

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER

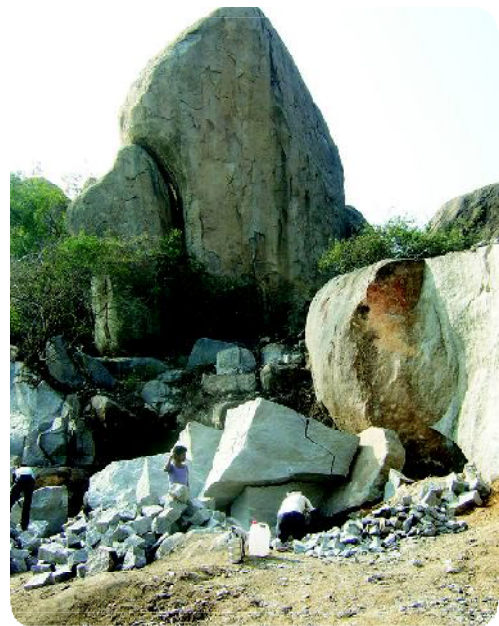
April - June 2013

*Editors : Frauque Quader, Padmini B Patell*

## OUR QUARREL WITH



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## **OUR QUARREL WITH QUARRYING Contd..**

Drive out in any direction from the city and you are struck by the sorry sight of healthy hillocks being chipped away by stone cutters or being completely consumed by cruel quarrying units. Sadly, we realize this trend is here to stay and has gained momentum since the Government's ban last year on the indiscriminate removal of sand from river beds. This resulted in the acute sand crunch faced by the construction industry which quickly found a viable substitute in Rock Sand with the added advantage of being one third the cost of river sand. The growing demand has encouraged quarrying units to add crushing units for the production of Rock Sand in several areas.

Our quarrel with quarrying led us to the office of Director Mines and Geology B.R.V. Sushil Kumar who informed us that Road Metal quarries and crushers constitute an important mining activity and that the Government has decided to create Mining Zone areas. In



2002, Mining Zone Committees were constituted for Ranga Reddy, Medak, Nalgonda and Chittoor Districts. Each Committee is headed by the District Collector and has representatives of HMDA, Survey and Land Records, Mines Safety, Pollution Control Board, Stone Crushers Association, and is convened by the Asst. Director of Mines and Geology. Till date, no final consensus has been reached on the establishment of these Mining Zones!! Proposed areas are in Hayathnagar, Kandukur, Ibrahimpatnam, Yacharam, Manchal, Medchal, Shamirpet and Keesara.

Hyderabad District has no active quarries. In Ranga Reddy District, in August 2001, the District Collector, Ranga Reddy District directed the Mining Department Hyderabad, not to grant any quarry leases and not to renew the existing quarry leases. Despite this, 15 leases were granted after this date, mainly in Keesara, but also in Shamirpet and Shankerapally.

Despite Government orders one often finds stone cutters busy at work with or without a license. One stone cutter confessed that each stone fetches him rupees five from the contractor who then sells it for rupees eight. No surprise why our rocks are considered sources of wealth – we see them as irreplaceable Natural Wealth while others see them as irresistible raw material to generate wealth ! Our quarrel goes on.....



**To the Society's query if mining licences can be given in Reserved Forests we received the following reply from Mr P.Raghuveer IFS, Addl PCCF / Director. A.P. Forest Academy, Dulapally, Director General (CEFARM)**

*"Mining is a non-forest activity and if any forest area is to be diverted for this purpose the procedure prescribed under the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the Rules made thereunder need to be followed. All the applications have to be first vetted by the Mining Department. All such proposals are processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure and further action taken. Diversion of any forest land for non forestry purpose needs the prior concurrence of Govt. of India."*

### **AWARENESS DRIVE**

- On January 26, 2013, our Committee Member Sangeeta Varma gave a live interview on All India Radio, FM 101.9, on the Society and the rock cause. The hour long interview in Hindi with music interludes is available on Youtube the following link : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RLjqZvj6RA>
- Vasu Nugala was interviewed by CVR TV (6.2.2013) and Hans India Newspaper (17.3.2013) on the Society and the Rock Walks.
- Frauke Quader gave a PP Presentation on the rock preservation topic and the work of the Society at the Women's Day Function of DMRL on 22.3.2013.
- She spoke to the children and parents of Glendale Academy International at their "Kinder Wonder" Annual Function on 23.3.2013 and invited them to join Rock Walks and Rock Activities.

### **ROCK CONCERNS**

Historic Rock House erased – (the subject of our cover story of the October 2011 Newsletter)

Last year the High Court had given a stay order on the demolishing of the old rock house. Now, the Government has, against the advice of the Heritage Conservation Committee, completely delisted the Grade I Heritage Building "Devdi Mehdi Nawaz Jung", also called Banjara Bhavan, and within a day there was nothing left of the historic abode of the Mehdi family, where Rabindranath Tagore once stayed and took in the wild but peaceful atmosphere of rocky Banjara Hills.



A renewed PIL by the Forum for a Better Hyderabad against the demolition might hold up the redevelopment for a while, but ..... As Shankar Narayan said in the 2011 Newsletter: "In losing this landmark, I see a loss of imagination. Imagination to re-invent our urban scape. To grow the city without erasing its history. To invent new building forms and types that sit in harmony with the old."

Will all the remaining rocks also be destroyed and will a commercial building come up in the place of the most unique and quaint Banjara Bhavan the first house in Banjara Hills and the first where rocks were accommodated into the structural design?

**All Active and Student Members are requested to pay their Membership Fees and arrears for the Financial Year 2013/14, latest by June 2013.**

**Rock Walks in April, May and June 2013:**

<b>Date :</b>	<b>Place :</b>	<b>Time / Meeting Point:</b>
April 21st Sunday	Durgam Cheruvu	7 a.m. Jubilee Hills Checkpost, Opp. Petrol Pump
May 19th Sunday	Nayya Quila, Golconda	7 a.m. NMDC, Masab Tank
June 16th Sunday	Peddagutta, Jedcherla	8 a.m. NMDC, Masab Tank Return 6 p.m. Bring Lunch

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 Frauke Quader on 23552923 or with C.J. Rao on 98490-37240.

**Managing Committee**

President: Narendra Luther - 23399778  
 Vice President: Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363  
 Secretary: Frauke Quader - 9849936248  
 Joint Secretary: Uma Maheshwari - 9866019402  
 Treasurer: Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624

**Members:**

C.J. Rao - 9849037240  
 Dr. Hina Gokhale - 9440893983  
 Padmini B. Patell - 9912865299  
 Dr. Sudheer Bhan - 8106072537  
 T.R. Subramaniam - 9849018199  
 Ravi Setlem - 9866241768

**Membership Fees**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Admission</b>	<b>Annual Subscription</b>
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	—