



**Department of Tourism**  
Park View, Thiruvananthapuram 695 033, Kerala, India.  
Tel: +91-471-2321132, +91-471-2560426.  
Email: [marketing@keralatourism.org](mailto:marketing@keralatourism.org)  
[www.keralatourism.org](http://www.keralatourism.org)



20-26 January 2020, Kanakakunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram



**Nishagandhi  
Dance Festival**  
20 - 26 JANUARY 2020  
KANAKAKUNNU  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM







*she turns a deaf ear to his sweet words. When he repeats his appeal, she reiterates her firm love to Rama and asks him to restore her to Rama. The furious Ravana takes out his sword, but is prevented by Mandodari (his wife) who enters the scene. Mandodari takes him back.*

**Scene 5** *(Hanuman, Seetha): Ravana has left. Hanuman comes before Seetha and tells her that he is Hanuman, the worshipper of Rama. First she suspects his identity; but when he narrates the entire story she trusts him. He gives her Rama's ring kept in his headgear; she gives her crown jewel to hand over the same to Rama in confirmation of the visit. He assures her that Rama and his men would come soon, kill Ravana and save Seetha.*

**Scene 6** *(Hanuman, Prahastha, etc.): Hanuman decides to make his presence felt. He begins to destroy Lanka gardens. Prahastha and others fight with him and he is taken before Ravana.*

**Scene 7** *(Hanuman, Ravana): Taken before Ravana, Hanuman makes a seat of his tail and sits. He reveals his identity as the emissary of Rama. The insulted Ravana asks his men to kill him by setting fire to his tail. With the fire on, Hanuman jumps over and the entire palace and town are destroyed of fire.*

## BEHIND THE STAGE

### Chutty

Margi Ravindran Nair  
Karikkakam B. Thrivikraman  
Kalanilayam Vishnu  
Margi Sreekumar  
Margi Ravikumar

### Assistance

Gopakumar  
Panmana Arun  
Thankappan  
Madhusoodanan Nair  
Joby  
Venugopal

20-01-2020 Monday 6.30 pm

## NALACHARITHAM FIRST DAY

(Scripted by Unnayi Variyar)

### Participants:

Nalan	:	Padmashri Dr. Kalamandalam Gopi
Naradan	:	Kalamandalam Vipin
Hamsam	:	Kalamandalam Rajivan
Damayanthi	:	Kalamandalam Shanmukhan
Maids	:	Kalamandalam Arun
	:	Kalamandalam Aromal
Music	:	Pathiyur Sankarankutty
	:	Kalamandalam Krishnakumar
	:	Kalanilayam Vishnu
Chenda	:	Kalamandalam Krishnadas
	:	Margi Venugopal
Maddalam	:	Kalanilayam Manoj
	:	Sadanam Krishna Prasad

## SYNOPSIS

### Scene 1 (Nalan, Naradan):

*The sage Naradan visits Nalan, King of Nishadha, and tells him about Damayanthi, the beautiful daughter of King Bhima of Vidarbha. Narada advises to make her his wife as they are the best pair to be united. Nalan had also heard of her before and thinks of a way to seek her love. The desire grows day by day and all thoughts go in her favour. He gets no contentment anywhere. He entrusts governance to his minister and goes to the palace garden to remain in peace for some time.*

### Scene 2 (Nalan):

*In the garden also, he gets no contentment. There appears a herd of swans in the garden pond and tries to catch the best among them.*

### Scene 3 (Nalan, Hamsam):

*The golden swan's entry. Nalan catches hold of it, out of curiosity. It starts wailing piteously; says his father is no more and he is to be left alone. If killed the species itself would vanish. The merciful king*

*releases the swan and allows it to fly away to freedom. A few moments later, the swan flies back to the King and promises help as he was kind enough to let it free. He promises to convey his message of love to Damayanthi, get her reply (in his favour) and convey the same back to him. Nalan is immensely happy and says that he is the gift of God when he was badly in need of help. Hamsam flies away to the kingdom of Vidarbha with the message of love.*

#### Scene 4 (Damayanthi, Two Maids and Hamsam):

*In the palace garden, Damayanthi and her maids enter dancing (saree nritham). Suddenly, Damayanthi's mind seems disturbed (when the thoughts about Nalan come to her mind). She also had heard of the qualities of Nalan and has been deeply impressed. Her maids ask her the reason for her disturbed mind. At this time, the golden swan flies down far from the air. They look curiously at the beautiful swan coming nearer to them. It lands nearby. Their attempt to catch it fails. However, 'Hamsam' appears friendly (only) with Damayanthi, goes closer to her and conveys Nalan's message of love. She is pleased very much and conveys back her love for Nalan. To the repeated queries of the Swan (Hamsam), she confirms her deep and unshakable love for Nalan. The satisfied Hamsam flies back to confirm the message of Damayanthi's love in favour of King Nalan.*

21-01-2020 Monday 6 pm

## BALIVADHAM KATHAKALI

(Scripted by Kottarakara Thampuran)

#### Participants:

Ravanam	:	Kalamandalam Balasubramanyan
Mareechan,		
Sanyasi Ravanam	:	Kalamandalam Vivek
Sreeraman	:	Kalanilayam Vinod
Lekshmanan	:	Kalamandalam Syam Das
Seetha	:	Kalamandalam Sukumaran
Jatayu	:	Kalamandalam Hari Mohan
Sugreevan	:	Kalamandalam Balakrishnan
Baali	:	Kalamandalam Ramachandran Unnithan

	:	Kalanilayam Nandakumar
	:	FACT Damu
Chenda	:	Prof. Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan
	:	Kalamandalam Sreehari
Maddalam	:	Kalamandalam Achutha Varier
	:	RLV Sudeva Varma

## SYNOPSIS

#### Scene 1 (Hanuman):

*Traditional stage entry of the character called Thiranottam. Keeping in mind the advice of Sampathi and Jambavan, Hanuman sets out for Lanka, leaping over the sea. (Here the actor describes the adventures on his way, how he crossed the obstacles, etc.) Atop the Mahendra hills, he takes an overview of the entire sea. He assumes his giant shape and makes the great leap. Surasu, the sea monster causes hindrance. When she opens her mouth, it enlarges where Hanuman could enter through and come out through the ear. Another demoness who tries to stop him is killed. He then contracts his body and attempts to enter the Lanka gate.*

#### Scene 2 (Hanuman, Lankalekshmy):

*Lankalekshmy, the guard of the city, prevents him. She is a good spirit, who by a curse became a demoness and had to guard the city gate. When stopped, Hanuman strikes her. The sage who cursed her had ordained that as and when struck by a monkey she could regain her original normal form. So, immediately she becomes a lovely maiden again. The immensely pleased maiden blesses him and advises where he could find Seetha. Hanuman enters the city of Lanka and finds Seetha in the woods of Ashoka trees surrounded by rakshasa women. He is about to introduce himself, when he hears a sound and realizes that it is Ravana coming there with his henchmen.*

#### Scene 3 (Azhakiya Ravanam):

*Ravana enters (Thiranottam) surrounded by his henchmen. He is love sick because he has not been able to secure Seetha's love. He decides to meet her with gifts. He asks the henchmen to bring attractive gifts and orders them to lead him to Ashokavanam where Seetha is detained.*

#### Scene 4 (Ravan, Seetha):

*After dismissing his men, Ravana addresses nice words to Seetha but*



*Daksha not to displease the Lord. Daksha prepares for a yaga (the divine sacrifice); but does not invite Siva.*

Scene 2 (Siva, Sathi):

*Sathi requests Siva's permission to attend the yaga. Siva tells her that since they are not invited she would be humiliated and sent out. Disregarding this warning, she proceeds to Daksha's palace.*

Scene 3 *Sathi enters the yagasala. The furious Daksha asks her to quit and kicks her out.*

Scene 4 *Sathi complains to Siva of her severe experience at the yagasala; says that Daksha is no longer her father and should be punished for his actions. Sathi exits.*

*Lord Siva is now in his most furious form and he takes Siva-thandava. His third eye is open and two destructive spirits Virabhadra and Bhadrakali are created. The Lord directs them to go to Daksha's yagasala, destroy everything and kill him.*

Scene 5 *Virabhadra and Bhadrakali destroy everything in the yagasala. Daksha is beheaded. Bhadrakali consumes his blood.*

Scene 6 *Upon the request of Brahma, Lord Siva gives back life to Daksha, by placing a goat's head above his beheaded body. Daksha's pride vanishes. He praises the Lord and the story concludes.*

26-01-2020 Sunday 6 pm

## THORANAYUDHAM KATHAKALI

(Scripted by Kottarakara Thampuran)

Participants:

Hanuman	: Kalamandalam Pradeep
Lenkalekshmy	: Margi Suresh
Lenkasree,	
Seetha	: Margi Jishnu Ravi
Ravana	: Kalamandalam Sreekumar
Prahasthadikal	: Kalamandalam Athul
	: Pranav Pradeep
	: Prayag Pradeep
Music	: Kalamandalam Surendran

Thaara	: Kalamandalam Aromal
Angadan	: Master Bharadwaj
Music	: Kottakkal Narayanan
	: Vengeri Narayanan
	: Margi Baiju
Chenda	: Kalabharathi Unnikrishnan
	: Kalamandalam Sreekanth
Maddalam	: Margi Ravindran
	: Chunakkara Aji

## SYNOPSIS

Scene 1: *Ravana explains to his uncle Mareechan why he has decided to kidnap Seetha. He requests Mareechan's help for the same. Mareechan himself being a worshipper of Rama, refuses; Ravana threatens him. He had to agree. He appears before Seetha in disguise as a colourful deer; running away when Rama tries to catch him.*

Scene 2 (Rama, Lakshmana, Sita, Maricha):

*Maricha appears before the forest abode of Rama in disguise of a golden deer. Enchanted by its beauty, Sita asks Rama to get it for her. Asking Lakshmana to guard Sita, Rama stalks the deer and, realising the deception, kills it. Maricha mourns aloud in Rama's voice, calling Sita and Lakshmana to save him. Sita asks Lakshmana to go to Rama's safety. He is reluctant to leave Sita alone there; but eventually agrees.*

Scene 3 (Sita, Sanyasi Ravana):

*A sanyasi, who is Ravana in disguise, approaches Sita when she is alone. She receives him hospitably. After a few commonplace remarks, he reveals himself and says he has come to take her off. He takes Sita in his aircraft 'pushpaka viman' and flies to Lanka.*

Scene 4 (Jatayu, Ravana, Sita, Rama, Lakshmana):

*The giant bird Jatayu, Rama's family friend, attacks Ravana to save Sita. In the fight, Jatayu's wing is slashed by Ravana and it falls down, wounded fatally. Ravana proceeds to Lanka. Rama and Lakshmana, on their way in the search of Sita, find Jatayu. Informing them of what had happened, Jatayu breaths its last. Funeral is arranged and they proceed further in search of Sita.*



Scene 5 (Sugrivan, Raman, Lakshmanan):

*Sugrivan, living on a hill top in fear of Bali (his elder brother who had robbed him of his wife, kingdom, etc and would kill him at sight for many reasons) sees Rama and Lakshmana approaching. He receives them and tells that he had seen Sita and promises help if they are prepared to help him defeat Bali who is very powerful. Rama agrees. Sugriva is impressed by the might and skill of Rama. They enter into a pact. Sugriva challenges Bali for the last fight.*

Scene 6 (Bali, Sugrivan, Raman, Lakshmanan, Tara, Angadan):

*Bali is surprised, Sugriva whom he always considered to be a coward, is challenging him. The fight begins. Rama puts a garland on Sugriva's neck for identification. Sugriva is about to be defeated, when Rama shoots an arrow at Bali through the heart. Bali falls fatally injured. His wife Tara and son Angada appear, weeping bitterly at it. Rama and Lakshmana also appear. The dying Bali taunts Rama for having wantonly killed him; but later repents and confesses for his sins, begging Rama to take care of Tara and Angada. He tells Sugriva to rule Kishkindha well and be kind to Tara and Angada. Bali prays Rama for salvation. Sugriva's coronation as king of Kishkindha follows.*

22-01-2020 Wednesday 6 pm

## DEVAYANICHARITHAM KATHAKALI

(Scripted by Thazhavana Govindan Asan)

Participants:

Kachan	: Dr. Ettumanoor Kannan
Sukracharyar	: Chathannur Kochunarayana Pillai
Devayani	: Margi Vijayakumar
Sukethu	: Margi Parthasarathi
Kuttikkattalan	: Kalamandalam Harimohan
Music	: Kottakkal Madhu
	: Kalamandalam Harish Nambudiri
Chenda	: Sadanam Ramakrishnan
Maddalam	: Margi Retnakaran
	: Mohanachandran Potty

*whom are you thinking and weeping thus?" and Bahuka tells him that he had merely composed a song about a man who had to separate from his wife in the forest.*

25-01-2020 Saturday 6 pm

## DAKSHAYAGAM KATHAKALI

(Scripted by Irayimman Thampi)

Participants:

Dakshan	: Prof. Kalamandalam Krishnakumar
Indran;	
Pooja Brahmin	: Pranav Pradeep
Dadheechi	
Pooja Brahmin	: Kalamandalam Arun Raju
Sivan	: Kottakkal Ravikumar
Sathi	: Kalamandalam Mukundan
Virabhadran	: Kottakkal Devadas
Bhadrakali	: Kalamandalam Visakh
Bhoothaganam	: Kalamandalam Arunjith
	: Master Prayag
Music	: Kalamandalam Vinod
	: Sadanam Sayikumar
Chenda	: Kalamandalam Venumohan
	: Kalamandalam Sreevin
Maddalam	: Kalamandalam Vineeth
	: Kalanilayam Rakesh

## SYNOPSIS

*King Dakshan gives Sathi in marriage to Lord Siva. Immediately after that Siva returns to Kailasam with the bride; without informing Dakshan and the others. Dakshan is furious over this action of Lord Siva.*

Scene 1 (Daksha and Indra):

*Daksha conveys his displeasure to Indra. He repents for giving his daughter in marriage to a person having no close relatives; without prior knowledge of such things. Indra, on the other hand, warns*



Chenda : Kalamandalam Balasundaran  
: Kalanilayam Krishnakumar  
Maddalam : Kalamandalam Vaisakh

## SYNOPSIS

**Scene 1:** *The scene opens with the Kali possessed Nalan, who has lost his kingdom to Pushkara, walking around like a mad man after leaving his wife alone in the forest. He laments about his fate to the powers that be in the heavens and prays that Bhaimi be spared all sorrow. Gradually Nalan starts feeling that life in the forest is much better than life in the city. This is another illusion.*

**Scene 2:** *The lament of Karkodakan (a serpent god) caught in forest fire is heard. Blessed by the God of fire, Nalan enters the fire, touches Karkodakan and cures him of his grief and asks how he was engulfed by the fire. Karkodakan tells Nalan to take him out and when Nalan bids as told, Karkodakan bites him. (Here Nalan exits and Bahukan enters). To the deformed Nalan (Bahukan), Karkodakan reveals his divinity and says that the reason behind deforming him with his poisonous bite is to free him from Kali. Nalan assuming the name of Bahukan, according to the advice of Karkodakan, to free himself from Kali's spell, decides to learn Akshahridayavidya from Rituparna, King of Ayodhya. Karkodakan also gives him a divine piece of cloth he could wear to regain his original form once Kali leaves his body. Thus he decides to become Rituparna's charioteer and travels many days to reach Ayodhya.*

**Scene 3:** *Bahukan enters Rituparna's court. In the court along with Rituparna is seen Jeevala and Varshneya (both charioteers of the king). Varshneya was once Nalan's charioteer. Varshneya, Rituparna or for that matter no one recognises him and so Bahukan praises the King and tells him about his powers as a charioteer and cook. Rituparna assigns him both the jobs and accepts him as his servant. Nalan now gets a place to stay in the house shared by Jeevala and Varshneya.*

**Scene 4:** *During night time, when Jeevala and Varshneya are fast asleep, Nalan who lives there under the disguise of a court servant regularly weeps thinking of Bhaimi. Wondering about what would have happened to the spurned Damayanthi in the dense forest, there rises in him an intense mournful song. Jeevala wakes up and asks, "About*

## SYNOPSIS

**Scene 1** *(Sukracharya, Kachan):*

*According to the direction of Deva (godly) Guru Bhrihaspathi, his son Kachan comes from Heaven to Earth and meets Asura (evil) Guru Sukracharya for learning Mrithasanjeevini (Rebirth) Manthram. Sukracharya was interested in Kachan because of his earnest and handsome appearance. After enquiring his reason of arrival, Sukracharya enrolls Kachan as his student and starts class. Then Sukracharya leaves for sandyavandanam (prayer). Kachan describes the ashram (college).*

**Scene 2** *(Kachan, Devayani):*

*Devayani is the daughter of Sukracharya and immediately falls in love with Kachan. He tells her that after his education he will fulfill her wish. They enjoy the time together and Kachan leaves to feed the cows in the ashram.*

**Scene 3** *(Kachan, Kattalan (hunter)):*

*Kachan has a fight with Kattalan (hunter). Kattalan kills Kachan and burns him to ashes. His ashes were mixed with toddy and were given to Sukracharya. Sukracharya drinks the toddy unaware of the ashes.*

**Scene 4** *(Sukracharya, Devayani):*

*Devayani was sad due to missing of Kachan. She expresses her deep sorrow to her father Sukracharya. Sukracharya with his special ability comes to know Kachan is in his stomach. Sukracharya teaches Mrithasanjeevini (Rebirth) Manthram to Kachan and Kachan bursts out from the womb of Sukracharya. Kachan then with Mrithasanjeevini (Rebirth) Manthram brings Sukracharya back to life. Sukracharya blesses his student Kachan and gives a send-off to Kachan as he has mastered Mrithasanjeevini (Rebirth) Manthram.*

**Scene 5** *(Kachan, Devayani):*

*Kachan tries to leave the ashram without seeing Devayani. Devayani stops Kachan and asks for marriage. Kachan ignores her request by saying, we are now brother and sister as he got his rebirth from her father Sukracharya. Kachan has indirectly used Devayani for learning Mrithasanjeevini (rebirth) Manthram. So Devayani curses Kachan by saying, let his education be fruitless and useless. Kachan also curses back Devayani by saying that she would not get married to a man from a good family. Both of them part with sad minds.*



23-01-2020 Thursday 6 pm

## LAVANASURAVADHAM KATHAKALI

(Scripted by Palakkad Amrita Sastrikal)

### Participants:

Seetha	:	Prof Kalamandalam Rajasekharan
Levan	:	Kalamandalam Vaisakh
Kusan	:	Kalamandalam Sudeep
Brahmin boy	:	Adwaith Krishnan
Sreeraman	:	Kalamandalam Thulasi
Hanuman	:	Sadanam Krishnankutty
Music	:	Kalamandalam Jayaprakash
	:	Kalamandalam Viswas
Chenda	:	Kalamandalam Ravishankar
Maddalam	:	Kalamandalam Harikumar

### SYNOPSIS

Scene 1: *Seetha is living in the 'ashram' of the Sage Valmiki, with his sons Kusan and Levan. One day when the sage is away to meet Varunan, the children seek their mother's permission and go to the woods to play. They are surprised to see a big horse there. First, Kusan doubts whether it is the foulplay of some 'rakshasas'. He asks Levan to read what is written on the metallic disc hanging around the horse's neck. It is written "Rama is the most powerful king in the world. Anybody daring to challenge it can catch hold of and rope the horse." As directed by Kusan, Levan tries to rope the horse, defeating its guards. (Satrugnan, Rama's youngest brother arrives and advises them to free it, since it is highhanded and not expected of children. When refused, he fights with Levan; the latter is tied up and the horse is set free. Kusan then defeats Satrugnan; Levan is set free and the horse is tied up again.)*

Scene 2: *Kusan and Levan pick up their bows and stand prepared. Lord Rama enters with his bow and arrows, in full valour. (Rama thinks: who are these two smart boys? They could defeat even my brother. Anyway, let me go near them.) Curiously he looks at both the children many times. Both of them look alike. May be born to the same mother. It seems they have a close resemblance with myself and Seetha. Perhaps they may be born to my beloved Seetha who*

*was abandoned in the forests nearing delivery. Can this cursed Rama ever see his own children? Let me ask them anyway. (To the children: "Please listen to me boys.....")*

Scene 3: *Lord Rama sends Hanuman to fetch the horse back. In the woods, Hanuman is surprised to see two smart lovely boys who stopped the horse. Though dressed as sage boys of the forests, their face is full of 'royal grace'. He looks at them again and again and doubts as if they have close resemblance to Lord Rama and Seetha. To find out the truth, he decides to test their might. He is fully happy to see how mighty and courageous they are. He then surrenders to them and allows himself to be taken captive before their mother.*

Scene 4: *The children bring Hanuman before Seetha and tell her that they have caught hold of somebody who began fighting with them. Seetha stands up, looks at the 'person' brought before her; and could not control her sorrow to see Hanuman caught and tied up by her own sons. She weeps: "Dear Hanuman, I am so sad to see you being brought, tied up like this. You are the person who saved my life and I can never forget you. I respect you like my father." Hanuman then enquires whether she is keeping well. (This scene is highly touching with the lines "sukhamo devee..."). "Hanuman is always your humble servant and devotee. Your children are so smart, bold and capable of ruling the entire country/world. You will be taken back to the palace very soon". He then embraces the children and goes back with the horse.*

24-01-2020 Friday 6 pm

## NALACHARITHAM THIRD DAY

(Scripted by Unnayi Variyar)

### Participants:

Nalan	:	Kalamandalam Adithyan
Karkodakan	:	Kalamandalam Hari R. Nair
Bahukan	:	Prof. Kalamandalam Balasubramanyan
Rithuparnan	:	Kalamandalam Athul
Jeevalan	:	Kalamandalam Ananthu
Varshneyan	:	Kalamandalam Sarath
Music	:	Kalamandalam Babu Nambudiri
	:	Kalamandalam Vinod