



BHOOMI HABBA

THE EARTH FESTIVAL

10TH JUNE 2023 @ VISTHAR, BENGALURU

Bhoomi Habba, The Earth Festival, is an annual event organized by Visthar. The Habba aims to increase public awareness of the environmental crises and showcase inclusive and sustainable alternatives. Bhoomi Habba is a day-long celebration filled with environmental campaigns, exhibitions and shows, art workshops, theatre and dance performances, storytelling, folk music, and much more. The Habba also promotes the exhibition and sale of eco-friendly crafts, organic farm produce, and traditional and millet foods from all over the country.

The 15th edition of Bhoomi Habba brought together collective artists including painters, sculptors, terracotta artists, and others who displayed their creations for a better earth. Other offerings included a theatre/movement piece choreographed by Asha Ponikiewska, a poetry performance by Visthar Ranga Shale directed by Hartman D'Souza and *Bhootatva*, dances with found materials, choreographed by Nakula Somana, "Listening to the pot", musical storytelling by Sumana Chandrashekar and Sangeeta Jawla were some of the unique features this Habba. Anish Victor facilitated a



theatre workshop titled “We are all stories”. As always, the festival featured music, folk dance and theatre celebrating the earth.



The festival featured diverse activities for children and adults to participate in. These included workshops for cartooning, pottery, theatre, traditional games, warli drawing, and handmade paper making. There were also events around community painting, storytelling, and doll exhibitions throughout the day.

Charumathi, a “treeveller” facilitated Treevellers’ Katte, a multi-art event around stories of trees. All the workshops were themed around ecological concerns - they were both educative and interactive.

The Bhoomi Habba featured over 15 short films that educate and entertain visitors on ecological issues that concern all of us locally and globally. While one short film highlighted the work of Hasiru Dala, the Waste Warriors of Bangalore, another showed the creativity that generated the music of the Landfill Harmonic in Latin America.

The wide range of traditional foods served at the Bhoomi Habba has always been a major attraction of the festival. This year, we showcased traditional *North Karnataka Khanavali cuisine* at the Habba. As in previous years, we continued to serve traditional cuisine from the *shores of Kerala to the mountains of the Northeast* of India.

The decorations of Bhoomi Habba also reflected the ethos and spirit of the festival. The handmade coconut palm decorations that beautify the festival all return to the earth as compost. Other decorations and installations were made from the earth and painted with natural colours. These included beautiful pot installations and earthen lamps. The earthy, rustic pavements, the unique architectural spaces, the iconic well and the lush green environs at Visthar



were themselves ‘decorations’ inviting visitors to explore and celebrate the earth.

Bhoomi Habba seeks out individuals and collectives promoting sustainable and ecological ways of living - in food, clothing, crafts etc. Come, experience the Habba and be inspired. There is only one earth, and we are all in this together.

There were 60 stalls showcasing eco-friendly art and crafts, organic farm products and traditional foods by farmers’ collectives, women’s cooperatives, and individual entrepreneurs and artisans. Watch this video for details - <https://youtu.be/gDJ90WAjPP8>.

BHOOMI HABBA 2023 – LOCATION DETAILS

No.	Stallholders	Products	Location
1	Harini	Handmade Jewellery	Academy
2	Sudhika	Handmade Accessories	Academy
3	Shreeya	Handmade Jewellery	Academy
4	Shreeya	Handmade Jewellery	Academy
5	Shreeya	Handmade Jewellery	Academy
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No.	Events	Facilitators	Venue
1	Community Planting	Umeshwari, Neel	Patel's Manz
2	Traditional Games	Uma Rekavathi	Patel's Manz
3	Traditional Games	Uma Rekavathi	Patel's Manz
4	Yes we all men's Theater Workshop	Anish Varier	Patel's Manz
5	Traditional Games	Uma Rekavathi	Patel's Manz
6	Medical Products	Nara Finance	Patel's Manz
7	Art Exhibition	Catherine Elara	Patel's Manz
8	Traditional Games	Uma Rekavathi	Patel's Manz
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Stalls featured at the Bhoomi Habba

A sample set of stalls is highlighted here:

Palette, The Art Gallery



Crafty hands and creative minds, a stall with unique handicrafts, both big and small. There's something for everyone, for one and all. From cosy knits to traditional art, unique and handmade treasures are sure to inspire. An invitation to discover a world of beautiful handmade items, paintings, knits, bottle art and so much more..

The Timbaktu Collective

A pioneering grassroots non-profit organization that is transforming a drought-prone region in Andhra Pradesh. Timbaktu promotes organic agriculture, natural regeneration, community-based institutions, alternative banking, rural entrepreneurship, and the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. Timbaktu participated in the Habba with their organic products, millet foods and handloom weaves.



Performance by Timbaktu Cultural Troupe



Desi Trust

An initiative to connect conscious urban consumers to eco-friendly choices and products made by rural artisan communities, and create awareness towards a sustainable lifestyle.

Diyas Decoratives

Games are one of the best ways to spend time with your loved ones. We laugh, win and lose in the process of connecting with the people we care about. Diyas Decoratives participated in Bhoomi Habba with traditional games, toys, home decor, and souvenirs.



Tamaala



Tamaala believes that Art can transcend barriers and be made more accessible to consumers and connoisseurs. They set up a stall at Bhoomi Habba showcasing rural innovations, traditional games, and tribal art from across India. Tamaala supports the indigenous talent and skills of the country.

Amukta

Participated with their beautifully crafted up-cycled jewellery. They are skin and earth friendly, slow-designed to perfection.



Black Baza Coffee

Black Baza Coffee Co. prides itself on biodegradable packaging pesticide & chemical-free, shade-grown coffee. They ensure the livelihood security of the coffee-producing communities. Their methods of production focus on restoration & biodiversity conservation. At Bhoomi Habba, they sold freshly roasted coffee beans, coffee powder, coffee brewing equipment, farm produce



like cardamom, pepper, etc.

Oncrop



Oncrop provides a vast array of organic, non-toxic crop care products that cater to disease management, insect management and growth supplements. Oncrop strives towards creating a greener, cleaner and a beautiful home!.

Reimagined

Reimagined work towards making upcycling a global movement by handcrafting a wide range of product categories that repurpose material discarded as waste. They believe that every individual consumer can make a huge positive difference to the ecosystem by making small everyday choices more consciously and choosing to live sustainably..



Safe Harvest



Safe Harvest participated with organic grains, aromatic spices, pure honey and many more. Safe Harvest works with small farmers who use natural and chemical-free methods to grow crops. So the food you get is packed with nutrition and nothing else.

One Field

One field supports the livelihood of Indian farmers engaged in organic and natural farming. They set up a stall on June 10th to sell their veggies, staples, spices and more!



Raanconteurs Revolution

Art imitates life. It is a beautiful expression of experiences and observations made by one life form of the life around them. Bhoomi Hubba 2023 had an arts and craft stall put up by the Raanconteurs revolution. The stall featured paintings, posters, postcards, stickers, bookmarks, hand-painted coasters, etc.



Aev India



Switching to sustainable alternatives of products we use daily is one way to reduce our carbon footprint and play our part in conserving the Earth. Our actions and choices directly affect the planet and its various organisms. Aev India put up a stall with bamboo toothbrushes, bamboo drinking straws, neem combs, bio enzyme cleaners, and other eco-friendly alternatives to plastic products, and synthetic chemicals.

Viriya Handmade

Viriya Handmade Store started its journey with making cold process soaps. Over the course of the past two years keeping sustainability, eco-friendly and conscious skincare has become their core values. The soaps are palm oil free and made with plant based oils and butters. Made in small batches, all their skincare products are made with either natural or nature derived ingredients.



Redemim



Recycling Denim waste, one piece at a time. Redemim repurpose leftover denim sample pieces into a line of home furnishings and kitchen accessories.

The Hobbyt

“TheHobbyt, inspired by the beauty of Mother Earth, is all things handmade. We make cute, quirky and colourful Amigurumi crochet toys. A lot of care and the pure joy of handwork goes into each piece making it unique in its own way. “This year too they put up their stall at Bhoomi Habba.



Sandesh



Sandesh is a registered non-profit organization established in 2008 for people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities. They put up a stall selling handcrafted diyas, candles, stationery products, recycled and fresh cloth bags, and more.

Pro Mojo

Pro Mojo, the living food company, is working to help rebuild gut health with traditional fermented foods. This Bhoomi Habba they sold Kombucha - an ancient health elixir, which is 100% natural, preservatives free, gut friendly, gluten free, vegan, low sugar, refreshing, fermented drink. Pro Mojo's Kombucha is brewed in small batches at home, is raw, not artificially carbonated and comes in a unique blend of 9 flavours.

Grandiose Art Gallery

Grandiose Art Gallery aims to create an immersive experience for art lovers where they can have intimate conversations with the artworks without any distractions from the outside world. They participated in the Habba with their collection of paintings.



Agni Raksha

Agni Raksha provides a holistic rehabilitation process for burn survivors from poor families, especially women and children. This includes comprehensive medical treatment and opportunities for income generation. Their endeavour is to ensure that no poor burn survivor is deprived of burn treatment due to poverty and to serve him or her in all possible ways. Agni Raksha put up a stall with their delicious cookies and handicrafts.



Old & Chic



Old & Chic is a community of senior citizens, putting together their experience, interest and love to create organic and eco-friendly products. It is a platform for senior citizens to create and sell their handmade products. Old & Chic are trying to make a difference by focusing on producing organic and upcycled

products, non- plastic packaging, thus leading to conscious consumerism.

Workshops, Exhibitions and Performances

“We all have an expiry date”

A theatre/movement piece based on the idea of interconnectedness between all human beings as a collective through interpersonal relationships as well as conscious and unconscious participation in socio-political power dynamics. The performance explored the connections, disconnection, or division within relationships, within the self, and larger structures. Choreography: Asha Ponikiewska.



Workshop on Medicinal Plants



“Say goodbye to expensive doctor visits and hello to the power of plants! The joy of growing your own home pharmacy not only heals your body, but also reconnects you to the earth. Let’s embrace nature’s gift and start empowering ourselves with the magic of plants today! Noor Fatima who has been advocating chemical-free living, conducted a workshop on medicinal plants.

Cartooning

Children from the neighbouring schools and the general public participated in the Cartooning workshop by Dinesh Francis /Din Toons.. The workshop was full of lively discussions, fast-paced and fun, with everyone learning to draw step-by-step cartoons and finally creating their own cartoon characters!



Reality Check!



A talented music band of young home-schoolers, all under 15 years old, named “Reality Check”! They were eager to share their passion for music at Bhoomi Habba. This dynamic team included two amazing vocalists, a skilled drummer, and a talented guitarist, who will delight you with their top-quality tunes. Participants loved this opportunity to experience the beauty and creativity of these young musicians.

Soil Exhibition

This exhibition was facilitated by ‘Soil Vasu’, founder of SOIL, a trust for caring for, protecting and rebuilding soil health. He has worked in various parts of Karnataka with a focus on promoting sustainable agriculture. He is especially



concerned about the state of soils in India and has developed several teaching and demonstration modules related to issues around soil. Vasu has been facilitating Soil exhibition and conversations around soil at Bhoomi Habba.

Musical Storytelling

The storytelling event consisted of the myth and folksongs around potters and nature. The exhibition of the carved pots tell us of the history, socio-economic conditions, and material culture related to the potters working with the earth. Working with the 'mitti' and owning a draught animal donkey is considered as 'dirty' but we need to understand the very connection of the potters with earth and environment.



Visthar Academy of Culture and Contemporary Studies (VACCS)

VACCS has been envisioned as a centre for holistic education in the realm of art, culture, and contemporary studies. VACCS facilitates living-learning communities where each one's creative energies are nurtured and where learning is a joy and passion. At present, the Academy offers a Bachelor of Visual Arts. VACCS put up a stall with unique and beautiful pieces of pottery made by students and volunteers.



“Bhutatva” - Contemporary Dance



“Bhutatva” (भूतत्व) means “elemental nature” or elemental essence.” It refers to the fundamental elements or constituents that make up the material world. These elements are often described as earth (prithvi), water (jal), fire (agni), air (vayu), and ether or space (akash). In a broader sense, “bhutatva” can also signify the essence or essential nature of something, representing the underlying qualities or characteristics that define an entity or phenomenon. This performance highlighted the interconnectedness and interdependence of various elements in the universe.

Hasiru Dala

Our official Event Waste Management Partner for Bhoomi Habba. Providing service from A to Z. From arranging the materials, strategically collecting and segregating the waste, to send the waste for composting and/or recycling. It feels good to have partners, who take care of the big responsibility of the celebration.



Installation by Ganesh Srinivasan

The highly toxic methyl isocyanate gas leak from the Union Carbide Corporation’s (UCC) pesticide plant in Bhopal injured over half a million people and has killed over 25,000 since 1984. The world’s worst industrial disaster is far from over and continues to ravage local communities. Their wait for justice continues even after 38 years.



Remembering one of the world's biggest industrial catastrophe--Bhopal gas tragedy.

eco-friendly

EARTH ECHOES



Bhoomi Habba brings craftsmen, theatre artists and more with an eco-conscious mindset to the city

LED BY THE United Nations Environment Programme, *World Environment Day* is celebrated annually on June 5 to highlight the state of climate crisis. Bengaluru witnesses an earth festival, *Bhoomi Habba* around the same time to encourage eco-conscious and organic lifestyles within the city and otherwise. Entering its 15th edition, the festival this year will focus on the theme of *#OnlyOneEarth* and bring music, films, exhibitions, art and theatre workshops and more under one roof.

We speak to Mercy Kappen, the executive director of *Vishar* who is also the curator of the event on what to expect from the day-long festival. She shares that *Bhoomi Habba*, much like every year, will host new and lesser-known names that promote an eco-aesthetic. Apart from that, the festival promises interactive workshops and films to keep the attendees engaged. "There will be short films on ecological issues that concern all of us locally and glob-

ally. While one short film highlights the work of *Raazia Inala* -- the *Waste Warriors* of Bengaluru, another shows the creativity that created the music of the *Landfill Harmonic in Latin America*," Mercy reveals.

"There will also be events around community painting, storytelling, *Warli* art, handmade paper making, trash to toys and doll exhibitions throughout the day," she adds. Traditional North Karnataka *Khanasoli* cuisine will be one of the key offerings this year. Alongside, visitors will also get to refresh delicacies from the shores of Kerala, the mountains of North East India and everything in between, Mercy shares.

Eco-conscious in ethos and spirit, Mercy confirms that *Bhoomi Habba* will be celebrated across Karnataka in the coming years because it has an important message to share and it is vital to be heard.

ESL June 10, 10am onwards. At Vishar, Kothanur. -MK



Installation at the festival



Performance at Bhoomi Habba

15th Bhoomi Habba turns out to be a hit

BENGALURU, 10 JUNE

From community planting to medicinal plants, music, pottery, exhibitions along with scrumptious food and more, 15th edition *Bhoomi Habba* had it all under one roof. On 10 June in the lush green campus of *Vishar* at Doddagubbi, Kothanur people from around the city celebrated and visited, the earth festival that encourages people to be eco-conscious and live a sustainable lifestyle.

This year the theme for *Habba* was *#OnlyOneEarth*. India is known to the world for its Ayurveda and plant-based medicinal practices but unfortunately, it has become less popular over the years.

Noor Fatima, a former university lecturer who now educates and organizes many workshops for medicinal plants and promotes herbal living said, "Medicinal plants have been here for a long time



and it was very popular but now not many people know about it. I try to educate people about it

because it can give anyone relief from pain or anything like no other medicine without any side

effects. These plants are easily available and accessible to anyone." School children were

among many who attended the *Habba*, Nagalakshmi, is a biology teacher from *Christel House India* who attended the *Habba*. She visited *Habba* with 12 pre-broad students for their mental refreshment before the exam and said, "Our textbooks are not updated that's why children do not get to know the consequence of climate change and importance of sustainable lifestyle. When they attend this kind of event it is an eye opener for them and they get to learn so much."

More than 3,000 people attended the *Habba* this year.

Talking about the event Mercy Kappen, the Executive Director of *Vishar* who is also the curator of the event told *Salar News*, "We are happy with the outcomes, we want more young people to join these kinds of environmental events."

—Salar News



Balu Jumbe and Team



Cartoon Workshop



Community Painting



Kalari Payattu



Performance by Saitejus and Sumana Chandrashekar at the concluding event



Treevellers' Katte by Charumathy Supraja



*Bhoomi Habba concluding ceremony
in the iconic well at Visthar*

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Visthar