

Quarterly Newsletter

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# Society to Save Rocks

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👤 Editors: Frauke Quader & Padmini B Patell

**A very Happy Year 2025 to all  
Members and Rock Friends!**

Morning walk at Horsley Hills during the Society's Rock  
Outing on 22nd to 24th November 2024

PC: Ashok Vootla



PC: Ashok Kumar Vootla



Have you ever seen such strange erosion of rocks? Our Geologist Ravi K. Vundavalli says that these kinds of patterns typically occur in granites with strong quartz veins where the rock erodes along these veins. These scooped-out rocks really make for strange patterns! We don't have much of it in Hyderabad, but found this in Horsley Hills.

## Reflections on Rockwalks

A Note on the Society's Rock outings,  
by Frauke Quader, Secretary

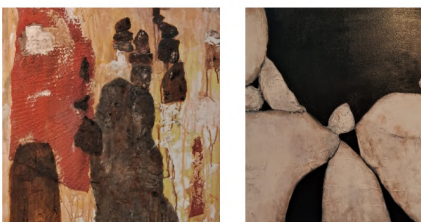
I get a lot of positive, enthusiastic, even euphoric feedback on our monthly outings to the fascinating rock scape of Hyderabad and surroundings, as well as longer excursions like to Hampi, Gandikota, Pandavulagutta (Warangal), and now Horsley Hills in AP. The bizarrely stacked-up Granites of our area never fail to awe our city dwellers and visitors.



We are happy and satisfied that we can bring this joy to many citizens month after month. Believe it or not: we have conducted over 300 of these outings without a break for the last 29 years of our existence. The awareness of this gift of nature, our unique 2500 million year-old Granites, is the Society's main concern. We like as many new rock walkers as possible to come and see what they have probably gone by without much noticing the strange and beautifully sculpted rocks. Awareness will bring concern and concern must result in the will to help in conservation.

Rock walks are not an exercise in entertainment. They are conducted by volunteers of the Society who may spend considerable time to scout out the trails and arrange for permissions and transportation. To divert from the prescribed routes and the prescribed timings impacts the cohesion of the group and the conduct of the full rock walk. Participants of the rock walks need to adhere to instructions of the guides and the timings given at the outset.

Enjoying Nature, including the extraordinary rockscape of Hyderabad and the Deccan means absorbing the beauty of the rocks, of the wide landscapes of trees and water bodies amongst them; listening to birds, admiring butterflies and all the little flowers growing in the rocks. The serenity of nature will resonate with our own peace. Refraining from loud chattering and disturbing conduct, ensures that everyone enjoys the rocky outdoors and returns to the next Rock walks ! Let's make the participation in our Rock Walks a truly unique experience !



## INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY WEEK 25 - 27 October, 2024

To mark the International Geodiversity Week 2024, the Society held a Rock Art Exhibition in the State Gallery of Art titled " **Sentinels of Hyderabad.**" Shri A. V. Ranganath, IPS, Commissioner, HYDRAA graced the exhibition and showed a keen interest in the presentations by our Committee Member Ravi Kumar Vundavalli on Geodiversity in India and the talk by Ananth Maringanti on Rock Conservation. In keeping with UNESCO's theme for 2024, "Conserving the Past, Sustaining the Future," prominent Artist Shaun Heffernen and his students displayed the stunning rock heritage of Telangana on canvas, in a variety of media. The inauguration was well attended by 50 guests and the two day exhibition attracted another 75 visitors.

## GITANJALI VEDIKA 7 December, 2024

The Society conducted an awareness program for the school students and parents of Geetanjali Vedika, Narsingi. Frauke Quader introduced the Society, the cause and journey of the Society and Sangeeta Varma, gave a presentation on life around rocks, the importance of rocks and the need to conserve rocks and how students and parents can support the cause of the Society. Mrs. Sonia Nagpal, the proactive Principal greatly appreciated the presentation and said, it was an insightful and inspiring session." The School looks forward to collaborating with the Society and encouraging their students to take up rock conservation.



### UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

#### Hyderabad Literary Festival 2025 (HLF)

HLF will take place on 24., 25. and 26. January 2025. As usual, the Society to Save Rocks will be represented at this big event with a lively stall, and this year under the category of Stage Talks, the Odissi dancer Nayantara Nanda Kumar, in collaboration with the Society will be presenting a theatre dance dialogue around rocks.

#### Naimisam Earth Festival

The Society has once again been invited to partner with the Naimisam Earth Festival which is scheduled for February 2025. Details will be shared on our website.

#### Fakhruddingutta (Khajaguda Hill)

Recent articles in the press about the hill were about a solid gate having been installed at the main entrance road. It is learnt from the police that the entrance to the Hill will be restricted from 6 am to 6 pm to keep out disturbances which have increased in recent months to unacceptable dimensions during nights. Youth festival-like parties are being celebrated in the hill till early mornings.

The three religious places in the hill, the nearby Fakhruddin Baba Dargah, the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple and the Meher Baba Rock Shrine are not willing to accept this. Mounts of trash - bottles, plastics etc - mar the serene rocky hill and are deeply upsetting to the day-time visitors who are thankfully still allowed to enjoy this old and familiar haunt of rock lovers, climbers and walkers.



#### " Obituary

Nandita Sen, one of our Founding Members and a very long-time and outspoken member of the Managing Committee, passed away peacefully after a long illness. She was 95. Nandita helped us in so many ways with her clear advice and was also a lively part of the management of the Society. She will be dearly missed. May she rest in peace after her long, eventful life."

#### Managing Committee

President	Prof. Fatima Alikhan	98493 62944
Vice President	Sangeeta Varma	98490 44624
Secretary	Frauke Quader	98499 36248
Joint Secretary	Padmini B Patell	99128 65299
Treasurer	G.R.B. Pradeep	98667 52114
Members:	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	81060 72537
	Sajid Mehmood	98105 28070
	Amita Talwar	98490 10704
	Ravi Kumar Vundavalli	94944 89472



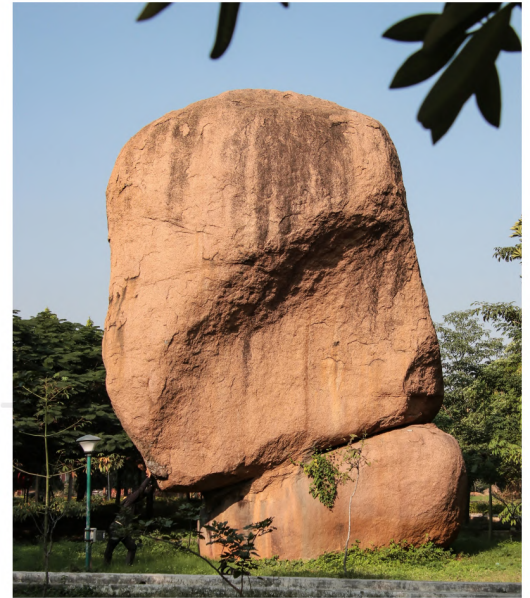
# Updates from the Society

We welcome our new members  
Aarti Phatarphekar, Active Single  
Parsa V Ramachandra Rao, Active Single

Conversion of membership  
Sathya Prakash, from Active Single to Life Single  
Mala Pasha, from Active Single to Life Single

Check below to become a member!

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription	Total
Active (Single)	100/-	500/-	600/-
Active (Couple)	100/-	600/-	700/-
Student (<18 Years)	100/-	200/-	300/-
Life (Single)	3000/-	NA	3000/-
Life (Couple)	5000/-	NA	5000/-
Institution	10000/-	NA	10000/-
Corporate	50000/-	NA	50000/-



Elephant Rock at MANUU  
PC: Vishwanath Polepeddi

Application Form for membership is available at [www.saverocks.org](http://www.saverocks.org)

You can find us on



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



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



QR code for  
payment to the  
Society  
Please mention  
your name

## Check out our upcoming rock walks!



### Bhuvanagiri Fort

Meet at 7:00 a.m. sharp at YMCA, Secunderabad (Return at 3 p.m. approx.)  
(This is a day-long trip, bring lunch)



### Koilkonda Fort

(near Mehboobnagar)

Meet at 7:00 a.m. sharp at NMDC, Masab Tank; Contribution for  
van @ Rs. 550/- per head. Return at 6 p.m. approx.)  
(This is a day-long trip, bring lunch)



### Yadagiripally

(Under the Moon)

Meet at 7:00 a.m. / White House Bakery, Tarnaka  
(Return at 12 noon approx.)

Please register with Pradeep at 9866752114 and remit the  
travel fee for the Koilkonda Fort outing by QR code (see  
above) to the Society. Please always mention your name  
in the transfer.

