Hippies’ date with Hosapete

By Chetan R, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Jan 12, 2017, 04.00 AM IST

On Wednesday, Hosapete, the nearest town to the UNESCO world heritage site Hampi, woke up to a surprise: a bunch of foreign nationals, around 70, were seen performing various acts to raise funds before moving to their next destination — Kodaikkanal in Tamil Nadu. While locals said they were moved out of Virupapura Gadde (mostly inhabited by foreign visitors) at Hampi on Tuesday night, the artists-visitors, who entertain people to raise money, maintained that it was part of their international tour as they performed ‘arts’ to raise funds for over two hours on Wednesday morning.

When the hippies entertained the locals at Hosapete on Wednesday morning

The hippies — as they are commonly known — comprise nationals of US, UK and Germany. Interestingly, they also had two members of Indian origin – one from Rajasthan and the other from Chennai.

As they fell short of money, they decided to raise funds by entertaining public. In batches of 10, they poured out their talent and were successful in collecting the required funds. The team performed various arts including ball juggling tricks, bottle juggling, playing music, and belting out songs near the bus stand.

For locals, it looked like begging by foreigners though. Meanwhile, locals in Hampi, however, alleged that the troop had a tiff with landowners in Virupapura Gadde and stayed near temple area all night before they left for Hosapete. “These are one of the troupes who come to Hampi every year during Christmas to stay for over 2-3 months. They basically rely on low-budget stay. They bring their own tents and don’t prefer to stay in hotels or homestays. The same cycle continues with the next batch of visitors from their
respective groups or countries occupying their temporary setups at Virupapura Gadde. This issue had cropped on Tuesday as well with some resort owners and local land owners. That led to an argument, and they moved out and to cope up with the sudden change in plan, they took to entertainment exercises. We got to know about the arts they perform and indeed the ‘show’ was sort of a culture exchange programme, which they claimed was the purpose of the exercise and visit,” Rachaiah SS, a local photo journalist said.