

Festoons, paintings greet visitors at Jakkur Lake carnival

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Bengaluru: A carnival-like atmosphere prevailed at Jakkur Lake in north Bengaluru on Sunday. Festoons made of coconut fronds welcomed visitors, paintings with messages on saving the environment were strung to the fence and colourful rangolis laid the ground for the second edition of Jakkur Kere utsav.

The festivities began with a yoga session followed by folk songs on nature, lakes and rivers by Bhoomi Thayi Belagavi, a folk artists' troupe.

After BDA developed the lake and BBMP did its bit to maintain it, citizens' group Jal Poshan has adopted the water body.

"This is not a typical urban lake. Fishermen still come here for fishing and people use the water for irrigating their fields or washing clothes," said Annapurna S Kamath, founder-trustee of Jal Poshan.

The utsav will be held for five consecutive weekends. Workshops on topics like biodiversity and bird watching will be held every weekend. College students will be asked to pitch in ideas on how to conserve the lake.

Seeds sown for mini-forest at Bellandur

Last week, Bellandur residents planted saplings on an 18-acre land parcel located close to the lake. The place will be converted into an ornitho-arboreal park, where 6,000 native plant species will take root.

The park is being created by Bangalore Environment Trust (BET) in association with BDA. Volunteers planted saplings in a community drive on Sunday.

According to BET members, the proposal to build an urban mini-forest on this land parcel to prevent encroachment was proposed to BDA more than four years ago. However, only last month did it give permission to develop the forest.

The saplings will be maintained by BET for three years. All the species have been chosen keeping in mind their groundwaterrecharging properties and ability to clean the air and soil — Rudraksha, Punnaga, Arjuna, Champaka, Audumbara, Arali, Aala, Pride of India, Honne, Nerale, Bilva and Seetha Ashoka will be planted.

'Veganism is a social justice movement'

Vegan India Movement, a pan-India collective of grassroots animal liberation, organised an Animal Rights March India (ARMI) on Sunday to commemorate World Vegan Month.

The march was held in four zones of the country — Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata. The Bengaluru Brigade for Animal Liberation organised the event from Madhavan Park, Jayanagar.

“Veganism is not a dietary choice but a social justice movement that recognises animals shouldn’t be considered commodities,” said Amit Jayaswal, BBAL activist.

The participants sought inclusion of animal rights and non-violence in school curricula, revamping the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and promoting growth of plant-based products by providing tax subsidies to producers.

Age no bar in Green Marathon

More than 3,500 runners, which included 12-year-olds as well as veterans in their 80s and 90s, gathered on Sunday morning at the toll plaza on NICE Road dressed in ‘organic T-shirts’. They were taking part in the third edition of Green Marathon, organised by the State Bank of India group, where they pledged to promote environmental sustainability.

Runners taking part in the 5K category were given seed-embedded bibs, which could be planted later.

“Running marathons, although I started at the age of 44, has brought discipline in my life,” said 58-year-old Nixon Joseph who completed the 21K marathon in under 2 hours and 25 minutes. “People often think bankers are stuck in office or behind a desk all day. I wanted to change that perception and inspire more youngsters to develop a fitness regime,” said the veteran SBI employee.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/festoons-paintings-greet-visitors-at-jakkur-lake-carnival/articleshow/71998376.cms>