

10 YEARS

**OF UNIVERSITY
RECOGNITION**

20 YEARS OF
ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE



REVA
UNIVERSITY

Bengaluru, India



BEST PRACTICES- PANCAVAKTRAM

BEST PRACTICES

Title of the practice: Leading SDG - Pancavaktram

Objectives of the practice:

- Aligning with the Prime Minister’s vision of bringing back the Bharatiya tradition and culture apart from respecting women and girls in both the word and spirit by the society at large.
- A production by the School of Performing Arts & Indic Studies that highlights the five faces of Śiva – Sadāśiva and elaborates on them through significant stories from Indian mythology.
- Aligns with NEP 2020 and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to spread the larger goal of Sustainability and the message amongst youth and various stakeholders of various states and countries.
- Bridges the gap between the audience who live amidst the smog of global warming, extensive urbanisation, and natural resource depletion, and the age-old tradition that has enlightening tales of sustainable development, harmonious living, and the importance of nature through Pancavaktram dance production.

The context

Pancavaktram is of tremendous significance in the contemporary context. Our ancient treatises and texts chronicle a progressive and “woke” India that is gender-sensitive. The fact that Lord Siva as Ardhanārīśvara encompasses the male and the female as two halves of the ultimate whole, the total of which is an all-embracing concept of gender and sexuality that existed long before these genders were separated brutally. The piece showcases the confluence of the five elements of Nature that are an integral part of the Indian spiritual identity. Our Vedic gods themselves were incarnations of different aspects of nature.

The five faces of Shiva- Sadyojāta, Vāmadeva, Aghora, Tatpuruṣa and Eśāna, embodied through the five elements of nature or the Pañcabhūta - Bhūmi, Jala, Agni, Vāyu, and Akāśa, respectively, present the world with the idea of creation with grace, dissolution with preservation, the experience of the unseen and the embrace of the infinite sky. The production showcases how the five elements superimpose each other with ease in their existence and movement creating harmony and balance in nature. Humans, unaware of the importance of ancient thought have time and again interfered with this balance. This production bridges the gap between the audience who live amidst the smog of global warming, extensive urbanization, and natural resource depletion, and the age-old tradition that has enlightening tales of sustainable development, harmonious living, and the importance of nature.

The practice

Pancavaktram was initially a group choreography course for the MPA students of batch 2022. Later the production was enhanced, polished and redefined by the experienced faculty members of the School.

With the able guidance of the Chancellor Dr P Shyama Raju and Pro Chancellor Umesh S Raju, Pañćavaktram dance production travelled to various cities. The first performance was held in Hyderabad which was followed by Bengaluru, Chennai, New Delhi, and Guwahati. In the next phase, the dance production is all set to travel nationally and internationally to different locations. In February 2023, the performances will be held in Trivandrum and Bhubaneswar. This will be followed by the next phase of performances to be held in the cities of Bhubaneshwar, Gujarat, and Varanasi and also in countries like Cambodia and the Middle East.

Constraints faced included long hours of practice, identifying the right locale for the performance with colleges, travel, balance between performances and studies.

Evidence of success

The première show of Pañćavaktram turned out to be a tremendous success. Both the class and the mass responded to it in overwhelming numbers. Standing ovations were given to the performances by the crowd, which included prominent gurus, critics, writers, policymakers, and the commoner. Pañćavaktram discovered its path to the national and international levels in this manner.

In the following performances in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, and Guwahati, the team received a similar response from the varied audience. Each performance stood alone as a distinct experience. The artistes had the honour of meeting the Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar while in Delhi. In spite of Cyclone Mandous in Chennai, the team's performance was overwhelmingly well-received by the audience in the Cultural City. The team got an excellent opportunity to play for the IEEE conference, which was held in Bengaluru, and they were praised by a large international audience that consisted of distinguished scientists, leaders, and academicians in the field of Science and Technology. For the team, the North-East boundaries were uncharted territory. However, the audience, which was made up of think tanks from diverse societal sectors, enjoyed the performance held in Guwahati.

Pañćavaktram has grown stronger with each performance, however small the changes may have been. The production has scripted history, and the esteemed Chancellor Dr. P. Shyamaraju deserves all the credit for his unwavering support showered upon the team.

Problem encountered

- Language barriers
- Reluctance from colleges to collaborate/ cooperate
- Travel to certain destinations



- Coordination in localities for light, sound
- Communication and reach to faraway colleges
- Parent permits to travel

Resources required included

- Costumes, make-up,
- Press and media support
- Food and snacks
- Stay and hospitality
- Sound recording
- Anchor training
- Scripting & branding