

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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NEWSLETTER

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QUARTERLY

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Photo by K.V. Vijay Kumar



THE SOCIETY WILL CLOCK 24 YEARS.....

The Coffee Table Book on Rocks, authored by Mr. Narendra Luther and published by the Department of Tourism in 2012, is now reprinted and published as "Marvels of Nature - Rockscape of Telangana" by the Society to Save Rocks. It is a pictorial account of the stunning granite formations that define the landscape of Hyderabad and Telangana. On 70 colourful pages, bizarre balancing rock formations will awe and inspire the reader to explore this landscape with its myriad geological manifestations.

The book will be released at the Hyderabad Literary Festival 2020 at Vidyaranya School to mark the Society's 24th Anniversary on 26th January. At the HLF the Society will also hold a Rock Quiz to spread awareness about the Deccan's rich rock heritage. As done every year the documentary "Hyderabad-City of Rocks" will be screened on all three days of the Festival. We request members to come with friends and support our events which will be scheduled on the HLF website.

UPDATES

HERITAGE STATUS OF OUR ROCKS: Finally, some initiative by the Government of Telangana to include Hyderabad's Heritage Rocks which had been left out of the protected schedule of the new Heritage Law of Telangana into this law.

On 17.10.2019, Mr. Dinakar Babu, Director of the Department of Heritage (formerly Department of Archaeology and Museums), Government of Telangana invited the Society to "discuss identification of Rock Formations in and around the Twin Cities with a view to include them in the new Act of 22, 2017 (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Maintenance)".

Participants in the Meeting were:

Society to Save Rocks, INTACH, GSI, NGRI, Osmania University, and HMDA.

The Director stated that in connection with the PIL filed by the Society to Save Rocks, the Telangana High Court had asked about details concerning sites of Heritage rocks, their location, their present protection and their legal status.



The Director was made aware by the Society to Save Rocks Members present of the efforts of the Society and the Government of erstwhile AP to preserve rock formations under HMDA Regulation 13 in and around Hyderabad. He requested the Society and the HMDA member to furnish the lists of Heritage Rocks notified by HMDA in the past and also the rocks proposed for the Masterplan 2031, all with Survey Nos., Location Maps and Photographs.

Meanwhile, the lists of the 26 rock sites previously notified under HMDA Heritage Regulation No. 13 (in 1998 and 2009) with all the details as listed above have been submitted to the Department of Heritage. The Regulation No. 13 was unfortunately deleted in 2017 by the Government of Telangana. Hence the necessity for the listing in the Heritage Law.

Our proposal to notify another 26 Rock Sites in the area of Greater Hyderabad (outside the Outer Ring Road) had been submitted to HMDA, but was not processed completely before the end of the term of the last Heritage Committee in 2015. They are now proposed to be included in the Heritage Law. The help of scientists from the geological institutions, who are in command of all modern tools of mapping and identification, will be enlisted for re-verification of all the rock sites. We hope that the erstwhile Heritage sites will be included soon into the Heritage Law along with the new sites.

by **Frauke Quader**

STUDENT RALLY: On November 10th children from the Little Flower School, as part of the Molicul Fest 2019, took out an environment rally at 7 a.m. in the morning carrying the Society's banners along with others. We applaud the children for their commitment and action concerning the preservation of rocks.

HYDERABAD ROCKATHON 2019

Rockathon 2019 celebrated the rocks as always - the enthusiasm of first timers and laid back Hyderabadis who were blissfully unaware of Khajjaguda, specially school children of all ages was ample reward for the time and effort invested by the Society and our partners the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club. Besides the spectacular rocks the highlights this year were



The snake tattoos that closely competed with rock tattoos



Arpit Sharma, a Teach for India volunteer treated his students to the Rockathon



Vintage vehicles stole several selfies

1989 Premier Padmini



1948 Willy's Jeep



The rock shot put had kids and female participants



Our MC Amardeep Singh lead the children like the Pied Piper into the rocks !

Rock Walks in January, February & March 2020

Day & Date	Place	Time / Meeting Point
Sunday, Jan 19, 2020	Bhongir Fort This is a full-day trip, bring lunch	8:00 a.m./NGRI Metro Station (NGRI Side), Habsiguda
Sunday, Feb 16 th , 2020	Ghar - e- Mubarak Return Approx. 11 am.	8:00 a.m. / Royal Function Hall, Narsingi
Sunday, Mar 15 th , 2020	Moulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) Return Approx. 11 am.	8:00 a.m. / Main gate of MANUU, Gachi Bowli

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**.

Managing Committee		Members	
Vice President	: Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Secretary	: Frauke Quader - 9849936248	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	- 8106072537
Joint Secretary	: Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624	Dr. E. Sathya Prakash	- 9440057846
Treasurer	: G.R.B. Pradeep - 9866752114	Sajid Mehmood	- 9810528070
		Amardeep Singh	- 9246150207

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	

The Society deeply regrets the untimely demise of Vijay Marur, a long time champion of the rocks. His short film "Save the Rocks @ 20" made on the Society's 20th Anniversary in 2016 captured the sentiments of prominent Hyderabadis regarding the city's rock heritage. May his soul rest in peace.