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# City of Palaces adds another 'Green' shop to its kitty

By **HAARDI SOTTI**

**GO GREEN** Varieties of honey, bee wax, balms, soaps and spices grown by tribals in Nilgiris are right here in Mysore. Popularising these is a holistic approach towards conservation of natural products and providing livelihood to indigenous communities, writes Preethi Nagaraj

**G**reen Hovel, which is located at Mysore road in the City is adding another jewel to its crown. After being identified as 'eco-friendly hotel' under international norms, the hotel is adding 'Green Shop' to its list.

The shop, which will be inaugurated on Saturday, September 5, will showcase natural and organic products from Nilgiris, produced by tribals belonging to Kurumba and Irula communities among others. Varieties of honey, bee wax products such as balms and soaps, along with a range of spices such as cardamom, pepper, clove along with coffee and tea products will be on sale along with items such as potteries, garments and products made using bamboo by the tribals.

The shop, which is being set up by Koppone Foundation in Tamil Nadu, will operate at Green Hovel between 9.30 am and 7 pm. Except for Friday, which is the weekly holiday.

Speaking to City Herald, Director of the Foundation Manthra said this was an effort to bring the products made by tribals to the mainstream, and ensure they get the space they deserve. Elaborating on the activities of Koppone Foundation, Manthra said Koppone has been working in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve over the last 15 years with indigenous communities on eco-development initiatives. The Foundation's work has been concentrated in the areas of agriculture, land development, organic and fair trade marketing, non-timber forest products and many more. A strategic outlook

for the next decade to holistically approach the issues of livelihoods, conservation and enterprise is necessary. In the coming 10 years, an integrated approach towards indigenous people will be made through the following programme areas of livelihood, conservation, organic market development and culture and people - these will be supported by cross-cutting enterprise areas of environmental governance, training and education and last but not the least, finance and administration. Green shop is part of this venture, he said.

The concept of Koppone emerges from the new building behaviour of some birds in nature. These permanent nest structures serve as habitat for several life forms. Such life forms species become critical in providing opportunities for other nesting opportunities for grass and snails. Thus, Koppone Foundation is born out of a simple ecological principle of the interdependence of natural systems. Koppone Foundation has established nearly 10000 acres in the Nilgiris, working with indigenous communities on eco-development initiatives.

**IT IS AN EFFORT TO BRING THE PRODUCTS MADE BY TRIBALS TO THE MAIN-STREAM**



Workers at the hotel building in the City of Palaces