vv164-notes-hirvya-devachi-yatra-2024
24.06.2024
For communication related to these notes, write to malanideepak9@gmail.com
For more notes, visit https://linktr.ee/malanideepak

If you were a participant, do fill in this feedback form: https://forms.gle/6M2PUggLbqfScVao8

This document has some notes from the day-long festival gathering held on Sunday, 23.06.2024 at Ashwamedh Bhavan, Masale-Belpada at Murbad on the occasion of *Hirvya Devachi Yatra*. *Hirvya Dev* translates to Green God, and refers to the wild Nature that sustains our life on this planet. Our ancestors, the adivasis, have always worshipped the forest, its life forms - the trees, and the animals. This annual gathering is an attempt to sensitise us to this relationship. Also, this season, the onset of monsoons, also yields several dozens of wild forest foods that are harvested by the forest-side dwellers. These greens and fruits grow without any cultivation, and are very nutritious.

Around 100+ participants from urban Mumbai, Nashik, Panvel, Kalyan as well as *thakri* and *katkari* women and children from the villages around Murbad took a very active part in the gathering. Almost all arrangements felt sufficiently done for this annual gathering:

*Cooking and serving hot and delicious food, with breakfast, lunch and tea - including limited tasting of recipes using wild greens harvested this season from the forest: चायवळ, तेलपट and कोळू

*Display of dozens of wild vegetables harvested by women, this season, groups from four hamlets around Murbad

*Nature rangoli crafted using wild greens, fruits and seeds by team from Sukh Bhumi Trust from Wada taluka, Palghar

*A forest walk by Anand Pendharkar, weaved with a hundred stories leading us to a better understanding of the lives of the flora and fauna and our interdependence on the biota.

*Tour of a cultural museum and research centre under setup, and the wildlife rescue centre by Avinash Harad

*प्रस्तावना by Adv Indavi Tulpule tai from Shramik Mukti Sanghatana, highlighting her observation of adivasis culture of silence, and the need to respect food and farmers, and her of practise of sustainable living - not taking a fuel vehicle for any work activity less than 2km, avoiding elevators up to 4 floors of climb, observing energy fasting once a week by avoiding use of electricity or commercial cooking gas

*Wide range of panel speakers shared their works as forest department, rescue specialists, sustainability practitioners, conservationists, activists, environment educators. Retd forest officer

Ajay Pillariset urged participants to support environment champions, like a strong pillar, irrespective of differences in respective people's approach to work.

*Thoughtful gifting of iron tawa to as many participants from the villages

*Sharing circle among outstation participants facilitated by retired police officer Raju Patil, enabling time and opportunity for interaction between participants, offline and informal way, in addition to the structured sessions.

Thanks to the on-ground team of several volunteers, fine details were worked out meticulously over several days of preparatory work: Auditorium setup with natural ventilation, ample parking arrangement, signages, washroom facility, prior communication channel for car-pooling, chairs and tables for comfortable dining, drinking water and steel glasses, plates made from leaves; and mosquito repellants.

Here is the link to all photos clicked in high resolution by Jay Manore:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KPvFkLXuwI4mzj7aWdR8I4RZKDGC81PA?usp=sharing

A forty minute video, shot on GoPro camera and edited by Sushant Anvekar, who operates TrekYug. A large segment of this video has a very thoughtful narrative by Anand Pendharkar, as a part of his forest walk.

https://youtu.be/5sfUIFxoKOY

Photo: Natural rangoli crafted using wild greens, fruits and seeds by the team from Sukh Bhumi Trust, Wada taluka, Palghar

Photo: Anand Pendharkar leading the walk along the greens, weaving a hundred stories leading us to a better understanding of the lives of the flora and fauna and our interdependence on the biota.

Photo: Retired forester and policy maker, conservationist, educator Avinash Kubal declaring to offer his knowledge, time and experience to us participants.

Photo: Avinash Harad highlighting and weaving the works undertaken at Murbad and around by various eco-champions.

Photo: Sharing circle among the outstation participants

References:

*(Archives) Notes from Hirvya Devachi Yatra - 5 June 2023, Murbad:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qpyoDOeFgLvt-diKPCr6Olp9sdwyNDygAugtS8UD8S0/edit?usp=sharing

*Film (6 minutes): Samta Patil shares the health benefits and medicinal value of forest foods harvested in early-monsoon: https://youtu.be/JB_2VPKqZ5w

*Ashwamedh Pratishthan, Murbad, led by Avinash Harad: https://ashwamedh.info/

Documentaries - Sahyavalokan: https://www.youtube.com/@ashwamedhpratishthan3536

*Book: A Sense of Home: Abujhmad and a Childhood Village, by Narendra, on the lives of adivasis of Bastar.

*Sukh Bhumi India Trust, Wada, Palghar: https://sukhbhumiindiatrust.wordpress.com/

*SPROUTS Foundation, eco tourism, led by Anand Pendharkar, Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/sproutsoutdoors/

*SAJAG Trust, led by Sajitha: https://www.sajagtrust.org/

*Powai Climate Action, led by Dhruv Gupta: https://powaiclimateaction.org/

*Camper Chef, forest living experiences led by Yash Sapre:
https://www.instagram.com/yashsapre_/

*Trek Yug, led by Sushant Anvekar: https://www.youtube.com/c/TrekYug

*Raankavi Tukaram Dhande: https://youtu.be/pe5sMaKDmjM

*(Archives) Registration form for the event: https://forms.gle/civLLNNyvyQS2zvD8

*Feedback form for the program: https://forms.gle/6M2PUggLbqfScVao8

Image: Event poster

Snapshot: News article announcing the program

हिरव्या देवाच्या यात्रेचे दुसरे पर्व

रानभाज्या संकलन, पाककला, निसर्ग रांगोळी स्पर्धांचे आयोजन

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

ठाणे : निसर्गाशी असलेले कृतज्ञतेचे नाते घट्ट व्हावे, पुढच्या पिढीला निसर्गातील ठेव्याची ओळख व्हावी यासाठी विविध संस्था संयुक्तपणे 'हिरव्या देवाची यात्रा' हा उत्सव साजरा करीत असून यंदा या महोत्सवाचे दुसरे पर्व आयोजित करण्यात आले आहे. आदिवासी नागरिकांसह शहरी भागातील नागरिकांसाठीही स्पर्धांचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे.

शहरी आणि ग्रामीण जीवनशैलीत काही प्रमाणात वैविध्य आहे. त्याबाबतचे आकर्षण दोन्ही जीवनशैलीतील नागरिकांना असल्याचे दिसून येते. याच पार्श्वभूमीवर श्रमिक मुक्ती संघटना, वननिकेतन आणि इनटेक ठाणे चॅप्टर यांच्या सहकार्याने अश्वमेध प्रतिष्ठानच्यावतीने हिरव्या देवाची यात्रा या महोत्सवाचे दुसरे पर्व आयोजित करण्यात आले आहे. निसर्गाचे मानवी जीवनात असणारे महत्त्व, त्याप्रती मानवाची असणारी कृतज्ञता आणि निसर्ग संवर्धनासाठी ही यात्रा आयोजित करण्यात येत आहे. या महोत्सवाच्या निमित्ताने दोन्ही जीवनशैलींना एकमेकांसमोर आणण्याचा प्रयत्न आहे. यामध्ये आदिवासी महिलांकरिता रानभाज्या संकलन आणि पाककला स्पर्धा असणार आहेत. तर शहरी नागरिकांसाठी रानभाज्या ओळखणे हा खेळ घेतला जाणार आहे. तसेच निसर्गातील फुले, पाने, बिया यांच्या सहाय्याने निसर्ग रांगोळी रेखाटण्याची स्पर्धा देखील घेतली जाणार आहे. हा महोत्सव रविवार, २३ जून रोजी सकाळी १० वाजल्यापासून दुपारी ४ पर्यंत अश्वमेध भवन, मासले बेलपाडा, मुरबाड येथे होणार आहे. अधिक माहितीसाठी ८१०८२०८९३४ या क्रमांकावर संपर्क साधावा. निसर्गाशी असलेले कृतज्ञतेचे नाते घट्ट व्हावे, पुढच्या पिढीला निसर्गातील ठेव्याची ओळख व्हावी म्हणून हिरवाईचा उत्सव साजरा करण्यात येत आहे. तरी नागरिकांनी या महोत्सवात सहभागी व्हावे असे आवाहन आयोजकांच्या वतीने करण्यात आले आहे.

पहिले पर्व पर्यावरण दिनी

हिरव्या देवाची यात्रेचे पहिले पर्व पर्यावरण दिन म्हणजेच ५ जूनला पार पडले. मुरबाड येथील मोहवाडी वैशाखरे येथे हा महोत्सव साजरा केला होता. यामध्ये आदिवासी महिलांनी काळू नदीवर आधारित गाण्यांवर पारंपारिक नृत्य सादर केले. तसेच करवंदापासून विविध पदार्थ तयार केले होते.

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