

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore
KANNADA SANGHA

General Information

Type of Activity	YAKSHAGANA PERFORMANCE
Title of the Activity	Kanakangi Kalyana – Yakshagana Performance
Date/s	16 September, 2026
Time	11.45- 1.00 pm
Venue	Main Auditorium, CHRIST University Central Campus,
Collaboration/Sponsor (if any)	Department of Languages

Participants profile

Type of Participants	Students, Parents, Invitees & General Public
No. of Participants	500

Synopsis of the Activity (Description)

Highlights of the Activity	The Yakshagana <i>Kanakangi Kalyana</i> showcased Karnataka's rich traditional performing arts through mythology, music, dance, dialogue, costumes and expressive acting. The performance explored themes of love, duty, promises and family expectations.
Key Takeaways	• Preserved Karnataka's traditional Yakshagana heritage • Promoted Kannada language and literature • Explored family, duty and relationships • Integrated mythology, music, dance, theatre • Engaged students with cultural traditions
Summary of the Activity	The Department of Languages, in association with the Kannada Sangha, organised the traditional Yakshagana performance <i>Kanakangi Kalyana</i> on 16 September 2026 at the Main Auditorium, Central Campus. Based on a Mahabharata episode, the performance explored love, duty, promises, family expectations and individual choice. It beautifully integrated traditional music, dance, dialogue, costumes and acting. Dr. Rathi M. T. successfully coordinated the programme, promoting Kannada literature, culture and Karnataka's rich performing arts heritage.
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Rapporteur

Name of the Rapporteur	Dr. Rathi M T, Professor in Kannada, Coordinator, Kannada Sangha.
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Descriptive Report

Report on Kanakangi Kalyana Yakshagana performance

The Department of Languages, in association with the Kannada Sangha, organised a traditional Yakshagana performance titled Kanakangi Kalyana on 16 September 2026 at 11.45 in Main Auditorium, Central Campus, CHRIST (Deemed to be University). The performance presented a captivating episode based on the Mahabharata, focusing on the story of Kanakangi and the circumstances surrounding her marriage.

The narrative centres on Kanakangi, whose father Balarama promises her in marriage to Lakshmana, the son of Duryodhana. However, Krishna and Ghatodhkacha have a different plan and desire that Kanakangi should marry Abhimanyu, the son of Subhadra, her sister. This conflict between the promise made by the father and the plans of the elders forms the central theme of the play.

Through the emotional struggles of Kanakangi and the conflicting decisions of the elders, the performance explored significant themes such as family honour, promises, duty, social relationships, individual choice, love and family expectations. The story effectively portrayed the tensions that arise when personal desires and social obligations come into conflict.

The performance retained the traditional features of Yakshagana, incorporating expressive acting, vibrant dialogue, music, dance, elaborate costumes and traditional characterisation. The interplay between serious and comic characters added variety and entertainment to the narrative while sustaining the cultural richness of the art form.

Kanakangi Kalyana provided the audience with an opportunity to experience the literary, dramatic and cultural dimensions of Yakshagana. The performance also contributed to the preservation and promotion of Karnataka's traditional performing arts among the university community.

Dr. Rathi M. T. successfully coordinated the Yakshagana performance, facilitating the entire process from planning and rehearsal coordination to the final stage performance, thereby promoting Kannada language, literature, and traditional cultural heritage.

Overall, the programme was an enriching cultural experience that successfully brought together literature, mythology, theatre, music and dance, highlighting the enduring relevance and artistic vitality of Yakshagana.

Students from various UG and PG programmes across all streams participated.



Yakshagana
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