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## **Gaur festival begins from today**

Special Correspondent

A two-day Doddu Habba or Gaur Festival will be organised by the Keystone Foundation at Kotagiri on August 8 and 9. According to Foundation Director Pratim Roy it was being organised to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

### **Doddu Habba**

Pointing out that the idea of a Gaur Festival was conceived from our admiration for this wild animal with which many of us in The Nilgiris have had close encounters, he said in a press note at Kotagiri on Thursday that the Doddu Habba will celebrate the gaur, not only as a wild animal, but also as a symbolic representation of our coexistence with Nature.

The motive behind the festival is to spread awareness on tolerance towards wildlife among the local populace.

### **Traditional culinary**

There will also be traditional culinary food from The Nilgiris.

The festival will bring together artists, musicians, theatre artists and storytellers from The Nilgiris, Kerala, Odisha, and North East India, and promises to be as much fun as informative.

Some of the groups that are performing are Acoustic Traditional from Darjeeling, Karinthalakkootam and Oorali from Trichur, and Kaanakam from Attapadi.

The event was being organised in collaboration with the Hill Area Development Programme, the Wildlife Trust of India, CAF India and the Rufford Foundation.

### **Indigenous communities**

Among the participants would be representatives of 10 indigenous communities across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

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