

From eco fuel to pencils with seeds, smoke-free stoves, organic eco oils, pure chocolates, the ongoing **Eco Bazaar**, which is being organised as part of the 10th Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival, has a huge variety of products

A green market

Pics: Mukkund Bhute

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We appreciate all things green and eco-friendly and many of us are keen on adopting an eco-friendly lifestyle, but most often we don't know where to start. Well, to begin with you could head to Eco Bazaar, which kicked off in the city on Friday, January 8, at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium. The bazaar, which is part of the 10th Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival, has people from across Maharashtra and other states selling products that are environment-friendly, trendy and have great utility too.

As you enter the auditorium, you will find a beautiful green tree made of used glass bottles. Meher Pudumjee, Chairperson, Thermax, inaugurated the bazaar by lighting the tree. Most of the stalls at the bazaar will catch your attention. At the BVG stall, you will find eco fuel, made from discarded plastic, that can be used in furnaces and boilers. Aarohana EcoSocial Developments, which is upcycling plastic, is selling bags that are made of plastic fabric. Women in Gujarat, who are part of the organisation, clean and dry the plastic bags, cut strips and then weave them to make fabric. After which they are stitched in Pune. Available at Eco Bazaar, the bags not only look beautiful but are also sturdy.

Pune's eco-friendly shop Either Or, which has been in existence for the past 17 years, has also put up a stall. They have interesting pencils which have seeds at the end. After using the pencil, you can

sow it and grow more trees. Attractive hair accessories made by women from self-help groups will catch your eye.

Samuchit's stall has smoke-free stoves that are powered by water. At Ninad's Pottery, strong and durable ceramic vessels made with iron, calcium, zinc and magnesium coating, claim to add minerals to your food. The Kishkinda Trust from Karnataka has baskets and mats in all sizes made from banana fibre. These attractive handwoven baskets are washable and offer long-term durability too.

At Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) stall, farmers are selling organic food like rice, millets, wheat and beans. Syrups and jams are also on sale. Their display looks interesting as they show how a real plant looks in the field.

From organic eco oils by Mindful Health to pure chocolates from Earth Loaf, Eco Bazaar has a wide variety of choice. Beauty and cosmetic products like organic shampoos, body oils and body wash, and organic lipsticks and kajal by Soul Tree are also available.

"The bazaar is not just about selling products. It's also amazing to see the amount of knowledge being spread and the sharing of ideas that is taking place," says Ritika Narang Tickoo, owner, Either Or.

Pudumjee adds, "The products have a lot of utility and are not just showpieces. The value that the products offer appeals to me the most."

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Eco Bazaar at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium, Ghole Road, will continue till January 12, from 3-9 pm.



Visitors take in the aroma of the organic grains at the BAIF stall



Meher Pudumjee and Arti Kirloskar at The Kishkinda Trust's stall



Display by Studio Alternatives



Eco friendly bags at the bazaar