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Sights, sounds and smells from Bangalore

The Bangalore Blog: Boom or Doom? Tracking India's Silicon City's growth pangs.

MONDAY, MARCH 07, 2005

'Patangs help children's dreams reach the skies

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New Indian Express

BANGALORE: The Manekshaw Parade Ground on Sunday saw a unique kite festival where corporate executives flew kites along with slum children from the NGO Parikrama.

Along with the kites, the children’s dreams too soared high, as proceeds from the event will go towards their education.

Sixty-five teams from different fields, including those from BCC, KSRTC, the Indian Army, schools and corporates competed with each other for the first place. The participation fee from each team will fund a child’s education for six months. Each team comprised two

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Parikrama children and four from the organisation.

Each kite was hand-painted by the children in various hues and designs that set the mood of the Utsav. They even recited a poem on kites, written specially for the occasion. An exhibition of designer kites was also held, with the little ones enthusiastically explaining the history of kites and the science of their flight at the counter.

Another special feature was the kite display by V.K. Rao, who has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for flying 2,500 kites on a three-kilometre string.

The first kite was flown by Governor T.N. Chaturvedi. The jury to decide the winners included police commissioner S. Mariaswamy, Justice Saldanha, Ashwini Nachappa, Prakash Padukone, Prasad Bidappa and Vani Ganapathy. The team from Yahoo! emerged winners of the festival, with the best display.

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What do you call a congenial, captivating, cosmopolitan confluence of software and shopping malls, electronics and environment friendliness, salubrious climate and cleanliness, modern outlook and old worldliness, precision engineering and pubs? You call it India's best city for business. It is also called Bangalore.
Opening lines of Business Today's survey on India's best cities for business, December 1998.
Does Bangalore resemble any of this today?

Thought for the Times

"We neglect our cities at our peril. For, in neglecting them, we neglect the nation."
-John F. Kennedy

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