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Bharatanatyam Maestro Bala Devi Chandrashekar Captivates IEEE Engineers with Groundbreaking Artistic Intelligence Framework

Packed houses of engineers and researchers respond with rare intensity; college collaborations and formal coursework are now in development

When Bala Devi Chandrashekar, internationally acclaimed Bharatanatyam master and originator of the Artistic Intelligence framework, took the stage as keynote speaker at a recent IEEE gathering at Princeton University, New Jersey, the room was filled with some of the sharpest minds in electrical engineering — researchers, senior engineers, and academics accustomed to evaluating ideas with exacting standards. What followed was not merely a presentation. It was a paradigm shift. From the opening moments, the audience was riveted — leaning forward, exchanging glances, and scribbling notes as Chandrashekar reframed what it means to be truly intelligent in a world that optimization alone cannot navigate.



IEEE engineers and researchers during Bala Devi Chandrashekar's Artistic Intelligence presentation

At the heart of the talk was Chandrashekar's formally articulated framework: Artistic Intelligence is the structured capacity — cultivated through rigorous, multi-domain creative practice — to generate meaning, exercise ethical judgment, and lead with wisdom in contexts where optimization alone is insufficient. Drawing on her mastery of the 108 Karanas, her portrayal of 40 distinct characters in a single evening, decades of performance spanning 35+ countries, and a corporate career of over 20 years that places her at the rare intersection of boardroom and classical stage, she made an irrefutable case: the classical arts are not peripheral to engineering — they are a parallel discipline in precision, adaptive systems, and intelligent judgment under complexity.

The caliber of the response matched the caliber of the room. Senior engineers who have spent careers building systems pushed back, probed, and ultimately found themselves persuaded. The Q&A stretched beyond its allotted time as attendees pressed Chandrashekar on the practical implications of her framework — for design thinking, for

leadership development, for how engineering programs are structured. Her answers, grounded in both ancient tradition and contemporary practice, left little doubt: Artistic Intelligence is not a metaphor. It is a methodology.



Bala Devi Chandrashekar delivering the keynote address at IEEE

The momentum from this reception has been swift and decisive. Several colleges and academic institutions have already reached out to explore formal collaboration — a signal that the engineering community is hungry for exactly this kind of interdisciplinary thinking. In response, a comprehensive curriculum on Artistic Intelligence is now under development, with the aim of bringing this framework into university classrooms and professional training programs worldwide. For an art form that has shaped human civilization for millennia, this is a bold new chapter — Bharatanatyam not only as performance, but as a living model for how humanity thinks, decides, and leads.