

KALAKSHETRA FOUNDATION, CHENNAI

February 2017

A) Rukmini Devi College of fine arts

1. Lectures and Workshops

S No.	Lectures/topic	Held on	Conducted by	Participants
1.	Music workshop on 'Manodarmam and Kritis	16 and 17 February 2 to 4 p.m.	Vid. Smt. S. Sowmya	Music students
2.	Mural workshop on Lotus Pond	20 to 24 February	Sri Ajithan Puthumana from Kerala	Visual Arts Students
The workshop demonstrates the traditional method of surface preparation by using lime and coconut water and making the colours from natural minerals, stones and vegetables and the method of starting a traditional mural painting.				
3.	Field trip to Chidambaram	9 February		3 yr students

2. Thyagaraja Aradhana

16: February: Following the age old tradition from the days of Rukmini Devi, Thyagaraja Aradhana was celebrated. Starting with music at 6.30am at the Rukmini Arangam, the group sang in a procession to Marutheeswarar temple and returned to finish with the Pancharatna krithis at Rukmini Arangam.



Audience outreach and Footfall 4300

1 & 2 Feb: 64 Art Festival - 900
6 Feb: CLRI - 150
9 Feb: Arangam Monthly Performance: 400
16 Feb: Thyagaraja Aradhanai - 200
16 Feb: Tagore Hall Performance: 250
26, 27 & 28 Feb: Remembering Rukmini Devi Festival: 1400
Santhe CERC Exhibition 1000

3. Mentoring Session Music: 48 hours of music mentorship was delivered in February.

The mentors 13 who came for the month of February are:

B.Kannan	Suganda Kalamegam
Bushany Kalyanaraman	Sumitra Vasudev
Charumathy Ramachandran	Sundaresan
Embar Kannan	Sunder Rajan
R.S.Jayalakshmi	Tiruchur Narendran
S.Rajeswari	Vasuda Keshav
Sangeeta Shivakumar	

Dance: The dance mentorship was drawn to a close for the academic year in the first week of February. 13 hours of mentorship sessions were delivered. The dance mentors who came in February are:

Shanta Dhananjayan	Savitri Jagannatha Rao
Sheejith Krishna	Kala Ramesh Rao
C.V.Chandrashekar	Suddha Seshan
Lakshmi Vishwanathan	

B) Crafts Education and Research Centre

Showroom Sales

The Regular Showroom Sales for the month were as follows

Kalamkari Rs. 2,85,754

Weaving Rs. 2, 60,317

TOTAL: Rs.5,46,071

Other revenue: Visitors fees course is Rs. 15000

Hiring of CERC grounds: M/S Sampooran, Bangalore hired the exhibition grounds for "Santhe", a market showcasing handicraft and handloom from 9 to 19 February for 11 days

C) Museum

A photo exhibition covering important moments of Rukmini Devi's life was showcased as part of the Remembering Rukmini Devi Festival. Further four bookmarks showcasing the museum collection was made available for sale.

The month of February continued with the segregation of artefacts of Rukmini Devi collection and Fiction and Non Fiction books from Smt. Shanta Rao Collection.



D) Rukmini Arangam Theatre

64 Art Festival

February 1– 6:00pm: Choodamani Pradanam by Kalakshetra Foundation

February 2– 6:00pm: Mahapattabhishekam by Kalakshetra Foundation

The 8-day art festival from 26 January to 2 February, showcased some of the best internationally acclaimed artistes and the best from Kalakshetra's own repertoire. In February, Kalakshetra repertory Company presented two episodes from Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale's six-part vintage Ramayanam series of dance dramas.

February 6: Variety dance Program Kalakshetra

Repertory Company performed for an exclusive audience of International delegates as part of the XXXIV IULTCS Congress, 2017 conducted by CSIR-CLRI, a premium research institute focusing research on leather and allied areas.



February 9: Arangam monthly performance featured Carnatic vocal concert by Srividhya Sriram and a thematic dance performance by Smt. Varsha Akhouri

February 16: Thyagaraja Aradhanai

The celebrations started at Arangam at 6.30am followed by a singing procession to Marudeeswarar temple and returned to finish with the panchratna kritis at Rukmini Arangam.

February 16: Tagore Monthly Performance

Monthly performances to encourage the young budding artistes featured a music concert by Abilash Giri Prasad Carnatic vocal, Shrikanth – Violin and Ramkumar – Mridangam followed by a Bharatanatyam performance by Master. B. Dathatreya

26 February to 2 March Remembering Rukmini Devi Festival:

A five-day festival was conducted to commemorate Smt. Rukmini Devi. This festival was inaugurated with the premier of Kalakshetra's new production, Saraswati Antarvahini. Volume 6 of Kalakshetra Journal was inaugurated on 28 February.

26 February 2017
5.30 pm Inauguration
6.00 pm Indian premier of **Sarasvati Antarvāhini**
by Kalakshetra Foundation

27 February 2017
6.00 pm Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's dance
drama Chitrangada in Odissi. Directed
and Choreographed by Padmashri
awardee Smt. Ranjana Gauhar
7.30 pm Nadroop presents
Krishna - the Liberator. Conceived &
Choreographed by Smt. Shama Bhate

28 February 2017
6.00 pm **Siri Purandara** by Kalakshetra Foundation

1 March 2017
6.00 pm **Koormavatharam**
by Kalakshetra Foundation

2 March 2017
6.00 pm **Carnatic Vocal Recital** by
Sri. T.M. Krishna
Violin: Sri. H.N. Bhaskar
Mridangam: Sri. N. Manoj Siva
Kanjira: Sri. Sunil Kumar

For programme details
phone: +91 44 24520836 or 24524548
<http://www.kalakshetra.in>

ALL ARE WELCOME

E) Repertory Company

1 February: Choodamani Pradhanam (64 Art Festival)

2 February: Mahapattabhishekam (64 Art Festival)

6 February: Variety performance for CLRI

26 February:
*Indian premier
of Kalakshetra
Foundation's
new production,
Sarasvati
Anatarvahini*

28 February: Siri
Purandara

1 March:
Koormavatharam

Kalakshetra Foundation
cordially invites you to
the Indian premier of

**Sarasvati
Antarvāhini**

Remembering
Rukmini Devi
Festival

26th February 2017, 6:00 pm
Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra Foundation

This is the story of our Sarasvati -
impassioned and full of love, the elixir of all
that is manifest. Her milky waters nourish
the fallow earth even as knowledge
nourishes a parched mind. Feminine in her
form, graceful in her journey, she is at times
the powerful catalyst of civilization, and at
other times a deceptive charmer, delighting
in the imagination of poets. With the
compassion of a mother, with the restraint
of the wise, she is verily the stream of life,
nurturing the mundane while silently
celebrating the sublime. This is the story of
our Sarasvati who carries us in her flow
through the illusion of life to an experience
of reality....gently...beautifully.

CREDITS

Choreography
Hari Padman
K.R. Lokesh Raj

Music composition
R.K. Shriram Kumar
K. Arun Prakash

Lyrics
Dr. Pappu Venugopal Rao
Dr. Raghuraman
and ancient Tamil & Sanskrit texts.

Resource persons
Dr. Chithra Madhavan
Dr. Pappu Venugopal Rao
Dr. V.R. Devika
Mr. Michel Danino
Mr. Aravinth Kumarasamy
Dr. R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal

Dancers
K.P. Rakesh
Girish Madhu
Sanjith Lal
Saikrishnan
Rajkamal
Amalnath
Atul
Reshmi

Sharada
Sreedevi
Aryamba
Janet
Dhanya
Shruthi
Krishna
Swathi

Musicians
Nattuvangam:
Vocal:

K.P. Rakesh
K. Sai Sankar, K. Hari Prasad,
Radha Badri, Baghyalakshmi
Sigamani, Amritha Murali,
Nisha Rajagopalan
K.P. Anil Kumar
Pakala Ramadas & Chertala
Shivakumar

Flute: T. Sashidhar
Veena: N. Ananthanarayanan
Sitar: Kishore Lingappa
Ghatam: N. Guruprasad
Kanjira: B.S. Purushotham

Lighting
Venkatesh Krishnan

Sound
Recorded at V.G.P Digital
Audio Studio
Sound Engineer: Biju James

F) Besant Arundale Senior Secondary School

CBSE issued Merit Certificates to our students who fall into the top 0.1% achievers in the Board Examinations. Parvathy Muthuswamy of XII received the certificate for her performance in Dance, Subhashri S of XII received the certificate for her performance in English and K. Sathya of X received the certificate for scoring 10 points in the Board Examination.

2 February: Sanjay Khanna from our school was part of a team constituted from different school players to win the under – 14 Junior National Rugby Football team and was felicitated by the Minister for education for Tamil Nadu.

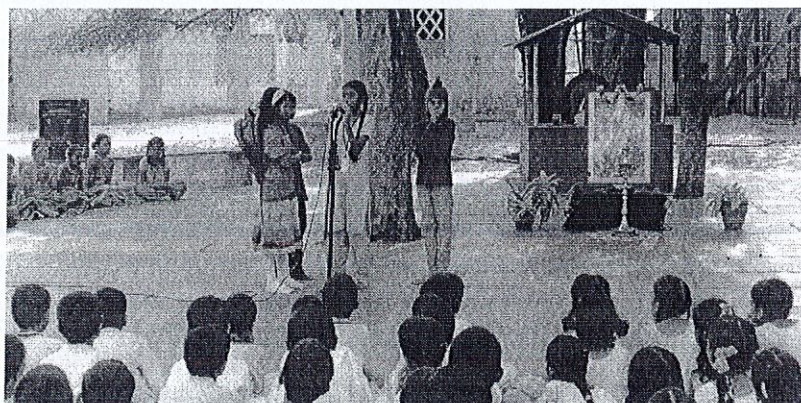
2 February: Out students participated at a National Level Heritage India Quiz conducted by CBSE.

10 February: Dr. Bhavani Shankar, Principal of Omega International School addressed the students of classes IX-XII on stress management to help them in their preparation for Board Examinations.

17 February: Mr. Arul Venkatesan, Indian Rugby player and Mr. Nod Sam Mathew inspired the children of classes V to VIII and XI about Rugby.

17 February: An orientation session was held for parents of students of classes V – IX regarding reintroduction of Board Examinations for class X students and subsequent changes in internal evaluation.

22 February: The Valedictory Function of the co-curricular activities was celebrated. Smt. Dharini Mohan, Alumni and Principal of Sunshine School graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and distributed prizes to the winners of the various competitions conducted throughout the academic year.



22 February: Students participated in an all India Drawing and Painting competition conducted by "Children's Choice".

23 February: Director, Kalakshetra Foundation distributed hall tickets to students of classes X and XII. The students were given a farewell later that afternoon.

23 February: Senior girls and boys participated in an Inter School Basketball tournament was conducted by the Chettinad Vidyashram school. The boys team won the third prize and was awarded a trophy and individual cash prizes.

24 February: Mahashivaratri was celebrated with a Natyanjali that showcased solo and group classical dance performances by students from class VI to XII

28 February: Smt. Velvalli, the NIE (Newspaper in Education) teacher in-charge, attended a meeting organised by The Times Newspaper in Education

G) Besant Theosophical Higher Secondary School

6 February: Music competitions for students from Classes IV to IX

7 February: Oratorical and Essay writing Competition for Classes IV to IX was held by Tamil Literary Association.

10 February: As part of U.V. Swaminatha Iyer's Birthday celebrations, interschool competition and Tamil essay competition was conducted from VI to IX Std. Our student, Lalitha from VIII Std. claimed third prize in essay competition

13 – 15 February: Government practical exams for +2 students in Computer Science, Chemistry and Physics was conducted.

16 February: SSLC Orientation was held for Head masters at Alpha Matriculation School and Jaigopal Garodia School.

20 February: RMSA (Rashtriya Madhya Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan) training on health maintenance for students was organized in Benedict School.

20 February: English Literary Association organized a competition on citation, speech and essay writing.

20 February: Junior Red Cross (JRC) conducted an Awareness programme on Fire Protection and Road Safety.

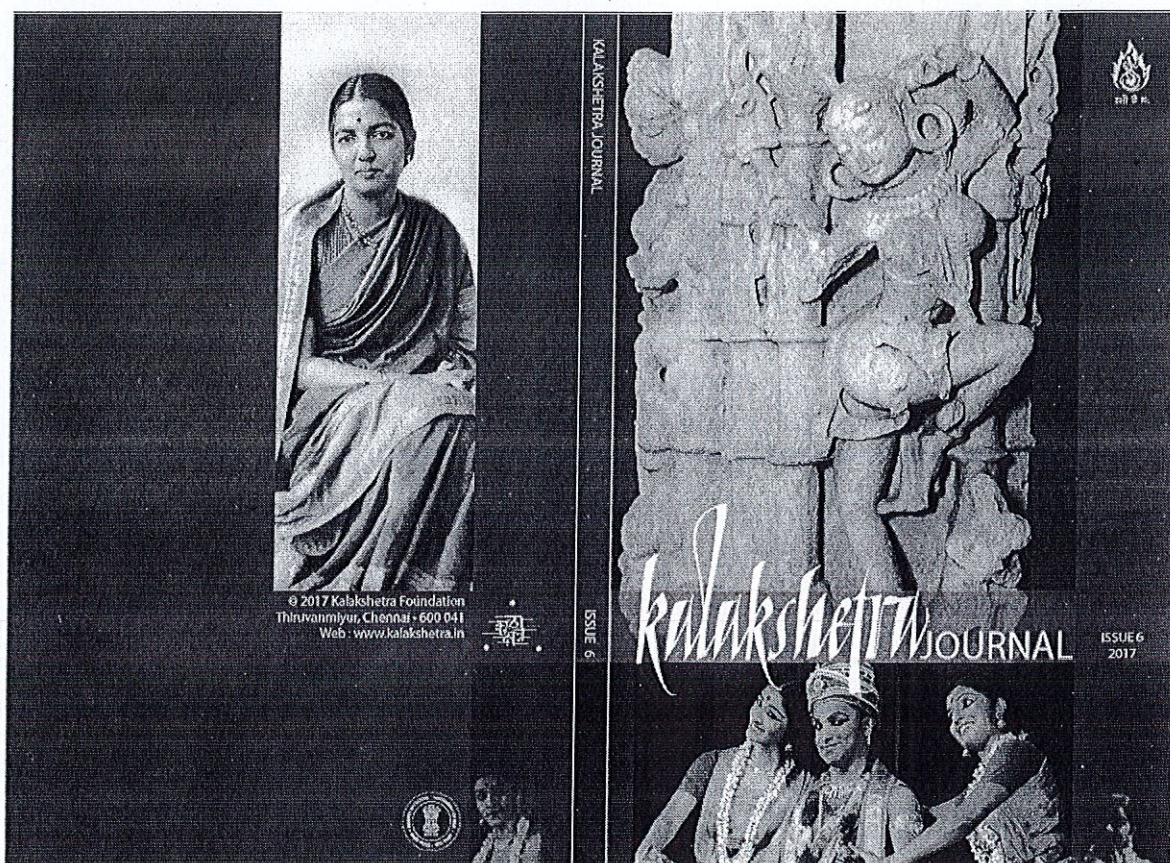
23 February: Quiz competition for the academic year (2016-2017) was conducted for the students from VI Std. to IX Std.

24 February: An orientation session followed by a pooja was organised and inspired the outgoing students of 10 and 12 standards.

28 February: Rukmini Devi's Birthday was celebrated. Mrs. Vijaya Sundaram, Chairman, Asha Foundation was the Chief Guest.

H) Publication

The sixth volume of Kalakshetra Journal was released on 28 February on the occasion of Rukmini Devi's Birthday (29 February). Started by our Founder Smt. Rukmini Devi several decades ago as a forum to promote cross-disciplinary discussions on the arts, the Kalakshetra Journal is a unique melting pot for thoughts and ideas, of artists and scholars from all around the world.



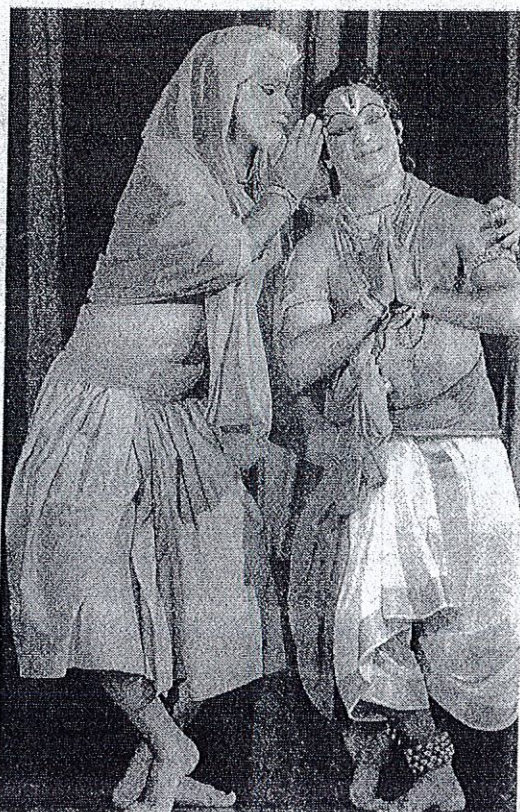
Re-roofing of Rukmini Arangam :

On approval by MoC for carrying out re-roofing of Rukmini Arangam at an estimated cost of Rs.1.29 Crore (excluding electrical component), the work has been awarded to CPWD on 10.02.2017.

Press Coverage of
Siri Purandara in
The Hindu
dated 10 March 2017-

Music struck a dominant note

There was less of dance in this lesser known Kalakshetra production



RENUKA SURYANARAYAN

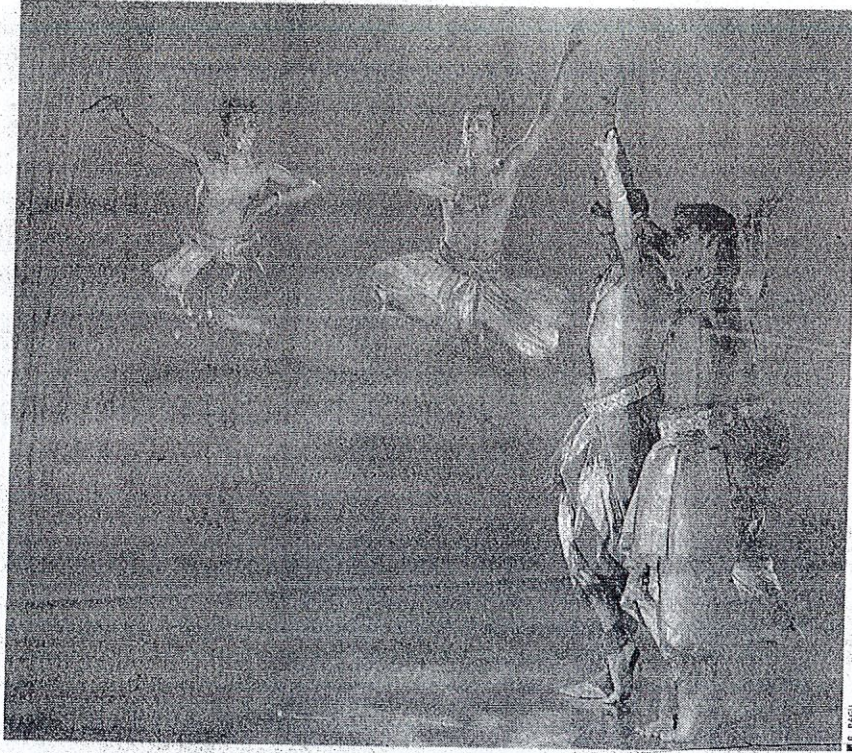
As the notes of 'Dasarendare' in Yadukula Khambodi ebbed in the last sequence of 'Siri Purandaradasa,' at Rukmini Arangham, the audience felt emotionally charged, firstly, because of the excellent music by S. Rajaram (grandson of Mysore Vasudevachar), and secondly, because of the evocative portrayal of saint Purandaradasa by Professor Janardhanan, choreographer.

Young students are fortunate to be able to watch dancers such as Professor Janardhanan, to understand how characters should be portrayed.

As the production unveiled the well-known story, every Purandaradasa pada turned into a raft on which the viewers set off on a journey led by the great Vittala Dasa.

Press Coverage of Saraswati Antarvahini in

The Hindu dated 10 March 2017



Tale of a river 'Saraswati Antarvahini'

All it needed was a little cohesion

A close-knit narrative would have heightened the drama in 'Saraswati Antarvahini,' premiered at the Kalakshetra festival

V. V. RAMANI

Rukmini Devi's Natya Nadakams have set such high standards of artistic excellence and refined aesthetics that any endeavour to create a new work has to contend with her legacy. It is therefore commendable that two young Kalakshetra faculty members, Hari Padman and K.R. Lokesh Raj, have conceptualised and choreographed 'Saraswati Antarvahini,' which premiered recently at Kalakshetra's Rukmini Arangham, as part of the annual Remembering Rukmini Devi Festival.

A growing interest among scholars, historians and archaeologists in unravelling the mysteries of this River Saraswati, which is believed to have disappeared underground, makes this theme topical. Tracing the history and legend of this river mentioned in the Rig Veda, the choreographers have tried to capture its pulse, so closely intertwined with life, in their dance narrative.

With no definitive written texts to follow, the idea of a river was put together with a compilation of stories, anecdotes and historical

references with the help of a team of resource persons. Interesting stories of Parasurama and river Saraswati; Viswamitra's confrontation with sage Vasishtha and the river being cursed as a mediator; Saraswati being a witness to the Mahabharata war, and at a more mundane level associated with romance and children playing on its banks, formed the narrative.

Memorable sequences

The descent of goddess Saraswati on a beautifully visualised setting of a mountain, her transformation into a flowing river and shielding Vasishtha from Viswamitra's wrath – all of which were captured effectively with fabric – the fight between the Pandavas and the Kauravas were some of the memorable sequences. That such moments were few and far between, in a fragmented choreographic pattern, without a cohesive link binding them together, was the disappointing factor.

The dancers were talented but the choreography during group formations was monotonous and did not capture the grace or flow of a river. Saraswati's appearance and disappearance frequently in such

sequences denied her a definitive role as the protagonist.

If the music – designed by R. K. Shriram Kumar and K. Arunprakash with lyrical inputs from Dr. Pappu Venugopal Rao and Dr. Raghuraman – was created to appeal to a wider audience, it achieved its purpose. The use of pleasant ragas such as Darbari Kanada, Mohanam, Bhoopalam and Desh accounting for a lively score. The use of instrumental music, especially to depict the tumultuous state of the river 'curse' was dramatic. But to hear 'Kahan Kho Gaye Tum' rendered with a distinct south Indian accent was jarring.

The costume did not evoke the geographical milieu of the theme and visually, a diverse colour palette would have broken the monotony. A sudden introduction of Gujarati embroidered attire and dance sequence seemed out of place. Venkatesh Krishnan's lighting enhanced the proceedings and the transformation from blue to red when the river turned bloody was stunning.

'Saraswati Antarvahini' is an interesting production that needs a cohesiveness of ideas and fine-tuning of choreography.