

Society to Save Rocks

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Quarterly Newsletter

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A LEAP OF FAITH

The Society takes a leap of faith to
continue protecting the unique
irreplaceable Deccan Rock Heritage in
its 31st year!

PC: Vishwanath Polepeddi



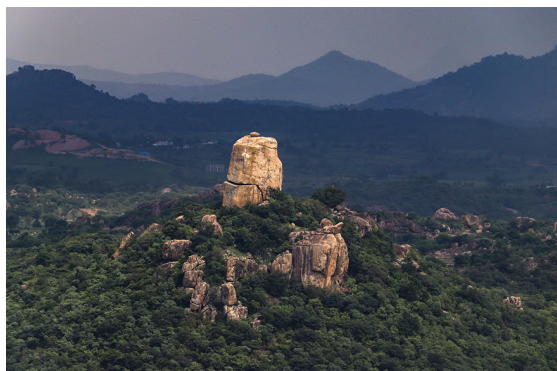
30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Society celebrated its 30th Anniversary
on 8th March at Hotel Plaza. The intimate
gathering spent a relaxed Sunday with an
update of the three-decade journey by
Founding Members Frauke Quader and
Shankar Narayan in conversation with Vice
President Sangeeta Varma.

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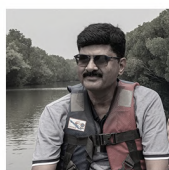
PC: GRB Pradeep





ASHOK'S WINNING PHOTO

The Tourism Photo Competition



Member, Ashok Kumar Vootla was awarded the first prize in The Tourism Photo Competition 2026 for this photo shot by him at Khilla Ghanpur.

MINI & THE ROCKSTARS

Article in THE HINDU,
11th March 2026



A preview of "Mini and The Rockstars", an animation film by Gunjan Ashtaputre and Aishwarya Yerra, commissioned by the Society was screened and much appreciated. A fun rock tambola by our member Uma Maheshwari, some lively music by Ananth Karthikeyan, The NRB and a good lunch followed. Members and friends went home with some prizes won, a memento and happy exchanges.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Programmes for April 22nd Earth Day, June 5th World Environment Day & the annual Run for Rocks will be updated on our website closer to the dates.

IMPORTANT UPDATE-Fakhruddingutta

With regard to Fakhruddingutta a meeting was held with Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary for Special Projects (SPEED) and Investment Cell and V Kranthi, IAS, Managing Director of Tourism Development Corporation Limited. This was followed by a site visit with Kranthi and the idea of creating a rock park was broached. This was then followed up with a request to A V Ranganath, IPS, Commissioner of HYDRAA to assign, as per the joint survey, the boundaries to the three religious places in order to restrict encroachments while taking care to protect the surrounding rocks. Ranganath has asked the HMDA team to commence work on fencing the areas as given in an earlier panchnama.

The HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad, IAS, Joint Metropolitan Commissioner R Upender Reddy and VSNV Prasad, IFS, Director Urban Forestry, HMDA, and Tehsildar Mahipal Reddy were also approached in connection with the Rock park.

Frauke Quader, Sangeeta Varma and Ritwik Reddy visited Prof. Arjun Rao, Director, Department of Heritage and discussed the proposition of bringing the rocks that were protected under the erstwhile Heritage Regulations back into the Heritage Act. A list of 104 rock sites was presented to Prof. Rao.

Following another meeting with Jayesh Ranjan, the GHMC Cyberabad Commissioner, G Srijana, IAS, along with GHMC Zonal Commissioner Serilingampally, Bhorkhade Hemant Sahadeorao, IAS and Subhadra Devi, IFS, AC UBD CMC, and team visited Fakhruddingutta to discuss and collectively work on making it into a unique Rock park.

All this leg work has been put in tirelessly by our members Sangeeta Varma, Frauke Quader, and Ritwik Reddy supported by Dr. Renuka Pechetti, Diyanat Ali and Bharat Kumar.

Sangeeta Varma also met with Juppali Krishna Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and Anita Mendiratta, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, UN Tourism at an official dinner and represented the Society. The Society's Coffee Table book was presented to them and to Kranthi at Falaknuma Palace. Since the State Tourism Corporation and Department have been supporting the Society, for their International Women's Day celebrations they invited Sangeeta Varma to represent the Society and speak to a larger section of women officers and staff members.



Discussion with A V Ranganath, Commissioner, HYDRAA at Fakhruddingutta



Mr. R Upender Reddy, Joint Commissioner HMDA, at Fakhruddingutta (2nd fr. left)



Visit to Heritage Department, Prof. Arjun Rao, Director (2nd fr. left)



Sangeeta Varma with Hon'ble Minister Juppali Krishna Rao

EVENTS HELD LAST QUARTER

JANUARY

Hyderabad Literary Festival, 2026

The Society participated yet again in the HLF, January 24-26 and featured Re-imagining Deccan Rock Paintings - an installation by Dr. Avani Rao Gandra inspired by Cave Art which has gained prominence in recent times and indirectly plays a role in protecting rocksites. We also had a Rock-Climbing Wall for the first time to encourage both adults and children to step out of their comfort zone. The children did brilliantly well! The rock tattoo had many takers and rock stacking attracted youngsters and parents wanting to keep children engaged. As always, the Society's stall was busy with awareness promotion, new memberships and sale of material.



"Today at the HLF, I was the first Climber of the Rock wall. It was quite the experience to climb the rock wall and my first attempt which was quite fun. I completed the first level and attempted the second and third levels but could not complete them." Lueeludas, Grade6, CHIREC School

FEBRUARY

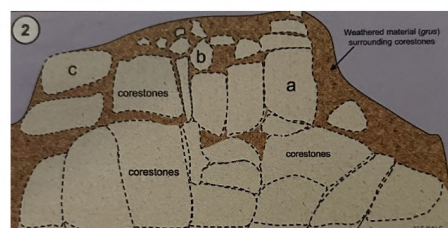
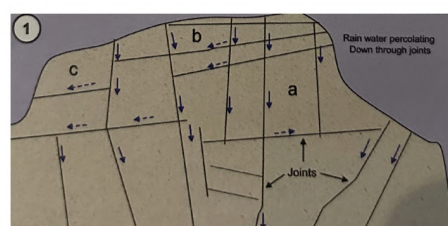
Naimisam Earth Festival

The Society was one among the 70 participants of the Naimisam Earth Festival 3.0 held on 1st Feb at the Engineering Staff College of India. Besides the Society stall with activities for children, "A Peaceful Movement" dance ballet was staged by Nayantara Nandakumar and troupe, a presentation on geology of the Deccan Rocks was made by our member Ravi K Vundavalli and the Rock Art installation by Dr Avani Gandra was once again appreciated by a different audience.



The Gaudium School program

The Society was invited to take part in the Student Led Conference on Feb 28th at the Gachibowli branch where grade IV students were inspired to do their bit for the Deccan Rocks. Bookmarks made by the students with slogans on rock protection were sold and the proceeds were donated to the Society. We congratulate the students and the Management for this initiative. Frauke Quader along with MC members Padmini Patell, Bharath Kumar and Vanesh Eada coordinated the program.



GEOLOGY GLIMPSES

Know your Rocks – 1

The rocks of the Deccan Plateau formed about 2.5 billion years ago as magma cooled beneath the Earth's surface. These are intrusive igneous rocks, unlike volcanic (extrusive) rocks that solidify after erupting. Over millions of years, erosion exposed these granites, which then weathered along natural cracks.

A process called onion peel or spheroidal weathering gradually rounded the rocks into the distinctive balancing boulder formations seen today. The resulting coarse material, called grus, collects in cracks and supports plant growth.

This long geological process highlights how slow changes over millions of years can shape the environment we see today. In the next edition, we will tell you about different rock forms which occur around Hyderabad.

RESIGNATIONS

We sincerely regret that the recently elected Secretary of the Society, **Sushil Prasad**, resigned from his post for personal reasons. With many new ideas and initiatives, he was on the way to give the Society a healthy push towards improved management and expansion.

Ashok Kumar Vootla, has also resigned from the Managing Committee. We wish them success in future endeavors.



UPCOMING ROCK WALKS!

April 19

Golconda Hillocks

6:00 a.m./ Beside Bapu Ghat Entrance, Langar Houz, Hyderabad

May 17

Durgam Cheruvu Hillocks

6:00 a.m./ Beside BNR Hills Entrance, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

June 21

Mouli Ali Hillocks

6:00 a.m./ Beside White House, Tarnaka, Hyderabad

All walks conclude by 10:00 a.m.

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

For registrations, contact GRB Pradeep @ 98667 52114

Managing Committee

Vice President	Sangeeta Varma	98490 44624
Joint Secretary	Padmini B Patell	99128 65299
Treasurer	G.R.B. Pradeep	98667 52114
Members:	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	81060 72537
	Bharath Kumar P	99858 11441
	Vanesh Eada	81060 25114
	Dr. Vijaya Gopal	99894 94037
	Diyanat Ali	96034 73470
Advisor	Frauke Quader	98499 36248

We welcome our new members

Supriya Nuthakki (Life Single)	G. Phanindra (Active Single)
Vikramdev Rao (Life Single)	Prashanti Goel (Active Single)
Dr. A. Ramakrishna Prasad (Life Single)	Hisham Khan (Active Single)
Ravuri Krishna Chaitanya (Life Single)	Atharva. V (Active Single)
Shreyas Pathak (Active Couple)	R. Anita (Active Single)
D. Nikesh & Gouthami (Active Couple)	Rishabh Kumar (Student)
Satish (Active Single)	

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/-

Membership fee is to be paid by June 2026

Membership Application Form at www.saverocks.org



saverocks



@saverocks



societytosaverocks



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