

MAY 7 - 17 : SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The 10-day Summer Internship opportunity at DakshinaChitra provides students with a comprehensive introduction to museum management. This programme offers participants valuable exposure to the dynamic field of art and culture, allowing them to gain insights into the operations of various museum departments. Interns will have the opportunity to engage in creative thinking, a crucial skill for professionals in the art and cultural sectors. The internship programme aims to provide an understanding of museum practices and to serve as a foundation for students aspiring to pursue careers in cultural heritage, museum studies and the arts. For further details and registration, kindly contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779.

LOOKING BACK : UTSAVAM 2025

The 10th edition of Utsavam, organized in collaboration with Shreya Nagarajan Singh Arts Development Consultancy, was held in March on the theme, **‘Legacy’**. The day began with a presentation by scholar and dance practitioner Dr. Yashoda Thakore followed by a discussion on *‘The Burden of Legacy - Power, Privilege, and Exclusion in Classical Dance’*. She also performed the Kalavantulu dance in the evening. There was a panel discussion on the *‘Future of Traditions: Reinventing Legacy’* moderated by theatre practitioner Preeti Bharadwaj which included contemporary artist A. L. Aparajithan, Kattaikkuttu Sangam co-founder Dr. Hanne De Bruin and Professor of Religious Studies from Elon University, Dr. Amy Allocco. *‘Tavam’*, a performance by five women Kattaikkuttu artists of the Kattaikkuttu Sangam concluded the event. There was also a day-long market featuring women and women-identifying entrepreneurs.

COVER PAGE ART

The cover page art is an illustrative image for our upcoming exhibition, Echoes of the Coromandel, which will delve into the rich maritime history of the Eastern Coast line of South India, tracing the trade and cultural exchanges between the Coromandel Coast and Southeast Asia from the Sangam Age to the medieval period. Through rare artifacts, historical narratives and artistic representations, the exhibition by our DAK-CHOLA interns (2024-25) will explore how traders, artisans, monks and sailors from this region shaped art, architecture, spirituality and social structures of distant lands. The exhibition will be at the Varija Gallery from April 18 to May 18.

Workshops for Adults

Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
Apr. 19	Know your carpentry - Garden Shelf making	Karunakaran	Rs. 2500/-
May 3 & 4	An introduction to Tamil folk dances (Oyilattam, Silambattam & Thappattam)	Adhi Vishnu	Rs. 1500/-



Carpentry



An introduction to Tamil folk dances

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN FOLK DANCE & MUSIC

DakshinaChitra is offering a certificate course in folk dance and music. Participants will gain holistic knowledge of traditional folk dances like **Silambattam** and **Thappattam**. They will learn dance movements, music and the methods to play the tunes. At the end of the course, participants will be well-trained to perform these art forms. Classes will be held two days a week for eight weeks. **The course fee is Rs. 3,000/-**. Open to participants 10 years and above. For further details and registration, contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779.



CERTIFICATE COURSE IN WHEEL POTTERY



This special certificate course in Terracotta Wheel Pottery is designed to provide students with in-depth knowledge and skill to evolve as a successful terracotta artist in this field. Classes will be held two days a week for eight weeks. **The fee for the programme is Rs. 6,000/-**. For registration and further details, kindly contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779.

CALL FOR DONATIONS

Our cultural programmes are also possible through your support. Donations can be made to the Madras Craft Foundation via NEFT. For bank details and more information, contact Ms. Lalitha Krishnan at 9677190587 or lalithakrishnan.mcfdak@gmail.com.

OUR GRATITUDE TO...

Our special thanks to Mobis India Foundation, Muthoot Finance, Ford Motor Company, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co.Ltd. and India Motor Parts Accessories Ltd. (IMPAL) for their support to our projects through their CSR initiatives. We express our gratitude towards Ashva Tours India Private Limited for their donation towards the documentary filming of the Retrospective of Rm. Palaniappan's exhibition at DakshinaChitra. Our sincere thanks to Tamil Nadu Tourism and Development Corporation (TTDC), Meera Chari, Gita Ram and Agathinai Wood Works Pvt. Ltd. for their generous donations towards our programmes. We also thank Pradeep Chakravarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Jamuna Rajan, K.P. Sathyamurthy, Kala Nandagopal, Amar Ramesh, Shanta Guhan, R. Chandrasekaran and Aunohita Mojumdar for their donations to our museum and library collection.



DakshinaChitra is a plastic-free zone.

DakshinaChitra
Muttukadu, East Coast Road,
Chengalpet district,
Tamil Nadu - 603 112
Tel: 2747 2603
www.dakshinachitra.net

For further information, contact
Dravid Prasad M at +91-9952894859

DakshinaChitra is open daily
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Tuesdays.
Weekends : 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

DakshinaChitra is the project of
Madras Craft Foundation.

Design and Content :
The Phoenix Company

**ON WEEKENDS
WE ARE OPEN
TILL 7 PM**

Madras Craft Foundation
If undelivered, please return to

Madras Craft Foundation
G3 Madhuram Flats
6 Urur Olcott Road
Besant Nagar
Chennai - 600 090
Tel: 2491 8943 / 2446 2435
Email: dak.comm2@gmail.com

Art Beat

The schedule for our upcoming exhibitions is given below. Any further updates, announcements and changes with respect to the schedule will be posted on our website & social media handles.

VARIJA GALLERY

APR. 18 - MAY 18 :
Echoes of the Coromandel
An exhibition of the rich maritime history of South India by DAK - CHOLA Interns (Batch 2024-25)



MAY 24 - JUL. 20 : TAMIZHAGA HERO STONES EXHIBITION



DakshinaChitra and the State Archeology Department will be hosting an exhibition showcasing photographs of 42 historically significant Tamil Nadu hero stones. Hero stones are memorials honoring warriors who died in battle, particularly during cattle raids, a common conflict in ancient Tamil society. Dating back to the Megalithic era, they evolved through the Sangam period and medieval times, often inscribed with details of the warrior's bravery. These stones are crucial historical records, offering insights into warfare, social customs and the evolution of language and script. The exhibition along with essays and lectures, will raise awareness about these historical artefacts and promote their preservation.

KADAMBARI GALLERY

APR. 10 - MAY 11 :
Four Aesthetics
A group exhibition of paintings by artists D. Ejumale, G. Manimaran, S.M.C. Rajesh and V. Vasandan



Dakshina Chitra



THE LIVING MUSEUM

28 years and counting...



NEWS & EVENTS - APRIL TO JUNE, 2025



MAY 17 - 25 :
Brushstrokes of Endemic Echoes

An exhibition by Ragavan Suresh that brings India's rich biodiversity to life through intricate illustrations

WALK-IN WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Any further updates, announcements and changes regarding the schedule will be posted on our website and social media handles. For registration and queries, contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779. Timings: 10: 30a.m. to 12: 30p.m.

Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
May 10	Shadow puppetry	In-house	Rs. 1000/-
May 17	Stencil making & T-shirt printing	In-house	Rs. 1000/-
May 24	Tribal art	In-house	Rs. 1000/-

APR. 26 & 27 : SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN



Tired of regular summer camps for your children? Looking for something new and fun? Then we've got you covered! DakshinaChitra's summer camp for children comprises a variety of fun learning activities. Through interesting sessions, children will gain knowledge about traditional crafts, history and heritage. The camp will include craft demonstration and activities, puppetry, archeological excavations, dances, games, treasure hunt, storytelling and more. The camp is for children in the age group of 9 to 14 years. The fee for the camp is Rs. 2500/-. Sign up for our two-day camp at our beautiful campus. For registration and queries, contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779.

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON

Instagram

[@dakshinachitra_heritagemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/dakshinachitra_heritagemuseum)

Facebook

DakshinaChitra Chennai Muttukadu

Tripadvisor



GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

If you’re dreading the heat this summer or looking for new ways to engage your children, then DakshinaChitra is the place to visit. Starting from Tamil New Year celebrations to dedicated museum and nature walks in the campus, there are a lot of activities planned. Special events celebrating Museum Day, Music Day and Environment Day will be in this quarter. Our signature event, Gramiya Makkal Thirunaal will be celebrated in June. Thought-provoking exhibitions are scheduled with an exclusive display by our interns. Applications are now open for our summer internships in May. Read on to know more...

Kindly note that fresh updates, announcements and changes to the current schedule of events will be posted on our website and social media handles.

APR. 14 : CHITHIRAI THIRUNAAL



Delve into the depths of Tamil culture as we celebrate ChithiraiThirunaal or Tamil New Year with a host of traditional folk dance performances. The lineup will feature performances of Paraiattam, Karakattam, Silambattam and Mayilattam by Gajendran and troupe. With elaborate costumes and props, each performance will bring to life the rich cultural heritage of our state. Don’t miss out on this unique cultural experience!

MAY 18 & JUN. 19 : DC MUSEUM WALK

The Sangam Foundation for Social Transformation and DakshinaChitra will be conducting their first-everTamil heritage walk centered around the Sathanur House, a beautifully reconstructed traditional dwelling located within the DakshinaChitra Museum. This one-day immersive experience will provide participants with insights into the lives and culture of the agricultural community represented by this remarkable house. The walk will be led by Vignesh Srinivasan, a dedicated PhD researcher with the Archaeological Department of the Government ofTamil Nadu. Participants will explore the architectural and historical context of the Sathanur House, understand the material culture and daily life of the community and learn about the traditions and social interactions that define their heritage. This event is open to the general public and will be of special interest to college students, researchers and history enthusiasts.

LANGFEST : CELEBRATING ART, LANGUAGE & CULTURE

LangFest 2025 at DakshinaChitra was a vibrant celebration of art, language and culture, attracting a diverse audience comprising students, academics and cultural enthusiasts. The event commenced with a stimulating conversation between Ram Rahman and R. V. Ramani, setting the stage for a series of engaging discussions. Sessions featuring Meru Gokhale, Hemanth B, Ramesh Acharya and John Xavier showcased varying perspectives on literature and art. The session with R. R. Srinivasan, Amshan Kumar, Ravi Subramanian and Kutti Revathi explored the art of documentaries, sparking lively debates and generating new perspectives.

P. Arokia Mary Stella’s solo play, ‘Naan Savithiribaiyai Padikiren’, was a powerful tribute to Savitribai Phule’s legacy. The play’s heartfelt storytelling celebrated her courage and vision, leaving the audience deeply moved and inspired.



On Day 2, engaging discussions added depth to the festival. Arivu’s conversation on ‘People’s Music in the 21st Century’ highlighted how music serves as a voice for the marginalized, blending traditional rhythms with contemporary issues of inequality. Meanwhile, Jahnvi Phalkey and Shubashree Desikan explored ‘The Artistic Language of Science’, revealing how creativity and storytelling make science more accessible. Shabnam Virmani and A Mangai’s dialogue touched on spirituality and societal change, inspired by Kabir’s philosophy. Shabnam Virmani’s soulful renditions of Kabir’s poetry, including ‘Yeh To Ghar Hai Prem Ka’, and the screening of Koi Sunta Hai left the audience spellbound. Her performance was a powerful reminder of the enduring relevance of Kabir’s teachings.

The festival concluded on 23 Feb with powerful documentaries. R. R. Srinivasan’s Paravai Kaalam, Ravi Subramaniam’s Ellaikalai Vistaritha Ezhuthu Kalainan - Jayakanthan and Amshan Kumar’s Izha Koothan offered profound insights into culture and tradition. With its rich blend of music, theatre and discussions, LangFest 2025 was an unforgettable experience.

MAY 17 : MUSEUM DAY CELEBRATIONS

DakshinaChitra preserves and showcases the arts, crafts, folk traditions, and architecture of South India. Museum Day serves as a valuable occasion to understanding and appreciation of history, art, culture, and the environment. Celebrated globally on May 18, International Museum Day (IMD) by ICOM highlights the crucial role of museums in society. This year’s theme, ‘The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities’, examines how museums adapt to social, technological, and environmental shifts.

Beyond preserving history, museums drive sustainable and inclusive growth. As cultural hubs, they support urban development through heritage conservation and resilience. DakshinaChitra welcomes an expert on sustainable museum architecture to discuss eco-friendly designs that minimize environmental impact. The session will explore energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable materials, educating visitors on environmental responsibility and the evolving role of museums in a changing world.

JUNE : GRAMIYA MAKKAL THIRUNAAL

When was the last time you found yourself cheering for a kabaddi match or a sack race? Have you ever had the chance to witness a kolam competition where each kolam left you in awe? DakshinaChitra’s Gramiya Makkal Thirunal is the right opportunity for you to come witness all this and more! This vibrant gathering will feature a variety of activities and competitions designed for both children and adults from the village communities near DakshinaChitra. There will be kabaddi matches for men, top spinning, tug-of-war and sack races for children and kolam competitions for women among other events. There will also be captivating folk performances and craft demonstrations to showcase our rich culture. Stay tuned for the event dates, which will be announced on our website and social media platforms.

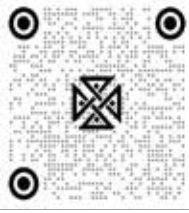


MCF-CHOLA ARTS & MUSEUM MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP (2025-2026)

Applications are now open for the MCF-Chola Arts & Museum Management Internship (2025-2026). The 11-month programme will begin on July 16th, 2025. Ten graduates will be selected after a rigorous selection process. This is the only internship opportunity available in Indian Museums for museum management, curation and conservation. This comprehensive programme is supported by the Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. Through the programme, interns will receive hands-on training in various departments of the Museum. The focus areas include arts in education, programming, event management, collection management, design, exhibition display, archiving, conservation, hospitality, administration and operations. They will also have weekly lectures on Research Writing, Budgeting and Finance and Curation and hands-on sessions with art materials. The vision of the programme is to create future professionals in India’s art and cultural institutions by providing them with the knowledge and skills required to successfully manage these institutions. The application form and details for the internship can be downloaded from our website, www.dakshinachitra.net. Filled-in applications should be submitted before May 31, 2025. Completed applications may be sent as soft copies along with resumes and a letter of interest to dak.comm2@gmail.com. For further details, kindly contact Dravid at +91 99528 94859.

Stay updated on our programme schedules

Scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone camera to view the complete programme schedule for this quarter. Updates, announcements and specific details can be found on this link. For queries, kindly contact, Dravid Prasad M at +91-9952894859



CALL FOR VOLUNTEER-INTERNS

If you are passionate about culture and looking to gain experience in this space; you can join DakshinaChitra as a volunteer-intern. As a volunteer-intern, you will be a part of the local creative community, learn about its history, develop communication and leadership skills and participate in in-house community engagement initiatives. You will receive a Certificate of Participation and a Letter of Recommendation. For more details, contact us at programsacf1@gmail.com or at +91-8220791932.

JUNE : ENVIRONMENT MONTH EVENTS

DakshinaChitra and Aram Thinai will be celebrating Environment Day throughout June with four engaging weekends dedicated to nature and sustainability. There will be early morning nature walks at DakshinaChitra to explore the beauty of the surroundings. There will be eco-craft workshops for children where they will learn to make natural colours using mud and other materials. Natural colours are safer, eco-friendly and appeal to health-conscious consumers. Participants will take home their artwork and contribute to a group art installation.

One weekend will feature a Wild Food Walk, offering insights into edible wild plants. Additionally, there will be a roundtable discussion at MIDS, Chennai, focussing on making public spaces more accessible and eco-friendly, envisioning Chennai as a Good City.

Join this month-long celebration and contribute to a greener future. The full schedule will be shared soon on our website and social media.

OBJECT OF THE MONTH

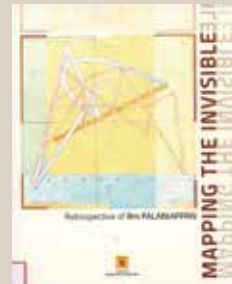
Kondapalli Bommalu or Kondapalli toys are made of softwood, also called Tella Poniki, found in and around the



Kondapalli village in the Krishna district of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. They are one of the geographically-indicated handicrafts (GI handicrafts) of Andhra Pradesh. These are some of the dolls which are assembled in houses during the festivals of Sankranti and Navaratri. The artisans who make the bommalu are referred to as Nakarshalu, and are said to have migrated from Rajasthan in and around the 16th century. Each part of the doll is made separately and then they are joined together with tamarind seed adhesive and saw dust. They are then coloured using water colours or vegetable dyes. The artisans mainly work on producing figures of mythology, animals, birds, bullock carts, rural life, etc., and the most notable one is Dasavataram. Check out our collection of these toys on your next visit to the museum.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The DakshinaChitra Library has a rich collection of books on various subjects including art, craft, textiles, anthropology, theatre, architecture, history and more. We invite you to come view and refer from this repository of books during your visit. We will also be highlighting a book recommendation to keep you clued in on the ‘Must-read’ titles in our collection.



‘Mapping the Invisible’ - Retrospective of Rm. Palaniappan is a catalogue published by the Madras Craft Foundation this year. The foreword for the catalogue is by Dr. Deborah Thiagarajan, founder of MCF. The catalogue features a thought-provoking essay titled, ‘Earth Above and Sky Below: Horizon as Suspended Time - Line’ by Sadanand Menon that deeply engages with the artist’s work and an interview with the artist by Vaishnavi Ramanathan where he explains his thought processes and experiences that have shaped his practice. The catalogue is designed and conceptualised by the artist himself and Senthil Govindaswamy. It has high quality images of the artist’s original works with a bio and acknowledgement at the end. The catalogue was launched by Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group and Festival Founder and Chair, The Hindu Lit for Life at the Hindu.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the fading, intangible heritage elements among the Tamil people is the traditional art of Naatu Kuthu, a form of folk singing and dancing that has historically been performed during festivals and community gatherings. This vibrant art form combines rhythmic foot-tapping with lively songs that narrate stories from Tamil folklore and mythology. However, with the rise of modern entertainment and changing social dynamics, Naatu Kuthu is witnessing a decline in practice, especially among younger generations who are more inclined towards contemporary music and dance forms. The lack of formal training and platforms for performance further exacerbates this issue, leading to a diminishing interest in preserving this cultural expression. Efforts to revive Naatu Kuthu through workshops and events are essential to ensure that this rich tradition does not fade into obscurity.