

ht for mumbai

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Kala Ghoda Arts Festival
3-11 February 2018

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There's something for everyone at the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. What will you attend? What will you take away? What memories will you treasure most? Write in and let us know

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Take to the streets in cheer

DAY 2 Impressionists from Rajasthan, handicrafts made by tribals, street performers and parades – don't miss out on the fun

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MUMBAI: The festive spirit was evident at Rampart Row on Sunday as the street came alive with a Koli parade, folk dance performances, handicraft stalls and revellers from across Mumbai and beyond, on Day 2 of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival.

Local culture and folk arts were what it was all about.

Bahurupiyas, or impressionists from rural Gujarat and Rajasthan, plan to attend the fest daily, dressed up as different characters.

On Sunday, they were wearing the costumes of a genie and that of Kachhi Ghodi — an Indian folk dance — performers.

"We have youngsters and experienced street artists performing here," said Varsha Karale, curator of the street section presented by Nerolac and powered by Valentine.

"The bahurupiyas take two hours to put on their make-up and transform themselves daily. Today, I am asking this genie to grant my wish — that the festival is a success," she said.

A group of Kolis younger than 20 participated in the first-ever parade representing their community at the fest.

"We want people to know about our deity Ekvira Aai. Not a lot of people know about our culture and traditions. This festival is a good platform for us," said Sejal Mhaskar, a college student from Chembur who was part of the parade.

"Considering that this festival only comes around once a year — and that there is no other time in the city when one can experience all forms of arts in one place — it becomes a must-visit over the weekend," said Keith Rodriguez, 30, a vlogger from Santacruz.

About 25 youngsters currently working as fellows with different departments of the Maharashtra government had set up a stall at the festival to promote tribal art.

Facilitated by Sahabag, the state government's social responsibility cell, it featured Warli art and products made from bamboo, papier-mâché and khadi by tribals from Jawhar, Dahanu and Chandrapur.

"Initiatives like these will help provide employment to the tribal community," said Priya Khan, officer on special duty to the CM.

It was these artefacts that captured the attention of the Bhuva family from Malad, who took a fancy to a deer head made of waste paper.

"We've been visiting the Kala Ghoda festival for the past three years. We specifically look for traditional products made in villages, as we are unable to find them during the rest of the year. Last year, we found a stall selling torans made of discarded plastic bottles," said Anuj Bhuva, 38.

From handloom saris from Nagpur to cotton kurtis from Jaipur, products made by Navy officers' wives, stalls selling wacky T-shirts and paintings from Mysore, creativity was on full display at the festival.



A man takes a photo at Kala Ghoda on Sunday.

SATISH BATE/HT

Have you seen city's castle? Step into the past, take a look

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MUMBAI: Did you know that the Bombay Castle — a warehouse, administrative centre and church set up before the seven islands of the city were even connected — is still standing? Or that the original fort after which the Fort area was named enclosed the dockyard that grew up around it?

These were some of the historical details revealed during the Good Bay walking tour held on Sunday as part of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival's heritage walks section presented by Bajaj Electricals.

For the 55 lucky registrants, it was a rare opportunity to walk through Lion's Gate, into one of the city's most highly secured areas. "This walk was really exciting," said Ebrahim FM, 54, an interior designer from Fort.

As Kruti Garg conducted the walk through the Naval Dockyard — India's oldest dry dock — the group was led by commodore Shirish Dube and commander Santosh Kumar through some of the earliest and oldest surviving structures of the island city.

"This is virtually where the city of Bombay was established," Dube said.

The buildings' styles ranged from simple wooden twin-roofs erected by the Portuguese to grey basalt-rock constructions from the 1800s. Some structures, such as the Bombay Castle, have been



The group touring the earliest and oldest surviving structures of the island city.

PHOTO: NAVAL DOCKYARD

painstakingly restored over the years.

There were restored fire-fighting wagons, with mounted water hoses; metal plaques honouring Lowjee Nusserwanjee Wadia, the first ship-builder, and his descendants. The roots of the Wadia family of Bombay Dyeing fame can be traced back to him.

The details and old structures caused considerable excitement among the group of walkers.

"I love learning about the history of the city and Kala Ghoda never fails to disappoint," said Ankur Jain, 36, an IT

executive from Powai.

The dockyard, architecturally, reads very differently from the Victorian Gothic identity that Bombay would eventually get, Garg said.

"I am thankful to the officers who allowed us access to Asia's oldest dockyard," she added.

"I am always most intrigued by areas where access is restricted, so I am very pleased that we could make the dockyard visit happen."

"It's required a lot of study on my part, but it was fun," said Dube, with a laugh.

WHEELS OF CHANGE: JAPANESE ARTIST TRANSFORMS CLAY INTO INTRICATE POTS

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MUMBAI: Twenty lucky early-bird arrivals got to spin the wheel with a Japanese pottery artist during a workshop organised as part of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival on Sunday morning.

Hiroshige Kato, a 12th-generation pottery artist, began his session with a PowerPoint presentation on the subject. "Japanese pottery is mostly about tableware," he said. "Traditionally, people would pick up their noodle bowls and bring them close to their mouth. This is why bowls had to be lightweight."

"My impression is that pottery in India is largely used to make decorative items," he said. As part of his session, held at the Artisans' gallery, Kato showed his audience how to turn mushy clay into intricately shaped cups, vases and a teapot.

The audience was mesmerised as the artist — who has been working in this medium for 35 years — effortlessly shaped the clay.

"The session was informative. Everything he said about pottery came from his strong tradition and roots. It was nice to know that the culture of pottery is still alive," said Ankita D'Souza, 21, a communications design student from Pune, who is interning at an art centre in the city.

Maanasi Shankar, 24, a design researcher from Pune, tired her hand at pottery too. "It had been a while since I created something with my hands. I felt like the clay was listening to me. It moved without any inhibitions," she said.

She said that while Kato instructed her to make a cup, she wanted to make a bowl. "I ended up making a something that looked a cross between both," she said.

overheard at kgaf



GO GOA GONE

A woman in her late 40s, who recently took a course in pottery at the Sir JJ School of Art, was attending the Japanese pottery session at the Artisans gallery. A younger participant asked her, rather cheekily, if she could visit her at home to learn. To which the woman airily replied, "I am planning to set up a facility at my Goa home." The participant was undeterred. "Goal!" she said, grinning. "All the more reason to visit." The woman didn't know where to look, and frankly, neither did we.

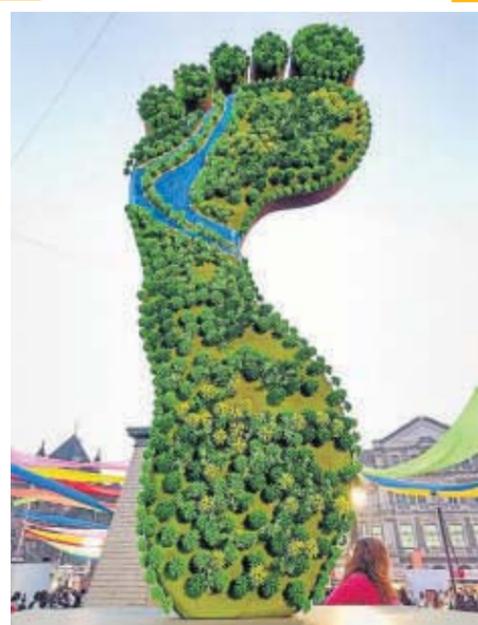
HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Jaysing Chauhan, a 68-year-old retired bank employee from Mira Road, could easily win an award for the most-dedicated Kala Ghoda attendee. "I have a house in Lower Parel, so I've sort of shifted for the duration of the festival," he said, laughing, when we stopped him for a chat during a heritage walk on Sunday. "I even told my wife that I will not be home for next few days. I can't travel that distance daily and I don't want to miss anything at the festival." We doff our hats, sir. Doff our hats.

LOOKS GOOD?

In different accents, languages and tones, one heard a common sentence all across Rampart Row on Day 2 of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. "Ho gaya, chalo (It's done, let's go)." With the young and old busy clicking and posing for pictures and selfies, their companions usually said the same thing too: "Has it turned out ok? It looks good? Ok, let's go." Hmm... a new generation, a new shared lingo.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



TAKE YOUR SHOT AT THE HT PHOTO OF THE DAY CONTEST

Are you having fun at the fest? Send us a picture of your favourite moment, and you could win prizes.

Email your best photograph of the day to htmetro@hindustantimes.com by 6 pm. Every day, we'll pick one HTKGAF picture for publication in the next day's edition — and the person who sent it in will win a Flipkart voucher worth ₹1,000. So go on, take your best shot.

Today's winner is Nabeel Khot.

A homeless king on the Mumbai stage

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MUMBAI: There's so much that goes into moving houses — realtors, agents, municipal officers. In House Gull, it is a king who is struggling to vacate an unauthorised castle.

The Marathi comedy presented by Astitva and produced by theatre group Improvisation Mumbai, was performed in the tamasha folk theatre format as part of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, on Sunday.

"The play uses a traditional storytelling device, in which the characters of the king and his family explore an issue that affects the modern urban man," said Ravi Mishra, who heads Astitva.

On stage, the monarch, dressed in a Superman suit in keeping with the comic setting, is suddenly told to leave his castle because its construction was never authorised.



House Gull being performed at the NGMA auditorium on Sunday.

HEMANSHI KAMANI/HT

To try and sort things out, the king, queen, advisor and council of ministers travel to Mumbai, where they go through a roller-coaster of red tape, face fraudulent real-estate agents and finally buy a piece of land — which turns

to be agricultural so they must vacate it too.

In the end, the king is left without a house.

"What is more relevant to the city dweller of today than the issue of home

ownership? So we thought of taking it up," said Vinod Jadhav, 36, writer and director of the play.

For theatre section curator Juhi Babbar Sonii, the medium was almost as important as the message. "We see such amazing talent in regional-language theatre, and we were determined to offer a platform to as much of it as possible," she said.

"Marathi theatre today has a lot of good, progressive scripts, but needs publicity. A platform like Kala Ghoda is immensely helpful," added Jadhav.

The show ran to a packed house at the National Gallery of Modern Art, with near-constant laughter and intermittent applause.

"I watch a lot of romantic dramas and comedies, and I'm really happy to see that a regional-language play is getting such a tremendous response at a mainstream festival," said Shashikant Gaikwad, 31, an advocate from Sandhurst Road.

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS: FEBRUARY 5

All events are free and open to all. To view the full schedule, go to kalaghodaassociation.com

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Lodha presents Peace Worshipers by Amaan Ali Bangash, Ayaan Ali Bangash and Elmira Darvarova, at Cross Maidan, from 8 pm to 8.45 pm

HERITAGE WALKS PRESENTED BY BAJAJ ELECTRICALS

Explore the relationship between cultural and natural heritage, via rare and exotic trees and their interwoven histories with the city, on the Bombay Green walk conducted by Kruti Garg and Rajdeo Singh of the BNHS. Assembly time: 4.15 pm

STAND-UP

Skoda presents Rohan Joshi, the popular AIB stand-up comic, at Irish House, at 4 pm

CINEMA FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY &PRIVE

Film critic Luanda Fernandes discusses the nuances of Argentinian cinema, at the CSMVS museum visitors' centre, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Explore your general knowledge of Mumbai trivia and create a unique Mumbai monument, at the CSMVS museum gardens, from 4 pm to 5 pm. (Open to children aged 5 to 12)

LITERATURE

Telling And Re-Telling: The Indian Novels Collective presents Neena Gupta reading from Mricchakatikam, Vivek Oberoi from Chimmeen and Richa Chadha from Saraswatichandra, at the David Sassoon Library garden, from 9.15 pm to 10 pm

THEATRE

Hope, Hamartia and Books (English), presented by Metamorphosis: A look at how a 14-year journey made and unmade two individuals as they travel metaphorically through the works of Marquez, Murakami and others. At NGMA, 8 pm to 9.40 pm
Anokhelal (Hindustani), presented by Nitara: An actor is supposed to perform a death scene but finds himself unable to do so. At MC Ghia Hall, from 6 pm to 6.40 pm



Visitors enjoy the installations at Rampart Row on Sunday.

SATISH BATE/HT