

OCT. 3 : SONNET OF SAMBARA



DakshinaChitra in collaboration with the Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, Bengaluru, presents Sonnet of Samsara, a **special contemporary art performance directed by Jayachandran Palazhy**. Attakkalari is India’s premier contemporary dance company led by Jayachandran and holds many international performances. This immersive performance promises to be a powerful blend of movement, rhythm and cultural dialogue, offering audiences a truly unique artistic experience. The event will take place at 4:30p.m. at the DakshinaChitra Museum.

NOV. 15 : TRIBAL ART WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

The tribal art workshop is designed to make children understand various Indian tribal art forms like Gond, Madhubani and Warli painting and the culture and lifestyle of the tribal communities. The session will help children refine their knowledge and artistic abilities about these arts. The **fee is Rs.1000 per participant**. The workshop is for children aged 10 years and above. *For details, contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779.*

COVER PAGE ART

The cover page features the photo of women from the well-known Lambani community. Settled in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, the Lambani (Banjara) community is known for its crafts especially intricate embroidery. Sandur Lambani embroidery features over 30 stitches and 10 motifs, using cotton or khadi fabric dyed with organic or chemical colors. Embellished with mirrors and shells, it decorates sarees, bags and shawls. Red and blue are the most used colors. Traditionally worn during ceremonies, this vibrant craft symbolizes identity and pride for Lambani women.

CALL FOR DONATIONS

Our cultural programmes are also possible through your support. Donations and CSR funds 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, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co.Ltd. and India Motor Parts Accessories Ltd. (IMPAL) for their support to our projects through their CSR initiatives.

Our sincere thanks to Rohini Shanker, Rajee Thyagarajan, Padmaja Aravindan, A.M.Thimmiya and Mala Thimmiya, Rm. Palaniappan, M. Rathina Baskar, R. Vivekanandan and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation for their donations to our museum and library collections.

Kindly note that DakshinaChitra Museum will be closed on October 20th, 2025, for Diwali.



DakshinaChitra is a plastic-free zone.

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

For further information, contact
Tara Rachel Thomas 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
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Tel: 2491 8943 / 2446 2435
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28 years and counting...



NEWS & EVENTS - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 2025

Workshops for Adults

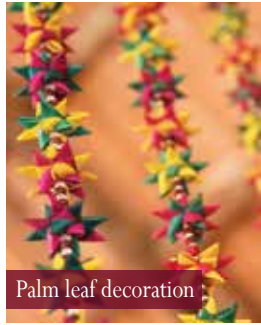
Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
Oct. 12	Shell Craft	Abraham	Rs. 2000/-
Nov. 16	Palm leaf Decoration - Hanging Thoranams for thresholds	Kasturi	Rs. 1500/-
Dec. 21	Carpentry - Make and Design a Garden stool	Karunakaran	Rs. 2500/-



Shell craft



Carpentry



Palm leaf decoration

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN FOLK DANCE & FOLK MUSIC



DakshinaChitra is offering a certificate course in folk dance and folk music. Participants will gain holistic knowledge of traditional folk performances 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 (on Saturdays & Sundays) for eight weeks. **The course fee is Rs. 3,000/-**. Open to participants 10 years and above. For details, kindly 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 (on weekdays only) for eight weeks. **The fee for the programme is Rs. 6,000/-**. For registration and further details, kindly contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779.

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

SEPT. 21 - DEC. 28 : 'THREADS OF CONFLUENCE' EXHIBITION

Chennai's **iconic Madras checks** — lightweight cotton once shipped across colonial trade routes — are in the limelight in the Threads of Confluence exhibition. The exhibition reimagines the fabric's global journey and brings Madras cloth into dialogue with **curator Anitha Reddy's** community art practice with the **creative practices of the Siddi community of Karnataka**, descendants of Africans displaced into India.



From Fort St. George, Madras cloth travelled to Africa, the Caribbean and America, renamed and reinterpreted in each context: Injiri cloth in West Africa, national dress in the Caribbean, and even preppy fashion in the United States. The Siddis, in contrast, embody a story of inward displacement, arriving in India through slavery, war and trade. Over centuries, Siddi women transformed local patchwork and appliqué traditions into their own expressive form.

This exhibition presents textile panels made from contemporary scraps of Madras Checks, generously donated by The Original Madras Trading Company. These works are not only striking visual compositions but also carriers of memory, survival, and adaptation. They stitch together histories of fabric and people, routes and roots, displacement and resilience.

Curated and facilitated by community art practitioner Anitha N Reddy, Threads of Confluence transforms textiles into living archives—where women's everyday making becomes both testimony and art.

KADAMBARI GALLERY

OCT. 5 - 15 : TRANSIENT EMOTIONS EXHIBITION



K. Nagarajan

Just as nature constantly evolves, so too does the human mind. Thoughts we once believed were fixed are reshaped by reflection and experience. Artists **Gunasekar Jeyapal** and **K. Nagarajan** channel this ever-changing quality into their work, drawing from deep emotional and intellectual wells. **Transient Emotions : Embracing the Impermanent Flow of Life and Thought** is an exhibition that captures fleeting moments through color, line and form. Featuring two southern artists, the show explores impermanence and transformation. Each piece offers a unique perspective on change, inviting viewers to reflect on their own evolving inner landscapes. The exhibition is a tribute to life's fluid nature and art's power to give it lasting form. The display will showcase **sculptures and paintings**.

OCT. 19 - NOV. 5 :
Traces Remain Within

An exhibition of drawings by artist Vinothini that investigates themes of displacement, belonging, self, and the living landscape(s). Her work combines text, gesture, and organic imagery



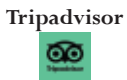
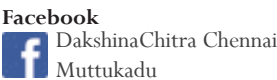
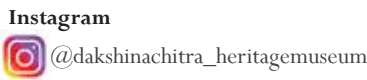
Vinothini



Harshini Kishan

DEC. 19 - 29 :
Siddhivinayaka
An exhibition of multimedia artworks by artist Harshini Kishan that blends traditional Indian motifs, sacred symbols and expressive abstraction to explore the intersection of devotion and design

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON



GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

For years now, DakshinaChitra has been a gamechanger when it comes to hosting events that are educative, fun and innovative and this season is no different. From traditional folk performances for Dussehra to stimulating discussions and workshops for Heritage Week and Children’s Month, there are a host of refreshingly new events planned. There is a special contemporary dance performance titled Sonnet of Samsara directed by Jayachandran Palazy of the well-known Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, Bengaluru. The exhibition at Varija Gallery will see a beautiful amalgamation of two aesthetic styles. It will showcase quilts made using the creative practices of Karnataka’s Siddi community and the pieces will feature the iconic Madras checks. 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.

OCT. 1 - 5 : DUSSEHRA CELEBRATIONS



As part of this year’s Dussehra festivities, DakshinaChitra will host a **Dollu Kunitha performance**, a folk art form from Karnataka. It is a vigorous drum dance performed by the **Kuruba community** as an offering to Lord Beereshwara. Dressed in traditional attire with decorated drum straps, the dancers move in a synchronized manner while playing the *dollu*—a large double-sided drum. The rhythm shifts between slow and fast beats. Typically presented in temple courtyards and open spaces, Dollu Kunitha reflects community spirit and discipline. Join us for this performance and celebrate the triumph of good over evil this Dussehra.

OCT. 17 & 18 : FOLKLORE FILM FESTIVAL

This **two-day event** curated by **Amudhan R.P.** will present a thoughtful selection of films exploring the richness of folklore, traditions, and cultural expressions, offering new perspectives on community life and heritage. Audiences will have the opportunity to engage with folklore through the cinematic lens, fostering conversations on preservation, identity and cultural continuity. Don’t miss this chance to deliberate and discuss folklore and its many facets with exponents from the field.

DEC. 14 : DAKSHINACHITRA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



DakshinaChitra completes 28 years this December and it is with great pleasure that we reminisce, reflect and rejoice together on this momentous occasion. The day will be filled with folk performances, special activities and reflections on our journey. The celebrations will feature contributions from our alumni who have gone on to build successful careers in creative and cultural fields, while also honouring individuals who have played pivotal roles in shaping DakshinaChitra’s growth.

This milestone marks not only the progress we’ve achieved but also the vibrant talents nurtured through our programmes. Over the years, DakshinaChitra has grown into a vital platform for showcasing the arts, addressing sensitive issues and inspiring dialogue on social challenges.

Stay tuned for the detailed schedule of performances and events, which will be shared on our website and social media channels.

GARDEN SHOW & FOOD FESTIVAL

DakshinaChitra’s signature Garden Show and Food Festival will be held in **December 2025, January 2026** and **March 2026**. The dates for the events will be updated on our website. Kindly contact **Suseela Vergis**: +91-9677029265, **Amrutha**: +91-98841 04195, **Sara**: +91-98408 53653 and **Sharath Nambiar** at +91 9841425149 for more details and stall registration.



Stay updated on our programme schedules

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to view the complete programme schedule for this quarter. Updates and announcements can be found on this link. For queries, contact Tara Rachel Thomas at +91-9952894859. Check out our instagram handle : @dakshinachitra.nxt and YouTube channel : @dakshinachitramuseum

NOV. : CHILDREN’S MONTH CELEBRATIONS

The future of the arts will be shaped by the children of today. It is therefore important that their curiosity is kindled and they are exposed to the arts at a young age. For Children’s Month, there will be a range of educational programmes. Children will step into the world of the past through an archaeology workshop, explore the power of language in a word-play workshop and enjoy a musical drama that blends music and theatre. There will also be a theatre play on scientific reasoning to encourage them to think critically. Together, these programmes will create a month-long celebration of learning, imagination and the joy of childhood.

NOV. : HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS

As part of Heritage Week, there will be a series of thought-provoking and interactive sessions highlighting the importance of cultural heritage in contemporary society. The programme will include a talk on the economic value of heritage, exploring how traditions, monuments and cultural practices contribute to sustainable development. There will also be a workshop on measuring the impact of cultural programming that will equip participants with practical tools to evaluate how cultural initiatives influence communities, foster engagement and create long-term value. These sessions aim to deepen understanding of heritage as both a cultural and economic resource. The complete schedule will be posted on our website and social media handles.

DEC. 24 - 28 : KERALA MARGAZHI VILLAGE FESTIVAL



The Kerala Margazhi Village Festival will feature a **Kurumbar Nritham folk performance**. Kurumbar Nritham is a traditional dance of the Kurumbar tribal community of Kerala, performed during auspicious occasions, especially weddings to celebrate and reinforce community bonds. The dancers wear distinctive attire with tribal ornaments and move in rhythmic patterns. Drums, flutes and folk songs accompany the performance. Rooted in the cultural identity of the Kurumbar people, this dance not only serves as entertainment but also as a living expression of their beliefs and traditions. Join us in celebrating the spirit of Margazhi through Kurumbar Nritham!

DAKSHINACHITRA HERITAGE QUIZ WINNERS



The 15th edition of the Children’s Heritage Quiz was a grand success with participants from 142 school teams from across Chennai. The team from PSBB Senior Secondary School, K.K. Nagar, won the first and second place. The Third Prize was won by the team from PSBB Senior Secondary School, T. Nagar. We extend our sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors – Just Buy Cycles, Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD), Tara Books and Adventure Foods for providing the refreshments. Special thanks to our quiz master, Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali, Dewan to the Prince of Arcot, for his continued support in hosting this competition. Congratulations to the winners and kudos to all participants for keeping the momentum going!

DEC. 20 : ACTIVITY CAMP FOR CHILDREN

The Activity Camp at DakshinaChitra for children promises to be a great beginning for children to explore the world of South Indian performing arts, crafts and more. The camp will have interesting activities like learning and observing traditional crafts, puppetry, folk dances, games, treasure hunt, stories and more. It is open to children from 8 to 14 years of age. Registration for the activity camp is Rs. 1000/- per participant. For further details and registration, kindly contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779.

JHARKHAND FESTIVAL : COLOUR, CULTURE & CELEBRATION

The Jharkhand Festival was held from September 17th to 21st, 2025, at DakshinaChitra. The festival featured performances of three distinct styles of Chhau — Seraikela, Kharsawan, and Manbhum (Purulia) — by renowned Gurus Doman Hansda, Paramananda Nando and Paresch Parit with their groups. Adding to the vibrancy were stalls showcasing Sabai grass craft, Madurkathi craft and Seraikela Chhau masks. The festival attracted many visitors, including school students from across India and abroad, making it a memorable celebration. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Amitava Bhattacharya for his invaluable support and coordination in making this festival a success.



‘ALANKARAM’ - WHERE CULTURE MET TRADITION



Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD), in collaboration with NAC Jewellers, hosted ‘Alankaram’ on Saturday, 6th September 2025 at NAC, T.Nagar - a vibrant celebration of tradition, culture and the community. The highlight of the morning was a **Heritage Fashion Show**, where FOD members walked the ramp in stunning ethnic wear paired with NAC’s exquisite jewellery. Each look represented the rich cultural tapestry of DakshinaChitra, blending elegance with heritage. ‘Alankaram’ was a memorable fundraiser - truly a morning where culture met tradition.

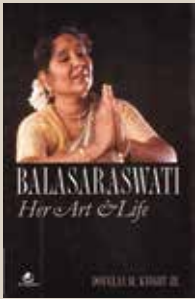
OBJECT OF THE MONTH : CHERIYAL DOLLS



Step into DakshinaChitra’s Ikat House and discover the vivid world of **Cheriya dolls from Telangana**. These handcrafted figures breathe life into the *Katamaraju Katha*, a beloved folk epic of the **Golla community**. At its heart stands Katamaraju, who courageously stands against the ruler of Nellore to protect his people’s cherished grazing lands. The dolls capture this tale of struggle and resilience through a striking visual depiction, preserving the spirit of pastoral life. Rooted in the centuries-old Cheriya tradition—once sung through bardic voices and unfurled in painted scrolls—this display bridges painting, sculpture and storytelling. By animating the *Katamaraju Katha* within the Ikat House, DakshinaChitra celebrates the timeless strength of folk art in preserving culture.

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.



‘Balasaraswati: Her art and Life’ tells the inspiring life story of Balasaraswati, one of the greatest Bharatanatyam dancers in Indian history. Written by her son-in-law, Douglas M. Knight Jr., the book shares not only her journey as a dancer but also her struggles, beliefs and personal life. Balasaraswati was born in a traditional South Indian family of musicians and dancers and was trained in both those fields from a young age. At that time, temple dancing was not respected in society, but she stood firm and proudly performed this sacred art on big stages, both in India and abroad. The book explains how her performances were filled with deep emotion, spiritual meaning and musical richness. It also talks about her family, her tours to the U.S. and how she helped change people’s view of Bharatanatyam. Knight writes with great respect and gives readers a close look at her dedication, her struggles with society and her strong personality. This book is a powerful tribute to a legendary dancer. It shows how one woman protected and promoted a beautiful Indian art form with courage, love and talent. A must-read for lovers of art, culture and Indian classical dance.

EXHIBITION BY DAK-CHOLA INTERNS (2025-26)

There will be a special library exhibition for Children’s Month organised by the DAK-CHOLA Interns of the 2025 - 2026 batch.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER-INTERNS

Join DakshinaChitra as a volunteer-intern and be a part of the local creative community, learn about its history, develop communication and leadership skills and participate in our in-house community engagement initiatives. You will receive a Certificate of Participation and a Letter of Recommendation. For more details, contact us at programsmcf1@gmail.com or at +91-8220791932.