



Quarterly Newsletter

Volume - 97: October - December 2020

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

www.saverocks.org

Editors: Frauke Quader ▲ Padmini B. Patell



Majestic Rock Formations look down at lush greenery near the TS Police Academy

Photo Abhinav Gandra

What's Inside

Page 2

September Reflections

Page 3

What is happening in Fakhruddingutta (Khajaguda Rocks)?



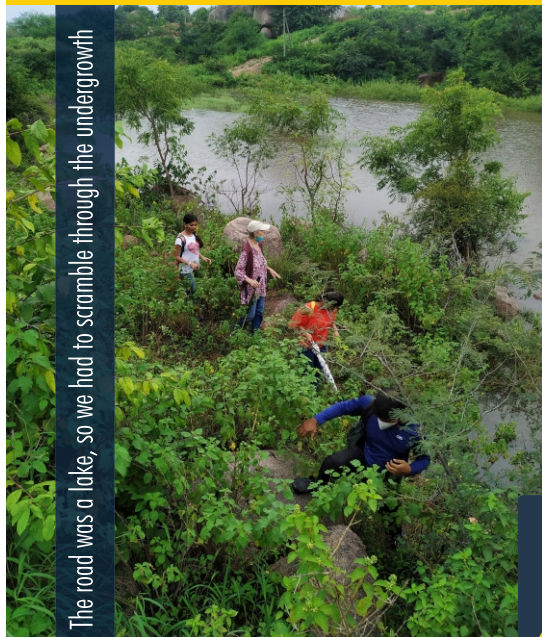
Page 4

Rock Walks in October - December

New Members - Managing Committee Members

Admission and Subscription Fees

The road was a lake, so we had to scramble through the undergrowth



As a newcomer to Hyderabad last August, I noted with interest the spectacular rocks scattered throughout the city. During lockdown, these rocks were forgotten- until I saw photos and drone videos of recent hiking excursions by friends. Instantly, I consulted Google about the rock walking club I had once heard about, and I auspiciously discovered that September's monthly walk to Peerancheru Rocks was on for that Sunday. I checked and rechecked that I had the correct day and year, committed and excited to end my

September Reflections!

Karín Przygocki

lockdown adventure drought. Still not believing this lucky timing, I contacted Pradeep, appreciating his reassurance that the walk was indeed on.

Not wanting to miss the group start, I arrived early and marveled at the breakfast street food cart and Sunday morning bustle of local walkers, runners and bikers. I was relieved to connect with my first rock walker

member, Sudheer, who promptly introduced me to everyone. Even the street dogs were friendly as we gathered at the start ! Setting off, within minutes we were on a dirt trail with no cars, rickshaws or people but plenty of green bee-eaters, doves, wildflowers and rock walkers' chatter. I was glad I followed instructions to wear long pants as there were also quite a few thorns. I felt kid-like joy tramping through grass that came up to my thighs. Crocodile Rock was our intended destination, and it did not disappoint. There our group of 10 collectively enjoyed expansive views, shade, rest, barefoot wandering, sketching, chatting, and just hanging out. I was fascinated to learn that the colourful collection of lichen on the rocks was an indicator of the area's

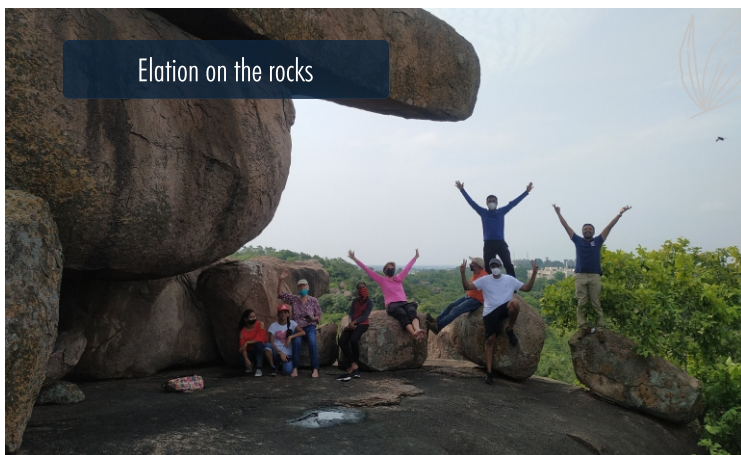
clean air. On the return journey, the sun became significantly stronger, and I wished I listened to the advice to wear a hat. Perfectly, I was able to purchase a Society to Save Rocks baseball cap while enjoying post-hike tea, cookies and camaraderie. I was so impressed by my rookie rock walk experience that I signed up for a lifetime membership on the spot, so see you next month !

Photos Vijay Kumar



and jump over rivulets

Elation on the rocks



LANDMARK ANNIVERSARY

On 26th January 2021 the Society will have its milestone Silver Anniversary. Closer to the date we will take a call on the mode of celebrations to mark this significant occasion — two and a half decades of our committed Rock crusade. We rock lovers are certain that our Deccan Rock Heritage has been worth fighting for and we hope to make an occasion of it. We sincerely hope to save our precious rocks for future generations to scramble up and be swept away by their majestic beauty and irreplaceable eco contribution.



What is happening in Fakhrud dingutta (Khajaguda Rocks)? Frauke Quader

The PIL that was filed by the Society on 29.4.2019 is slumbering in the Honourable High Court of Telangana. A Stay Order, though, was declared on 30.4.2019 stipulating that “the rocks located (in the Hill) are not disturbed or damaged or destroyedduring the pendency of this writ petition.”



New flat ground near the “Shoe Rock”

The rocks with the alarming drill holes that alerted us last year, have indeed not seen any change so far, except that the supposed “owner” has made his “ownership” public.

Follow the road towards the Meher Baba Cave Shrine, and you will find that the right side of the track, just opposite the Shrine, has been filled in with mud and boulders to a great extent to form a flat ground . Follow

further down the road and the new construction of the Venkateshwara Swamy Temple comes in sight. Not only the temple, but also the massive cutting of rocks to extend the area, all done in the last few months, Covid 19 lock-down or not. The recent digging of deep trenches in the new ground points to the construction of a big Hall which is to connect the new smaller temple (seen in the photo) to a much bigger one at the other end of the grounds.

We tried to convince the Temple Management that they are acting in a protected area and that no rock cutting was allowed under the Stay Order by the High Court, but their take is that in the name of God and for His glory, they have the right to ignore human rules.

The Municipal authorities are either on Covid leave or not interested to intervene. A contempt of Court case was advised against by our Advocate.



New Trenches



Rock cutting near the Temple to create a road for transportation of construction material

Photos Ravi Setlem & Frauke Quader

Annual General Body Meeting

The pandemic has caused a delay in preparation of our accounts and under the present circumstances the AGM which is normally held in September stands postponed until further notice.

Postponement of Rockathon

Postponement of Rockathon: In the wake of our entire lives being turned upside down by COVID-19 it should be no surprise, that much against our wishes there is not going to be the eagerly awaited Annual Hyderabad Rockathon 2020 edition. In view of rising casualties and the strict social distancing norms we are left with no choice but to postpone the event for 2021.

Office Assistant for the Society

Despite lockdown there is work to be done at the Society office and we request any member who would be open to a part time paid position of Office Assistant to kindly apply — it always helps to have someone who loves rocks and can understand the need to work for them rather than hire someone who is clueless. Applicant should be computer savvy and own transportation is preferred.

Closure of Membership

Membership fees are to be paid up by June every year. We regret having to close memberships that are over due since June 2017. Those who would like to pay the backlog and continue their membership may kindly do so and email the Secretary.

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 and long pants should be worn. Please enroll with G.R.B. Pradeep at 9866752114. Participants are expected to follow adequate Covid 19 protection rules.

Rock Walks in October-November-December 2020

Day and Date	Place	Time and Meeting Point
Sunday, Oct 18, 2020	Rocks near Gandipet	3:00 p.m. At Café Sandwicho, after flyover over ORR at Narsingi
Sunday, Nov 15, 2020	Bodugutta near Ramoji Filmcity	8:30 a.m. Opposite Ramoji Film City Entrance Gate, Vijayawada Highway
Sunday, Dec 20, 2020	Moula Ali	3:00 p.m. At Tarnaka Metro Station


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	9246150207
Treasurer:	G.R.B. Pradeep	9866 752 114	Sajid Mehmood	9810528070

We welcome our new members: Karin Przygocki, Life (Single) and Abhinav Gandra, Active (Single)

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	

FILM HYDERABAD, CITY OF ROCKS

Our Documentary has received close to 11,000 clicks and this is proof that a lot of new people are being acquainted with our priceless Rock Heritage. Do your bit and share the link with all in your e-mail address book.

(Link: <https://youtu.be/dd7vbwOZfAw>)



*Let's meet at our next
Rockwalk
at Gandipet on
18.10.2020*

WEAR YOUR MASK - SANITIZE - STAY SAFE