

■ Sky Fest Promises Action, Fun and Carnival Spirit

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HYDERABAD: The Indian Air Force would be performing para jumping in the city, not for a state festival or a national event, but for a cause. Sky Fest, a five-day carnival gearing up to create history, will begin on December 23 at Gachibowli Stadium. The event is organised in association with the Telangana government and broadband service provider ACT Fiber.

Rani reddy, Member of Rotary Club Banjara Hills and also one of the organisers, said that the fest is organised for a noble cause of donating money to Sparsh Hospice, which works for the palliative care to the terminally-ill patients. "The Trust spends Rs 3.5 lakh running the 15-bed hospital that runs in a rented premises in Banjara Hills every month. Now there is a huge demand to accommodate more patients. There is no care extended by government in this area. The event of this magnitude is planned to raise Rs 5.5 crore capital fund required to build its own premises and expand the capacity from current 15 to 50 beds. The trust has already approached government for a lease of land to construct the building, which is pending with the state government," Rani informed.

Unlike never before, the event will feature hot air balloon rides, para jumping by Indian Air force cadets, midnight movies, music concerts, carnival acts, shopping and food all at one place, non-stop for full five days. "Apart from aiding Sparsh Hospice, we also want to sell experience to the people. We want to make a cause memorable," she adds.

About 25 colleges from the city would be performing at the carnival. Mohan Reddy, President of Rotary Club Banjara Hills said, "Telangana Government took permission from the central ministry for the Indian Air Force to perform for this event. A recreational activity seen mostly on TV, but, never witnessed live in this city. The Cyberabad Security Council took showed keen interest in the event and assured all the possible security. We are also planning to make this a calender event. We are expecting more than 80,000 people to attend the event."

Passes for the hot air balloon ride is available from Rs 2,500 onwards. Sky-Waltz, commercial hot air ballooning company, is roped in for the festival. It is India's first fully licensed and government approved commercial hot air balloon operation," she added. Visitors also get to watch five offbeat movies at midnight, said Mohan Reddy. Top singers like Sonu Nigam, Devi Sri Prasad, R.P. Patnaik are lined up to perform on the last three days of the carnival.

The concert passes are available from Rs 500 upwards. The other attractions include Michel Jackson lookalike, lezim dance, salsa, acrobats, stick dance, clowns, etc. One can also visit stalls of Sodabottleopenerwala, Little Italy etc.