

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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### HYDERABAD ROCKS HIGHLIGHTED AT AGORA 2017 - BIENNALE OF BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Photo by Nilabh Nagar



Mayor of Bordeaux being escorted by Srinivas Murthy G

The theme "metropolitan landscapes" chosen for Agora 2017-the architecture, urbanism and design biennale of Bordeaux was perfectly suited for the questions raised by Hyderabad – how can a city of such unbridled growth still take into account this singular landscape of rocks and lakes and redefine its legacy?

The exhibition on Hyderabad was presented in the stunning Gallery Marengo, winner of the prestigious Pritzker Prize for Architecture. Society to Save Rocks presented a 6-minute short film by Saravana Kumar made especially for the biennale. The film captures the voices of various people of the city of Hyderabad, some are crusaders, some scientists, some government officials, adventure buffs or just nature lovers – and everyone of them finds his own argument to save the rocks.

The video was very well received and captured the attention of the audience, both by its message and visual quality. It very well completed the exhibition, which also included ancient and modern photographs, as well as films of Hyderabad, presented by the Kalakriti Gallery and a large scale model of Hyderabad landscape, presented by the schools of architecture of Bordeaux and Hyderabad.

An official visit took place on September 23rd, in presence of Bordeaux Métropole officials, foreign dignitaries from Mexico and Cameroon, invited in the framework of Agora, as well as an official delegation from Hyderabad.

As reported by Coline Dehaye  
International Cooperation Officer,  
Bordeaux Métropole



Photo by Srinivas Murthy G

The interesting Model of Hyderabad which gave a virtual feel of the terrain including rock formations.

## THE WEATHERED MAMMOTHS OF WARANGAL - Padmini B Patell



*Mettu Gutta*

Most often the mention of Warangal spontaneously brings to mind the Rudreshwara Swamy Temple popularly called the Thousand Pillared Temple – but not so if you are a lover of rocks and have sighted the gigantic, towering two on Mettu Gutta at Madikonda on the Warangal highway. These massive Granite rock structures have to be seen to be believed and are a magnificent sample of the Deccan's rich Natural Heritage that gives the Society a cause well worth pursuing - a reassurance felt by a small group of 12 on the overnight July rock walk.

Located close to the Sri Mettu Rama Lingeswara Swamy Temple the two lone gravity defying sentinels can be spotted from the main road much like a prominent light house that beckons. Perched in the crevasses of these vertical formations we spotted hawks, vultures and parakeets who like rock walkers wish to stay way above the maddening crowd. At

the foot are water bodies that keep the surroundings green with interesting flora. The temple a little distance away is considered an important one built in the Kakatiya period. The view from the hill is spectacular and the whole of Warangal literally lies at the foot of this hillock.



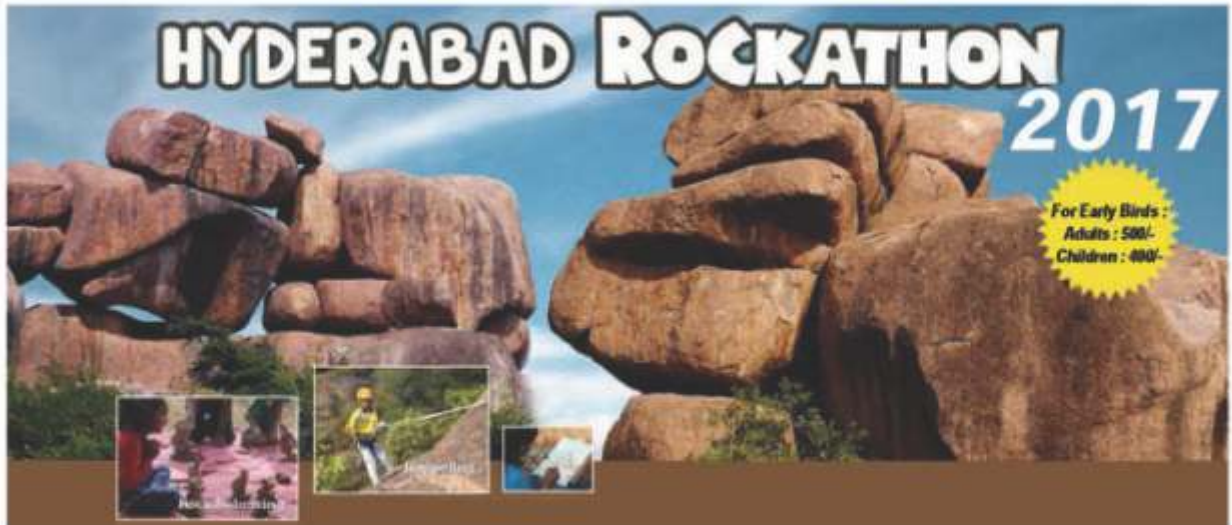
*Pandavula Gutta*

*Photos by Sangeeta Varma*

Having gone this far we just had to travel another 50 kms to Regonda to explore the Pandavula Gutta, truly a rock enthusiasts dream destination. The rocks here have interesting formations spread over a few kilometers. Legend highlights that even the Pandavas could not stay away. They resided in caves in this rocksite and thanks to them both locals and Government have chosen to safeguard the rocks offering prayers in places where the pandit has to rappel to the alter. Ideally one can spend the entire day here except if you get hungry you will have to hope that the Pandavas stashed away a picnic basket someplace !


Now that we had our fill of rocks, rocks and more rocks we had to make a stop at the famed Ramappa Temple, the Pakhal Lake and the Thousand Pillared Temple to capture those selfies that would convince our folks at home about where we had escaped to that exciting weekend !!

IT'S ROCKATHON TIME ONCE AGAIN



On 12th November 2017 the Society to Save Rocks and the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club are conducting the 6th Hyderabad Rockathon, an adventure filled fun day for all ages at Fakhrullingutta (Khajaguda) behind Lanco Hills. Check details and programmes on website : [www.hyderabadrockathon.com](http://www.hyderabadrockathon.com) and avail the early bird offer.

The event is sponsored by  **Telangana Tourism**

and supported by 

### TALK AT HYDERABAD UNIVERSITY

An illustrated lecture about our cause was given to the undergraduate students of the Communications Department of the University of Hyderabad by Sangeeta Varma on 28th August 2017. The students followed the talk with avid attention and interest.



*Sangeeta Varma talks to HU students*

### INTACH HERITAGE AWARD FOR ROCKS



*"United - We - Stand" Rock at MANUU*

The Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Gachibowli, received this year's Heritage Award for the care with which they preserve the beautiful rock formations in their campus.

### LONELY PLANET

In their September 2017 issue, the Lonely Planet Magazine India has featured the Society and the rock cause together with visuals of a rock walk they took with our members Dr. Sudheer Bhan and G.R.B. Pradeep. The topic was hidden treasures of Hyderabad.



*Rockwalk for Lonely Planet*

Our Rock Walk in October 2017 will be a full-day bus excursion to Peddagutta on the Kurnool road, an impressive rocky outcrop with an ancient temple. Bus fare will be Rs. 500/-. Bring Lunch. Please enrol with Pradeep at 98667 52114 before 12-10-2017, and pay at the office or transfer the amount to the account of the Society to Save Rocks No. 18090100003047 at Bank of Baroda, Jubilee Hills Branch, IFSC Code BARB0JUBILE (0=zero). More details below in Rock Walk schedule.

### Rock Walks in October, November and December 2017

Date :	Place :	Time /Meeting Point :
Saturday October 15, 2017	Peddagutta, Kurnool road	7.30 a.m., NMDC, Masab Tank, for more details see above.
Sunday November 19, 2017	Moulali Secunderabad	3.00 p.m., opp. St. Ann's High School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad
Sunday December 17, 2017	Rocks at Urdu University (MANUU), Gachibowli	3.00 p.m., NMDC, Masab Tank

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are widely announced in the press and social media, and on our website. Everybody is welcome. Walking shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enroll with G.R.B. Pradeep at 98667 52114.

Welcome to our new member : Coline Dehaye (Life)

#### Managing Committee

President: Narendra Luther - 040-23399778  
 Vice President: Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363  
 Secretary: Frauke Quader - 9849936248  
 Joint Secretary: G.R.B. Pradeep - 98667 52114  
 Treasurer: Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624

#### Members

Padmini B. Patell - 9912865299  
 Dr. Sudheer Bhan - 8106072537  
 Anand Madabhushi - 9849033763  
 Dr. E.Sathya Prakash - 9440057846  
 Ravi Setlem - 9866241768

#### 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	—

P.M. Bhargava, eminent Scientist of Hyderabad, passed away on August 1, 2017, at the age of 89. He was a long-term Life Member of our Society. Dr. Bhargava was a well-known molecular biologist and activist, and the overwhelming response to his death by Hyderabadis testifies to his popularity and influence. We express our deep condolences to his family. May his soul rest in peace.