

# KALAANGANA -2019



**INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE (IRC)**  
**For Autism and other Developmental Disabilities**  
**A Unit of Shri Sharada Peetam, Sringeri in association with Rotary Bangalore West**  
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**A brief overview of 13th Annual Kalaangana 2019 on the 19th, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2019,**  
**a Cultural Festival of Art, Yoga, Fancy Dress, Dance and Music for differently abled children**  
**Organized by Information & Resource Centre (IRC)**

Information and Resource Centre (IRC), Bangalore, is a non-profit organization working for the cause of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities in association with Rotary Bangalore West & Asha Special School. The focus is towards empowering the efficiency of life of children with Developmental Disabilities and Special Needs. IRC is a unit of Sri Sharada Peetam, Sringeri.

One of the many social initiatives taken up by the Sringeri Mutt for helping the differently abled children to showcase their abilities is called Kalaangana. Special needs children in Bangalore were in need of a cultural platform to exhibit their strengths and their talents and thus, 'Kalaangana' was born in the year 2007. It started as a 2-day music and dance festival with over 300 children from 28 integrated and special schools. Over the couple of years it has become a 3-day event and has grown tremendously in size and popularity, attracting children from around 45 special schools, and with over 1000 children participating. For the 13th year in succession schools from outside Bangalore (Mysore, Tumkur and Chennai) participated in this event.

Kalaangana is a unique cultural festival for children with special needs where events such as art, music, dance, yoga and fancy dress are organized. It is held every November in Bangalore. Children diagnosed with autism, learning disability, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy and multiple developmental disabilities between the ages of 4 and 18 years and from various integrated and special schools take part in this three day event. They compete with each other in drawing, yoga, painting, singing, instrumental music and dancing in the form of solo and group performances. Prizes and trophies are presented to the best performers and their respective schools. Every child gets a gift for his or her participation and thus leaves with a happy and satisfied smile. The children look forward for next annual event with enthusiasm. A few of the art works and paintings created by them are selected and brought out as calendars for circulation among individuals and organizations. Registration for all events is free. The material for the art competitions, snacks, beverages and lunch for all the participants, people who accompany them and the other invitees on all the three days of the program are provided. Travel allowance is provided to children and teachers travelling from outside Bangalore. They are also provided boarding and lodging facilities during the event. Parents and teachers participate in this event and special events are organized for them to showcase their talent.

In order to recognize the enormous efforts of Special Educators and Caregivers, we have instituted a Special Educator Award and Caregiver Award respectively to be awarded to one teacher and one caregiver from each of the special schools. They are nominated from their respective schools, ensuring they fulfill the prerequisite criteria. Nearly 25 of each are awarded every year. We also have the Young Achievers Excellence Award wherein every school can nominate any one ex-student who has passed out from the institution and has achieved success in his/her chosen field. The student should be presently working in any business or vocational set up.

A Life Time Contribution Award is also conferred on an eminent person for his/her contribution to the disability sector.

**Some of the Awardees are :**

Mrs.Rukmini Krishnaswamy – Head of Spastic Society of Karnataka

Mr.Gadkari, Head – KPAMRC , Bangalore,

Dr.Indumathi Rao – Head, CBR Network ,

Dr Ali Khwaja, Founder and Head of Banjara Academy,

DR. Shoba Srinath, Sr. Professor, Dept. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS,

Dr. (Mrs.) Prathibha Karanth , Director & Managing Trustee, The Com DEALL Trust,  
Dr Ashok, St Johns Hospital, Bangalore.

Ms. Thangam Rajagopalan, Head of Dynam Vocational Skills Training Centre in Indiranagar (2018).

Dr. Surekha Ramachandran, President Down Syndrome Association of India (DSFI) (2019)

The 13th Annual Kalaangana festival was held on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

Here is a sneak peek at the events of the three days;

### 19.11.19: Tuesday-Art /Yoga /Fancy Dress competition

The Kalaangana 2019 unfolded on a beautiful bright sunny day on 19<sup>th</sup> Tuesday November 2019 at Smt.R. Kalyanamma Children's Playground (Makkalkakuta), Chamarajpete for arts competition. It was kicked off with a beautiful prayer by Master Rohit to invoke the divine blessing. Yoga and Fancy Dress competition at SriVidyavihara Hall, Chamarajpete

### Guests of Honor for the inaugural 13<sup>th</sup> annual festival

Dr. Uday B. Garudachar, Honourable MLA, Chikpete

Smt. Kokila Chandrashekar, Corporator, Chamarajapete ward

Smt.Vani Rao, Corporator, V.V.Puram ward

Shri . D N Ramesh, Corporator, Sunkenahalli ward

Rtn. B.L Nagendra Prasad , District Governor Elect (2020—21), RID 3190

Mr.Ramesh, ACP, Bangalore South

Mr.Shiva Shankar, Inspector, Central Police Station

Mr. Tanvir, Inspector, VV. Puram Police Station

After the inauguration, it was time to enjoy the sight of little ones all dressed up for the Fancy Dress event. After lunch, the budding little artists were busy drawing, colouring and creating master pieces of their work. Next came the yoga competition. The enthusiasm and the energy displayed by the children were amazing and the riot of colors that unfolded was eye catching. The children were all so good, it was indeed a difficult task for the judges.



### **20.11.19: Wednesday - Dance Competition**

Solo and group dance competitions were held simultaneously in two places. Children danced with joy and confidence with colorful costumes. They created a mood that was very festive and cheerful with their fabulous performances.



### **21.11.19: Thursday - Music Competition**

The music solo and group events which included vocal as well as instrumental music were held simultaneously at two different halls to accommodate the large number of entries. Children mesmerized the judges and the audience with their beautiful performances.

The afternoon was set aside to honor the hard work and talent which was showcased on all three days by the children. During the prize distribution ceremony, children cheered each other and their schools when they received prizes in both individual and group categories. It was a great moment of pride and joy for the parents and teachers who trained the children and all those who were witness to this wonderful ceremony.



**Among the many guests and dignitaries who were part of this Kalaangana during valedictory function;** Her Highness Smt.Pramoda Devi Wadiyar (Maharani of Mysore ) has graciously consented to be the Chief Guest and give away the awards

Dr. Surekha Ramachandran, President Down Syndrome Association of India (DSFI) will be conferred with the 'Life time Contribution Award'

Dr. Sameer Hariani , District Governor, Rotary Dist 3190

Mrs Lalana Murthy, District Chairman, Inner Wheel Dist 319

Padma Shri V. R. Gowrishankar , Chief Executive Officer and Administrator of Sringeri Sharada Peetam

Here is the overall picture of the Kalaangana 2019 Results:

**Rolling Shield & Winner Trophy won by Spastics Society of Karnataka**  
**Runner-up Trophy won by Deepika Special School**  
**Special Trophy won by Tom and Jerry**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Special Prize won by Sambhavam Centre for Autism**  
**New Entrant won by Swasti Special School**

In conclusion, Kalaangana 2019 was a big success among the children and parents of special needs community. It was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all the people who were part of this wonderful event. It is our ardent hope and wish to see that Kalaangana becomes a National Level event, giving opportunities not only to children of our city and state, but also spread this across the whole of India. We wish to create a nation level platform for all the children with special needs and abilities to exhibit their hidden talent.

Special Thanks to the Numerous Volunteers and the Civil Defense Personnel for their presence and help in the smooth conduct of the proceedings all three days.

With Good Wishes and warm regards,

Team IRC.