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## 'Gudiya Sambrama' to focus on sacred trees

### 20 temples to be covered

Staff Reporter

**BANGALORE:** As many as 20 temples in the city will reverberate with a range of cultural programmes during "Gudiya Sambrama" (Bengaluru Temple Festival) starting on January 20. The theme this year will revolve around sacred trees and plants.

Legends of trees and their religious, cultural and environmental significance will be stressed during the festival. About 250 artistes will stage dance, music, theatre, puppetry and Harikatha performances during the festival which will conclude on March 11.

"Vriksha Katha (story of a tree), told theatrically, will be the highlight of the festival. It will speak about the history, significance, religious importance of the tree," V. Vijayalakshmi, secretary of Heritage, a non-profit trust, told presspersons here.

#### Temples

The festival will be held at the Sri Karanji Anjaneyaswamy temple, the Dodda Basavanna Temple, the Dodda Ganapathi temple, the Mallikarjuna Swamy temple, the Shiva Bhakta Bedara Kannappa temple, the Balprasanna Anjaneya temple, the Navamantralaya temple, and the Govardhanagiri Puthige Math temple in Basavanagudi, the Sameshwara temple in Agara, the Nandi Tirtha Devasthan, the Kaadu Malleswara temple, the Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy temple,

- The stress is on legends of trees

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the Venugopaldaswamy temple and the Gangamma Devi temple in Malleswaram, the Guddada Ramanjaneya temple, the Gavi Gangadhareshwara temple and the Harihareshwara temple in Hanumanthnagar, the Sridevi Bhudevi Sametha Chokkathaswamy temple in Domlur and the Devagiri temple in Banashankari.

As part of the festival, a seminar on Indian wisdom to enhance eco-systems will be organised by Heritage and hosted by Jain University on January 17 in which several environmentalists will participate. Among others, chairman of the State-level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) M.P. Ramanujam, member of Karnataka Biodiversity Board M.D. Subash Chandra and the former Environment Secretary Yellappa Reddy will participate.

Besides, a creative writing competition on "Reverence towards nature in Indian heritage and its significance today", will be organised. There will be a photo context and an exhibition on "Veneration of Mother Nature".

Details can be had on Ph: 9731207477; [www.gudiya-sambhrama.org](http://www.gudiya-sambhrama.org) or write to [info@gudiyasambhrama.org](mailto:info@gudiyasambhrama.org).