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Drumming, no honking mark freedom celebrations

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Fervour of different varieties found expression in Independence Day celebrations. While one lot gathered to play African drums, another set about spreading the word against noise pollution by alerting people to the ill effects of honking unnecessarily. A group of special children enjoyed a day out, as part of the celebration of freedom.

Djumbe players at Basavangudi About four hundred people gathered at the volley ball court in Nettakallapa Circle, Basavangudi. Organisers of this event had given out 300 djumbes — African drums —and people sat around drumming away. The drums are played by holding them between the legs.

The djumbe are traditional drums used by the Numu tribe of West Africa. The very word djumbe means 'gather together'. "I've come from RT Nagar to attend this function. I am a music lover, and it is the first time that I have been to this kind of celebration. Beating the drums with so many people was an exhilarating experience," said Sunitha Avrani, a resident of RT Nagar.

DrumJam is a method both of relaxation and of getting people energetic, which has been pioneered by the percussionist Roberto Narain. Sessions have been organised with several corporate houses. People are brought together, and the act of drumming in unison is seen to generate a thrill and a camaraderie that few other activities that require no particular skills can generate. On Sunday, over 400 people gathered, although organisers had only made arrangements to distribute 300 drums. People played in turns, so everyone got a chance to drum.

Freedom from honks

Students of the New Horizon Public School celebrated I-Day by going about telling vehicle drivers what a lot of noise pollution they were creating by honking unnecessarily. Students of classes eight, nine and 10 formed groups and set about campaigning in different parts of the city. A number of students were seen inside the Forum Mall, Garuda Mall, and Cauvery Emporium on MG Road. Students at CMH and Manipal Hospitals held placards against honking.

"Unnecessary honking has ill effects on our health. Students took this initiative as part of our value-based lectures," said Madhumita, coordinator, New Horizon Public School.

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