

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore
KANNADA SANGHA

General Information

Type of Activity	Kannada Sangha Book Release Ceremony
Title of the Activity	Book Release Program
Date/s	31 July, 2026
Time	3.30- 6 .00 pm
Venue	802, Syndicate Room, Central Campus, Bangalore
Collaboration/Sponsor (if any)	-----

Speaker Details

Name	Dr. Basavaraja Kalgudi
Title/Position	Eminent Kannada Critic, Writer & Thinker
Organization	Retired Professor of Kannada, Bangalore University
Title of Presentation	Released the book published by Kannada Sangha
Name	Dr. Chandra Shekara Kambara,
Title/Position	The renowned Jnanpith Award-winning writer
Organization	Retired Vice- Chancellor, Hampi Kannada University
Title of Presentation	Chief Guest for the day
Name	Dr. Kavitha Rai
Title/Position	Professor of Kannada Mysore University and Kannada Poet
Organization	Mysore University
Title of Presentation	Introduced the book – Kambarara Natakagalu

(Add/repeat above rows if there is more than one Speaker)

Participants profile

Type of Participants	Academicians, Students, Invitees & General Public
No. of Participants	110

Synopsis of the Activity (Description)

Highlights of the Activity	Kannada Sangha has started in the year 1972. It has encouraged and provided an opportunity to write for hundreds of writers. It has created and spread a sense of cultural sensitivity across the Karnataka state. It is completing 50 years this year. In this regard Kannada Sangha designed many literary activities in this year. Publishing and release the book is one of the activities.
Key Takeaways	• Kambara's Literary Legacy – Folk theatre transformed through contemporary themes and expression. • Scholarly Engagement – Thirteen critical articles examining Kambara's plays and ideas.

	• Dream, Reality and Symbolism – Exploration of metaphor, desire, violence, and modernity. • Nurturing Kannada Literature – Kannada Sangha's contribution to literary scholarship and young writers. • Academic and Cultural Collaboration – Bringing scholars, students, faculty, and literature enthusiasts together.
Summary of the Activity	<i>Kambarara Natakagalu</i> , edited by Dr. Vikram Visaji, was released by the Christ College Kannada Sangha on 31 July 2026 in the presence of Dr. Chandrashekara Kambara. The volume contains 13 scholarly articles from the 1999 seminar. Eminent scholars shared critical perspectives, highlighting Kambara's folk theatre, symbolism, modernity, and cultural vision.
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Rapporteur

Name of the Rapporteur	Dr. Rathi M T, Coordinator, Kannada Sangha.
Email and Contact No	rathi.mt@christuniversity.in 9880495712

Descriptive Report

Book Release: *Kambarara Natakagalu*

Kambarara Natakagalu, edited by Dr. Vikram Visaji, was released by the Christ College Kannada Sangha on 31 July 2026 in the presence of renowned Jnanpith Award-winning writer Dr. Chandrashekara Kambara. The book was formally released by eminent Kannada critic Dr. Basavaraj Kalgudi, and the book was introduced by renowned Kannada poet Dr. Kavitha Rai.

The volume contains 13 scholarly articles based on the seminar on Dr. Chandrashekara Kambara's works organised by the Christ College Kannada Sangha in 1999. Along with a dialogue with Kambara, it features contributions from eminent scholars including G. S. Amur, T. S. Satyanath, T. P. Ashoka, H. S. Shivaprakash, Basavaraj Kalgudi, Purushottama Bilimale, Nataraj Huliya, and K. V. Akshara.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Basavaraj Kalgudi highlighted Kambara's significant contribution to creating and bringing folk theatre into contemporary expression. He observed that the conflict between dream and reality in Kambara's plays can be understood more deeply through their symbolic and metaphorical dimensions. He also discussed the idea of colonialism in Kambara's plays, describing it as emerging through processes of search, exploration, and confusion.

Introducing the book, Dr. Kavitha Rai referred to H. S. Shivaprakash's observation that Kambara's plays explore a worldview that takes the possibilities of happiness to their utmost limits while also experiencing violence as part of that world, thereby engaging with modern human experience. Referring to Nataraj Hulyar's contribution, she noted that Kambara re-examines metaphors of desire (Kama) that have evolved through diverse cultural representations and acquired wider cultural meanings. She also appreciated the Christ College Kannada Sangha for encouraging young writers and bringing significant literary works to Kannada readers.

Dr. Vikram Visaji, the editor, recalled his literary journey, which began with the Christ College Kannada Sangha, and reflected on the continuity of his association with the CHRIST University Kannada Sangha and its role in nurturing literary pursuits.

Dr. Anil Joseph Pinto, Registrar, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), who presided over the programme, encouraged students to engage in scholarly pursuits and become role models in society.

The programme was attended by a large number of Kannada literature enthusiasts, students, and faculty members from the Department of Languages and other departments. Dr. Prashanth A. S. compered the programme, Dr. Abhaya introduced the guests, and Dr. Shivanand Tavali delivered the vote of thanks. The overall coordination and organisation of the programme was undertaken by Dr. Rathi M T, Coordinator, Kannada Sangha.

Speaker profile

Dr. Basavaraj Kalgudi

Basavaraj Kalgudi, born in 1956 in Belagavi, completed his primary, secondary, high school, and college education in Bengaluru. He obtained his M.A. degree in 1975 and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1983 for his research thesis titled *Anubhava and Cultural Problems*. Based on field research on Mastikallu (memorial stones) in Karnataka, he also conducted another significant study titled *Mahāsati Ācharaṇe*.

Although his academic research focused on inscriptions, he extensively used inscriptional texts as important sources for exploring and understanding Kannada culture.

In interpreting culture, Kalgudi examines the transformations and shifts within culture from multiple perspectives. His research on Vachana literature incorporates insights from various disciplines of knowledge. His interpretation of Vachana culture from the perspective of the present is regarded as distinctive in the field of Kannada literary criticism.

Kalgudi began his professional career at the Centre for Kannada Studies, Bangalore University, where he served as a teacher for 30 years. He was also an accomplished administrator. He served as the Director of Prasaraṅga, Bangalore University, and as the Director of the Gandhi Studies Centre, Ambedkar Studies Centre, and Research Centre.

Published Works

His major publications and edited works include:

- *Mahāsati Ācharaṇe – Ondu Adhyayana* – Bangalore University
- *Anubhava: Sānskrutika Samasyē Mattu Hudukāta* – Kannada Book Authority; third edition
- *Nakṣe Nakṣatra* – Collection of critical essays, Christ College, Bengaluru
- *Bendreyavara Kāvya* – Christ College, Bengaluru
- *Karnataka Sangāti* – Edited volume, Kannada Development Authority
- *Bahurūpi* – Edited volume, Bangalore University
- *Ādhunika Kannada Kathā Sāhitya* – Edited volume, Bangalore University
- *Vichāra Sāhitya* – Edited volume, Department of Kannada and Culture

Awards and Honours

Basavaraj Kalgudi has received several prestigious awards and honours, including:

- Shamba Study Board Award
- Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award for Criticism (1998)
- G. S. Shivarudrappa Trust Award (1998)
- JSS (Mysuru) Peetha Award (1998)
- Dr. H. N. Award (2011)
- Buddha Purnima Gautama Award

Dr. Kavitha Rai

Dr. Kavitha Rai is a renowned Kannada poet, critic, and professor. She is currently serving as a Professor in the Department of Kannada at Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru. Originally from Mangaluru, she is also well recognised in the literary circles of Kodagu.

Education and Professional Career

- Ph.D.: She was awarded her Ph.D. in 2004 by Mangalore University for her research on marriage practices in Indian families.
- Research: She has undertaken extensive research on women's experiences and sensibilities. Her notable research works include *Mahile: Astitvada Sankathana* (2005) and *Mahile Mattu Vasahatushahottara Parisara (Women in the Post-Colonial Gamut, 2015)*.

Literary Style and Major Works

Dr. Kavitha Rai's writings use nature as a central metaphor, through which she expresses both inner experiences and collective or community experiences.

Her major poetry collections include:

- *Hakki Hariva Neeru*
- *Neeratejiyaneri*
- *Neeru Maadu*

She has also co-authored the critical work *Kavya Meemamse Mattu Vimarshe* with Dr. Tejaswi Navilur.

In recognition of her contribution to Kannada poetry and literature, various colleges and literary organisations have organised state-level seminars focusing on her works.

Dr. Kavitha Rai is recognised for her contributions to Kannada poetry, literary criticism, and research, particularly through her engagement with women's experiences, social contexts, and the relationship between nature and human life.



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‘ಕಂಬಾರರ ನಾಟಕಗಳು’ ಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಜನಾರ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ವಿಮರ್ಶಕ
ಪ್ರೊ.ಬಸವರಾಜ ಕಲ್ಲುಡಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು

ಆಧುನಿಕತೆಯ ವಿಡಂಬನೆಕಾರ ಕಂಬಾರ: ಬಸವರಾಜ ಕಲ್ಲುಡಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ‘ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ ಕಂಬಾರರು ಆಧುನಿಕತೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಡಂಬಿಸಿದ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಪ್ನವಾಗಿ ವಿರೋಧಿಸಿದ ಭಾರತದ ಏಕೈಕ ನಾಟಕಕಾರರು’ ಎಂದು ವಿಮರ್ಶಕ ಪ್ರೊ.ಬಸವರಾಜ ಕಲ್ಲುಡಿ ಬಣ್ಣಿಸಿದರು.

ನಗರದ ಕ್ರೈಸ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಘ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ, ಡಾ.ವಿಕ್ರಂ ವಿಸಾಜಿ ಅವರು ಸಂಪಾದಿಸಿರುವ ‘ಕಂಬಾರರ ನಾಟಕಗಳು’ ಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಜನಾರ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ‘ಕನ್ನಡದ ಆಧುನಿಕ ನಾಟಕ ಕಾರರು ಕಂಬಾರರಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡಲಿಲ್ಲ’ ಎಂದರು.

‘ಜಾನಪದ ಎಂಬ ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕಂಬಾರರ ನಾಟಕಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಮರ್ಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಮಾದರಿ ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ವಿಮರ್ಶೆಯ ಸೀಮಿತ ಪರಿಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಬಾರರನ್ನು ವಸಾಹತು ಶಾಹಿ ವಿರೋಧಿಗಳು ಎಂದೂ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಿ ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ’ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

‘ಕಂಬಾರರ ನಾಟಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯ-ಆಧುನಿಕತೆ, ಕನಸು-ವಾಸ್ತವ ಎಂಬ ದ್ವಂದ್ವ ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಮರ್ಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು

ನಾಟಕಗಳ ಓದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೃತಿಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆಯುತ್ತದೆ’ ಎಂದರು.

‘ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯೇ ನಾಶವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಂಬಾರರ ನಾಟಕಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೃತಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಘವು ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಶ್ಲಾಘನೀಯ’ ಎಂದರು.

ಸಂಪಾದಕ ವಿಕ್ರಮ ವಿಸಾಜಿ ಅವರು, ಎರಡೂವರೆ ದಶಕಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಘವು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕಾವ್ಯ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡು ಬಹುಮಾನ ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಸ್ಮರಿಸಿದರು.

ಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಿದ ವಿಮರ್ಶಕಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ಕವಿತಾ ರೈ, ‘ಕಂಬಾರರ ಕೃತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣುವ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಧರದ ಅರ್ಥಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ, ಅವು ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅರ್ಥವನ್ನು ಕೋಧಿಸುವ ಲೇಖನಗಳು ಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ’ ಎಂದು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟರು.

ವಿ.ವಿ ಕುಲಸಚಿವ ಅನಿಲ್ ಜೋಸೆಫ್ ಪಿಂಟೋ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ನಾಟಕ ಕಾರ ಕಂಬಾರ, ಸಂಘದ ಸಂಚಾಲಕರಾದ ಪ್ರೊ.ರತಿ ಎಂ.ಟಿ., ವಿಭಾಗದ ಶಿವಾನಂದ ಟವಳಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

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