



REPORT OF

# Gudiya Sambhrama

*...the Temple Festival 2017*

21st January to 19th February, 2017



सृष्टी रक्षति रक्षिता  
*Sacred Flowers*

A coming together of Nature, Culture & History in Heritage spaces

## Heritage Trust & Team

India's cultural and spiritual heritage has been the mark of an advanced and successful civilisation. The fast pace of life today has diminished the connect to heritage.

'Heritage' a not-for-profit charitable registered trust has been actively involved since 1994 in the promotion, preservation and dissemination of our heritage and culture through seminars, workshops and cultural festivals to bring us closer to our roots.

Since 2010 Heritage has been conducting thematic festivals: "Gudiya Sambhrama, The temple festival" and "Srishti Sambhrama the Earth Mother Festival". Both are a celebration and a coming together of our cultural and natural heritage in haloed sacred spaces of worship and learning.

The festivals are a feast to the eyes, ears, soul and the intellect too since they include performances, interesting talks, discussions, quiz questions, exhibitions and poster displays. The theme for 2017 was Sacred Flowers.

### **Introducing the working committee of GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA**

**Shri. Vijayakumar**, the Founder President of the Heritage Trust is an industrialist, by profession, an organic farmer and philanthropist by choice with a fondness for our heritage and culture.

**Smt. Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar**, is a founder trustee and the secretary of the Heritage Trust. Presently a free-lance designer and member of the national philately board, she was a member of Central Board of Film Certification,

**Smt. Supriya Komandur**, is a trustee and the joint secretary of the Heritage Trust. She is a Bharatanatyam dancer and the artistic director of Amrthavarshini, the academy for arts.

**Smt. Rekha Raghavan**, is a co-ordinator of the Heritage Trust. She is a Bharatanatyam exponent and founder of CITA – centre for Indian Traditional arts in East Africa.



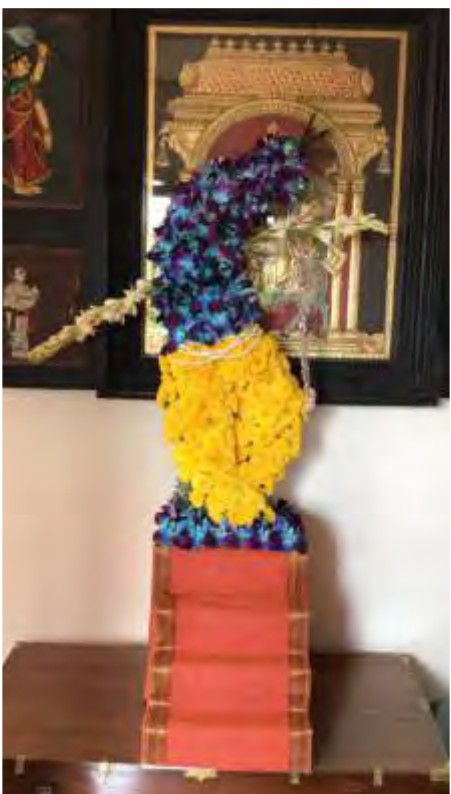
संसिद्धिं प्रति

...in pursuit of excellence



# A report of GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA 2017

The theme of the festival "Sacred Flowers"



The concept of Sacred Flowers was inherent in all the world's ancient civilizations through the ages. The connect to natural and, cultural heritage is reinforced by our traditions.

*Krishna says in Bhagavadgita*

*brihatsaama tathaa saamnaam gaayatree chhandasaamaham  
maasaanam maargasheersho'ham ritoonaam kusumaakarah  
// 10.35 //*

Among the hymns also I am the Brihat Saman ; among the metres Gayatri am I ; among months I am Margashirsha (December-January); among seasons (I am) the flowery spring

**Introduction:** Over the last decade or more increased mobility, access to information and globalization has resulted in apparent progress and increased opportunity. With this comes insensitivity to history, culture & heritage and a loss of IDENTITY.

One of the best paths to sensitising people to country, culture and community is through the performing arts especially the traditional arts where the content is spiritual and peace giving.

Heritage takes care to select themes that will foster a connect to Natural & Cultural Heritage. The endless list of environmental disasters is a direct result of this disconnect and irreverence. Each year various themes related to Mother Nature are selected. The pivotal message of the festival is "Srishti Rakshati Rakshita" and the inherent Divinity in all creation.

This concept of seeing the divine in all creation is deeply ingrained in all of us. The sight of a lotus inspires a vision of Lord Vishnu or Mother Lakshmi just as the Arka flower brings to mind Lord Ganesha, the Japa Kusuma manifests as Mother Durga, the Parijatha invokes Lord Krishna and the Nandi Batlu embodies Lord Shiva. The beauty of flowers brings peace and joy and that state is an embodiment of the Divine.

People of this culture relate simultaneously to the Supreme Godhead whether in sacred spaces within the temples, in the Yaaga Shalas, in the elements, in trees, animals, rivers, mountains, in all of nature, nay in all creation and without any confusion. The approach in the Indian ethos is one that is holistic and all-encompassing.

The venues for the festival are Sacred Heritage spaces. Temples are a creation of our open culture that recognises and understands the diversity of people's approach to the Supreme and the understanding of the Divinity of all creation.

Performing arts, architecture, visual arts, literature, poetry, knowledge dissemination, environment and ecology were all a part of this temple culture.



Bengaluru is home to beautiful temples some as old as 1200 years and Gudiya Sambhrama is an earnest attempt to revive this multi-faceted culture in temples today.

The resource person for any Heritage activity comes from the best of scholars, artists, academicians, naturalists and others.

Much research and work goes into creating thematic posters for display at the venues. Trees and plants are decorated and displayed with information boards.

A thematic display of flowering plants with poems and details were presented in collaboration with Rai Techonology University for Gudiya Sambhrama 2017.



**“Gudiya Sambhrama...The Bengaluru Temple Festival”  
has been conducted annually for seven successive years.**



The festival with theme 'Sacred Flowers' brought together over a hundred artists and scholars of repute from across the country. Starting in the month of January for five week-ends and 8 venues, 20 temples resounded with the rhythm of dancing feet and the melody of music mingling with mystical chants and temple bells.



**The festival was held between 21st January 2017 and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017,**

The striking features of GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA were many. The unique feature of 2017 was the inauguration of GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA at each venue by the regular flower supplier to that particular temple. The floral artist was felicitated and appreciated for the dedication to the temple. This was an effort to understand the important role that the floral artist plays in enhancing the experience of the devotee.

It brought the best of art to the people making it accessible to a cross-section of society. The audience consisted of people across age groups and gender. (No Entry Fee was charged). Every artist included presentations focused on Sacred Flowers.

A new perspective was added to the festival with several poets reciting their 'Kavyas' about flowers as a part of the performances. Chitra Kavya a rare form of Sanskrit poetry was shared at one of the venues.

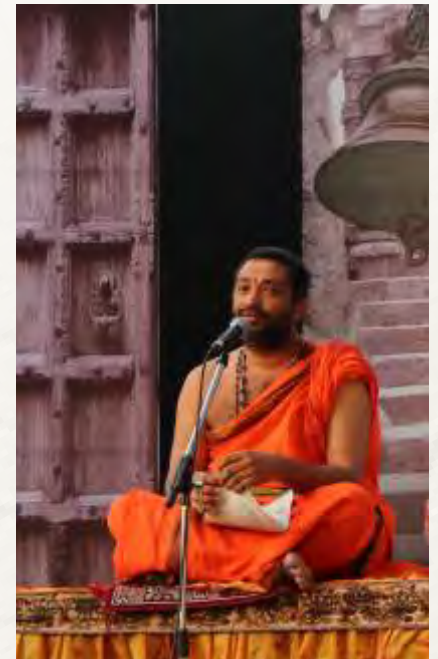
The audience expressed their joy at such grand art being made available to them in such a wonderful ambience. All the artists were also thrilled by the forum that was created for the performances and the opportunity to research and present thematic compositions.



Apart from the main stage performances artists performed inside each of the 20 temples as part of the sangeetha and nrithya upachara to the Supreme. This was the highlight of the utsava to bring back the devopacharas in the temple as this practice is slowly fading away. Artistes have found devopacharas inspiring and uplifting.



*A main stage was put up at 7 of these Bengaluru temple spaces and a very special ambience was created with a huge backdrop illustrating the elements along with the Gopura – the temple tower.*



## *Behind the Scenes:*

A spacious stage was erected in each venue taking care to make it sturdy and smooth for the dancers. Artistically designed platforms were placed for the musicians. Two green rooms were installed next to the stage.

Professional sound and lighting was arranged for every venue. Generators were organized for an uninterrupted power supply during the performances.

Heritage took all the measures to take care of the outstation artists and their hospitality. Transport was arranged for their arrival and departures and also to the programme venue.

All artists including their Gurus present during the recitals were blessed with divine chantings by the Pradhana Archakas while they were given mementos by Heritage.

Memento to all the artists and chief guests was a 'Flowering Plant', a pack of seeds of different variety of flowers with a small write up, a book on spirituality and life, fragrant incense sticks in eco-friendly cotton bags.



Hand-outs were printed on recycled brown paper with the entire schedule and write-up of the festival.

**ಗುಡಿಯ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ**  
the Bengaluru Temple Festival  
21st January to 19th February, 2017  
Dedicated to Sacred Flowers

**सृष्टी रक्षति रक्षितः**  
Connect to your roots,  
Cherish the living world  
Bond with kindred spirits,  
For all creation is Divine!  
The temple is where the Firmless one has a home

**Heritage**  
...in pursuit of excellence  
gudhya.sambhrama@gmail.com  
For details contact : 97312 07477

**Heritage Trust** a not-for-profit organization conducts its annual festivals with an understanding of the deep connect our society has had to both its cultural and natural Heritage. Sacred Spaces, Performing Arts and Mother Nature are the life and heritage of society yet rarely celebrated in this fast pace of life today. Devarasthanas/ Dharmasthanas/ temples have been large players in the eco system of our society, be it environmental, financial, material, educational, health or cultural. **Gudhya Sambhrama** is a step towards rejuvenating and reviving this temple-eco-system.

The festival brings over 100 artists of repute from across India to heritage temples to share their performances of dance, music, theatre, juggling, fabulous legends and more **every week and from January 21<sup>st</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2017** creating health and well-being, touching the lives of a cross section of society.

**Organisers** : Heritage a not-for-profit registered trust that has been actively involved since 1984 in the promotion & preservation of our heritage, culture and environment.

**Vision** : To inspire Civil Society to nurture our heritage, culture and environment from an individual and societal level with an understanding of the divinity of all creation.

**the Bengaluru Temple Festival 2017**  
...in the understanding of the Supreme Being, the great **Rishi** & an **Rhaja**, of utterances I am the immovable 'Om' of the Himalayas, of the Samant hymns I am the Great Samant, of poetic metres I am the **flowery spring, Vasantha Ritu**," said Lord Krishna to Arjuna. "I am the Arka flower immediately blings to mind Lord Ganesha, the **Arka** of Krishna and the **Nand** Ballu of Lord Shiva. The beauty of flowers in this state of peace and joy not only through the performing arts display. Each venue will have a thematic display of flowers from heritage to create this festive space filled with flowers. We will be on the history of each of the temple venues.

**February, 2017 - Schedule**  
Program in other temples near Main Stage temple  
Traditional Games by Kavade Hive

**EMERGING ARTISTS WEEK-END**

**Sunday 22nd Jan**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Sribhara Siddhanta (Maddur) - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Jayashree Kulkarni (T. Lakshmi Venka) - **Shree Ganga**

**HGI Layam (Flowers of Mahabharatha) - Jan 28 & 29**  
Main Stage: **Manjunatha Vayyaka Devasthanam, 12th A Main**  
19th Cross, 3th Setor

**Saturday 28th January**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**Sunday 29th Jan**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**Mallanuram (Flowers Jay Poo from Agamas) - Feb 1**  
Main Stage: **Shri Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple, Teeple St., 11th Cr**

**EMERGING ARTISTS WEEK-END**

**Sunday 5th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**Sunday 12th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**Sunday 19th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**EMERGING ARTISTS WEEK-END**

**Sunday 18th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**Sunday 19th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**EMERGING ARTISTS WEEK-END**

**Sunday 25th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**Sunday 26th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**EMERGING ARTISTS WEEK-END**

**Sunday 27th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**

**EMERGING ARTISTS WEEK-END**

**Sunday 28th February**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM Shivakrishna Chidambaram - **Shree Ganga**



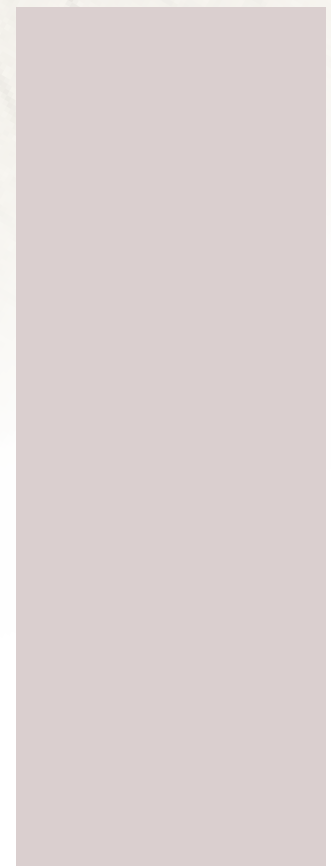


**Audience were largely temple going public, vendors, art connoisseurs, families with young children, students, nature and conservation club members, home makers, lecturers, professors, young photographers and artists.**

**Sanskrit scholars Dr. S. R. Leela and Shatavadhani Dr. R. Ganesh wrote thematic poems in Sanskrit and Kannada that were used by the artists for their performances.**



Heritage in an effort to revive traditional Indian board games arranged for Kavade Toys Hive to be there before the performances started with their wonderful traditional games in every venue which the children and adults enjoyed to the hilt.



# Hanumanthanagar



## Performers and Performances:

The Inaugural week-end of GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA 2017 filled the precincts of Gudada Ramanjaneyaswamy Devasthanam in Hanumanthanagar with sounds of mystical Vedic Chants followed by a melodious Mallari to which the little feet of young dancers kept beat as they carried on their little shoulders a beautiful Krishna specially gifted to Heritage by Swamini Swatmabodhananda. Lord Krishna was placed amidst a garden of flowers as the Pradhan Archaka of the temple, two flower vendors, Nagamma and Shivamma, along with Sri Shantha Kumar whose nimble fingers trace rangoli patterns jointly lit the lovely terracota lamps announcing the inauguration of the festival.

Smt Rukmini Vijayakumar a danseuse of repute thrilled the packed audience with her powerful yet graceful movements and impeccable abhinaya touching the hearts of the audience as they watched with bated breath. Rukmini ended her performance with a wonderful Sanskrit composition written specially by Dr Shankar Rajaraman for the theme of Flowers of the Ramayana.

Sunday saw Nrithya Kainkaryam being offered in Gavi Gangadeshwara and Harihareshwara temples and once again in the Anjaneyaswamy temple by Ishwarya Chaitanya. After this the program began with Sri Sridhar Saligrama of Padyapaana sharing his poetry, a new experience for the audience who had just completed a round of traditional board games with Kavade Hive. After half an hour of poetry the audience immersed themselves in the celestial sound of the veena by Smt Jayanthi Kumaresh. She had put great efforts into choosing music that was in synch with the theme of Sacred Flowers.



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Heritage had created beautiful posters on the theme of "Flowers from the Ramayana" in collaboration with Rai Tech University who had also brought the saplings for display. Some flowering plants and trees that existed thousands of years ago during the Epic Ramayana period still exist and it is our evolutionary duty to nurture them for future generations. 🏠 MyTemple, the smart phone app that brings information on temples, heritage and culture to your smart phone were kind enough to display posters with information on the temple venues.



## HSR Layout

The second weekend mesmerized the audience at HSR Layout. Saturday was filled with the melodious music of Rithvik Raja and Prasanna, they had composed a special Ragam Tanam Pallavi on flowers for the festival. Sunday evening began with a Mallari by students of Sneha Devanandan followed by an energetic Bharatanatyam recital by the students of Sheela Unni of Sridevi Nrithyalaya from Chennai. They had specially choreographed a dance based on the story of the Sougandhika flower from the Mahabharata. The display of saplings with detailed posters in collaboration with Rai Tech University was welcomed by the audience.



# Malleswaram Domlur Koramangla



The three-day week-end was a variety of lovely performances and temples. In Malleswaram the magnificent 'Nandi Thirtha Devasthanana' was set for another edition of Gudiya Sambhrama. Medha Hari and Bhavajan from Chennai took us to the times of Lord Krishna while Rasika Academy had specially chosen stories of flowers.

Saturday's flute duet recital by Heramba and Hemanta at the Sri Sridevi Bhudevi sametha Chokkanatha Swamy temple in Domlur was a treat followed by a vibrant performance by Vidhun all the way from Kerala and ended with a sprightly recital by Sruti Rao.

Sunday filled the Koramangala Ganapathi temple with the melodious voice of Nandakumar and then the Jugalbanti Kathak and Bharatanatyam performance by Ashwin Prabhat and group that had the audience transported to the world of Hari and Hara. Each day of this three day week-end saw a different set of flowers used for puja with every detail given by Rai Tech University.



# Banashankari



The Fourth week-end in Devagiri Devasthanam devotees, art connoisseurs and simpletons were treated to Chitra Kavya by Dr Shankar Rajaraman, and later a lively engaging performance by Shanthala Subramanyam on flute, Akkarai Sornalatha on violin and Nagamani on Mandolin accompanied on mridangam by Guru Raghavendra and Delhi Sairam.

On Sunday the packed audience watched a sweet Mallari offering by the wee ones of Raadha Kalpa and a soul stirring performance by Rukmini Vijayakumar. This was followed by a dynamic Kathak performance by Sanjukta Sinha and group.





## Basavanagudi



The final week-end in Dodda Basavanna Devasthanana, a temple built over 750 years ago by Kempe Gowda, on Bull Temple Road in Basavangudi..had the audience immersed in Flowers of Ayurveda.

The evening began with an Ashirvachana by Sri Santhosh Guruji and was followed by a bharatanatyam duet recital by Viraja and Shyamjit from Chennai.

An Yakashagana performance “Sri Krishna Parijatha” by the young artists of Yaksakala Academy floored the audience with dialogues, dance and humour.

On 19th the program started with Padyapaana by Sri Ganesh Koppalathota, this was followed by a jugalbandi concert by Sampagodu Vighnaraja and Krisnendra Wadikar. The audience were rooted to their seats and did not want to leave at the end of such an enjoyable and serene evening. The community spirit in this temple is indeed to be nurtured and cherished.





Heritage conducted a three question quiz contest each day about the theme, the temple and the performance. The prize was co-sponsored by MyTemple and Kavade Hive, it was a treat to see a very responsive audience eagerly vying to answer the questions too. Divya Hoskere's essay on Sacred Flowers was awarded.



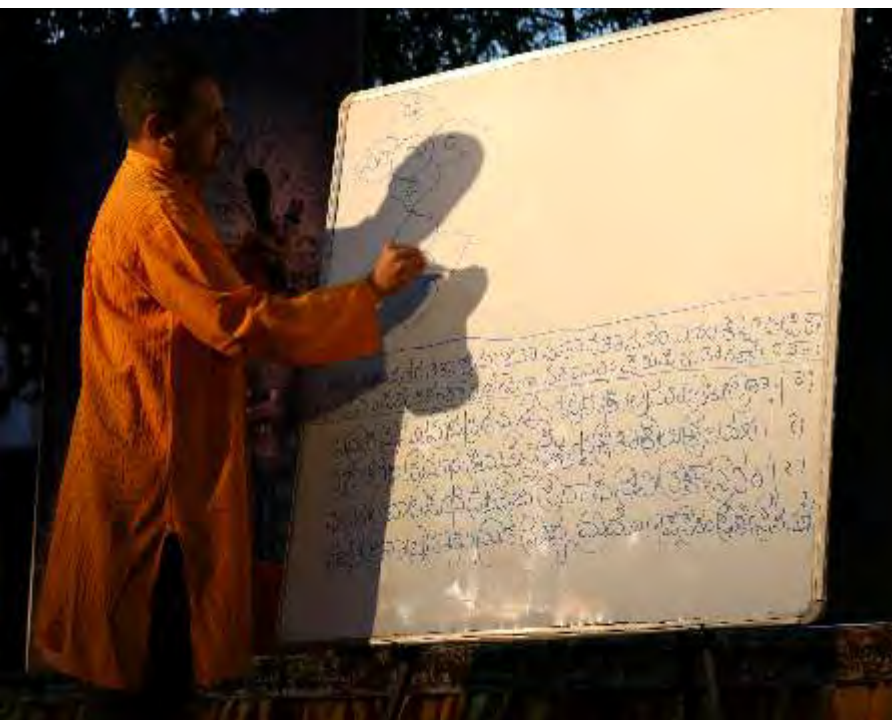




As always, this year too, heritage temples of Bengaluru saw celebrations of **Sacred Flowers** in music, dance, Padyapaana, Yakshagana, traditional games and story-telling with over 100 eminent performing artistes from all over India gathering in the city to pay tribute to the Supreme Being. An additional effort was made to organize the live web streaming of all the concerts by [SHAALE.COM](http://SHAALE.COM) so that overseas followers and absentees could enjoy the performances.



**GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA**..the Bengaluru Temple Festival of 2017 saw an increase in audience and interest. Over the 5 week-ends several thousand people were treated to enriching and soul elevating art. Artists were moved by this unique performance experience. Temple staff and community were over-joyed and the organisers satisfied with completion of yet another successful edition of Gudiya Sambhrana, a festival which was a coming together of nature, culture, history & heritage spaces dedicated to **Flowers**, an indispensable source for the existence of life.



# **Gudiya Sambhrama**

*...the Temple Festival 2017*

## **GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, COMPANIES, ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS, WHO SUPPORT GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA**

**Heritage acknowledges the people who whole heartedly support  
GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA**

- 1. Anil Kumar (Ambient Controls Pvt. Ltd.)**
- 2. B. Krishna Kumar (Mahendra Perfumery Works)**
- 3. B.N.K. Sarathi (Sarathy International Inc.)**
- 4. Bekay Jawahar (Tattvam Advisors)**
- 5. Darshan International**
- 6. Densol Engineering Pvt. Ltd.**
- 7. Dr. C. N. Ashwathnarayan Foundation**
- 8. Gopi Iyengar USA**
- 9. K.V. Pradeep (ARCO Enterprises)**
- 10. Kashinath M. Pai**
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- 12. Patil Parimala Works**
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- 14. P.N. Sadashiv**
- 15. Rajhans Printers Pvt. Ltd.**
- 16. Ramabhasakara Charitable Trust**
- 17. Saroj Sunrise Pvt. Ltd., Nagaland**
- 18. Shyam Shetty Akshara Motors**
- 19. Drs. Venkatesh and Preethi**
- 20. Varnila Design & Print**
- 21. Devagiri Sri Venkateshwara Trust**
- 22. Vigirom Chem Pvt. Ltd.**
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- 26. Vijayashree Fragrances**
- 27. Shree Ambika Salt Works**
- 28. Githanjali Rajamani**
- 29. Deutsche Bank**
- 30. Anushree Saigal**
- 31. Ensatus Technology India Pvt. Ltd.**



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*...the Temple Festival 2017*

**21st January to 19th February, 2017**

Organisers :

*Heritage*

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*...in pursuit of excellence*

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