

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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QUARTERLY

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NEWSLETTER

January - March 2014

Editors : Frauke Quader, Padmini B Patel

With
**HYDERABAD
ROCKATHON
2013** *Special*



R. Sri Murugan, artist and rock enthusiast, drew inspiration from the Hyderabad Rockathon 2013 and created this colourful collage.
He also conducted the Drawing Workshop at the event.





Dargah



Cave



Temple

ONE GENEROUS HILL, THREE SACRED SHRINES - FAKHRUDDINGUTTA

Drive out towards Gachibowli and one's vision is assaulted by high-rise buildings jostling with each other for vertical space. When you look a little further you see the serene backdrop of the Khajaguda Hillock also known as Fakhruddingutta with its casually strewn boulders seemingly caught in a time warp. While people now know it as Lanco Hills this hillock and the three shrines located have a history and are held dear among its respective followers.

The highest point of the rock sheet has the 650 year old tomb of Saint Hazrat Baba Fakhruddin Aulia. Believed to be the spiritual mentor of Hasan Gangu, Founder of the Bahmani Kingdom he was buried here in 1353 AD. Though modest in construction the modernized tomb stands in a grand landscape. Pilgrims flock here on Fridays and holidays. The annual Urs brings thousands of devotees both Muslims and Hindus to the Dargah.

The Meher Baba Cave close to the Dargah is considered as one of the most significant pilgrim sites among Meher Baba followers. It was in this cave that Meher Baba carried out what he called "Manonash" or "annihilation of the mind" in 1951. Pilgrims are drawn here from the world over. Meetings are held on second Saturdays, an annual celebration happens in the third week of October.

The Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple hidden among trees and boulders down in the hills is like a well kept secret. It has Vishnu in the lying down pose, a small Hanuman and a stone Stamba. Supposedly 600 years old, built during the Akkanna-Madanna period, both the devout and the curious find their way here. Off late daily 'puja' is being performed with a large celebration coming up in February.

Not forgetting that the generous hill is also a mecca for rock climbers. This year, Fakhruddingutta was the venue for the All India Rock Climbing Championship organised by the GHAC held on December 21st. It drew national and international participants. The Society has been pursuing the matter of a Rock Park in the hill with the Tourism Department for many years.

More reasons than one why we should make sure that our pet rock site Fakhruddingutta is preserved for all time!

Padmini B Patell

EVENTS



The Society was invited to the **Avatar Meher Baba Centre (AMB)** at Jubilee Hills to understand the importance of the Manonash Cave at Fakhruddingutta, and join hands with them in working towards the protection of Fakhruddingutta against encroachers.

Here Frauke Quader is seen addressing the gathering at the AMB Centre.

TV 9 covered the Society to Save Rocks in their Friday Naveena show. Anchor Jhansi interviewed some of our members and highlighted the importance of rocks, their contribution to the ecosystem and the activities of the Society. The group was happy to spread awareness about the Deccan's heritage.



Rock Walks were conducted for a group of French Agriculturists on 13-12-2013 and for members of Hyderabad New Century Lions Club on 22-12-2013, apart from our regular monthly walks.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

18th January 2014, 4.30 p.m.

To mark the Society's 17th anniversary we will be inaugurating a permanent photo exhibition at Lamakaan of classic rocksites captured by late M.Hasan, one of the Founder Members of the Society. Hasan was an avid photographer and owner of the house which is now the popular Lamakaan.



Mid February 2014 :

INDIVA, an all women World Folk Fusion outfit, is coming to Hyderabad to sing and play for the rocks. The only Diva band which performs in 8 languages viz Hindi, Punjabi, English, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Konkani, Bengali and Swahili too, it is a combination of women from different parts of India, unifying the diverse cultures. The band consists of Hamsika Iyer singer of "Chamrakhallo" and the latest "I 234 Get on the Dance floor"; Vivienne Podha the recipient of the JD Rolling Stones Award; Merlin D'souza India's leading music producer and composer, and Shruti Bhawe a multi talented violinist, singer

and dancer who performs with renowned artistes across India. Mid February at a rocky venue. Watch the media and our website for final details!

Rock Walks in January, February and March 2014

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday Jan 19, 2014	Fakhrullingutta	2.30 pm at NMDC, Masab Tank
Sunday Feb 23, 2014	Rachakonda Fort	10.00 am at Gun Park, opp. Public Garden; return app. 7 pm. Bring lunch! Please note change of date to 4th Sunday because of Indira Concert in the Rocks
Sunday Mar 16, 2014	Rocks near Durgam Cheruvu	3 pm at Jubilee Hills Check Post, opp. Petrol Pump

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are announced in Channel 6, WOW Hyderabad, The Hindu, Times of India, Deccan Chronicle, fullhyd.com and of course on our website. Everybody is welcome. Sensible shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enrol a minimum of 2 days in advance with Ravi Setlem on 98662-41768 or with C.J. Rao on 98490-37240.

We welcome our new members:

R. Shantan Reddy, Active
Dhishana Kidambi, Student
Uttara Chari, Active
Dr. Ravi Kumar Saxena, Life
A.N.A. Giri, Active
B. Sai Sanketh, Student

B. Shashank, Student
Amar Deep Singh, Active
Sandeep Raj, Active
Lt.Col. B. Shashidhar and Sampoorna, Active (Couple)
M. Anil Kumar and Y.L. Prasanna, Active (Couple)
Asha Mirakhur and Ramesh, Active (Couple)

Managing Committee

President: Narendra Luther - 23399778
Vice President: Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363
Secretary: Frauke Quader - 9849936248
Joint Secretary: Amita Talwar - 9849010704
Treasurer: Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624

Members:

Padmini B. Patell - 9912865299
Dr. Sudheer Bhan - 8106072537
Ravi Setlem - 9866241768
Dr. Madhusudan Srinivas - 8886516222

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	—

Wishing You A Happy New Year

HYDERABAD ROCKATHON 2013

To highlight the need for preservation of our stunning Deccan Rockscapes for environmental protection, recreation and adventure sports, the Society in partnership with Great Hyderabad Adventure Club (GHAC) conducted the 11th Hyderabad Rockathon on 1st December 2013, at the University of Hyderabad.



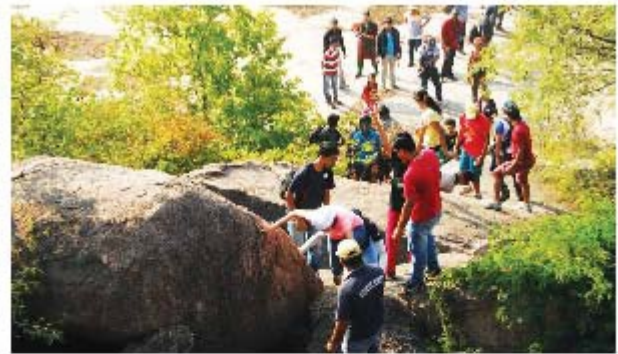
Registration of participants, on an early and misty December morning



President of the Society N. Luther (Centre) visits the Rockathon



Giving Rock Shotput a go



Rockwalk

Quiz Winners : Team 3 -
Hemanth, Varshit, Anirudh, Siddarth

Runners up : Team 4 -
Hajra, Anirudh, Abhijit



Rock Quiz in progress



Tallest ...

**HYDERABAD
ROCKATHON
2013**

ROCK BALANCING

A fun event
for adults and
children alike



Best Photo : Anjan Mitra

**HYDERABAD
ROCKATHON
2013**

ROCK PHOTOGRAPHY

Judged by
experts of the
Society



Third: D. Shiva

ROCK DRAWING WORKSHOP



Best Three : Children



Second: Venkat Mohan

ROCK INSTALLATION

Spider & Crab by Anind &
Hemanth (Ages 12)



Best Three : Adults



Sai Sanketh 14 Yrs



Nitisa Yasan 14 Yrs



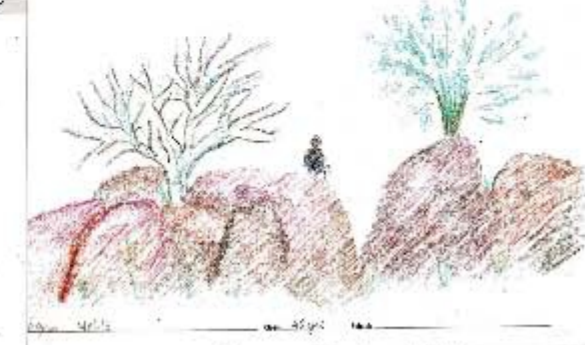
Ankita Iyer 6 Yrs



B. Shashidhar 49 Yrs



B. Vivek 22 Yrs



Pragna Mehta 40 Yrs



Rock Enthusiasts



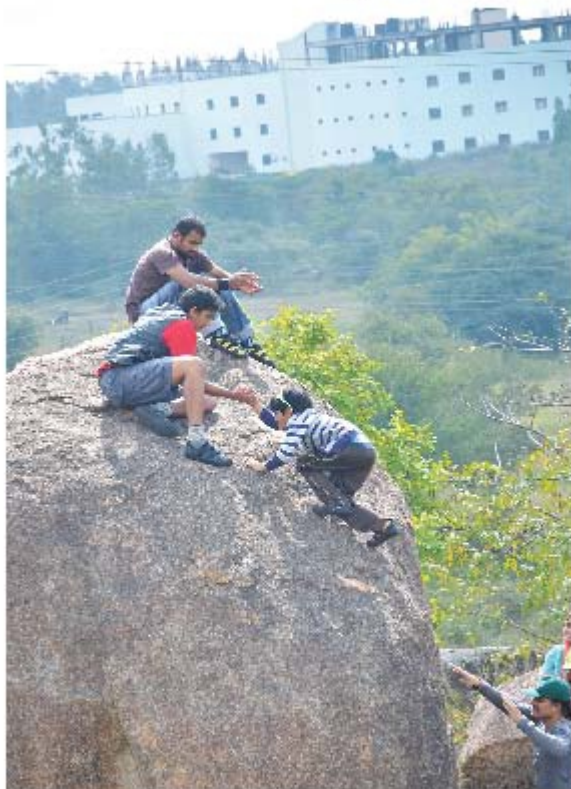
Rappelling



Slacklining



Ziplining



Bouldering



Photographers on the Rock

The Society thanks



Media Partner

