

Society to Save Rocks

Quarterly Newsletter

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Graffiti rocks, abstracted rocks, natural rocks and the list goes on. Here is a glimpse into the 50 rock paintings by students of the Sri Venkateshwara College of Fine Arts in Madhapur who created a beautiful framework for our activities at the HLF.



Through many creative techniques such as mosaic collages, water colours, three-dimensional exhibits, they conveyed their enthusiasm for the rocky nature surrounding Hyderabad.

HYDERABAD
LITERARY FESTIVAL
(HLF) 2024
26th to 28th
January



The Society's
28th
Anniversary!

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Since the 28th birthday of the Society falls on 26th January, a massive Birthday Cake (unusual: an upside-down pineapple cake!) was distributed amongst all 100 participants and visitors present. We thank the Culinary Academy of India (Hyderabad) for this generous contribution to the Exhibition and the cause of rock preservation! We are also grateful to the HLF for helping us to publicize & showcase the precarious future of the beautiful rock formations of Hyderabad once again.



Here are some highlights from the previous quarter!



THE DECCAN ROCKS CELEBRATED BY METRO RAIL Photo Exhibition 5th to 7th February

The Society to Save Rocks, in collaboration with L&T Metro Rail and with assistance of event managers Tatva Arts held a photo exhibition titled "Deccan Rocks" at the Ameerpet Metro Station from February 5th to 7th. The 50 photos of the most stunning rock formations on display were taken by the Society's Life member Mr. Ashok Kumar Vootla. This is the first time that an exhibition of rock photos was held at any of the Metro stations in the city.



The exhibition was inaugurated by KVB Reddy, Managing Director, L&T Metro Rail. Murali Varadarajan, Chief Strategy Officer and other top officers of the management were also present at the event which had been carefully prepared by Mr. Narendranath, Corp. Communications, and Mr. Surender, Station Officer. Greatly appreciating the display, Mr. KVB Reddy readily agreed to the suggestion by Prof. Fatima Ali Khan, our President, for holding such exhibitions in other Metro Stations so that more commuters would resonate with the ecological importance of rocks and lend their voice to our cause of protecting them from destruction. Click on this link to view the exhibition.

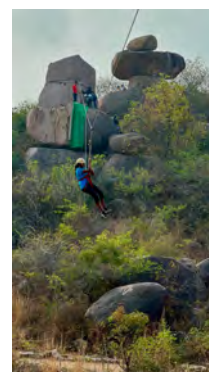
From left Murali Vardarajan Chief Strategy Officer L & T Metro Rail, KVB Reddy MD, Ashok Vootla Photographer, and Ravi Kumar Vundavalli Geologist

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/s6dfaNFfGog1Rr9m/?mibextid=A7sQZp>

...and the most awaited event of the year! 10th HYDERABAD ROCKATHON 2024 - 11th February

The Hyderabad Rockathon 2024 was organized by the Society and the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club(GHAC) at the Forestrek Park, Narsingi on February 11th. The events were flagged off by Dr. G. Chandrasekhar Reddy, MD, TSFDC. This 10th Edition of the Rockathon had a footfall of about a 150 participants who thoroughly enjoyed the adventure-filled day in the picturesque site which has boulders, walkways in Nature and three lakes. As always, the highlights were the Rappelling and Ziplining which commenced at 9am and had people queuing up well after 3pm ! Besides the Rock Walks, Rock Shotput, games and Slacklining, Rock Balancing by Maanasi Shankar drew the attention of both kids and adults.

The Snake Awareness session had a captive audience and the little kids sat up close without flinching to watch the fascinating reptiles shown by the Friends of Snakes who answered many questions and helped us see these reptiles in a new light. The Rock Balancing, Rock Art and the Rock Quiz had a good participation too. The Society is grateful for the strong support of all our Members, the GHAC core team, Telangana State Forest Corporation(TSFC) and Telangana Tourism Department and of course all the happy rock enthusiasts who explored and participated with gusto.



EXCURSION TO HAMPI - 17th & 18th February



Photos of Hampi by Vikram K

Malini Siruguri reports - "Our trip to Hampi with the Society to Save Rocks was a jam-packed weekend of fun. The adventure began right at our meeting point in Kacheguda station on the evening of February 16th the moment that we found out we were going to change trains in the middle of the night - a kind of surprise I've learnt must be expected out of these trips! Soon after arriving at our dormitory - a set of rooms furnished with bunk beds! - we were fresh and fed, and climbed excitedly into our minibus and jeeps, ready for some rocks. (continued)



Our trek began at the foot of Matanga Hill, accompanied by a friendly dog who disappeared once the uneven stone steps gave way to the Deccan's beloved boulders. Stopping often to take in the sight of the dusty but splendid ruins contrasting with green groves of coconut trees, we made our way through the sun baked granite jungle to Matanga's peak, where a small derelict temple stands. We rested here, and some clicked pictures while others explored the crevices between the rocks.



Once back on the ground, we made a beeline to a coconut stand, after which we scattered in search of food and coracle rides. It wasn't until the end of our post-lunch sightseeing that we all gathered at the parking (with sticks of ice cream in hand), from where we set off to watch the sunset. The next morning, we headed to see Hampi's historic stone chariot and the magnificent Vittala temple, followed by a trip to what was once Vijayanagara's royal centre. Here, we marveled at the architecture of the intricately carved stone platform and the channel-fed stepped tank. We reached Hyderabad at 3:00 am and dispersed after sleepy goodbyes, no doubt already looking forward to the next trip!"

NAIMISAM EARTH FESTIVAL 2024 - 18th February



Organised for the first time by Naimisam, Jiddu Krishnamurti Centre Hyderabad, the Earth Festival held at CCRT, Madhapur was a unique platform created for bringing stakeholders of the Earth together. It was heartening to see how all participants put Earth first and the growing concern regarding the human role in the destruction of the planet. From organic fabric, building material, grains to awareness on holistic education, conservation of Natural resources and cultural programmes around this theme - there were activities that all age groups engaged in and enjoyed. Sangeeta Varma, Vice President of the Society addressed school children and adults present about the importance of the Deccan rocks and sparked an interest in rock conservation. There were several enquiries, few new Memberships and sale of promotional material at our stall. The Rock Tattoo point was a hit and was buzzing with eager little ones patiently waiting their turn.

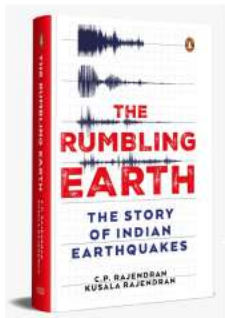
"Sentinels of Hyderabad" - 11th to 13th March

A group of 16 Hyderabad Ladies held an Exhibition of their paintings of rocks "Sentinels of Hyderabad" at the State Art Gallery on 11th to 13th March 2024. Curators of the impressive and varied renditions of Hyderabad's granite rock formations were Smita Rane, Sumeela Modi and Sneha Subramanian.



"The Rumbling Earth"

Our Life Member, Prof. C.P. Rajendran and his wife Kusala Rajendran, seismologists, have published a book on Earthquakes which might interest our Rock friends. Published by Vintage Books. For more details check www.penguin.co.in



Hyderabad Climbing Initiative

The Society was invited to the first Hyderabad Climbing Initiative Open Mic on March 23rd sponsored by CRAG - Sport Climbing. The climber community came together to explore possibilities of collaboration for rock conservation and promotion of an annual Climbing event.



hop on, let's explore these Deccan giants together (^ ^)/

For more information give a call to Mr.Pradeep @ 9866752114

check out our upcoming rock walks!



Apr 21 Golkonda Rocks

7 am: Near Morine Bakery, Nanalnagar Cross Roads

konda stands for a hill in Telugu!

We conduct rock walks on the 3rd Sunday every month! Do join us for a journey through these boulders! Don't forget your walking shoes and a good 'ol bottle of water :)

May 19 Durgam Cheruvu Rocks

As usual, at 7 am: The Institute of Leather Technology, Old Mumbai Road, Entrance on BNR Hill Road

cheruvu translates to a lake in Telugu!

June 16 Peerancheru Rocks

7 am: L&T PBEL City Apartments entrance gate, Bandlaguda Jagir

Don't forget a bottle of water

hey there! we are the Society to Save Rocks

a bunch of people looking out for the rocks in the Deccan by spreading awareness through such walks and other activities!

We welcome our new members
 Raja Sekhar Mamillapalli (Life Single)
 Mohan K Reddy (Active Couple)
 Srinidhi Dasaka & Manjunath Hota (Active couple)
 Rajesh Muppidi (Active Single)
 Samyooktha Manohar (Active Single)
 Trishna Mehta (Active Single)
 Richa Mathur (Active Single)
 Sai Prakash A.V (Active Single)
 Shraddha (Active Single)
 Jagan Mohan Karamsetty (Active Single)
 Aparna Thota (Active Single)
 M. Sri Vaishnavi (Student)
 N. Aishwarya (Student)
 Azharuddin (Student)

Designed by Sanandana

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription
Active (Single)	100/-	500/-
Active (Couple)	100/-	600/-
Student (<18 Years)	100/-	200/-
Life (Single)	3000/-	NA
Life (Couple)	5000/-	NA
Institution	10000/-	NA
Corporate	50000/-	NA

You can find us on



saverocks



@saverocks



societytosaverocks



For more details, here's the qr code to our website



Sign our petition to help to save Fakhruddingutta (Khajaguda Rocks)

