

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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NEWSLETTER

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HYDERABAD ROCKATHON 2018

The Hyderabad Rockathon 2018 held at Fakruddingutta on 9th Dec was yet another endeavor by the Society and the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club (GHAC) at infecting the citizens of the twin cities with a love for our great rocky landscape. Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary Industries, flagged off the first of three rock walks and participated in it as well. He appreciated the Heritage value of the area and stressed, "Since the rock formations were associated with faith and worship, they continue to survive. But times are changing and more awareness and preservation initiatives are required to protect the beautiful natural rock formations." He also appreciated the conservation efforts of the Society and GHAC.



Flagging off the Rock Walk

The Rockathon saw an enthusiastic participation of all age groups with a lot of excitement around Ziplining & Rappelling, as always. Families got an opportunity to enjoy some team games organized by Uma Maheshwari. The Rock Quiz presented by Harshita, Aparajita and Dr. Bhan was an exciting closure to the Rockathon along with the Snake Awareness Programme by the Friends of Snakes. This year's addition was the presentation by the Ohara Chapter of Ikebana, Hyderabad, who showcased some beautiful flower arrangements with rocks and also demonstrated the creation of this Japanese flower art.

Many slogans, taglines and environment messages were coined by the participants on their social media posts and worked into the rock tattoos that many got painted on arms, hands and face.



Mr. Jayesh Ranjan enjoys Rock Biking

The vertical rock stacking challenge, along with the rock shot put & rock climbing tested the skill of participants. Despite a smaller turn-out this year compared to the six previous Rockathons, some city dwellers were converted into rock champions to further our cause !

*With inputs from
Amardeep (the sporty voice of Rockathon!)*

HYDERABAD ROCKATHON 2018

A lot of hard work and sweat going into setting up for Rockathon the previous day.....



.....just as much of fun and adventure to be had by participants on the day of the event !!



PARTICIPATION IN THE HYDERABAD LITERARY FESTIVAL

The Society will make its presence felt once again at the Literary Festival on 25th, 26th and 27th of January at Hyderabad Public School. A rock walk will be organized each day to the less frequented rocks within the HPS campus – a short but interesting walk that will arouse the curiosity of Nature lovers. Details of time and meeting point will be available on our website and at the HLF Help Desk.

The Society will celebrate its **22nd Anniversary** on the 26th of January with our Rock Walk at HLF. Expect a surprise to mark our two decades of relentless efforts !

“ WHY DOES INDIA’S GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE REMAIN AN UNCHAMPIONED CAUSE”

**Excerpt from an article by our Member C.P. Rajendran, Professor of Geodynamics at the
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru.
(Kindly read the informative article on the Society’s Website)**

“Geo-heritage sites in many countries have been developed as geo-parks. Canada, China, Spain, the US and the UK have suitable provisions for the preservation and conservation of their national geo-heritage. UNESCO has also prepared guidelines for the development of geo-parks. Many countries also have the necessary legislation to build, protect and designate geo-parks. Europe celebrates its geological heritage across 73 zones.

Japan offers another good lesson in such conservation. The 1995 Kobe earthquake involved a fault that cut right through the town of Hokkudan, with one side rising up by a metre. The city administration constructed their earthquake memorial park around 150m of this rupture to preserve this fault. What greater educational experience could one aspire for? The devastating Latur earthquake of 1993 had also generated a vertical ground rupture of one meter near the Killari town. This year marks the 25th anniversary of that devastating event. I don’t think if we have ever thought of creating a memorial park around this feature. We also had a catastrophic tsunami on the Indian east coast in 2004; over a decade later, we don’t have a suitable memorial.

The collective memory of such natural tragedies reinforced through memorialisation will go a long way in preparing communities over several generations to withstand similar eventualities. The Geological Survey of India is the custodian agency entrusted with the protection of geological features. Their website suggests more than 26 sites have been selected for preservation as part of their commitment. However, we are yet to see a concerted strategy from officials to this end. A major challenge for Indian geologists, including the Geological Survey, is the (non)existence of a complete inventory of geological structures in the country, and to see that all government developmental plans take full account of it. Educational outreach also needs to be organised for government officials and politicians about these irreplaceable treasures. And most importantly, we need to evolve practical mechanisms to protect and manage the geological heritage features.”

WISHING YOU A ROCKING 2019

MAKE ROCK CONSERVATION YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION !

Rock Walks in January, February & March 2019

Day & Date	Place	Time / Meeting Point
Sunday, January 20, 2019	Central University	8:00 a.m./Main gate of Hyderabad Central University, Gachi Bowli
Sunday, February 17, 2019	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 17, 2019	Urdu University	3:30 p.m / Main gate of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Telecom Nagar, Gachibowli

And : Rock Walks at HPS on January 25th , 26th & 27th
(please look up our website for details)

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**.

We welcome our new Member : Ashok Kumar Vootla, Life

Managing Committee

President : Narendra Luther - 040-23399778
Vice President : Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363
Secretary : Frauke Quader - 9849936248
Joint Secretary : G.R.B. Pradeep - 9866752114
Treasurer : Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624

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Padmini B. Patell - 9912865299
Dr. Sudheer Bhan - 8106072537
Anand Madabhushi - 9849033763
Dr. E. Sathya Prakash - 9440057846
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	