESS PROGRAMMES DURING THE LAST QUARTER**

### **RUN FOR ROCKS, A WARM-UP TO THE AIRTEL HYDERABAD MARATHON**

At 5.30 am, on 29th July about 200 of the aspirants for the Hyderabad Marathon gathered at Ghaar-e-Mubarak (behind Taramati Baradari) to do a training run. Adding Rock Walks into the surrounding hills, we provided the runners impressive views of the fabulous ridge of Bara Imamgutta and the valleys around Golonda.



### **ROCK WALK WITH GOETHE ZENTRUM**

On 14th August, the Goethe Zentrum sent their staff with us on an outing to our favourite rock hill Fakhruddingutta. Apart from enjoying the exciting landscape and the rock caves, our member and life skill coach Uma Maheshwari entertained them with educative games that were greatly appreciated. A picnic on a lofty rock outcrop completed the great outdoor experience.



## **ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING ON 31.8.2018**

The AGM 2018 witnessed lively discussions by the members on programmes and fund raising. A PR Group was formed who will be active in contacting potential sponsors and government agencies. More members are requested to join this group and help with Rockathon sponsorship.



7<sup>th</sup>

# HYDERABAD 2018 ROCKATHON



Save Rocks for Adventure and Recreational Events.

Conducted by Society to Save Rocks and Great Hyderabad Adventure Club.

Hyderabad Rockathon is a fun filled get-together being conducted to highlight the importance of preserving our rocks and their heritage with many activities for all age groups that are themed around rocks.

Exciting activities for all ages:



Rappelling



Rock Shot-put



Slack Lining



Rock Balancing



Zip Lining

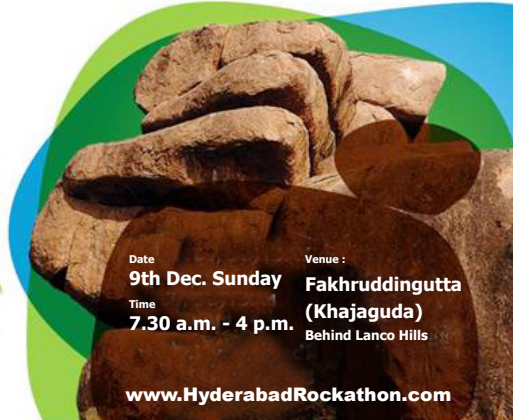


Snake Awareness Programme

- Rock Walks
- Trail Biking

- Rock Quiz
- Bouldering

- Selfie with Rocks
- Treasure Hunts



Date  
**9th Dec. Sunday**  
Time  
**7.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Venue :  
**Fakhrud dingutta  
(Khajaguda)  
Behind Lanco Hills**

[www.HyderabadRockathon.com](http://www.HyderabadRockathon.com)

## Calling for Volunteers

The Society invites all members and rock enthusiasts to volunteer for the upcoming Rockathon .  
Please email [secretary@saverocks.org](mailto:secretary@saverocks.org) with details of time you can dedicate.

## FAKHRUDDINGUTTA (KHAJAGUTTA) – An Overview

*Our struggle to preserve and protect this beautiful granite outcrop started more than two decades ago. Ideal for a Rock and Nature Park with its wide sheet rock strewn with round boulders, a planted up, flat area for sports and an adventure area with fantastic jumbled formations and caves is the perfect infrastructure for walking, climbing, bouldering and generally enjoying our typical Deccan rocky landscape. And it is right in the city, a stone's throw from Lanco Hills, Urdu University, even Gachibowli. From the highest point, the 700 year old Dargah of Baba Fakhruddin Aulia one views the Golconda Fort, the massive constructions in the Financial District, even Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar and Banjara Hills!*

*Once hardly accessible, the hill now attracts early-morning rock climbers, trekkers, walkers and families who look for quiet outings. Massive numbers of pilgrims visit during the Urs at the Dargah, at celebrations at the Cave of Meher Baba and at the Temple at the back of the hill. The Society's annual Rockathon takes place here and offers a plethora of rock activities (see above).*

*Our initial lament over a massive quarry that ate deep into the back of the hill, was calmed when all licenced granite quarrying in Ranga Reddy District was finally stopped some years back. The allotment of the hill as an Special Economic Zone and later for a housing colony for government officials was also averted. When we recently noticed more cutting at the back of the hill and crushers working at its foot, the Mines Department assured us that this was the crushing of stones brought from excavations in the city, and that no further rock cutting has taken place.*

*Apart from speaking up again and again for the conservation of the hill for its environmental, geological and recreational importance, the Society to Save Rocks kept trying to convince the government to convert the hill into a Nature Park and protected zone. It was declared a Heritage Precinct in 2009, but the actual physical demarcation and protection never did come about. Feeble attempts at basic development were soon given up due to reasons best known to the officials involved. Will we ever see Fakhrud dingutta the way we imagined it long back in the 1990's - secure, protected, with minimum development, a rocky landscape with undisturbed flora and fauna? All Hyderabadis would be proud of having rescued a great spot of nature in their midst for us and future generations to enjoy.*

Frauke Quader

## Rock Walks in October, November & December 2018

Date:	Place:	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday, 21.10.2018	Bodugutta, beyond Ramoji Film City	7:00 a.m. / Gun Park, opp. Public Gardens, return approximately 5 p.m. Bring lunch.
Sunday, 18.11.2018	Gandipet	3:00 p.m./NMDC, Masab Tank
Sunday, 16.12.2018	Ammuguda, Sec'bad Cantonment	3:00 p.m./St. Ann's school main gate, Sardar Patel Road (West Marredpally side)

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. October Rock Walk participants need to register by 18-10-2018.

### 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	