



# ARTS EDUCATION: RESPONDING TO CHANGING LANDSCAPES

## Concept Note

South India, a region renowned for its rich cultural and linguistic heritage, expansive natural and archaeological landscapes, and interestingly diverse lifestyles, is also home to a generous body of traditional knowledge, artistic expressions and models of delivering arts education. This conference on Arts Education engages with all the southern Indian states: Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, including Goa and the Union Territory of Puducherry. It hopes to bring together various stakeholders such as teachers, artists, educators, school administrators, researchers in arts and culture, government representatives, parents, and students, public and private cultural institutions such as galleries, museums, and libraries, to foster dialogue around discourse and exchanges in Arts Education.

Over the past decade, India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) under its Arts Education programme *Kali Kalisu* ('learn and teach' in **Kannada**) has organised training programmes for government school teachers across Karnataka, highlighting aspects of arts-integrated teaching methods and practices. This has resulted in the implementation of teacher- and artist-led projects that have made classroom teaching and learning a joyful experience through diverse artistic engagements. To understand the various facets of arts integration and its impact on education within Karnataka and across India, IFA organised two regional conferences at Kalaburagi and Mangalore in 2023 and 2024 respectively. Both conferences emphasised the integration of art by teachers, artists, and art educators, through keynote addresses, panel discussions, performances, workshops, and site visits, by infusing different art forms and cultural resources to explore regionality in the curriculum.

Arts education in India holds tremendous potential for growth, fostering creativity and vibrant learning. However, this potential can only be realised through a clear and visionary approach. There is a significant gap between current art education policies, curriculum frameworks, and teaching strategies, many of which still reflect outdated models that prioritise imitation and rote learning over creativity. The Southern Indian Conference on Arts Education intends to explore questions around **three key themes**:

- sustainability of arts education
- policies impacting arts education
- the role of integrated arts education in our social and cultural landscape

Through the Conference, IFA hopes to create a platform for national level discussions on arts education. The conference is structured around the following components:

- Keynote Addresses
- Panel Discussions
- Workshops (For Participants)
- Creative Learning Classrooms (For Teachers and Students)
- Exhibition
- Spotlight – Interactions with IFA Grantees and Project Coordinators
- Performances

## Schedule

### Friday, February 21, 2025

09:30 AM - 10:00 AM | **Registration**

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM | **Welcome Address**

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM | **Opening Keynote** by Dr KN Ganeshiah

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM | **Tea Break**

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM | **Creative Classrooms:** Origami/kirigami with Muralidhar;  
Puppet-making & Theatre with Madhukar & Syed Sadiq S (Riyaz);  
Model Making with Gundappa Goudgol

11:30 AM - 01:30 PM | **Panel I: *Arts Education and Its Sustainability: Demands of the 21st Century***  
Shivananda Hombal | Gayatri Nair | Lina Vincent | R Srinivasan  
Moderator: Sameen Almas

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM | **Lunch Break**

02:30 PM - 04:00 PM | **Creative Classrooms:** Origami/kirigami with Muralidhar;  
Puppet-making & Theatre with Madhukar & Syed Sadiq S (Riyaz);  
Model Making with Gundappa Goudgol

02:30 PM - 05:30 PM | **Workshop: *Journaling with Nature*** with Sangeetha Kadur

04:30 PM - 04:45 PM | **Tea Break**

06:00 PM - 06:15 PM | **Spotlight - Interactive Project Showcase:** Sahana Pinjara

06:20 PM - 07:15 PM | **Performance: *Kolata***, a performance by Tingala Sanje Yuva Vedike,  
Kalaburagi, Karnataka

### Saturday, February 22, 2025

09:45 AM - 10:15 AM | **Registration**

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM | **Spotlight - Interactive Project Showcase:** Kotresh B

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM | **Spotlight - Interactive Project Showcase:** Chandahas Y Jalihal

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM | **Tea Break**

11:00 AM - 01:00 PM | **Creative Classrooms:** Origami/kirigami with Syed Fakruddin  
Huseni; Puppet-Making & Theatre with Siddappa Biradar &  
Shantamani; Model Making with Aruna BT

11:30 AM - 01:30 PM | **Panel II: *Enhancing Arts Education beyond the Curriculum***

Revathi R | Blaise Joseph | Anant Maringanti | Abhisheka  
Krishnagopal

Moderator: B Padma Reddy

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM | **Lunch Break**

02:30 PM - 04:00 PM | **Creative Classrooms:** Origami/kirigami with Syed Fakruddin Huseni; Puppet-making & Theatre with Siddappa Biradar & Shantamani; Model Making with Aruna BT; Sacred Spaces, Creative Minds: Empowering Art Educators to Co-Design Heritage Sites with Nitin Ranveer Sinha

02:30 PM - 05:30 PM | **Workshop:** *I Have My Thoughts:* Zine-making with Sreya Saraswatula

04:30 PM - 04:45 PM | **Tea Break**

06:00 PM - 06:15 PM | **Spotlight - Interactive Project Showcase:** Baby Biradar

06:30 PM - 07:30 PM | **Performance:** *Haṣṣaaron Kbwahishein*, a play by Sifar Theatre, Hyderabad, Telangana

### **Sunday, February 23, 2025**

06:30 AM - 08:30 AM | **Heritage Walk:** *Pathways of the Past* - Charminar to Chowmahalla Palace with Ganesh Kumar Malthurkar

09:30 AM - 10:00 AM | **Registration**

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM | **Spotlight - Interactive Project Showcase:** Jahanara

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM | **Tea Break**

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM | **Creative Classrooms:** Origami/kirigami with Muralidhar; Puppet-making & Theatre with Aruna BT & Gururaj L

11:30 AM - 01:30 PM | **Panel III:** *Arts Education and Society: Understanding Cultural Perspectives*  
Muththamizh Kalai Vizhi | Radha Gomaty | Likla Lall | Swathi Vellal Raghunandan

Moderator: Menaka Rodriguez

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM | **Lunch Break**

02:45 PM - 03:15 PM | **Workshop:** *Empowering Teachers in Arts Education: Voices from the Ground* with Ganesh Kumar Malthurkar

03:30 PM - 04:45 PM | **Closing Keynote** by Vidya Rao

### **Exhibition**

**February 21-23, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 07:00 PM**

#### **Works by:**

Arpitha RG | Aruna BT | Ashok Totnalli | Baby Biradar | Chandrahas Y Jalihal  
Ganganna | Gundurao Desai | Gururaj L | Jahanara | Kishan Rao Kulkarni | Kotresh B  
Madhukar | Mallikarjun Veeranna Karoli | Ramgiri Poliker Patil | Sahana Pinjara  
Shantamani | Shivanayak Dhore | Siddappa Biradar | Suryakanth Nandur  
Syed Fakruddin Huseni | Tajuddin Azad

And a Special Exhibition by Students of Tamil Nadu Government Model School

## Panel Discussions

### **Panel I: *Arts Education and Its Sustainability: Demands of the 21st Century***

**Friday, February 21, 2025 | 11:30 AM - 01:30 PM**

The 21st century has brought significant changes in our society, politics and culture owing to rapid transformations in economy, technology across the globe, all of which have impacted education. As we navigate through these changes, it is crucial to examine how arts education can adapt and thrive. This panel aims to address the continued significance and relevance of arts education by addressing current challenges, identifying opportunities for growth and exploring innovative approaches.

#### *Key Questions:*

- a. How can arts education remain relevant and engaging in a rapidly changing world?
- b. What role can teachers play in enhancing arts education?
- c. How arts education programmes can secure funding and resources for long-term sustainability?
- d. What are some of the best practices in integrating arts education that leverage value and impact?

#### **Panellists:**

##### ***Perceptions of Teachers in Arts Education***

Shivananda Hombal (Dhwani Trust, Dharwad, Karnataka)

##### ***Resources for Arts Classes***

Gayatri Nair (CPB Prism, Chennai, Tamil Nadu)

##### ***Concept, Context and Criticality in Arts Education***

Lina Vincent (Art Writer, Goa)

##### ***Evolving Arts Education Policy for a State***

R Srinivasan (Member, Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu)

**Moderator:** Sameen Almas (Nalandaway Foundation, New Delhi)

### **Panel II: *Enhancing Arts Education beyond the Curriculum***

**Saturday, February 22, 2025 | 11:30 AM - 01:30 PM**

Arts education plays a crucial role in the overall development of students, providing them with the skills and perspectives needed to navigate a complex world. While the standard curriculum offers a foundation, there is immense potential to enhance it through co-curricular activities, community engagement, and innovative teaching methods. This panel

discussion aims to identify strategies for expanding arts education beyond the classroom and traditional curriculum to maximise its impact.

*Key Questions:*

- a. How can schools and educational institutions integrate arts education as curricular activities?
- b. What are some successful examples of programmes or initiatives that have effectively enhanced arts education beyond the curriculum?
- c. How can technology and digital tools be leveraged to extend arts learning beyond the classroom?
- d. How can educators foster a culture of creativity and innovation in arts education?

**Panellists:**

***Living Experiences and Memory in Building Arts Projects***

Revathi R (Vanavil Trust, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu)

***Contextualising Community Arts Practicing and Arts Education***

Blaise Joseph (Arts Educator, Kerala)

***Arts Against Disciplinarity***

Anant Maringanti (Multidisciplinary Researcher, Hyderabad, Telangana)

***Expanding Environmental Awareness in Education through the Arts***

Abhisheka Krishnagopal (Arts Educator, Bangalore, Karnataka)

**Moderator:** B Padma Reddy (Painter and Printmaker, Hyderabad, Telangana)

***Panel III: Arts Education and Society: Understanding Cultural Perspectives***

**Sunday, February 23, 2025 | 11:30 AM - 01:30 PM**

The sociology of arts explores how art influences and is influenced by social structures, relationships, and cultural norms. Arts education is not only about imparting skills and knowledge but also about fostering critical thinking, empathy, and social awareness. This panel aims to delve into the interplay between arts, social and cultural landscapes and how arts education can be a powerful tool for social change and cultural enrichment.

*Key Questions:*

- a. How do social and cultural contexts shape the creation and reception of art?
- b. What role does arts education play in promoting social cohesion and cultural diversity?
- c. How can arts education address social inequalities and provide opportunities for marginalised communities?

- d. What are the sociological impacts of integrating arts into the education system?
- e. How can educators and artists collaborate to use arts as a means of social change?

**Panellists:**

***Empowering Minds and Culture: Arts and Gender Responsive Education in Shaping Inclusive Societies***

Muththamizh Kalai Vizhi (Art and Holistic Development Educator, Chennai, Tamil Nadu)

***Arts and Cultural Education in a World of Diversity***

Radha Gomaty (Illustrator, Kochi, Kerala)

***Considering Ethics while Writing about the Arts***

Likla Lall (Writer and Storyteller, Mumbai, Maharashtra)

***Inclusion and Connection through Arts: A Focused Study on Children with Disabilities***

Swathi Vellal Raghunandan (Special Educator, Bangalore, Karnataka)

**Moderator:** Menaka Rodriguez (Executive Director, India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore, Karnataka)

## **Creative Classrooms: Integrating Arts into Education**

**February 21, 2025 | 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM & 02:30 PM - 04:00 PM**

**February 22, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 01:00 PM & 02:30 PM - 04:00 PM**

**February 23, 2025 | 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM & 02:30 PM - 04:00 PM**

This series of hands-on workshops is dedicated to the creation of effective teaching and learning arts integrated modules to foster a dynamic and engaging educational experience. The workshops intend to seamlessly weave forms like origami, kirigami, visual arts, theatre, and puppet-making, into the fabric of traditional academic subjects, creating a holistic and enriched arts-integrated learning environment. Every session is designed to provide educators and students with practical skills and innovative strategies to enhance their teaching as well as learning practices.

**Workshop Highlights:**

- **Interactive Sessions:** Engage in practical exercises and collaborative activities.
- **Expert Guidance:** Learn from experienced educators.
- **Resource Materials:** Receive comprehensive materials and templates to support your module creation.

**Who Should Attend:**

- Teachers and Students
- Instructional Designers

## **Facilitators:**

Muralidhar | Madhukar | Syed Sadiq S (Riyaz) | Gundappa Goudgol | Gururaj L | Syed Fakruddin Huseni | Siddappa Biradar | Shantamani | Aruna BT | Nitin Ranveer Sinha

## **Workshops**

### *Journaling with Nature*

**Sangeetha Kadur**

**Friday, February 21, 2025 | 02:30 PM - 05:30 PM**

Discover the joy of observing and documenting nature in a Nature Journaling Workshop! This interactive session encourages participants to explore their surroundings, connect with the environment, and capture nature's beauty through sketches, notes, and reflections. Learn fun techniques to create your journal pages, while uncovering hidden details and unique narratives about our natural world. Through such mindful observations, we learn to foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

### *I Have My Thoughts: Zine-Making Workshop*

**Sreya Saraswatula**

**Saturday, February 22, 2025 | 02:30 PM - 05:30 PM**

Zines, sometimes synonymous to pamphlets, are independently produced, photocopied, and circulated as cheap booklets. During the workshop, participants will respond to the dialogue and themes emerging from the conference. There will be an introduction on zines and a display of zines. We will start from folding a zine to thinking deeply about the themes through image-making and collaging one together. The zines made will be circulated amongst the participants and, if possible, displayed through the end of the conference because zine culture includes exchanging, passing on and, most importantly, having a conversation on what we have made.

## **Exhibition**

**February 21-23, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 07:00 PM**

The exhibition showcases the outcomes of the arts integrated projects implemented by IFA under the Arts Education programme in various government schools of Karnataka by teachers and artists. Through displays and interactions with Project Coordinators at the venue, visitors will experience firsthand the transformative power of arts integration in education. This participatory exhibition aims to inspire educators, students, and the community to embrace and celebrate the role of the arts in fostering critical thinking, creativity, and holistic learning.

### Works by:

Arpitha RG  
Aruna BT  
Ashok Totnalli  
Baby Biradar  
Chandrasah Y Jalihal  
Ganganna  
Gundurao Desai  
Gururaj L  
Jahanara  
Kishan Rao Kulkarni  
Kotresh B  
Madhukar  
Mallikarjun Veeranna Karoli  
Ramgiri Police Patil  
Sahana Pinjara  
Shantamani  
Shivanayak Dhore  
Siddappa Biradar  
Suryakanth Nandur  
Syed Fakruddin Huseni  
Tajuddin Azad

## Spotlight: Interactive Project Showcase

### Friday, February 21, 2025

06:00 PM - 06:15 PM | Sahana Pinjara

### Saturday, February 22, 2025

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Kotresh B

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM | Chandrasah Y Jalihal

06:00 PM - 06:15 PM | Baby Biradar

### Sunday, February 23, 2025

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM | Jahanara

These interactive sessions or 'spotlights' are designed to enable teachers and artists who have been Grantees/Project Coordinators associated with IFA to showcase their arts integrated projects, share their stories, and engage with the community. The showcases aim to demonstrate the profound impact of arts integration in education through classrooms, inspire creativity, enhance the experience of learning, and foster a sense of community and collaboration. It serves as a testament to the limitless possibilities that arise when creativity is embraced as a fundamental component of teaching and learning. These sessions will be in Kannada and English.



## Performances

### *Kolata*

Tingala Sanje Yuva Vedike, Jakanapalli, Sedam, Karnataka

**Friday, February 21, 2025 | 06:20 PM - 07:30 PM**

More than a traditional dance, Kolata (sometimes called Kolattam) is a celebration of mathematical elegance and the strength of teamwork. Since Kolata is based on exact rhythmic patterns, dancers maintain a precise beat count and synchronise their motions. An awareness of geometric principles is demonstrated by the geometric accuracy required to build circles and maintain constant angles and distances between dancers. This spatial awareness is essential to maintaining the formations, aesthetic appeal and collision-free status. Kolata's collaborative style fosters a strong sense of community by training the performers to appreciate one another's contributions and work together amicably.

The Tingala Sanje Yuva Vedike is a cultural group formed with the support of youths, parents and alumni of Government High School, Jakanapalli, Sedam.

#### **Team:**

Ashok Totnalli

Monappa Hosamani

Siddappa Talavar

Naveen Reddy Malipatil

Sadanandareddy Rudravara

Satish Bedar

Nandappa Bedar

Sandeepa Reddy Adaki

Gavisiddu Rangarama

Shivappa Pulamol/ Kashappa

Jaipalareddy

Shrikanth Bedar

Krishna Gundalli

Vishnuvardhana Reddy

Siddappa Rangarama

Sharanappa Rangarama

### *Haazaron Khwahishein (हज़ारों ख़्वाइशें)*

**Language:** Hindustani/English

Sifar Theatre Group Hyderabad

**Saturday, February 22, 2025 | 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM**

Can you name a hundred things that make life wonderful—from 'Jalebi' to 'listening to a record with your mom'? Discover what is on a boy's handwritten list to cheer up his

despondent mom, in this warm, funny and poignant ode to humanity. The play takes audiences on a transcendent and tender coming-of-age journey that reminds us to pay attention to each other and the small joys of life. (*Trigger Warning: The play portrays mental health issues*)

Sifar is a group of theatre artists from Hyderabad who came together in 2009 to entertain the city's audience with quality theatre. They first performed for Children Home for Boys and Observation Home for Boys (juvenile prison) to entertain them and keep them connected with the outside world. Sifar has remained true to its foundational ethos of accessible, high-quality theatre, and ever-evolving to keep it relevant to the times. Sifar performs in Deccani, Urdu, Hindi, and English. Sifar also routinely holds workshops for the city's budding talents and creates a vibrant theatre culture in Hyderabad.

**Cast & Crew:**

Narrator: Feroze MNA

Lights: Ajay Yadav

Music: CS Shekhawat

Backstage: Vinay Abhishekh Vemu, Suzanne, Pavan