

Zico Fernandes

Started an instagram account called Baobabs of Bombay, in which he has documented 36 baobab trees in the city

On why he started documenting the Baobab trees of Bombay:

I've always seen baobabs as a kid and when I got to know more about them I felt that maybe somebody should do something for these trees and this is my way of doing it. When I started the account dedicated to the baobabs in Bombay in 2017, there was nothing like this.

The baobabs are marked as trees that are protected by the municipality but you don't really see that the municipality has done anything for them. The trees which are on the side of the street, some of them are covered by tarmac, some of them have billboards attached to them with a lot of nails and posters because people don't know about the tree.

On why the baobab is special:

You tell me another tree that lives for 5000 years. That in itself is really special. Also it is like a superplant. The fruit is a source of vitamin C. People in Africa used to have it on a daily basis and the fruit of the baobab was what they used as medicines.

I cross a baobab everyday when I am in Bombay and I never not look at it. Whether I am in a rickshaw or a bike or a bus I know I am passing a bao.