

Kateel Yakshagana mela

January 11, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About Kateel Yakshagana mela

- It is a famous Yakshagaana troupe started in the mid-19th century.
- The Yakshagaana troupe, Kateel Sri Durgaparameshwari Yakshagaana Dashavatara Mandali, popularly known as Kateel Mela is an important 'Harake Seva' (hosting the Yakshagana show for God fulfilling a wish) troupe.
- It performs on request by devotees who have taken a vow (Harake) to arrange a show of Yakshagaana for fulfillment of a desire or as a service.

Key facts about Yakshagana

- It is a traditional folk dance form popular in Coastal Karnataka.
- It is a rare combination of dance, music, song, scholarly dialogues and colourful costumes.
- Traditionally, men portray all roles, including the female ones, though women are now part of Yakshagana troupes.
- A typical troupe consists of 15 to 20 actors and a Bhagawatha, who is the master of ceremonies and the main storyteller.

- Elements of Yakshagana
 - The Act: Each performance typically focuses on a small sub-story (known as 'Prasanga') from ancient Hindu epics of Ramayana or Mahabharata.
 - The show consists of both stage performances by talented artists and commentary (performed by the lead singer or Bhagawatha) accompanied by traditional music.
 - The Music: Musical instruments used in Yakshagana include Chande (drums), Harmonium, Maddale, Taala (mini metal clappers) and flute among others.
 - The Dress: Costumes used in Yakshagana are very unique and elaborate. Large size headgear, coloured faces, elaborate costumes all over the body and musical beads on the legs (Gejje).
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Q1) What is Maddale?

It is a percussion instrument from Karnataka, India. It is the primary rhythmic accompaniment in a Yakshagana ensemble along with Chande. Maddale used in Yakshagana looks similar to mridangam but is markedly different in structure, acoustics, playing techniques and the rhythm system (Yakshagana Tala).

Source: [Kateel Yakshagana mela to revert to all-night shows from January 14](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/kateel-yakshagana-mela/>

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