

Azim Premji University unveils 'Mountains of Life', third edition of annual climate festival at Bengaluru campus

Bengaluru, November 13, 2024: Azim Premji University today unveiled the third edition of its annual climate festival -- Mountains of Life -- a celebration of mountains, brought to life through an ensemble of art installations, photographs captured by young interns, music, movies, artefacts, interactive workshops and more. The festival, being held at the Bengaluru campus of the University, will be open to the public until November 26, and entry will be free.

Over a thousand students and members of the public visited the festival's inaugural day, which began with a Gujjar folk music performance and Hulivesha, the traditional folk dance from Karnataka. The festival brings together students, artists, non-governmental organizations, teachers, young professionals and community members and will provide a platform for local communities to share their experiences of living and working in the mountains.

As part of the festival, the University selected a cohort of student interns who travelled across the country, documenting a wide range of stories, from tales of co-existence between humans and nature in Savandurga and Chamundi Hill to the journey of the Nyishi community of Arunachal Pradesh trying to strike a balance between tradition and modernity. The fourteen-day trilingual (English-Kannada-Hindi) festival offers an immersive and enriching experience. It will provide diverse perspectives from urban dwellers and indigenous communities and explore the idea of mountains with school and college students from different parts of the country.

"The third edition of our annual climate festival brings stories from our mountains to life. The event highlights our deep relationship with mountains and the urgent need to conserve our mountains better," said Harini Nagendra, Director, Research Centre & School of Climate Change and Sustainability, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.

The programme will feature various events each day across venues at the University. This will include several interactive workshops, panel discussions, movies, folk songs, rendition of folklore and a captivating exhibition of photo stories, documenting palaeolithic paintings of Bhimbetka and petroglyphs of Ladakh to the monoculture plantations of Mizoram.

In 2022, Azim Premji University launched its first climate festival -- Rivers of Life -- A journey through India's Rivers', as seen through the country's myriad rivers, its cultural influences, role in livelihood, vibrant biodiversity, and the people behind its conservation. The second edition -- Forests of Life -- brought to life stories from India's diverse forests.

Over 10,000 school and college students, besides members of the public, attended both editions. Please visit our website for more details on the programme schedule and the venues:

<https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/mountains-of-life>

About Azim Premji University

Azim Premji University was established under the Azim Premji University Act 2010 of the Government of Karnataka. Azim Premji Foundation, the sponsoring body set up the University as a fully philanthropic and not-for-profit entity, with a clear social purpose of contributing to the realization of a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society.

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