



"BHOOPATHI SADAN", 3-6-716, St.No.12, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029, Telangana State, India.

Mob: 9030626288; Email: heritagedeccan@gmail.com

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PRESS NOTE

***"Unless we conserve geo-diversity by integrating policy and practice
we cannot protect our Geological heritage and environment for the future"***

Deccan Heritage Academy Trust(DHAT) in association with Retired Experts from Geological Survey of India & Civil Society Groups had organised **"GEO HERITAGE TRAIL"** followed by a **"TALK ON GEO DIVERSITY"** on the occasion of **International Geo Diversity Day 2024** with the Theme **"Theme: Conserving the Past - Sustaining the Future"** at **Fakhruddin Gutta (Khaja Hills),Khajaguda, Near Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana, India** from **9.00 A.m. & 11.30 A.M. today on 6th October, 2024 (SUNDAY).**

The programme was presided over by Prof.Er.Veda Kumar Manikonda, Chairman, Deccan Heritage Academy and welcomed the gathering.

Other Speakers were Sri.Kamatham Mahender Reddy, Director (Retd.,) GSI, Sri.Sri Ramoju Haragopal, Historian, Convenor, Kottha Telangana Charitra, Hyd., and his team Sri.Chakkilam Venugopal Rao, Dy.Director General,(Retd.,)GSI, Sri. Soma Ram Murthy, Senior Scientist,(Retd.), Hyd, Ar.Ramraj, Landscape architect,Hyd..

Speaking on the occasion Prof.Vedakumar Manikonda said that Deccan Region especially Telangana is endowed with rich geological history covering a complete range of Deccani Rock formations dated back to millions years and spectacular geomorphological diversity, which are considered to be 2nd big rock formations among the world. Since decades these sites are neglected. Pandavulu Gutta, Bhuvanagiri, Devarakonda, Undru Konda, Bommamma Gutta and many other hills, places and areas have been neglected for decades. At present, only Pandavula hill (Pandavula Gutta) is officially recognized in Telangana by Geological Survey of India. Still many more places in Telangana deserve such recognition.

The government and the people need to work together to preserve the features of these areas. The State Government should take steps to protect these geo diversity sites by keeping in view the importance of the geological and archaeological uniqueness by documenting, inventorising and preserving the sites for future generation and also ensure that many more areas should get official recognition from UNESCO, is the need of the hour. It will also help the tourism sector in Telangana to grow well .

Organizing this type of events will help create awareness among the people on how to preserve geological heritage sites of international importance and preserve them as a mark of the earth's history. Deccan Heritage Academy Trust along with other likeminded NGOs have been organising International Geo Diversity Day since 2002, at the Naubat Pahad opposite the Telangana Assembly, Moulali Pahad and Fakhruddin Gutta consecutively to create awareness on Geo Heritage sites in Teangana.

Speaking on the occasion Sri.K.Mahender Reddy said that on the importance of conservation and preservation of ecology and geological sites with unique variety of Rocks, Soils, Geological sites etc., which hold historical importance in Telangana, which are being neglected. If we these geological assets are lost, we cannot get back. Keeping in view its geological aspect the Government as well the public have to come forward to protect the geo diversity assets for younger generation.

During the programme Sri.Chakkilam Venugopal Rao, Director General,(Retd.,)GSI, said that these hills are geological wonders and are called Hyderabad granite catholic complex are which are 250 crores years dated back and spread in 10000 sq. kms. There are so many unknown geological elements and geodiversity sites in the region of Telangana which require more studies to know more about them.

Sri.Sri Ramoju Haragopal said that Khajaguda Hills are the rarest kind of natural Rock Formations and he explained about how these rocks are got the name of Fakruddin and explained the history of Darga Hazrat Fakruddin. He also said There are many more unearthed geological sites in Telangana, which need to be excavated and bring to limelight.

All other participants like, Sri. Vemuganti Murali Krishna, Historian and Rock Art Specialist, Hyd. Sri.S.S.Prasad,Rocks, Sri.Mahendar Reddy,Asst.Professor,Tourism Dept, Smt.Sakina,Rock Formation,Sri.Y.Subhash Reddy,Rain Water Harvest Expert,Janab Md.Afzal,Janab Ilyas Khan of Nayaqilla,Janab JakirHussain,Member,SJM,Lion.S.Dhananjaiah, Smt.Shobha Singh,Secretary,FBH,Sri.P.Narahari,Member,FBH, Sri Krishna, Sri. Omar Ali, Mohd. Sarfaraj. Sri.Baswaraj, APSA, Sri.S.Venkatanarayana, and Teachers of OGS and others have expressed their concern at extinction of Natural Rock Formation of million years old in lieu of Development. They strongly emphasised for Preservation and Conservation of various Rock Formations which are Geological and Physical Elements of Nature and to stabilise Geomorphological and other civil society groups participated in the program.

KATTA PRABHAKAR,
Director, FBH
Mob: 8106721111
