

Business Minutes

Sangam Festival Celebrates Classical Arts in Chennai

CHENNAI

Chennai witnessed a vibrant confluence of tradition and innovation as the Sangam Festival, dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and presentation of Indian classical and South Asian arts, was held on Tuesday, Dec 30, 2025, at Kartik Fine Arts, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore.

Curated by renowned Bharatanatyam exponent and scholar Bala Devi Chandrashekhar and presented in association with Kartik Fine Arts, the festival unfolded as a thoughtfully structured three-part programme. The event commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting in the presence of eminent dignitaries, including Padma Shri Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti, Padma Shri Smt. Chitra Visweswaran, Shri R. Sekar, Secretary of Kartik Fine Arts, and



Bala Devi Chandrashekhar. The inauguration set a reverential tone, reflecting the festival's commitment to classical values while welcoming creative plurality.

Founded and championed by Bala Devi Chandrashekhar, the Sangam Festival has grown beyond a performance platform into a significant cultural resource. It serves as a hub for artistic exchange, education, archival reference, and sustained support for the classical

arts community across India and the United States.

The evening featured a rich and diverse repertoire. Ananta Nartana, presented by Aayam Institute of Performing Arts, New Delhi, explored the possibilities of ensemble choreography through expansive and coordinated movement. Vichitra Pradarshini, presented by Padma Shri Chitra Visweswaran and Sukanaya Ravindhar, offered distinctive

creative interpretations within a classical framework, showcasing contemporary sensibilities firmly rooted in tradition. The festival concluded with Meenakshi by Tejas Nrithyanjali, Arkonam, a production inspired by mythological and devotional themes that highlighted the enduring spiritual essence of Indian classical dance.

Speaking on the festival's vision, Bala Devi Chandrashekhar said that Sangam seeks to create a meaningful convergence of classical music and dance traditions while fostering dialogue with global artistic forms. By integrating performance with scholarship, education, and mentorship, the Sangam Festival continues to affirm classical dance as a living, evolving art form that resonates with contemporary audiences while remaining deeply anchored in heritage.