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Recycle habba an eye-opener for citizens

Wealth Generation Is The Main Theme At 'Wake Up, Clean Up Bangalore', A 7-Day Waste Management Event

Aparajita Ray | TNN

Bangalore: Freedom Park was bustling with crowds on Sunday afternoon, with parents, children, young men and women making a beeline for the venue. Their curiosity had been aroused by the theme of the event: waste as utility.

It was a habba alright: There were stalls where one could give away old clothes and see them stitched into bags, watch old coke cans being turned into hanging

LESSON WELL LEARNT

Come regularly to Freedom Park on Sunday afternoon with my wife and children to spend some time. But this event beckoned me to find out what's happening. A tour of the area taught us a big lesson on how waste thrown out of households can be put to use and commercial benefits reaped. It was a learning experience for my children too
Rajesh Subramanya Rao | RESIDENT, GANDHINAGAR

CLEAN BANGALORE

flower vases, mini composting machines and baling machines to shred plastic bottles. Not a piece of paper or shred of plastic could go fallow here.

Goonj, an NGO and participant at the event, said it was spearheading a revolutionary change in the countryside with the wealth it generated using waste. "We ask people to give old clothes which can be reused. We segregate what's given to us and remove things which cannot be used. We use the remaining to make bags, mobile pouches, handbags, among other things. We also use tapes of old cassette recorders and weave handbags out of them," said a member of Goonj.

"I was wondering what some people were talking about on stage but a visit to the stalls

gave me a fair idea of the theme. Good to know Bangalore is serious about solid waste management," said German Sophia Partuschat, a student of sociology and literature.

Techie Nidish Shetty bagged five orders for providing baling machines to town municipal corporations of Mysore and Mandya to crush water bottles and send packages to recycling plants.

"I won the 'Take Care, Take Charge' competition held by The Times of India in 2010 and have since been working on models of machinery that can be used for crushing water bottles at the gram panchayat level. The market is slowly receptive towards such products but is competitive," said Shetty. He and his wife enjoy being path-breaking social entrepreneurs.

aparajita.ray@timesgroup.com



GOING GREEN: Visitors check out how a biogas plant functions at the waste management event at Freedom Park on Sunday. The fair is till next Sunday



TALKING HEADS: Vinita Bali, managing director and CEO of Britannia Industries Ltd, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairman and managing director of Biocon, Kalpana Kar, solid waste management expert, and Arundhati Nag, theatre artist, were among the participants at the waste management habba that began on Sunday