

# Bengaluru Temple Festival 2005



REPORT OF

## Gudiya Sambhrama

*Bengaluru Temple Festival 2005*

**January 18th - February 9th 2005**

धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः

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Bengaluru  
Temple Festival  
2005

एकानेकं तदक्षरम्

*Akshara is one;  
Akshara is many*

ॐ आम् सू र्णं हर्गः त ऋत्त ऊयम्

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

## *Akshara is one; Akshara is many*

"अक्षरं परमं वेदितव्यम्"

भगवद् गीता 8.3

"The imperishable Akshara is the ultimate truth that must be known."  
Bhagavad Gita 8.3

It is said that Brahma, the creator, created the universe using sound vibrations. Often loosely translated as 'alphabets', each Akshara is not just a phonetic symbol, but a divine vibration that connects the physical world to the spiritual realm. The concept of Akshara refers to that which is imperishable, indestructible, and eternal.

Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita points to Akshara as the supreme, eternal truth, which is beyond the material world and the cycle of birth and death. The Akshara is also described as that which remains constant and unchanging, even when everything else in the universe undergoes transformation.

This year's Gudiya Sambhrama was centered around the theme "Akshara Prapancha" - the imperishable and infinite—the sound of the divine that creates, sustains, and transforms the universe.

Gudiya Sambhrama, 2025 sought to invite all to explore this profound connection to the eternal, and to remind us of the divine presence that remains constant in the ever-changing world, guiding us back to the ultimate truth.



### **About Heritage Trust**

Heritage is a not-for-profit trust that has been dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and sharing of our rich cultural heritage since 1994. Through a variety of seminars, workshops, and cultural festivals, we aim to kindle the timeless wisdom of Sanathana Dharma - the eternal principles that have guided our civilization for millennia.

Since 2010, we have been proudly organizing two thematic annual festivals: "Gudiya Sambhrama - The Bengaluru Temple Festival" and "Srishti Sambhrama - The Earth Mother Festival." These festivals are not just celebrations, but a powerful reconnection to our cultural and natural roots, inviting us to experience and honor sacred spaces that have been places of worship and learning for centuries. The coming together of music, dance, talks, and discussions during these festivals serves as a reminder of our shared heritage and responsibility to preserve it for future generations.

In 2018, we expanded our outreach with "The Heritage Drive", a unique motor-sport rally designed as a zero-garbage event. Participants visit sacred heritage sites while contributing to nature by planting saplings - a gesture that honors both our cultural and environmental heritage.

## Working Committee Gudiya Sambhrama, 2025

**Smt. Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar**, is a founder trustee and the secretary of the Heritage Trust. Presently the Managing Director of Vigirom Pvt Ltd, Director and Co-founder of Center for Soft Power of INDICA, a free-lance designer, former member of the National Philately Board and the Central Board of Film Certification, Smt. Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar published her first book 'Forever There' – a historical fiction and is currently working on her second publication.

**Smt. Supriya Komandur**, is a trustee and the joint secretary of the Heritage Trust. She is a Bharatanatyam dancer and the artistic director of Amrithavarshini - 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.

**Smt. Varsha Venkatraman**, is a member of the Center for Soft Power, and holds a double Masters in Microbiology and Oncology.

**Smt. Aparna Sridhar** the chief editor of Indica and Center for Soft Power and holds a Diploma in Journalism and a Masters in Social Conflict from the University of Leicester.

### Volunteers

Rakesh, Chetan Krishna, Harshita, Priyanka, Madhavi, Sharanya, Pragathi, Meghana & Chetana

Spontaneously and most willingly, amazing visual artists Sri Dhunduraja and Sri Sudhindra GS as well as their students pitched in and volunteered.

*Heritage*  
संसिद्धिं प्रति  
...in pursuit of excellence

 *Devagiri Venkateshwara*

Devagiri Sri Venkateshwara Trust

Our support :



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## THE FESTIVAL

Over the last few decades economic development and globalization have led to significant progress and increased opportunities. However, they have also brought challenges, including the loss of history, culture, ecology, traditional and folk arts, language, traditional foods and more.

In earlier times, people of this culture related 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.

To bring back these contexts and identify their relevance in today's times, there is a need to celebrate and reconnect with ***our cultural and natural heritage to develop a deeper understanding of our heritage and roots.***



religious, cultural, and ecological practices, where performing arts, visual arts, literature, poetry, and environmental stewardship all coexist and thrive.

Bengaluru, a city steeped in history, is home to numerous temples that reflect its rich cultural and spiritual heritage. Some of these temples are over 1200 years old, serving as both places of worship and centers of learning. From ancient shrines to modern-day temples, Bengaluru offers a glimpse into the diverse practices of devotion and the continuity of tradition. ***Gudiya Sambhrama is an earnest attempt to revive this multi-faceted culture in temples today.***



### Objectives of the Festival:

- To revive traditional learning, performing and visual arts in the temple precincts
- To bring knowledge of our heritage literature to all
- To create an accessible forum for the common man to engage with and appreciate art
- To deepen our understanding of temples and its significance in our daily lives
- To highlight our connection to the natural world and emphasize the importance of nurturing the environment.
- To create a platform for children, youth and aspiring artists to be exposed to the arts and culture.

### Role of the 'Gudi'

Temples, integral to our culture that recognises, are not just places of worship but also centres of knowledge, community and spiritual learning. These sacred spaces acknowledge the diverse ways in which people approach the Supreme, offering a holistic, inclusive understanding of divinity. Temples have long been hubs of





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### Key Aspects of the Festival

- Arts as a Path to Sensitization: One of the most effective ways to connect people to their heritage and community is through the performing arts, especially traditional classical arts that are spiritual and peace-giving. The festival provides a stage for these arts, helping preserve and promote them.
- Holistic Integration of Culture: The festival brings together a celebration of temple culture, sacred texts, performing arts, architecture, visual arts, literature, ecology, and the environment, creating a unique platform for all aspects of our heritage.
- Platform for Emerging Artists: The festival actively supports emerging artists by providing them with an opportunity to showcase their work and gain recognition in the cultural community.
- Research & Education: Significant research and effort go into creating thematic posters and displays for the festival venues. Sacred and flowering plants are also highlighted, with detailed information boards. Some of our research & knowledge partners are IndicAcademy, B E S T Innovation University and Karnataka Samskrit University, among others.



Gudiya Sambhrama...

# The Bengaluru Temple Festival

has been conducted annually  
for 14 successive years.



## GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA, 2025

“Gudiya Sambhrama - The Bangalore Temple Festival” celebrated its sixteenth edition dedicated to “Akshara Prapancha”. The program was held from **18 January, 2025 till 09 February, 2025**, every weekend in different temple venues across Bangalore. The temple venues were spread across Shankarapuram, Basavanagudi, Hanumanthanagar, Gavipuram, Banashankari, Malleswaram, Koramangala, HSR Layout and Domlur.

Preparation for Gudiya Sambhrama began months earlier with the announcement of the theme – Akshara Pranpancha. As a part of the many many months of research & conceptualisation that went into Gudiya Sambhrama, 2025.

- Our visual artists met with our team and a few of the faculty members of Karnataka Samskrit University to get a clear idea of the text **Rupa Dhyana Ratnavali, Kamika Agama and other texts that detailed iconographic deities related to Aksharas**. Our visual artists across forms of kerala murals, mysore style paintings, acrylic medium and sketches brought the theme to life through their invigorating display of 90+ paintings at Divya Varna, our art exhibition.
- A lot of the nuances of the theme were researched and simplified to make it easy for all to comprehend. This material formed a part of the posts on Social Media, striving to reach out to a wider audience.
- Months ahead, the team from Vigirom Pvt Ltd, researched and consulted with some Agama experts before formulating and sourcing pure natural ingredients to make Ashtagandha - to give in the memento bag
- For the first time, a Kavi Sammelena of Sanskrit and Kannada poets was organised where a total of 10 poets across both languages explored the theme of ‘Vrksa Kavi Nyasa’
- Artists from Rangavalli Art Foundation drew various rangoli’s corresponding with the theme Akshara Prapancha in the unique Rangoli exhibition – Rangavaleevilasa
- **Vrksas & Kshetras** corresponding to each Akshara, were identified and formed a part of our plant exhibition, Vriksha Vinyasa.





We included a new venue this year “Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetam in Shankarpuram. Devakula Yatra led by Sri Vinay Varanasi, Kum. Archana and Kum Samanvi, Veda Parayanam and Varnamala – a Bharatnatyam performance by Raadha Kalpa Dance Company were held here.

Apart from the main stage performances, Nrithya Kainkaryam was organized in 18 temples across Bengaluru. Students of well-known dance schools of the city Raadha Kalpa Dance school, Amrthavarshini Foundation for the Arts and Laasya Lahiri Kuchipudi school of dance offered their art in temples as worship. The artistes as always found this offering inspiring and soul elevating.

Hasta Kala – Chant & Paint led by Dr. Medhini and artists Shri Dhundhuraju and Shri G S Sudhindra, Alankara – a terracota jewellery making workshop led by Shri Likhith and Krida – Traditional Games led by Smt. Sreeranjini of Kavade Hive also drew crowds to congregate and worship at temples through various forms of art.

Kalpana – an interactive lecture demonstration on the nuances and intricacies of Vachika Abhinaya was conducted by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, a stalwart in the field of art and culture.

This is one of the key objectives of Gudiya Sambhrama - to bring back the devopacharas in the temple, as this practice is slowly fading away.

Entry was free to all concerts, kainkaryas and events of the temple festival.



## The Setting:

A spacious stage was erected in each of the main stage venues taking care to make it sturdy and smooth for the dancers. Artistically designed platforms were placed for the musicians.

The best sound and lighting was arranged for every programme. Generators were organized for an uninterrupted power supply during the performances. Photography and videography was arranged for all the events and behind the scene action. Arrangements for refreshments for the artists was arranged at the respective premises.

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.



The momento to all was a “plant”, special organic asthagandha, organic turmeric, hand rolled incense, rudraksha beads from Madhavi Organic Farms, a bottle of exclusive fragrance donated by Smt Rukmini Vijayakumar, different books (Kolam books for children, Prajna Sutras for the youth and Iswara in One's Life for guests and main stage artists). This was in addition to a bag of puja samagris from Cycle - our chief sponsors yet again this year.

Hand-outs were printed on recycled brown paper - sponsored and printed by PM Offset as always. In addition to the hand-outs, the beautiful, revamped website of Heritage stood out this year with features like the event calendar and registration links making the entire event seamless. Additionally, our Social Media pages were active throughout the festival engaging with the artists & audience alike.







**Bengaluru Temple Festival**  
January 18th - February 9th 2025

ಛಾಂದಾಂಗಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

**Heritage** is a not-for-profit organisation that has conducted **GUDIYA SAMBHRAMA... The Temple Festival for over fifteen years**. The festival nurtures the deep connect our society has to both its cultural and natural heritage, and creates wellness in society. Sacred Spaces, Performing & Visual Arts and Mother Nature are the life line and heritage of our community yet rarely celebrated.

Artists and scholars of repute from across India gather in these sacred spaces to share their knowledge, art and performances of dance, music, visual art and fabulous legends, and more touching the lives of all who come from a cross-section of society. An exhibition of Traditional art, plants and posters from 23rd to 26th January.

**'Akshara Prapancha** will encompass the Akshara Devalas, the various ancient lips. The beajaksharas and the Indestructible World Aksharas cannot be translated just as alphabets. Aksharas are bhagavat Swaroopa, used as a tool for both bhukti and mukti. They are both the vidya and aadhara for worldly and divine matters.

Organizers: **Heritage**, a not-for-profit registered trust has worked in the field of heritage and culture for decades.

Intellectual collaboration with **Karnataka Samkruth University**

Supported by: **Varaprada Sri Devagiri Devasthanam Trust** / N Rangra Rao & Sons / INDICA / Darshan International / Paivali Mandir / PM Offset / Vigorem Pvt Ltd / Yamilo Print & Design / B.E.S.T Innovation University / Fabriciana

Supported by:



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

# ಗುಡಿಯ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ

Bengaluru Temple Festival 2025



**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗುಡಿಯ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ**  
ಜನವರಿ 18 ರಿಂದ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 9, 2025

ಛಾಂದಾಂಗಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

**'ಆಕ್ಷರ ಪ್ರಪಂಚ'** ಅಕ್ಷರ ದೇವಾಲಯ, ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ಪ್ರಕಾರದ ಲಿಪಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ದೇವಾಲಯದ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳೆದ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ನಡವುತ್ತ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಸಮಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾದ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವೀಕಾರಿಸಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಕ್ಷರದ ಸಂಭ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಲಿಪಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪಯುಕ್ತ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿ ಕಲೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಪಾಠಕ್ಕೆ ಇವು ಸಮಯದಿಂದ ಬೇರೆಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬೇರೆಗೆ. ಅದರ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ತುಂಬಾ ಅಪೂರ್ವವಾಗಿ ಸಂಭವಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

**'ಆಕ್ಷರ ಪ್ರಪಂಚ'** ಅಕ್ಷರ ದೇವಾಲಯ, ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ಪ್ರಕಾರದ ಲಿಪಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ದೇವಾಲಯದ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳೆದ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ನಡವುತ್ತ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಸಮಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾದ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವೀಕಾರಿಸಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಕ್ಷರದ ಸಂಭ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಲಿಪಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪಯುಕ್ತ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿ ಕಲೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಪಾಠಕ್ಕೆ ಇವು ಸಮಯದಿಂದ ಬೇರೆಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬೇರೆಗೆ. ಅದರ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ತುಂಬಾ ಅಪೂರ್ವವಾಗಿ ಸಂಭವಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Organizers: **Heritage**, Bangalore, India

For details contact : 9312 07477  
www.heritageparampara.org



*ಗುಡಿಯ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ... ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ, ಛಾಂದಾಂಗಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು*

**Gudiya Sambhrama ...the Bengaluru Temple Festival 2025**

<p><b>18th January, Saturday 2025 - Nrithya Kainkaryam</b> <b>Bazavangudi - Radha Kalpa Dance Company - 9.00 - 11.00 AM</b> Sri Mallikarjuna Devasthanam - Doddi Basavanna Devasthanam - Reddo Kinnappa Devasthanam - Balagangaya Devasthanam - Srirama Devasthanam - Doddi Ganesh Devasthanam - Gandanarya Sri Devasthanam - Nava Manthalya Rajya Mut - Sri Venkateswara Seany Devasthanam</p> <p><b>Hansanatharaj - Laasya Lahari School of Kuchipudi Dance - 9.00 - 10.00 AM</b> Gangigopallurathwara Devasthanam - Hanthaswara Devasthanam - Ranganayana Devasthanam</p> <p><b>Mallethwaran - Ananthavashini Foundation for Arts - 5.30 - 6.30 PM</b> Kada Maheshwara Devasthanam - Sri Dakshinamurthi Nandi - Tirha Kalyani Kohira - Sri Lakshmi Narayana Seany Devasthanam - Sri Ganegama Devi Devasthanam</p> <p><b>19th January, 2025 Sunday - Sri Shankara Matha, Shankarapuram</b> <b>Devakula Yata Temple Walk** - 8.30 - 10.30 AM</b> Sri. Vinay Varanasi (Katha) &amp; Nanna Sarikarantaru Lathangi Sisters - Archana &amp; Sannali</p> <p><b>Evening</b> 6.00 - 6.30 Krishna Rajawade - Gianapati Radhakrishna Bhui / Chakrapati Arinadikka Sharma / Yamakantara Parayana - Gianapati Dattarajya Bhai / Gianapati Somayajihwara Sharma</p> <p>6.30 - 7.30 Yantremala - Bharatanatyam - Radha Kalpa Dance Company, Bengaluru</p> <p><b>January 23, 24, 25, 26, 2025 -Varaprada Sri Venkateswara Devastana Devagiri, BSE II Stage</b> * All Bala Kala Leela will be in Kalyana Mantapa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diya Yama, Viksha Kalyana &amp; Rangavaleelasa Exhibitions.</li> <li>Open on all days from 7.00 am to 8.00 pm (Closed from 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm)</li> <li>• Hasta Kala faculty: Sri Dhundharaja, Sri G.S. Sudhendra, Sri Sai Edwin &amp; Dr Medini</li> </ul> <p><b>23rd January, Thursday - Evening</b> 5.30 - 6.00 <b>Inauguration of Diya Yama, Viksha Kalyana &amp; Rangavaleelasa</b> Trustees of Temple, Dr Padina Subrahmanyam, Smt Ratna &amp; Sri Krishnadevaraya, (Anegundi)</p> <p>6.00 - 6.15 Bala Kala Leela Bharatanatyam Kalaridhi Nruthya Mandiram</p> <p>6.30 - 7.20 Bharatanatyam Smt. Moha Karan, Chennai</p> <p>7.30 - 8.45 Bharatanatyam Sri Parshwanath Upadhye, Bengaluru</p> <p><b>24th January, Friday - Morning</b> 7.00 am vikkala vinyasa: Plant Exhibition - Akshara, Shikha Viksha, Devas &amp; Temples</p> <p>7.00 am Diya Yama: Traditional Art Exhibition - Artwork of over 90 artists</p> <p>7.00 am Rangavaleelasa: Ranganali Arts Foundation - Akshara &amp; Sacred Geometry</p> <p>7.30 - 8.30 Archana ** Sanyasathi Sanyasana - Sri Vikram &amp; Desaiji Bhattacharya</p> <p>10.30 - 12.30 Kalyana Abhinaya Lek-Dera ** Dr Padina Subrahmanyam, Chennai</p> <p><b>Evening</b> 5.00 - 6.00 Hasta Kala: Chant &amp; Colour** Hasta Kala faculty</p> <p>6.15 - 6.30 Bala Kala Leela - Kuchipudi: Laasya Lahari School of Kuchipudi Dance</p> <p>6.45 - 8.30 Strings Attached - Violin &amp; Veena - Sri Karanm and Dr Jagdish Kulkarni</p> <p><b>**Registration is mandatory. Registration form is available on www.heritageparampara.org</b></p>	<p><b>25th January, Saturday - Morning</b> 7.30 - 8.30 Hari &amp; Hara Chaitanya &amp; Kartana</p> <p>8.30 - 9.00 Yuva Kala Leela Bharatanatyam</p> <p>9.30 - 10.30 Archana - Ranganali Workshop**</p> <p>10.30 - 12.30 Akshara Lipi Mala</p> <p><b>Evening</b> 4.30 - 5.15 Akshara Workshop**</p> <p>5.30 - 6.30 Hasta Kala: Chant &amp; Colour**</p> <p>6.30 - 6.45 Bala Kala Leela Mohanyatham</p> <p>6.45 - 8.30 Bharatanatyam Performance</p> <p><b>26th January, Sunday - Morning</b> 7.30 - 8.30 Upanyasam - Divinity in Akshara: Dr Guha Vishwanath, Mysuru</p> <p>8.30 - 9.00 Yuva Kala Leela - Kathak</p> <p>9.00 - 9.30 Yuva Kala Leela - Bharatanatyam</p> <p>9.30 - 11.30 Akshara Nanyatara Healing Sounds** - Sowmya &amp; Sanki Arthy, Bengaluru</p> <p>11.30 - 1.30 Viksha Kavi Nyasa: Kavi Sammelana - Sri Prakash Behavasi &amp; Dr Shankar Raghavan &amp; a Gallery of Kannada &amp; Sanskrit Poets</p> <p><b>Evening</b> 4.30 - 5.30 Krida-Traditional Board Games</p> <p>5.30 - 6.00 Hasta Kala: Chant &amp; Colour**</p> <p>6.00 - 6.15 Bala Kala Leela - Valsavara</p> <p>6.30 - 8.30 AksharaKaaga Mala</p> <p>Kavale Hive</p> <p>Hasta Kala faculty</p> <p>Nalshikula Academy, Bengaluru</p> <p>Arathi Nady and Group, Bengaluru</p> <p><b>1st February, Saturday - Nrithya Kainkaryam - Morning</b> Kotnangala, Donnik &amp; HSE - Radha Kalpa Dance Company - 9.00 - 11.00 AM</p> <p>Prasanna Ganopathy, Sreedevi Bhudevi Sanyasathi Chokkanathaswamy Temple, Siddhi Vinayaka Temple</p> <p><b>1st - 2nd February - Sri Siddhi Vinayaka Devasthanam, Sector 7, MSR Layout</b></p> <p><b>1st February, Saturday</b> 10.00 - 11.00 Nrithya Kainkaryam</p> <p><b>Evening</b> 5.30 - 6.00 Hasta Kala: Chant &amp; Colour**</p> <p>6.00 - 6.30 Aksharam Dots Mayam</p> <p>6.45 - 8.30 Gana Smt. Rukmini Vijayakumar</p> <p><b>2nd February, Sunday - Evening</b> 10.30 - 12.00 Akshara Workshop**</p> <p>4.30 - 5.30 Krida-Traditional Board Games</p> <p>5.30 - 6.00 Hasta Kala: Chant &amp; Colour**</p> <p>6.00 - 6.30 Yuva Kala Leela</p> <p>6.30 - 8.15 Veena, Versu, Violin</p> <p>Carnatic Music</p> <p><b>8th - 9th February - Sri Ranganayana Gaddada Devasthanam, Hansanatharaj</b></p> <p><b>8th February, Saturday - Evening</b> 5.00 - 6.00 Hasta Kala: Chant &amp; Colour**</p> <p>6.15 - 7.00 Bharatanatyam</p> <p>7.00 - 8.30 Bharatanatyam Feature / VIME</p> <p><b>9th February, Sunday - Evening</b> 4.30 - 5.30 Krida-Traditional Board Games</p> <p>5.30 - 6.00 Hasta Kala: Chant &amp; Colour**</p> <p>6.00 - 6.15 Bala Kala Leela - Valsavara</p> <p>6.30 - 8.15 Carnatic Vocal</p> <p>Chaitra Tamasika Akshara Abhinaya - Sri Lakshmi</p> <p>Kavale Hive</p> <p>Hasta Kala faculty</p> <p>Nalshikula Academy, Bengaluru</p> <p>Sri Sai Vipresh, Chennai</p>
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*The temple is where the Formless one manifests in a form !*



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Bengaluru Temple Festival 2025

Like always, Gudiya Sambhrama draws an audience from all walks of life right from temple going public to art connoisseurs, people next door to those from different states and countries, families with young children and aged folks alike, students as well as lecturers and professors – all coming together with the single goal of celebrating our 'Heritage'.

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.



# Performers and Performances:

## WEEK 1

**Nrithya Kainkaryam: January 18th, 2025**

**Gavipuram & Hanumanthanagar & Malleswaram Temples**

Smt. Rajasri Holla accompanied two of her senior dancers to the Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple. The temple priests warmly greeted us and proudly announced that each year Gudiya Sambhrama begins with an offering of dance worship in their temple. After dancing right in front of the 'garba gudi', a rare opportunity for dancers, we moved to Harihareshwara Temple in the midst of the park and then to Ramananjaneya Gudda.

Simultaneously, a group of dancers of Raadha Kalpa Dance school had arrived at Sri Dodda Ganapathi Temple in Basavanagudi to begin their Nrithya Kainkaryam. They gave their salangai / anklets to the priest, who placed it at the feet of the deity, worshipped it and returned it to the dancers. Such is the respect for art. The people who watched were so joyous at what they witnessed. From Sri Dodda Ganapathi Temple, it was all the little temples of Bala Anjaneya, Bedara Kannappa and Sri Rama Devasthanam before proceeding to walk to Sri Dodda Basavana Gudi, Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Devasthanam, Nava Mantralaya Rayara Mutt, Govardhana Giri Devasthanam and Sri Mallikarjuna Devasthanam.



In the evening, the Malleswaram Temples were filled with the sound of dancers feet when the energetic dancers of Amrithavarshini Foundation for the Arts did Nrithya Kainkaryam in Nandi Tirtha, Gangamma Devi, Lakshmi Narasimha and Kaadu Malleshwara Temples.

The dancers danced to their hearts content, as the temple added a beat to their steps and their devotion added to the positive vibrations in each of these temples.

## Devakula Yatra: January 19th, 2025



The rain gods stopped their downpour and gave the ladies of Rangavalli Foundation a chance to share their beautiful art, and we also went around the temples doing Nama Sankeertanam.

We were treated to hot prasadam that was sponsored so kindly by Sri Radhakrishna of Tyaga Brahma.

The evening program began with Varnakramena Krishna Yajur Veda Parayana by Sri Radhakrishna Ghanapati, Sri Suchetan Ghanapati, Sri Dattatreya Ghanapati and Sri Somanatha Ghanapati. The halls of Sri Sringeri Shankara Matha reverberated in the chants of the Vedas.



On the morning of 19th of January we all assembled in our new venue of Sri Sringeri Shankara Matha in Shankarapuram. The intent was of walking from Sannidhi to Sannidhi, listening to Sri. Vinay Varanasi take us on a spiritual journey delving on the topic of Aksharas and Devatas as we revel in Nama Sankeertanam with the Lathangi sisters, Kum. Archana and Kum. Samanvi.

However, Lord Varuna had different thoughts. It began to rain. The rains may have dampened the roads but spirits were high as we decided to listen to Sri. Vinay Varanasi and the Lathangi sisters inside the beautiful hall of Sringeri Matha. The artists transported us the audience wrote down the 51 Aksharas and identified various Devatas in them.

**This was followed by a well-coordinated Bharatanatyam performance by the Raadha Kalpa Dance Company, interspersed with a few electrifying items by their dance Guru Smt. Rukmini Vijayakumar.**



The audience did not want the performance to end and left making enquiries about the next program.

## WEEK 2

### Venue:

**Varaprada Sri Venkateshwara  
Devasthanam Devagiri,  
Banashankari**

### Preparations Begin:

**January 20th to 22nd, 2025**

On the 20th morning some of us volunteers and the members of Rangavalli Foundation all congregated at the Devagiri temple to redo and also do some new Rangoli. We sourced from Udupi a non-toxic Gau product-based paint to use at the temple.

On 21st Rangoli work continued, the team from Fabricana arrived with panels for Divya Varna, it took more than half a day to set up the entire panels and lights for the gallery. We also had the Vahanas cleaned and moved to the Kannadi Griha, the venue for Divya Varna.

Panels were also put up for Vrksaka Vinyasa, the plant exhibition on which posters related to the plants, Aksharas and Temples were put up.



On the 22nd the new stage team under Sri. Mohan brought all their equipment to set up the mainstage near the Dwajasthambam and the backdrop near the Smriti Mantapa where morning upanyasams and workshops were to take place. Although retired, our trusted old Sri. Jayaram came to supervise.

It was a very busy day since the saplings to exhibit also arrived with the team from BEST Innovation University. They gently placed the saplings below the respective posters.

The content for the posters of Vrksaka Vinyasa was created by our volunteers, Meghana and Chetan Krishna with input from Dr Rishi Mannivanan.



The Rangavalli team began their creative designs for the Rangavaleevilasa - a thematic kolam exhibition based on Aksharas after much research and efforts.

Sri Dhunduraja, Sri. Ramesh Babu, Sri Sudhindra, Sri Sasi Edavarad and all their students arrived with their art exhibits for Divya Varna. Some of the vahanas of the temple were placed in the art gallery space and paintings went up on them too.

The team from Varnila Design and Print brought the knowledge posters to be put up all over the temple. The posters covered several aspects of the theme "Akshara Prapancha," temple traditions, Indian visual arts, culture and more. The material for the posters were written by Heritage volunteers after much research.



## Day 1 Inauguration: January 23rd, 2025

23rd saw more preparations in the first half of the day when the light and sound team arrived with their equipment to set up. More visual artists arrived with their paintings. Tasty Prasadam for breakfast, lunch and dinner was arranged at the temple premises.



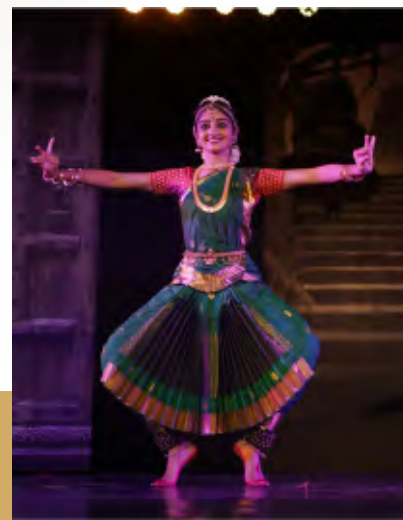
After seeking the blessing of Lord Ganapathi, Lord Venkateshwara and Goddess Padmavathi, our chief guests, Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam – recipient of the prestigious Padma Bhushan and currently Director of Nrithyodaya, Chennai, Smt and Sri Krishnadevaraya - royal custodians of Aneundi and the Trustees of Devagiri Temple inaugurated Divya Varna, Vrksaka Vinyasa and Rangavaleevilasa.



Bala Kala Leela by Kalaanidhi Nruthya Mandiram was performed in the space in front of the garba gudi.

We then moved onto the main stage at the entrance of the temple. Smt. Mahati Kannan, a disciple of the esteemed Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, graced us with beautiful karanas in her performance of Bharatanatyam.

Sri. Parshwanath Upadhye's stances and padams showed his prowess as the Artistic Director of Punyah Dance Company.





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## Day 2 : January 23rd, 2025

We began the day by offering flowers and chanting sahasranamam to the Vaghdevi Saraswati led Sri. Mukund and group.

The Kalpana workshop was abuzz with eagerness and attention as renowned Kalaimamani Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam gave an enchanting demonstrative lecture about the intricacies of Vachika Abhinaya.

The evening started with Hasta Kala, paint and chant. This has been a daily feature at all our main stage venues. The visual artists Sri Dhunduraja and Sri Sudhindra gave their expert guidance to novices on the art of colouring while Dr. Medhini taught them chants based on the aksharas.

The evening performance sessions of the day began with Bala Kala Leela - Kuchipudi by Laasya Lahari School of Kuchipudi Dance as they presented parts of the Ramayana.

The day came to a mellifluous melodious close with Strings Attached team, Sri Kumaresh and Dr Jayanthi Kumaresh accompanies by Sri Jayachandra & Sri Pramath Kiran whose instrumental prowess with the Violin, Veena, Mridangam and Morsing respectively were like that of celestial Gandharvas.



### Day 3 : January 24th, 2025

The day started with Dr. M. V Guha Viswanath and Shri Rajeev Rajagopalan taking us through the upanyasa of Hari and Hara - Chintana and Kirtana. It was a rousing session of inspirational devotion and music.

Next up was Yuva Kala Leela - Bharatanatyam by Kum. Ananya Shanbhag. Ananya had completed her arangetram in 2017 and had performed in many venues internationally.

This was followed by Rachana, a workshop on the art of rangoli / sacred geometry led by members of the Rangavalli Arts Foundation.



The scholars of Karnataka Samskrit University took up the helm of Jnana, Akshara Lipi Mala and Akshara - Rashi, Nakshatra Nama. Through these the attendees were able to explore the world of Aksharas, got to see varied scripts and learnt the science behind names.

The evening as usual began with Hasta Kala. A new inclusion was Alankara, led by terracotta artist Likhith. He helped the participants paint and adorn their terracotta jewellery with motifs of aksharas.

The evening performance session began with Bala Kala Leela - Mohiniyattam by Samarpana Mohiniyattam Collective. Their school of dance is spearheaded by Guru Vinaya Narayanan, who is a senior disciple of Padmashri Bharati Shivaji.



**The highlight of the evening was the Bharatanatyam performance by Smt. Rukmini Vijayakumar. The venue was at full capacity despite it's vastness. Rukmini held the audience enraptured through her abhinaya and nritya. Her portrayal of Bharata and Sita moved the audience to tears.**







#### Day 4 : January 26th, 2025

Dr. M.V Guha Vishwanath started off the day with an Upanyasam about the divinity in the aksharas - Matrika Nyasa. He shared shlokas wherein lay the power held by and in the aksharas.

This was followed by Yuva Kala Leela - Kathak by Kum. Maanvi Ramprasad. She is a full-time faculty at Abhinava Dance Company.

After Kathak, the audience were treated to a fast-paced Bharatanatyam performance by the students of Amrithavashini Foundation for the Arts.

Dr. Sowmya and Sri Sanak Athreya led the session of Healing Swaras: Akshara Sangeetam. Their foundation Svarakshema helps the society through their knowledge of music therapy.

The next was a very interesting and enriching first time event in Gudiya Sambhrama, a Vrksa Kavi Nyasa, a Kavi Sammelana that was led by Dr Shankar Rajaraman. We had five Kannada and five Sanskrit poets, who had created veritable treasures of poetry based on Aksharas, Vrksas, Temples and Devatas.

As the sun began to set, it was the last of the Hasta Kala Sessions at this venue. Many who participated decided to attend the sessions in other temple venues too.



Krida as always drew a large crowd of not just young ones but their parents and grandparents too. Ranjani and the team from Kavade Hive had brought a variety of traditional board games to regale the participants. Like Hasta Kala, Krida is an event that is a part of every main stage venue on one day.



  
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The evening sessions began with Bala Kala Leela - Yakshagana by Yakshagana Kala Academy. 5 Students of Sri K Krishnamurthy Thunga took to the stage to deliver dialogues with celestial impact.

As the evening slipped into night - Goddess Saraswati was invoked by AkshaRaaga Maala. The Nonet (Band of 9) comprised of Shri Amith Nadig on the Flute, Shri Abhiram Bode with Vocals, Shri Vaibhav Ramani on the Violin, Shri Vinod Shyam Anoor on the Mridangam, Shri Bharadwaj Sathavalli on the Morsing and Shri Somashekar Jois and his students with Konnakkol. With rhythms interweaving into each other and enchanting melodies in the air - the audience was left with a heartfelt of joy and wonder.

The curtains came down on Divya Varna, Vrksaka Vinayasa and Rangavaleevilasa.

On January 27th morning the crew from Fabricana and Varnila came to dismantle the art gallery and take down the posters. Meanwhile the stage, light and sound team were busy dismantling the set up only to set it up on January 31st at the Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Temple in HSR Layout.





## WEEK 2

Venue: Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Devasthanam, HSR Layout

Day 5 : February 1st, 2025

As February came in, we took in the beauty of Nritya Samarpanam through Bharatanatyam by Raadha Kalpa Dance Company.

They gave their offerings to the deities at Sridevi Bhudevi Sametha Chokkanathaswamy Devasthanam, Domlur, Sri Prasanna Ganapathi Devasthanam, Koramangala and at Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Devasthanam HSR Layout.

Once again the evening began with Hasta Kala, and a host of happy participants who were unwilling to stop.

The evening performance session at Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Devasthanam HSR Layout started on a stage that looked enchanting below a lovely tree that swayed with the gentle breeze. Bala Kala Leela - Odissi by Sanjali Centre for Odissi Dance. They welcomed the Vasant Panchami through a Saraswati Vandana.

The finale of the day was the performance of Aksharam Daiva Mayam led by Dr. Ambi Subramaniam the Violin virtuoso, accompanied by Sri Vinod Shyam Anoor on the Mridangam and Sri Bhimachar on the Morsing. Each artist had creatively interpreted the theme.





### Day 6 : February 2nd, 2025

The evenings Hasta Kala and Krida events drew a lot of people and children who were so excited to be colouring and also playing in the temple. Alankara also saw a few participants.

A nice stage was assembled inside the temple for evening's session of Yuva Kala Leela. It was a Veena, Venu & Violin accompanied by Mridangam, Ghatam and Tabla. The young musicians were mentored by Sri Amith Nadig.

The Yuva Kala Leela artists were Shri Samarth Ravishankar on the Flute, Shri Aditya Ravidas on the Violin, Kum Vidhyashree V on the Veena, Shri Bharath on the Mridangam, Shri Skanda on the Ghata and Shri Pradyumna Karpur on the Tabla - it was a session where music travelled through the ragas.

The evening ended with a Carnatic Concert by Sri. Raghuram Rajagopalan on the theme of Swara Akshara's, all together weaving the 2nd week of Gudiya Sambhrama 2025 into a perfectly harmonious one.





### WEEK 3

Venue: Ramanjaneya Gudda, Hanumantha Nagar

Day 7 : February 8th, 2025

The Hasta Kala event by Sri Dhunduraja, Sri Sudhindra and Sri Sasi Edavarad took place with colourful shapes popping up on the sheets. As the Vayuputra graced everyone from inside the sanctum, Dr Medhini taught those present beautiful chants on the Akshara and devatas as they drew and painted.

The evening's performance began with Smt. Meera Sreenarayanan, a versatile classical dancer who expressed the navarasas seamlessly through her Bharatanatyam offering. Sri P Praveen Kumar paid his respects to Maa Saraswati Devi with form, rhythm and abhinayam through his Bharatanatyam feature - Vani.





### Day 8 : February 8th, 2025

An interesting turnout of young and young-at-heart was present for the Krida and Hasta Kala sessions. It was ethereal to sit across the temple, surrounded by the clacking of the kavde shells, the swishing of the trees and being graced by the giant hugging statues of Lord Rama and Hanuman. The chanting done during Hasta Kala was akin to that of an offering of piety at the end of a journey.

An enthralling quiz on the theme Akshara Prapancha put together by the organising committee and the artists also kept the audience on their toes.



The finale of Gudiya Sambhrama 2025 culminated in the Carnatic Vocal Concert by renowned playback singer Shri Sai Vignesh. He was accompanied by Sri Vaibhav Ramani on the Violin, Sri Anoor Vinod Shyam on the Mridangam and Sri Shamith Gowda on the Ghatam. Through his singing, the song selection consisting of compositions on Rama and the musical interludes - the audience were transported to another dimension of pure music. It was a celebratory close to Gudiya Sambhrama 2025.

As the curtains fall on Gudiya Sambhrama 2025, with its theme of Akshara Pranpancha, a day of mixed emotions lingers in the air. The echoes of sacred sounds, the reverberations of timeless traditions, and the vibrancy of cultural expression slowly fade, yet they leave behind a lasting imprint on our hearts. But as one chapter closes, it seamlessly glides into the promise of Swaraloka, the theme for next year—a celestial realm of music and harmony. The spirit of culture, community, knowledge, and heritage now fills us, leaving us not just with memories, but with a renewed sense of connection to our roots. And as we look ahead, we carry with us the promise of yet another celebration, filled with the same reverence and hope, calling us to unite once again in the harmony of tradition.

# Gudiya Sambhrama

*Bengaluru Temple Festival 2025*

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

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

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# Gudiya Sambhrama

*Bengaluru Temple Festival 2025*

**January 18th - February 9th 2025**

Organisers :



ससिद्धि प्रति

*...in pursuit of excellence*

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