

Business Minutes

Bala Devi Chandrashekar Conferred the 'Natya Kala Visharadha Ha' at Natya Kala Conference 2025

CHENNAI

The conferment of the Natya Kala Visharadha Ha upon acclaimed Bharatanatyam artiste, scholar, and educator Bala Devi Chandrashekar marked a moment of thoughtful reflection within the continuum of Indian classical dance. The honour was presented by the Krishna Gana Natya Kala Conference during the Inauguration Ceremony of the Natya Kala Conference 2025, recognising a sustained and deeply considered contribution to Bharatanatyam rooted in scholarship, philosophical inquiry, and artistic integrity.

The 'Natya Kala Visharadha Ha' award was presented and conferred by Ms Saashwathi Prabhu (CEO, Krishna Gana Sabha), Padma Shri Smt Chitra Visweswaran, Padma Shri Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi, Sri Y Prabhu (General Secretary Krishna Gana Sabha), Smt Nirupama and Sri Rajendra to Bharatanatyam Exponent, Bala Devi Chandrashekar.

Rather than being positioned



as a culmination, the award acknowledged a journey shaped by years of disciplined research, quiet perseverance, and a conscious commitment to depth over immediacy in a rapidly evolving cultural landscape. The recognition underscored the enduring relevance of scholarship-driven, philosophy-centred artistic practice, reaffirming that classical performance can remain rigorous, restrained, and ethically grounded

while continuing to engage with the contemporary world.

The honour also reflected the collective ecosystem that sustains classical art forms—teachers, musicians, scholars, institutions, students, and discerning audiences whose sustained engagement allows tradition to remain alive and meaningful. At this stage of the artistic journey, the award served as an invitation to introspection rather than celebration, reinforcing

the importance of continual questioning, evolution, and fidelity to the traditions being represented.

This ethos is powerfully embodied in 'Mauli – A Timeless Tradition', Bala Devi Chandrashekar's Bharatanatyam production that distils movement, music, and philosophy into an offering rather than a display. The work approaches tradition not as nostalgia, but as a living moral and spiritual force, privileging collective emotion over individual virtuosity. Through Mauli, audiences are reminded that devotion is inherently egalitarian and humane, sustained not by spectacle or grandeur, but by shared belief and collective participation.

The Natya Kala Visharadha Ha thus stands not only as an honour bestowed, but as a reaffirmation of an ongoing commitment—to tradition as a living practice, to scholarship as responsibility, and to the arts as a profound expression of human intelligence in an increasingly technological world.