

Society to Save Rocks

1236, Road No.60, Jubilee Hills,

Hyderabad-500 033

secretary@saverocks.org

7842063300

Editors: Frauke Quader & Padmini B Patell

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 120
July 2026

A NOTEWORTHY MILESTONE

The Society is pleased to report the ongoing efforts to protect the Fakhruddingutta rock landscape. Following sustained engagement with various government departments and the intervention of HYDRAA, fencing work has now been completed along the outer perimeter of approximately 123 acres of the Fakhruddingutta rock formations.

This marks one of the most important conservation achievements for Hyderabad's rock heritage in recent years and is an important first step in securing the area from future encroachments and creating a framework for long-term conservation.

The Society would like to acknowledge the support extended by A.V.Ranganath, Commissioner, HYDRAA. Their willingness to engage with citizen groups and conservation advocates has helped move the project from discussion to implementation.

Much work, however, remains to be done. Additional areas adjoining the protected zone continue to require attention. The Society is actively pursuing the protection of approximately 20 more acres of surrounding rock landscape that are ecologically and visually connected to the existing protected area.

At the same time, discussions continue regarding the long-term future of Fakhruddingutta. The vision is to create a protected public space that conserves the natural landscape while allowing citizens to appreciate its geological, ecological and cultural significance.

The Society is also pursuing protection through the legal route. A Public Interest Litigation filed in 2019 seeking the restoration of previously notified rock formations to the Heritage List is scheduled to be heard in July. The case addresses a broader concern extending beyond Fakhruddingutta, namely the long-term protection of Hyderabad's unique rock heritage landscape.

The Society remains hopeful that a favourable outcome will strengthen the conservation framework not only for Fakhruddingutta but also for numerous other rock formations across the city that continue to face developmental pressures.

-Ritwik Reddy (our proactive Member who has been consistently working for protecting Fakhruddingutta)



Mr Naresh, Inspector Gachibowli Police Station, Committee Members_ Sangeeta Varma and P. Bharath Kumar



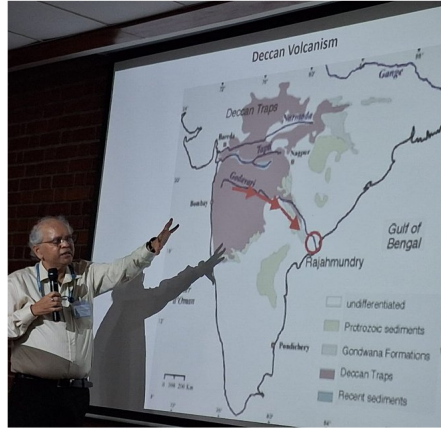
Ongoing fencing work

EVENTS HELD LAST QUARTER

MAY

Dr Sudheer Bhan, our Managing Committee Member delivered a talk on 'Deccan Rocks as a biodiversity reserve' on May 21st to the Clinical Psychology Department at the Helen Keller Institute, Secunderabad on the eve of International Day of Diversity.

JUNE



Dr. Sreenivas Bulusu, Senior Scientist from NGRI

June 3rd, Gaudium School Outreach - Dr Vijaya Gopal

Once again, the Society was invited by the Gaudium School, Kollur Branch, to address the students of class VI. Since the request was to introduce geology of rocks, the Society teamed up with Prof Sreenivas Bulusu, Senior Scientist from NGRI. Uma Maheshwari, Dr Vijaya Gopal and Bharath Kumar spoke about the Society and its activities, while Prof Bulusu presented the "Brief History of the Earth."

The informative embedded videos on the solar system, Deccan volcanism, dinosaurs etc had the students intrigued. Ramakrishna Reddy, CEO, Gaudium and Sudeshna Chatterjee, Head of the School were also present. The message of Rock Conservation reached over 200 enthusiastic students and teachers too felt they benefited from the insightful presentation.

Our sincere gratitude to Anita Sreejit, coordinator from Gaudium, Prof Bulusu and all Members who ensured the program met our objective.

June 15th, Interview on All India Radio



Sangeeta Varma was interviewed on All India Radio by RJ Nihara Kanety about the importance of the Deccan Rocks, the Society's role and the urgent need for conservation with active citizen participation.

The Interview in English can be viewed on <https://youtu.be/HVurmpd4kSg>

June 21st Rock Walk marks International Yoga Day



"A small and diverse group braved the rains and got together on the hillocks of Maula Ali. Beneath open skies, the air freshened by recent rains, they practiced sun salutations, learnt conscious breathing, and absorbed the quiet beauty of the landscape around them. The session concluded with a moment of gratitude for the sun that sustains all life, and for the rocks that hold such timeless beauty," said **Harshita Soni**, our Member, a Yoga Therapist and Vedic Chanting Teacher.

June 28th Run for Rocks



The 8th consecutive Run for Rocks was successfully organised on 28 June 2026 by the Society to Save Rocks in collaboration with Hyderabad Runners. The event commenced at Forestrek Park, Narsingi, bringing together runners, nature enthusiasts, and conservationists in support of Hyderabad's unique rock heritage. Before the run, the T-shirts were distributed to all participants and caps to all volunteers as mementos of the event.

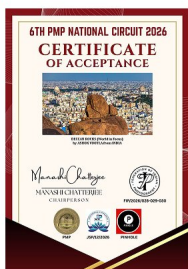
The run was flagged off at 5:40am by Dr. G. Chandrashekar Reddy, IFS, Chief Information Commissioner, and Ajit Kumar Mishra of Hyderabad Runners. The event was sponsored by the Department of Tourism & Culture, Government of Telangana, with valuable support from the Telangana Forest Department.

Nearly 200 runners participated in the 6 km, 13 km, and 16 km routes through the scenic surroundings outside the park. Following the run, participants gathered at the Yoga Hall inside Forestrek Park for breakfast, an interactive session, and short guided rock walks to explore the park's remarkable rocky landscape and the rich biodiversity it supports.

The event effectively combined fitness with environmental awareness, reinforcing the importance of conserving Hyderabad's ancient rock heritage.

OBITUARY

Our longtime Life Member **Champak Rao** passed away on 7th June 2026. She was a good friend and beloved by everyone whom she met. We could always count on her steadfast support for the Society and the Granite Rocks of Hyderabad.



Recognition for “Deccan Rocks”

“Amongst my various photographs which received 40 Acceptances so far in National and International Salons and Circuits, this is special as ‘Deccan rocks’ under ‘World in Focus’ Category is finding a place in their Catalogues, Exhibitions and Websites affiliated to Federation of Indian Photography (FIP) thereby catering to Worldwide audience,” said **Ashok Kumar Vootla**

The Forum for a Better Hyderabad

The Forum for a Better Hyderabad celebrated its 26th year on June 5th. Their annual publication carries three articles on Rocks contributed by **Frauke Quader, Chaklam Venugopala Rao** and **GSI**.



Development of the Maula Ali Ramp

Do you remember the beautiful sheer granite dome of Maula Ali? The squat, massive rock sitting in the midst of bustling neighbourhoods, with this marvellous view over vast stretches of the city of Hyderabad. Well, the area has changed beyond recognition from the time described by W. Dalrymple in his book “The White Mughals” but the hill and the Dargah have survived. Till recently!

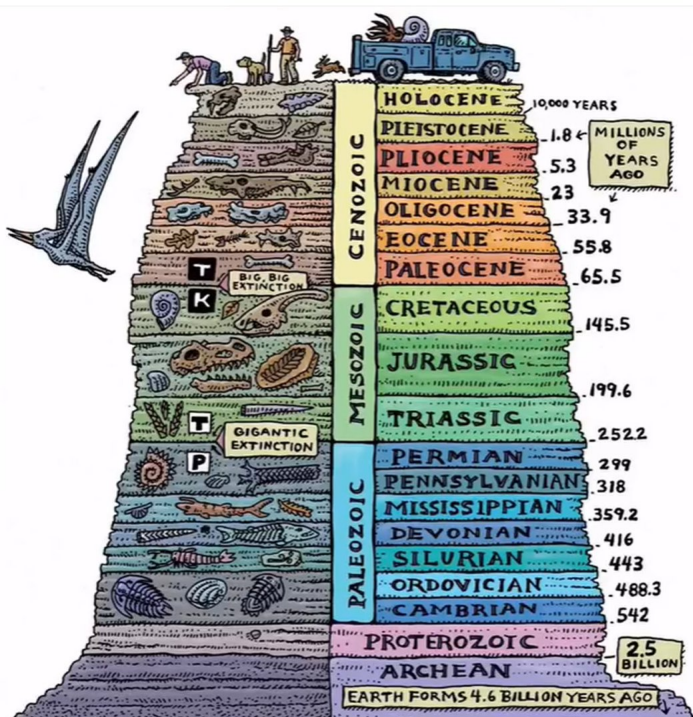


About 2 years back, it was decided and allowed to build a road to the top of the hill, obviously to make access easier than climbing up 500 steps. The construction of this road brought a high retaining wall being added on the smooth front of the rock, a brutal disfigurement of a Heritage Precinct! And more: Though being also a Rock Heritage Precinct, the upper part of the road is now being cut deep into the rock, a deep gash although the hill that seems to be flat enough here to have an easy roadway on its top! Granite saws have milled gorges into the stone with 10 feet high smooth sides – maybe quite suitable to cut cladding slabs for the market?!

Where is Hyderabad’s Heritage going ? - FQ

UPCOMING

International Rock Day, celebrated annually on July 13th, is a global observance dedicated to the Earth's geology, minerals, and the fundamental role stone has played throughout human history.



GEOLOGY GLIMPSSES

(left) Geological Time Scale
Diagram Credits- Stellar Observatory

Know your Rocks – 2



Visit our website to stay informed about upcoming events and activities. Please help actively spread the cause of rocks via your social media handles.

UPCOMING ROCK WALKS!

We conduct rock walks on the 3rd Sunday of every month! Do join us for a journey through these boulders!

For registrations, contact GRB Pradeep @ 98667 52114

July 19 Zaffergadh Fort

Jangaon District

Meeting Time: 7:00 a.m. at Golden Bakery,
Secunderabad Railway Station

Return Time: 7.00 p.m. at Secunderabad Railway
Station (*Carry lunch*)

August 16 Yadgir Fort

Karnataka

Meeting Time: 5:00 a.m. at Lingampalli
Railway Station

Return Time: 9.00 p.m., Lingampalli Railway
Station (*Carry lunch*)

September 20 Venkateshwaragutta Hillocks

Medchal-Malkajgiri District

Meeting Time: 7:00 a.m. at Katta Maisamma Lake
Bund, Shameerpeta

Walk concludes by 10:00 a.m.

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

Linga Reddy Mandra (Life Single)	Atreya Sarma Uppaluri (Active Single)
Chitkal Ajay Kumar (Active Single)	Ruchika Jain (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 including arrears, if any.

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 Fakhrudgingutta (Khajaguda Rocks)



QR code for payment to the Society Please mention your name