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## A tree festival to bring back the green heritage of Bangalore

Maitreyee Boruah, TNN | Feb 2, 2014, 01.59PM IST

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*In the past few years, Bangaloreans have often stood up and protested against the large-scale tree felling by government agencies to make way for various infrastructure projects.*

Environmentalists and citizens fear that the rampant felling could cost Bangalore its Garden City tag; a fear supported by the innumerable tree stumps dotting roads across Bangalore.

However, hope is not yet lost, as several like-minded Bangaloreans have joined hands to revive the city's greenery with Neralu, the tree festival. The twoday-long [festival](#) will be held at Bal Bhavan and Cubbon Park on February 8 and 9.

"The festival is an attempt to acknowledge the fact that trees are life givers. Let us respect and protect our green heritage," says Sangeetha Kadur, artist and one of the facilitators of the initiative, adding, "Last August, some of us did a course in plant taxonomy. We were taught to understand trees and their importance. We thought we should share these ideas and information with other Bangaloreans. The result is Neralu."

According to environmentalists, not only has the city's green beauty been destroyed due to developmental works, but the loss of green cover is also harming the climate. "Bangalore's weather is not pleasant anymore. If trees continue to be chopped rapidly, the city's average temperature will rise by two-three degrees celsius in the coming years," says environmentalist Yellappa Reddy.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FESTIVAL

Heritage, ecological and histocultural at Cubbon Park Screening of documentaries and films on tress Talks by prominent scholars on Bangalore's tree heritage An art exhibition by artist Rumale Channabasavaiah A curated photo exhibition of tree stories by Bangalorebased photographers Storytelling events involving diverse traditions and forms Games and fun activities for children Hug-a-tree campaign.

