

Around 500 children from Government schools will come together to present Makkala Raaga

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Makkala Jagriti, an NGO working with children and youth from the underprivileged communities, presents Makkala Raaga. It is a show that celebrates the talents of children from marginalised communities and will be staged on February 2. The event will bring together 500 children from different Makkala Jagriti learning centres. They will present a two-hour show that includes dance drama. The event also marks the 15 anniversary of Makkala Jagriti.

"Makkala Raaga" means symphony of the children and will showcase "the rich cultural heritage, diversity and inclusiveness of Karnataka," says Murali M, Chief Functionary of Makkala Jagriti, meaning 'Awakening of Children' that was established in 2003.

He adds, "Most children go to the government or aided schools and don't get a proper platform for creativity. They need these skills to develop their overall personality besides intellectual developments. That is where we come in and promote such activities."

The event, choreographed by Janardhan Raj Urs, "will portray the philosophical and geographical heritage of Karnataka using classical and folk dance forms. Kathak will be predominant along with forms like gee gee pada, yoga and martial arts," says the



The right move Janardhan and kids during the rehearsals ■ ARAVIND SREEDHARA AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## A momentous awakening

dancer, who is the artistic director of Natya STEM Dance Kampni and director of Cornucopia Creations.

The dancer, who is trained in Kathak and contemporary dance from the late guru Maya Rao, talks about the challenges of working on this project.

"In most schools, we have a structure and children are in a safe and pampered environment. They are able to learn everything fast. For this project, to get children itself was a tough task. They come from troubled backgrounds. We didn't even have a proper place to dance and were given a go-down, ridden with rats to practice," says Janardhan, who has been working with these children for over two months across the city.

"Some of the school they go to are in such pathetic situations, they don't even have

water to flush the toilets. The children too are migratory. They attend school only when their parents come here for work as construction labours. So after a few weeks of training, the children have left and there are new children in their place. The other challenge was convincing a few parents to let their children be a part of this programme as they wanted them working beside them for an added income."

Janardhan narrates that as most of them "had no clue about the compositions used, we had to tone it all down and used storytelling to educate them, so they understand the concept and are able to perform." He also adds that just building a rapport and breaking the ice with the children took time.

Makkala Raaga will be staged at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall on February 2. There will be two shows. The event is supported by Spark Capital, multiple corporate organisations and crowd-funding on Global Giving and Impact Guru.

Tickets are available on Bookmyshow.com

## Hark, all ye playwrights

Entries are open for The Hindu Playwright Awards 2018

The Hindu invites applications for the 2018 edition of The Hindu Playwright Awards. The award, established in 2008, carries a

cash prize of ₹2 lakh for the best play script written in English.

Entries are open for playwrights across the country, till May 31, 2018. Applicants must be above 18 years of age, and either Indian citizens or residents in India for at least five years.

The submitted script

must be an original work, unpublished and unperformed.

Novel and text adaptations are eligible, but not translations.

It must be a full-length English play, with a performance time of 50 minutes or more. It must not contain any quotations or copyrighted material without obtaining permissions.

Entries submitted in pre-

vious editions of the award are not eligible. Employees of THG Publishing Private Ltd and their relatives are not eligible to participate. Each applicant may send in only one submission.

Entries must be sent both by post and email, including a short curriculum vitae (name, contact number, email and postal address) of the playwright. Submissions must be printed using double space on single sides of A4 sheets.

