



Quarterly Newsletter

Volume - 95: April - June 2020

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

www.saverocks.org

Editors: Frauke Quader ▲ Padmini B. Patell



MARVELS OF NATURE – ROCKSCAPES OF TELANGANA – is a pictorial account of the unique Telangana landscape of which Rocks form an essential feature. A must have for all Nature lovers, environmentalists and the perfect glimpse of Telangana's priceless rock heritage.



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SOCIETY'S PRESENCE @ THE HYDERABAD LITERARY FESTIVAL 24-26 JANUARY 2020

Although we say so ourselves our impressive rock photo display did provide the awe effect to this year's HLF. As per the request of the HLF curators, 15 of our rock photographs in 3' by 4' prints were printed on gateway paper allowing light to pass through, thus offering a grand view of the rocks from either side. Hung in the aesthetic arches of Vidyaranya's main premises these photographs were well received by approx 12,000 visitors of the festival over 3 days. Much to our delight many appreciated our cause and the work done by the Society. The photographs were works by our

members Sangeeta Varma, Ashok Kumar Vootla, Vikram Kotturu and Vijay Kumar.

The Coffee Table book "Marvels of Nature" authored by our President Narendra Luther and



designed by Supriya Bhalerao was launched on 26th January marking the 24th anniversary of the Society. This was followed by the Rock Quiz conducted by our members Amardeep Singh, Harshita Soni and Dr. Sudheer Bhan, drawing both children and adults. The quiz was both informative and interesting and met the Society's goal of spreading rock awareness among the general public.

ROCK WALK WITH HRD TRAINEES IN FEBRUARY

In order to be back at the Institute for breakfast at 9.30am, we started real early on our Rock Walk to Fakhruddingutta on 29.2.2020. But the six IAS and IPS trainees from the Dr. MCR HRD Institute in Jubilee Hills enjoyed the outing on that hazy morning so much that finally no regard was paid to the time limit. Although Saturday and Sunday mornings see many rock climbers, trekkers, walkers and all the devotees of the weekly prayer meeting of the Meher Baba Ashram in the area, we felt completely undisturbed, the hill offering such a multitude of opportunities that it seems to swallow up people and scatter them to follow their own activities. Rock climbing, cave exploration, imbibing the great outdoor environs in the midst of our city - all thrilled our walkers no end! Dr. Sathya and Vijay were the guides.



APARAJITA REMINISCES.....

I grew up in a house with a garden and many trees, very rare in a city like Bombay. My children also benefited from holidays in the family house and played to their hearts' content in the shade of tall trees, in the company of the family pets, insects, butterflies. A connection to nature is so important. We were overjoyed therefore to move in the mid 80's to an unspoilt Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad from an overcrowded city.

From our terrace we saw a vista of only rocks as far as the eyes could see. We could admire the sunset every day and we could see a storm coming from miles away across grey skies, a breathtaking sight. I had never imagined such a spectacular sight. When I heard that the rocks were close to 2500 million years old my excitement knew no bounds.

It was a magical experience for my family to live there for 20 years and I shall always cherish it.

One day while waiting for my son to finish his karate class I got talking to a German lady who was also waiting for her son to come out of the class. Both boys were around 8 I think. My friendship with Frauke Quader began right then, I was privileged to become a member of the Society in its earliest years. The first outdoor concert in the rocks, a classical concert by a lawyer-singer was organised by me in Jubilee Hills. A thumri recital by Vidya Rao was held in the home of Amrita Ahluwalia. Later, Artist and first President of the Society to Save Rocks, Laxma Goud and Nicola Durvasula organised the Society's highly successful Art Camp in Administrative Staff College, under the

guidance of Vice President Nandita Sen, whose husband was Principal there. That camp was instrumental in getting us a useful corpus for future activities.

So many memories! Last but not least, a sell out concert by the rock and fusion band Indian Ocean in Durgam Cheruvu in January 2004. The saving of Durgam Cheruvu, a beautiful lake surrounded by a ring of rocks, and its conversion into a resort by APTDC is another story too long to add here. Anjaneya Reddy, was then MD of APTDC a wonderful man and a visionary in his own right.

Believe me, the Society has a long history of activism and struggle and I am honoured to participate in it from the early years till now. There are many wonderful individuals and in the government whom one could

name, and many gorgeous places Frauke and the Society introduced us to, my favourite being the look out point from the Golconda wall at Athara Sidi (18 steps) accessed through a village near Golconda

The best investment as individuals is to transmit a love for nature in our own children and grandchildren, and bequeath the drive, not just to enjoy but to nourish, protect and preserve it in every way they can. Join movements in your area to protect the sea, against oil spills, to protect whales and dolphins, join movements that fight for forests, and anti pollution societies in your city, join protests to save the parks, help clean up the lake beds. Please persuade more people in Hyderabad to join the Society to Save Rocks -that's a contribution in itself.



APARAJITA SINHA

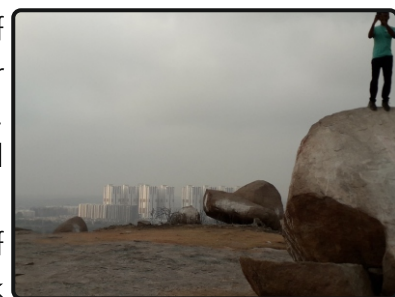
Vice President of the Society for three terms, is moving back to Bombay, her home town. Here she shares a few memories of her very pleasant and valuable experience being a member of the Society.

Rock Walk with HRD Trainees in February: Continued from Page #2

The hill top offers a spectacular view of the surrounding ever growing Hitech City/Gachibowli area with more and more high-rises springing up and seas of residential colonies. No wonder, we had to go to court to obtain a stay-order against attempts to use the hill for construction and demolition of the rocks. Hopefully, this PIL will help to save the unique rocky recreation, adventure and lung-space of Fakhruddingutta for the citizens of Hyderabad.

If you feel strongly for the rocky landscape around us and the preservation of Fakhruddingutta, please sign our petition to the Government. Click on the link <http://chnng.it/kmv6MpWN>. Thank you!

~~ Frauke Quader ~~



"In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir


"We hope that our muscles and enthusiasm would not have atrophied beyond rock walk power by the time Social Distancing is relaxed and the outdoors becomes available again for a glorious **REUNION IN THE ROCKS!**"

Rock Walks in April - May - June 2020

Day and Date	Place	Time and Meeting Point
Sunday, April 19, 2020	Kohe Imam-e-Zamin in Ammuguda	7:30 a.m. Opp. St. Ann's School, West Marredpally Side Return 11.00 a.m.
Sunday, May 16, 2020	Rocks near Durgam Cheruvu	7:30 a.m. Jubilee Hills Check Post Bus Stop, Opp: Bharat Petroleum Bunk Return 11.00 a.m
Saturday & Sunday, June 20 & 21, 2020	Pandavulagutta & Rocks in the three towns of Hanumakonda, Kazipet and Warangal	Saturday 7:30 a.m. Opp. St. Ann's High School, S.P. Road Return on Sunday by 8.00 p.m. (Please check our website for details of bus fare and hotel cost closer to the date)

Managing Committee			Members	
President:	Narendra Luther	9849 527 271	Padmini B. Patell	9912865299
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha	9849 655 363	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	8106072537
Secretary:	Frauke Quader	9849 936 248	Dr. E. Sathya Prakash	9440057846
Joint Secretary:	Sangeeta Varma	9849 044 624	Amardeep Singh	9810528070
Treasurer:	G.R.B. Pradeep	9866 752 114	Sajid Mehmood	9246150207

Membership Fee

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription
Active (Single)	₹ 100.00	₹ 200.00
Active (Couple)	₹ 100.00	₹ 300.00
Student	₹ 100.00	₹ 100.00
Life (Single)	₹ 2000.00	
Life (Couple)	₹ 3000.00	
Institution	₹ 10000.00	
Corporate	₹ 50000.00	

Obituary

We sadly lost two of our earliest Life Members, Prabha Ranga Rao Addanki and Prema Rajamani.

Prabha Ranga Rao passed away on 30.12.2019. She was deeply committed to the cause of rock preservation, as was her whole family who helped and supported the Society's work and endeavours over all these years.

Prema Rajamani was the wife of our past Life Member and Member of the Managing Committee, late R. Rajamani, retired Secretary Environment, and as such was intimately involved in the Society's work. She passed away on 9.1.2020.

We are grateful to both of them for their steadfast support and miss them dearly. May they rest in peace.

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