

# Hindu Business Line

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+ ART

### Sculpture park brings Indian contemporary art to Bengaluru

RMZ Foundation to open similar parks in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai in 2-3 years

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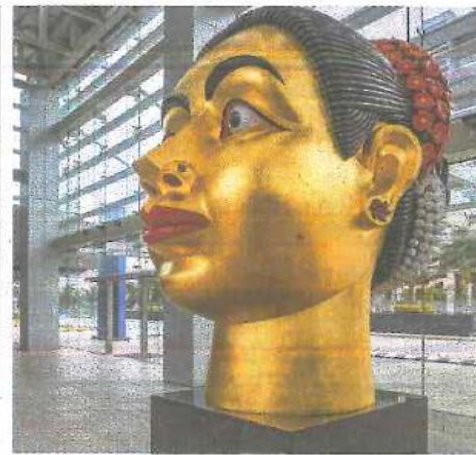
Bengaluru, July 20

Bengaluru has, over the ages, earned many sobriquets such as Garden City, Pensioner's Paradise, Pub City and, more recently, the IT Capital of India. While a walk through the verdant expanses of the city exposes people to its various features, there are few avenues for people to discover the cultural context of Bengaluru through works of art.

Addressing this opportunity, the RMZ Foundation has installed sculptures of six world-renowned contemporary Indian artists at the ground and Ecodeck levels of RMZ Ecoworld, a 52-acre campus in the heart of Bengaluru's IT district Bellandur — which houses an IT Park, restaurants, premium shopping centres, amphitheatre and an art gallery. Aimed at inspiring and engaging both the 23,000 people who work in the campus and the public at large, the sculptures are open for viewing from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., with no entry fee.

#### Cities through art

Anu Menda, Managing Trustee, RMZ Foundation, was inspired to open the sculpture park by her many



(clockwise from top-left) Jayasri Burman's 'Dharitri', G Ravinder Reddy's bronze bust 'Devi' and Paresh Maity's 'The Force,' at RMZ Ecoworld, Bengaluru

travels abroad, where she discovered the cultural context of cities through art, such as the CASS Sculpture Foundation in the UK, run by an elderly couple to celebrate British contemporary art.

"It showcases 50 large-scale contemporary sculptures across a tranquil 26-acre countryside with stately gardens, blue bell-carpeted woodlands and open glades, and is open to visitors for a fee," she said.

Menda has executed something

similar in Bengaluru, where visitors are greeted by G Ravinder Reddy's 'Devi,' an imposing, female bronze bust with her large expressive features and intricate hairdo weighing 1.5 tonnes. A leisurely stroll through the vast campus, dotted with landscaped gardens, water bodies and fountains, reveals Subodh Gupta's 'Thosa Pani' a 78-ft-long, 11-ft-high installation that uses hundreds of shiny vessels to capture a frozen moment of tumultuous tide of water;

Paresh Maity's 'The Force' a sculpture of a bull-like animal inspired by primitive cave painting; Jayasri Burman's 'Dharitri', a tableau sculpture representing the mythical feminine embodiment of the Earth surrounded by flora and fauna; Dhruva Mistry's 'Vermilion and Crimson' a spatial steel sculpture in sheet metal depicting movement; Arun Kumar HG's 'The Link' a sculpture of a seated bull made of recycled heavy iron chains and another Subodh Gupta original called 'Dreams Overflowing' a sculpture of a massive overflowing steel bucket, symbolising the overwhelming wastage of the world's natural resources.

#### Tapping Fortune 500

"Bengaluru enjoys the privilege of playing host to a diverse and vibrant population. Millennials contribute to key roles in making art an integral part of the cultural fabric that gives this global city its unique identity. Our Foundation intends to engage with all corporates and Fortune 500 companies to create an ideal platform for the talents of emerging and established artists, that will enable meaningful discussions and cultural exchange," RMS Trustee Menda said.

The RMZ Foundation is collaborating with emerging Indian artists and artists from around the world to install their works in sculpture parks across the group's commercial assets in cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai in the next 24-36 months.

Anu Menda, managing trustee, RMZ Foundation, says Bengaluru has long established its place on the world map as a destination for art. It enjoys the privilege of playing host to a diverse and vibrant population. "We would like to be custodians to bring art to the city. We would like to hold cross cultural educational programmes with students and host work of international artists in our campus." There are presently seven installations by six artistes - Subodh Gupta, Ravinder G Reddy, Dhurva Mistry, Paresh Maity, Arunkumar HG, Jayasri Burman.

The space is open for public viewing, and entry is completely free.

