

# Society to Save Rocks

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Quarterly Newsletter

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## EXPLORING ZAFFERGADH

Our journey to Zaffergadh Fort began with a train ride, made all the more enjoyable by the wonderful bunch of fellow explorers who accompanied us. The laughter, conversations and shared excitement made the journey itself as memorable as the destination. As we set out on the trail, the rugged rocky landscape of Telangana unfolded around us, leading us towards the historic fort. One of the beautiful moments along the way was visiting the Venkateswara Temple on the hill, with a serene pond full of water nearby, surrounded by the rugged rocky terrain. The sight of the temple and the tranquil pond nestled amidst the rocks created a peaceful and picturesque setting that was a delight to experience.

The most fascinating moment for me was discovering the cannons within the fort—silent reminders of the battles, people and history that once shaped this place. I was equally captivated by the beautiful architecture within the fort, with its intricate details and timeless charm, tucked away amidst the rugged rocks.

Walking through the fort and its rocky surroundings felt like stepping into a different chapter of history. The experience made me realise that our rocks are not merely geological formations; they are witnesses to stories, cultures and centuries of human history. They have stood quietly through the passage of time, connecting the natural landscape with the people and events that have shaped it. For me, Zaffergadh was more than a hike—it was a journey through rocks, history and friendship, and one I will remember with great fondness.

Logeetha Seethapathy



PC: Ashok Vootla

# EVENTS HELD LAST QUARTER

**International Rock Day** was marked by a small group of Rock walkers enjoying the Sunday morning of July 13th at the popular Khajaguda Rocks (Fakhruddingutta). After admiring the rocks that we never tire of, tea and snacks were shared. The serious enthusiasts continued and spent until noon, exchanging rock conversations, recording rock bites and rock photo sessions.



**Sangeeta Varma** addressed a gathering of 750 professionals on August 1st at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the **Southern India Regional Council of the Institute of Company Secretaries** and spoke about the Society. The documentary Hyderabad – City of Rocks was also screened. She also requested the members present to come forward and support the cause of the Society. Some members requested a rock walk which will be organized in due course of time.



## DURGAM CHERUVU

### PAST CONSERVATION ACTION IN 2010



The “Hillocks around Durgam Cheruvu” have been declared as protected Rock Precinct in the first list of Rocks listed by HUDA (now HMDA) in 1998.

### FUTURE UNCERTAIN IN 2026

An impromptu rock walk was carried out to the H2/P2 (near Hotel Kohenoor) area of the Durgam Cheruvu Rock Precinct. A small group went through the valley leading to Durgam Cheruvu, passing many boulders and thick green foliage of the forest, and finally reached the highest boulder (15 feet high), which marks the boundary of P1 and P2. These are two plots, each more than 5 acres, on the slopes of Durgam Cheruvu. Behind it, we could find Providence and other IT companies with a high wall as a boundary. P2 is a slope full of small and big boulders, with two hillocks on both sides marking its boundary. The second side of the boundary takes us up to the plain ground, which has rubble after 200 metres. We enjoyed spotting peacocks and several birds.

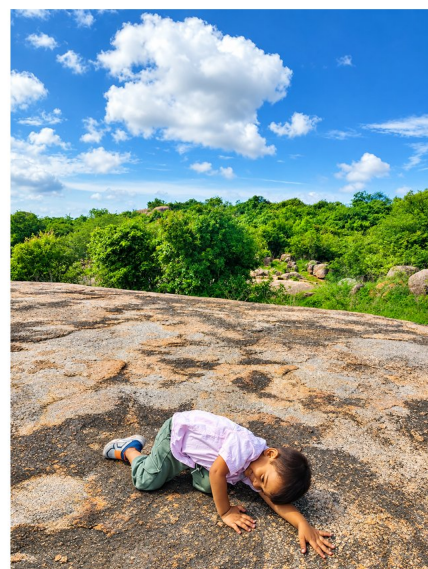


## HERPING

A Herp walk was conducted under the supervision of Khaja Mohammed Baleequddin from Forest Trek Park at P2 scrub forest at Durgam Cheruvu Lake on 30th August, 2026. Herp in greek means a creeping animal. Herping is an activity searching for reptiles and amphibians in their natural habitat. Eight of us flashing torch lights, moving cautiously through clearings, dense foliage and rock boulders photographed and documented several snakes, scorpions, lizards, geckos, centipedes, millipedes and other insects between 7.30p.m. to 9.30p.m. It was an immensely rewarding activity. It is really a biodiverse nature precinct. A detailed Nocturnal Biodiversity Report is available on our website.

Dr. Sudheer Bhan

To learn more about the thriving biodiversity of the rocky landscape, the Society, on September 12th, collaborated with Last Urban Natural Green Spaces (LUNGS) and Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society in a Nature Walk at Durgam Cheruvu.

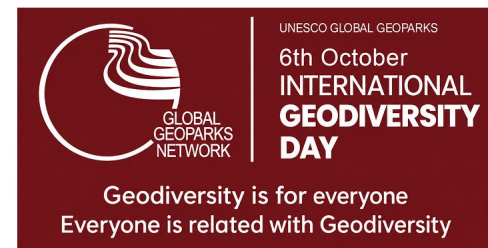


## LOVE FOR ROCKS: INTRINSIC TO HUMAN

A very happy children's day to all the young minds out there! We look forward to more kids on our Rock Walks

# INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY DAY

According to UNESCO International Geodiversity Day is a worldwide celebration, bringing people together on October 6th to promote the many aspects of geodiversity. What is Geodiversity? Geodiversity is all around you, it is all the parts of Nature that aren't alive, including everything from minerals and fossils, to soil and spectacular landscapes.



**GEOPARKS:** The Society explored the idea of Geoparks almost a decade ago. More recently as mandated by UNESCO 'A Law/Legislation to protect Geoheritage' the Draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill was introduced in 2022 by the Ministry of Mines (GSI) to protect India & its geological structures, fossils and natural rock sculptures. This is yet to become a Law, allowing us the opportunity to approach UNESCO with applications for worthy locations. It is also necessary that, a Geopark application for a location has to show the particular location functioning as a National Geopark for one year. There are 241 UNESCO Geoparks globally in 51 countries, sadly none so far in India. Perhaps a good way to safeguard our Geodiversity for the next generation would be to work towards a National Geopark in Telangana.

"On behalf of Palmette Bicycling Club, I wish to thank you immensely for organising a very beautiful, informative and memorable Rock Walk at Khajaguda on 27th Sept. We thoroughly enjoyed the walk, as also, various rock activities under the very able guidance of the cheerful guides. This outing has further instilled environmental awareness among us. Our most sincere appreciation to Dr Sudheer Bhan, Rabet, Diyanat and Sreecharan for giving us such a wonderful experience."  
Major General Naozar Patel



## GEOLOGY GLIMPSES

Know your Rocks

### Spheroidal Weathering

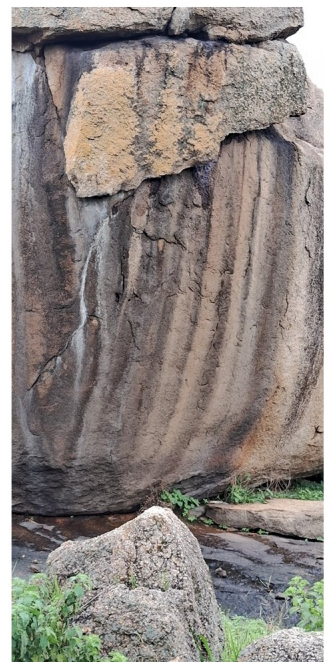
Did you ever wonder why the granites of Hyderabad and the Deccan are so round in shape, sitting precariously as laddoos-like playthings on top of a balancing pile of rounded-off boulders? It is not like pebbles which are round because the rocks were exposed to relentless attacks through permanent water flow and rolled around and around in river beds, shaping them into small and big smooth – well, pebbles. Our granites have never been exposed to intense erosion by water. They rounded off because they weathered down for thousands of millions of years through what is called "spheroidal weathering", also called "onion-peel weathering".

This means that in the process of eroding, thin layers of the outer rock are getting split off from the body of the rock, cutting off sharp edges and rounding it off over a huge period of time. That is the work of heat, cold and rain. You can see these splitting layers, big and small, in almost any of our granites.

FQ



Many small splits  
Fakruddingutta



Big and small splits  
Behind Malkamcheruvu

## UPDATES

**Nayantara Nanda Kumar** was co-opted as Secretary of the Society on 24th Sept. Well known as the founder of Our Sacred Space, Nayantara did her Environmental Engineering from the United States. While working in the US she also pursued her dance career in the Odissi dance form and worked towards environmental consciousness as a dance activist. Nayantara has a deep connect with rocks and has been associated with the Society for more than a decade.

Since the Society's inception, our **Founder Secretary Frauke Quader**, has painstakingly brought out 120 quarterly Newsletters. As of this issue Frauke has handed over this task to other Members. We are ever grateful for her consistent and committed contributions over three decades.

**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!

The Society has introduced a **Rockwalk**  
**Registration Fee as of July 2026:**  
**Rs 200 per Adult**  
**Rs 50 (below 21 years)**

For registrations, contact Dr Sudheer Bhan @ 81060 72537/ Office Mobile @ 7842063300 (10am to 1:30pm)

## October 18 Kavadipally Hills

Near Hayathnagar

Meeting Time: 6:30 a.m.

Opposite Ramoji Film City Main Gate, Off  
Vijayawada Highway

Return Time: 1.30 p.m.

## November 14-15 Kondaveedu Fort

Guntur District

Meeting Time: Saturday, 7.00 a.m., November 14  
at Begumpet Station

2 days & 1 night stay  
6 hours by bus/train each way

Return Time: Sunday 8.00 p.m., November 15

## December 20 Amangal Rocks

Mehboob Nagar District

Meeting Time: 7:00 a.m. At Zeeshan Café near  
Chandrayangutta Flyover

Walk concludes by 4.00 p.m.

### Managing Committee

|                 |                       |             |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Vice President  | Sangeeta Varma        | 98490 44624 |
| Secretary       | Nayantara Nanda Kumar | 90300 13344 |
| 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 |
|                 | Diyanat Ali           | 96034 73470 |
| Advisor         | Frauke Quader         | 98499 36248 |

We welcome our new members

P. Raghuveer (IFS) & Dr.  
Mamatha Achanta – Life Couple

Conversion into Life members:

Arun Krishnan and Mahalakshmi – Life Couple  
Mr & Mrs Jeetendra Babu – Life Couple  
Mr & Mrs Mohan K Reddy – Life Couple  
Trishna Mehta – Life Single  
Aditi Dalvi & Abhishek Singh – Life Couple

### 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](http://www.saverocks.org)



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



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



QR code for payment to the Society Please mention your name

Compiled by Padmini Patell & Annapurna Bhongir  
Designed by Sanandana