SHRIKRUPA.ORG
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shri krupa
DANCE FOUNDATION

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

NOVEMBER 2024
VOL 2 ISSUE 8

STUDENT CORNER QUIZ

? WHICH MUDRA IS USED TO SHOW A PEACOCK?

See next month's issue for answer

Answer to last month's quiz: guru, Mridangam, violin, nattuvangam, vocal,



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 11: New Year Celebration @ the studio, 4 pm

2025

To enroll a new student, visit shrikrupa.org/registration

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From the Artistic Director's Desk



December is a great season of mirth and merriment in the US with family reunions, travels etc., when people busy themselves buying gifts, shopping, planning and decorating, with Thanksgiving just over and Christmas singing of 'Bells of Holly' Tra la la la la ... and so on.
In India this month is a month of celebration of a different kind. We experience the spiritual fervor of the month of Margazhi, with the ringing of temple bells and singing with Bhajanai groups assembling early and meandering through the streets outside the temple.

Many watch and listen while many others join the group and raise their voices in praise of the deity. Those who have experienced living in Chennai, regardless of where they travel from, feel a part of them cannot function unless they visit their hometown and get into the midst of festivities.

Chennai becomes so alive and active - women rushing out of bed, bathing in cold or warm water, wrapping hurriedly the six yard sari and tying the wet hair in a towel, applying kumkum and turmeric powder, and lighting the lamp and decorating with fine lines of KOLAM, the threshold of the home to usher in all the positivity and piety into the home. Steaming Idlis are being made and an offering of some sweets is made at the altar in the pooja room. What better way to start the day!

Outside the home cymbals and drums sound signaling the arrival of the Margazhi Bhajanai group that go in a procession with people following, singing and enjoying this ambiance. This musical march might consist of young girls dressed up as 'Kodhai' or 'Andal' and singing the Pasurams - hymns in praise of Lord Krishna. They seek divine fulfillment by singing in unison and purging themselves in thoughts of the divine.
Called the kacheri season, the entire month passes with RasikAs - connoisseurs of music and dance rushing from one Sabha or performance hall to another to get the best taste of the season of artists. They attend the morning discussions and presentations and pick and choose the top artists performing in the various Sabhas for the afternoon and evening sessions. Food is in plenty, served by the various Sabhas for the attendees, Lip-smacking vegetarian dishes are served and Rasikas have their fill of good food and soul stirring music and retire late in the night, only to wake up fresh and early to repeat this routine the next day. There is a smile of excitement in everyone's face through the month of Margazhi.
Planet earth is closest to the Sun in the month of Margazhi. How do we better ourselves than what we are? Life is mundane if we shut out our feelings, and not let it flow normally through life . Life needs a conducive atmosphere. This time of year has maximum possibilities to create a conducive atmosphere.
With that in mind, if only everyone of us tries to imbibe the truth about SanAtana DharmA, which is a way of life, the Art of Living, with cooperation, giving and forgiving shortcomings in everyone, helping with a sincere service mentality, then this year, and this life of ours will become so so enjoyable. There is no virtue greater than forgiveness. Accepting others' faults, helping them to live, and live ourselves, knowing our own vulnerabilities and shortcomings (we all have them), living in exquisite grandeur and the splendrous simplicity - NOW SMILE & and MARCH ON AND UP WITH ME! Love you all, and Happy New Birthing Year to us all - 2025!!

Planet earth is closest to the Sun in the month of Margazhi. How do we better ourselves than what we are? How life functions from one to another is different from person to person. Life is same but it will function better when we allow it to flow normally through life with LOVE and PEACE. Life needs a conducive atmosphere. This time of year has maximum possibility to create a conducive atmosphere. Leaving body during UttarAyaNA not DakshinAyaNA. Upward pull to our being - story of Bhishma. Psychological Stability is important. If you are pulled upward you cannot balance. During this time do the necessary SADHANA. Do not miss the Brahma Muhoortham at this time. When water element goes out of control, it will create various levels of imbalances. Be in touch with water. Go to the temple pond to dip into water at the wee hours of morning. This particular month gives stability - it is inertia. Use it for Stability. Next month to Mobility. Margazhi is a blessed month. Across Siva temples various events occur. Arudhra Pooja - Effervescent - Arudhra is stable - Rudhra creates instability. The wise should let certain level of inertia to build. In a spiritual seeker's life it is very significant.

Aura is a subtle manifestation of everything that you are. Your Karmic structure is known through the aura. Keeping body clean is good. Your mind should also be clean. If we want to do anything we purify and take it to a higher possibility. So purification of body and mind and keeping it peaceful, not agitated, will create a great aura of you. When water goes over you. Not just your skin but all your inner being gets cleansed. Body is a manifestation of five elements. You can have a wind bath, water bath, mud bath, fire bath... In the temples they give you a fire bath. Touch the fire in your body - Aarti - Taking off Dhrishti is Aura Cleansing. Destroys impurities - Klesha Naashana Kriya - Neem leaf on you to cleanse you. Neem stick beats the devil out of you - infections are gone by lying on a bed of Neem leaves.

In India December is just this wonderful season of KACHERIS (concerts) in every hall and every chamber. Musicians and Dancers are rushing around in excitement 'hopping Sabhas/halls' and picking and choosing their favorite artists. There is no dearth of artists - from the really amateur ones to the highly trained professionals, not to speak of visiting artists from other countries, both young and old. Most are wrapped up in the festivity of it all and feel the pride of participation. Women rush around in heavy to medium silks and fresh Jasmines, and get their dig of local gossip listening to the crowds gathered in the foyers, or enter and watch a debate or discussion in the mini halls. Caterers get busy making sumptuous meals and tiffins, like soft Idlis, Dosas, Pongal, Vadas and more. Hot coffee streams in with the aroma of freshly made decoction and foaming milk. A real welcome treat and the true taste of Chennai.

I missed it this year, and thankfully so. There was a feeling of being torn from my students and school, and an urge to train them in at least the first part of their Varnams for the year 2025. And, I have achieved this. I am taking a short break to go to Hawaii (Kauai) Iraivan temple where few of my students are invited to perform. Not really open to the public, this temple is very strict in the timings of Pooja and the follow up of a cultural event. Monks will be leading dancers and families into the sanctum from a designated area and we hope to witness the POOJAI inside and then dance. Apparently there is heavy security to enter the newly constructed temple and public is not allowed inside. Sounds like even God needs protection in this day and age, and that too in a remote temple in Kauai ... I pray we live in a free, trouble free world and experience peace and tranquility.

-Guru Vishal Ramani

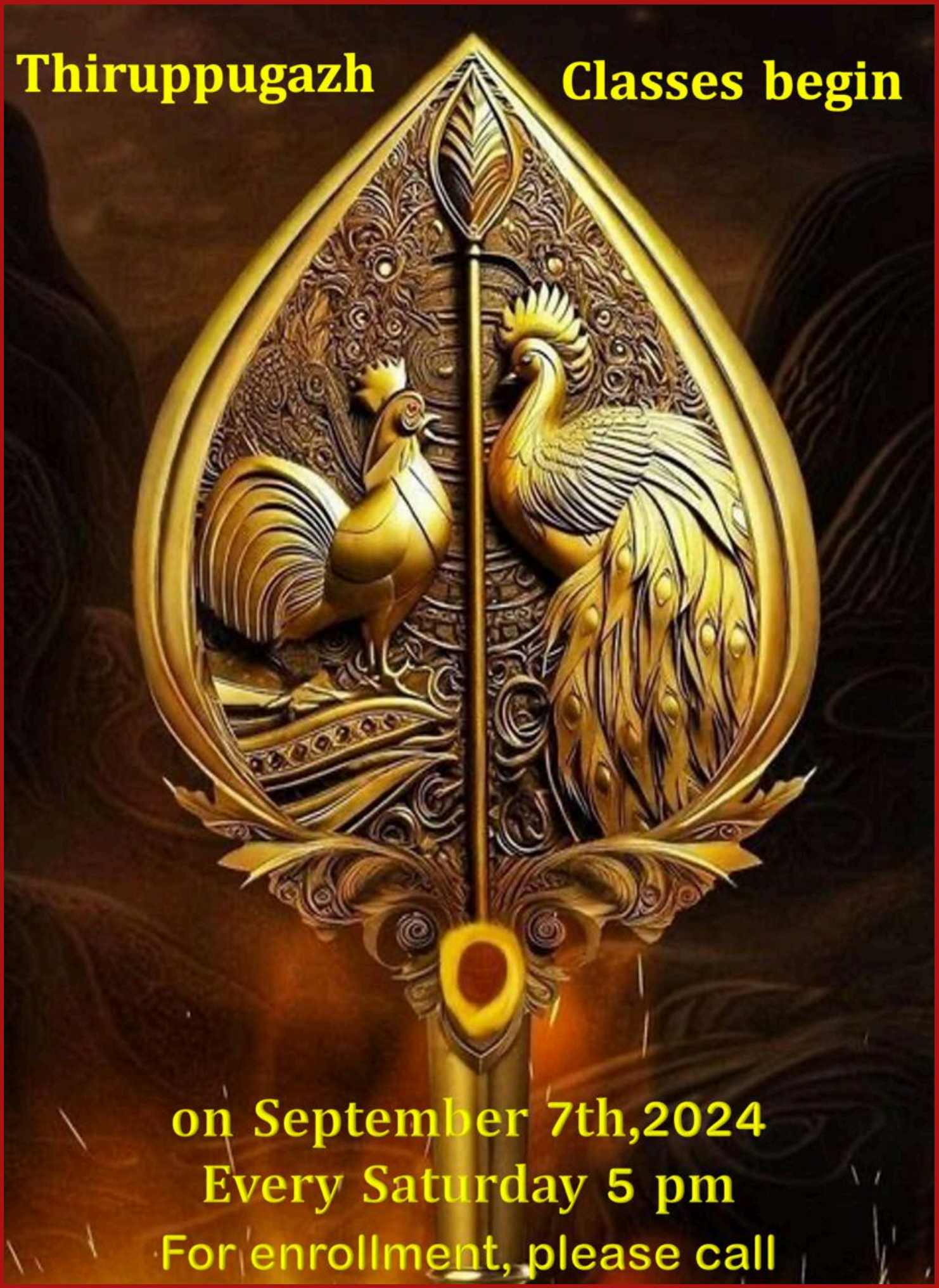
InFocus

PERFORMANCE AT IRAIVAN TEMPLE IN KAUI








Thiruppugazh
Classes begin
on September 7th,2024
Every Saturday 5 pm
For enrollment, please call

Key Links

- Monthly Performance Series Signup Sheet
- Festival performance signup sheet
- Student/Parent Volunteer Signup
- Studio Rental for Students
- Dance School Policy Handbook
- Music School Policy Handbook

Upcoming Timelines

- Jan 11, 4PM: New Years Celebration at the studio

Shri Krupa Performing Hall

Studio space available for rent

for students to practice

Click here for reservations

For more details:

skdcdance@gmail.com

Exciting things are happening at Shri Krupa

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