

# Non-Kannadigas celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava

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The Kannada Rajyotsava is being celebrated in a unique way by non-Kannadiga students in various ways. At SDM Institute of Management Development there has been a unique tradition of celebration for last nine years.

The students plan for this event a month back and execute it accordingly. They learn dance to tunes of some of the Kannada film songs and actively take part in desi sports.

Accompanied by local students they sing the Kannada Naadageete 'Jaya Bharata Jananiya tanujaate'. Also special programmes for non-Karnataka students like quiz competition about Karnataka, Kannada songs singing competition and Kannada was organised.

Students from the state serve a special lunch of regional delicacies to their friends from outside. More than 22 states, faculty and staff members of the in-



stitute participate in this food fest. Cultural programmes and sports events, which include folk dance, kabaddi matches, also take place. The dining hall is decorated with balloons and pictures of famous poets and personalities will be on display with their descriptions.

Varshada Atyuttama Kannadiga (Best Kannadiga for the year) award will be given for a non-Kannadiga student, who makes

sincere efforts in learning Kannada. The award has motivated several students to learn Kannada.

According to the college staff, almost 50 per cent of non-Kannadigas understand Kannada easily and converse with cab drivers and others. While around 10 of them speak fluent Kannada.

Akshay Ravi, a student from Kerala, says, "I was oblivious to the tradition or culture of

Karnataka. On coming here to study I learnt a lot about Karnataka and the people. Kannada Rajyotsava is one majestic festival that helped me learn about the heritage and tradition of this beautiful state. The way the day is celebrated is a treat to the eyes and mind. Starting from beautiful decorations around the campus to the delicious and authentic Karnataka food."

Many other colleges in the city also celebrated the day in their own manner. While hoisted the Karnataka flag, other welcomed the special day by organising various programmes.

Sofia Marie, a German tourist, says she was intrigued by a number of activities that were taking place on the day around the city. "People were holding placards asking people to learn Kannada. There was song and dance in several localities I came to know about the Kannada Rajyotsava," she says.

**Teaching to speak Kannada on the state's special day**

"Namaskara neevu hegeedira, nimma ooruu tumba, changiede, nange tumba esta aithu" were a few Kannada words foreigners were trying to read out in English, on Monday at the city centre. Belaku Foundation, were distributing a ten-page booklet to non-Kannadigas and foreigners who visit Mysuru during this week.

Foundation convenor, KM Nishanth says, "We are celebrating the Kannada Rajyotsava in a unique way. In the week-long programme we will be camping at Mysuru Zoo, Exhibition Grounds, Palace, Chamundi Hill daily for two hours and distribute booklets, sweets, and create awareness." James Richard from Spain says, "This is my first visit to Mysuru. I loved the hearty welcome by the citizens."