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Festival hopes to revive sentiments of Garden City

Bosky Khanna, Bangalore, Dec 23, 2013, DHNS:

Even as Bangalore's once-admired reputation as the Garden City fades, six Bangaloreans plan to host a tree festival in February, to rekindle the citizenry's appreciation of the environment.

Speaking to Deccan Herald, Deepak Srinivasan, one of the organisers, who is an artist and faculty member at Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, explained that the aim of the festival, titled 'Neralu' (shade) is to bring Bangaloreans closer to the environment, especially trees, which were the true heritage of the City.

The Garden City has lost much green cover over the last decade to development and infrastructure projects. The organisers hope that the festival will allow Bangaloreans and the migratory population to understand and connect with what has been lost and what is remaining. The festival will be held in Cubbon Park on February 8 and 9.

"Earlier people were connected to the trees and they identified themselves with them," Srinivasan added. "For instance, in places like Malleswaram, people had a sense of ownership of the trees and they are attached to them. Many landscapes and landmarks of Bangalore were earlier associated with trees, such as Halasuru (Jackfruit Garden) or Hulimavu (Mango and Tamarind Garden)."

He added that some of these sentiments have now been lost as Bangalore has come to house an increasingly large migratory population, which has no interest or connection with the trees. "To make this section of people aware and appreciate the beauty of Bangalore, 'Neralu' is being held," he added. "It will also help in understanding and appreciating exotic tree species, which form around 70 per cent of Bangalore's tree population."

According to the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), there is no exact figure to reveal how many trees there are in Bangalore. What is known, however, is that over 3,000 old and new trees were axed to make way for various development and infrastructure projects, last year alone.

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Concerned · 6 months ago

Just the other day I saw the wonderful gigantic mango tree in the plot at the corner of 13th cross and 10th main in malleswaram brought down mercilessly to satisfy the greed of the home owner who is building yet another ugly apartment building. No amount of protesting could stop this evil. When will the madness stop...

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



vijay c s · 6 months ago

The sln is simple. Have trees along road sides. Events like these basically become excuses for the admin to start bigger multi crore projects which go no where. Sad but true. Instead provide free saplings and quick growing techniques around the year. institutions like GKVK, NSC can chip in. But to be honest GKVK itself is a sad sight today, almost all the green cover is gone, the plantations of sapotas, mangoes, chepekai, hunase, halasu, rows of eucalyptus ... now you hardly find any ...

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