

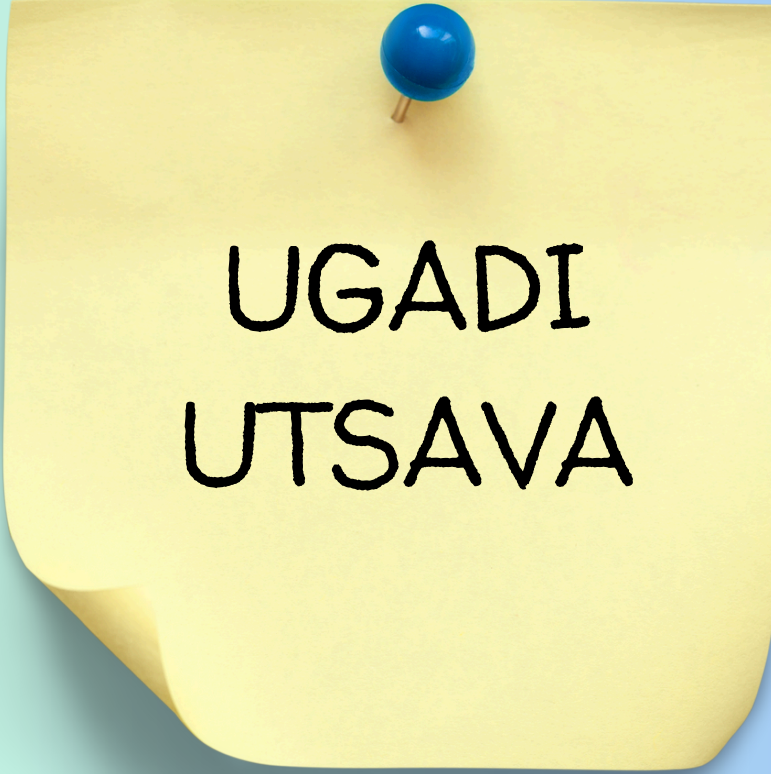


Belgium Kala Vedike

Celebrating Culture, Connecting Hearts!

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025 EDITION



Welcome to the lively hub of Belgium Kala Vedike Newsletter Magazine

– *Chronicles of Kala Vedike*.

Chronicles of Kala Vedike isn't just an e-newsletter — it's a celebration of our vibrant culture! A dynamic platform that brings to life the stories, achievements, and events that bind us together.

With every edition, we weave together stories that inspire — stories of festivals that lit up hearts, performances that brought culture to life on Belgian soil, voices that carried tradition across generations, and milestones that mark our shared growth. Whether it's an intimate cultural gathering or a grand stage performance, every moment finds its place in this colorful mosaic.

Chronicles of Kala Vedike acts as a bridge between continents, connecting the Indian diaspora across Europe and beyond. It is a canvas where art meets emotion, tradition meets innovation, and every member's contribution is celebrated with pride. This is where memories are documented, efforts are applauded, and voices — often unheard — find a stage.

Through *Chronicles*, we honor our roots while embracing the creative spirit that binds us. Whether you're a performer, volunteer, parent, artist, or well-wisher, **this platform belongs to you**. It's where our stories live, our efforts shine, and our journey continues.

From the heart of Belgium to the farthest corners of the world, we proudly connect through art, music, dance, and shared experiences. Join us on this journey of discovery, reflection, and celebration. Be part of a movement that cherishes heritage, connects different communities, and keeps the flame of our culture glowing brightly in the heart of Europe. Together, let's continue telling our story — one vibrant edition at a time.

Join us in turning pages filled with pride, passion, and purpose. Because together, we're not just preserving culture — we're making history.

www.belgiumkalavedike.com

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A GRAND BEGINNING: BELGIUM KALA VEDIKE INAUGURATES UGADI UTSAVA 2025



Beginning of this year 2025, **Belgium Kala Vedike (BKV)** kicked off its first major cultural event by organizing Ugadi Utsava at GC Colombo, Kortenberg, Brussels. The event was held on April 6th, 2025, aiming to align closely with the traditional Ugadi festival. Through this event, BKV aimed to recreate the festive spirit of Ugadi. By celebrating our roots, the mission was to ensure that even thousands of miles away from home, our culture stays alive and thriving.

On the day of the event, volunteers gathered early in the morning to decorate the venue and ensure all technical aspects were functioning smoothly. The entrance and the hall were adorned with flowers. Attendees were welcomed by providing jaggery with neem leaves, creating an authentic festive vibe.

We were honored to welcome the following Chief Guests who have been strong supporters of cultural exchange:

- **Mr. Venkateswaran Narayanan**, Counsellor (PIC) at the Embassy of India in Brussels, Belgium
- **Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan**, Founder and Director of Amrithavarshini Trust, Belgium
- **Mr. Sagar Singamsetty**, Founder and Managing Director of the Indian Centre for Culture and Creativity, Belgium
- **Dr. Saraswathi Rajathesh**, President of Natyasaraswathi, Bangalore



The event opened with a lighting of the lamp ceremony, followed by a formal welcome speech.



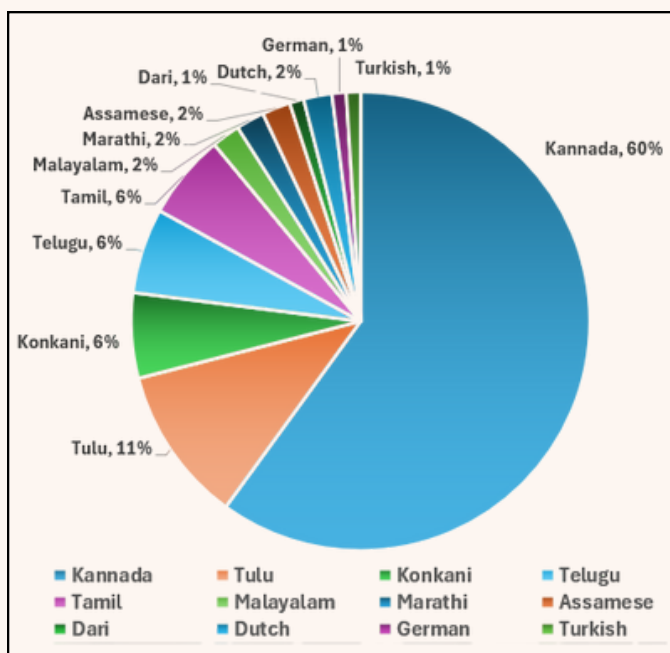
The presence of esteemed Chief Guests added great value and prestige to the Ugadi Utsava 2025 celebration. Their words of encouragement and appreciation for the efforts of Belgium Kala Vedike were both inspiring and motivating. They emphasized the importance of preserving one's roots while embracing global audience, and applauded the community's dedication to bring Indian culture on an international platform.



BUZZ, CROWD & SPOTLIGHT – THE PULSE OF UGADI UTSAVA 2025

Promotional campaigns were run through social media, inviting participation and support from all corners of Belgium. The community responded with enthusiasm – families registered in large numbers, local artists stepped forward to perform, and youth volunteers offered their time and energy with pride. We received major support in promotions from renowned celebrities from India including **Sapthami Gowda, Shine Shetty, Sonu Gowda, Sukrutha Wagle, Akarsha Kamala, Mahesh Gowda** and many more. Their heartfelt video messages and warm wishes energized and created a wave of excitement leading up to the event. We are truly grateful for their time, support, and for reminding us that no matter where we are, the spirit of Art connects us all.

We were thrilled to welcome over **250 incredible attendees** who brought an electrifying spirit to Ugadi Utsava 2025. Their energy, enthusiasm, and heartfelt connection to our cultural roots truly lit up the venue and made the event a celebration to remember. From the moment the doors opened, the hall was filled with warmth, laughter, and festive cheer that echoed the joy of Ugadi back home.



What made the event even more special was the beautiful diversity of our audience. While nearly 60% were proud **Kannadigas**, we were equally delighted to have nearly 40% of guests from various Indian and International backgrounds – a vibrant blend of **Tuluvas, Konkanis, Telugus, Tamils, Malayalees, Marathis, Assamese, as well as Belgians, Germans, Turkish, and Afghans**. The event became a melting pot of languages, traditions, and smiles – proving that celebrations of culture have no boundaries. This harmony is exactly what Belgium Kala Vedike strives to achieve: building bridges through culture and unity through shared celebration.

As the anchor of the event, **Ranjini Sangeeth** played a pivotal role in bringing the entire celebration together. With her graceful presence, engaging voice, and impeccable timing, she effortlessly guided the audience through every segment of the program. Her warm introductions, spontaneous interactions, and lively spirit kept the energy high and the audience connected throughout the day. Ranjini wasn't just an anchor – she was the heartbeat of the stage, ensuring that every moment flowed smoothly and every performance received the spotlight it deserved.



RHYTHMIC REALMS: CLASSICAL GRACE AND CONTEMPORARY FLAIR



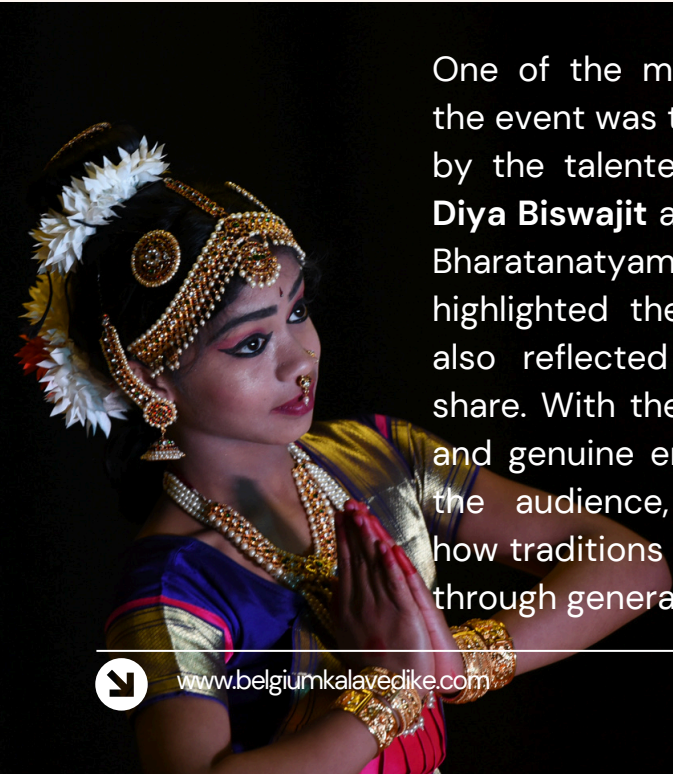
This year's event began with a stunning Bharatanatyam performance that set a wonderful tone for a celebration of art and tradition. The captivating display of talent drew everyone in, allowing them to fully appreciate our rich cultural heritage.

Priti Manoor with her graceful presence and skilled footwork amazed the audience, enhancing the festive atmosphere. Her love for the dance was clear in every movement, effortlessly taking spectators into a world of beauty and grace. Through her enchanting dance, Priti created an unforgettable experience that resonated with everyone and made the afternoon truly special.

An exhilarating fusion dance performance by **Shravan Kumar** and **Amogha Kamath** captivated everyone present. Their energetic choreography and seamless blend of traditional and modern styles drew the audience's full attention, infusing the celebration with a refreshing burst of energy. The dynamic moves and spirited enthusiasm of the performers left a lasting impression, inviting smiles and applause throughout the venue.



One of the most moving highlights of the event was the heartfelt performance by the talented mother-daughter duo, **Diya Biswajit** and **Neetu**. Their beautiful Bharatanatyam dance not only highlighted their individual talents but also reflected the strong bond they share. With their seamless coordination and genuine emotions, they captivated the audience, beautifully showcasing how traditions are lovingly passed down through generations.



GRACE IN MOTION: BHARATANATYAM PERFORMANCE BY SHILPA ABHIRAM

In a captivating celebration of classical Indian dance, **Shilpa Abhiram** took center stage to deliver a spellbinding Bharatanatyam performance that transported the audience into a world of rhythm, expression, and devotion. Shilpa is the Artistic Director of Ekatvam Kalaa Shaale, Bengaluru. Belgium Kala Vedike, a vibrant cultural platform in Belgium, partnered with Shilpa to bring this classical art form to a wider audience in Europe..

A seasoned practitioner of Bharatanatyam, Shilpa brings years of disciplined training and passion to her craft. Her performance was a harmonious blend of nritya (pure dance), nritya (expressive dance), and natya (dramatic storytelling), all set to the backdrop of rich Carnatic music. The afternoon featured pieces that explored both devotional themes and the dynamic energy of Indian mythology – each composition brought forth with elegance and authenticity.

One of the most captivating aspects of Shilpa's presentation was her abhinaya – the expressive aspect of Bharatanatyam. Her ability to convey complex emotions through subtle facial expressions and hand gestures was both powerful and poetic, drawing the audience into each narrative she portrayed.



The collaboration with Belgium Kala Vedike exemplified the organization's ongoing mission to bring together the Indian community in Belgium through meaningful cultural experiences. Events like these help children and adults alike reconnect with their roots, while also introducing the beauty of Indian classical arts to a broader audience. Belgium Kala Vedike extends heartfelt thanks to Shilpa Abhiram for making the journey and for sharing her soul-stirring artistry with us all.



YAKSHAGHANAM VISHWAGANAM



YAKSHAGANA VIBRANCE: BELGIUM MEETS KARNATAKA'S SOUL

Belgium Kala Vedike was proud to collaborate with **Yakshadruva Patla Foundation Europe E.V.** and hosted a spectacular Yakshagana performance as part of Ugadi Utsava. This event made history as the first-ever performance in Europe with 15+ incredible talented artists (including 8 children between the age of 4 and 13) on stage. Their dedication and passion brought the spirit of Yakshagana to Belgium, leaving the audience mesmerized and deeply connected to our rich heritage. It was a true celebration of Kannada culture on a European stage. The audience responded with such joy and a standing ovation, it was an absolute honor and unforgettable experience!



A special mention goes to Guru Ajeeth Prabhu Thallur, whose passion and dedication were crucial in making this extraordinary performance possible. Together with talented artists - Kishor Matagodu, Aadishesh Bayari Aravinda, Aravinda Subramanya, Atharv Rao, Sridevi Hosur, Snigdha Chauhan, Samvidh Shyam, Shrihari Devji, Sharva Parashar, Karthik Parashar, Pradyumna Prabhu, Arnab Achar, and Shreedhar Achar, brought this event to life. Lastly, not to forget the support team who worked tirelessly to manage costumes and make-up which took over 4 hours to complete. Applause to the entire 30+ team.



DHVANI & NINADHA BAND DELIVERS MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE AT UGADI UTSAVA 2025



THE BAND'S HIGH-ENERGY SET AT THE FESTIVAL LEAVES FANS BUZZING AND SECURES A PLACE IN THEIR HEARTS

As the event drew to a close, we were thrilled to enjoy the performances by the talented singers from Belgium's First Kannada Live Band – **Ninadha**, founded by **Sangeeth Kumar**, along with the **Dhvani** band. With an incredible lineup featuring **Dr. Uma Ramakrishanan**, **Sangeeth Kumar**, **Anshu Gupta**, **Abhijeet**, **Ashlesha Rashinkar**, **Eshaan**, **Keerthi J Amit**, **Renuka Sekar**, **Vadiraj**, and **Shruthi Taranath**, their melodious songs filled the air with nostalgia and joy. We are truly grateful to have such dedicated and gifted singers and musicians in our community, whose passion for music created a beautiful finale to our celebration.



THE IMPACT OF THE DHVANI - NINADHA BAND ON AUDIENCE

We are humbled and grateful to share that Belgium Kala Vedike received an outpouring of positive feedback, with many saying the performance is etched in their hearts. For some, it brought back memories of home; for others, it was a new window into the depth of Kannada music. But for all—it was an experience to remember.





UGADI UTSAVA 2025

DIGNITARY'S MESSAGE

Shri. V. Narayanan *Counsellor (PIC), Embassy of India*

Ugadi 2025 was a well organised event, reflecting the team work of Belgium Kala Vedike. Homely food was offered together with a wholesome programme, with participation of some outstanding artists.



Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan *Founder, Amrithavarshini Belgie*

Thank you for inviting me, Naveen and Belgium Kala Vedike Team. It was a very good show with quality programmes. Best wishes for your future initiatives as well. All support from me and my organisation always.



Shri. Sagar Singamsetty *Founder, ICCC*

It was a wonderful initiative by Belgium Kala Vedike that brought the Indian community together and beautifully showcased the richness of Indian culture. I'm glad I had the opportunity to witness this as a Guest of Honour. Thank you, Belgium Kala Vedike, for bringing India closer to us through such thoughtful events. Wishing you continued success in all your future endeavors!



Dr. Saraswathi Rajathesh *President, Natyasarswathi*

The event was well organised by Belgium Kala Vedike. I witnessed Indian and International community actively participating and promoting Indian culture. Local talents were also showcased inviting the joy of prosperity to carry forward with flying colours. I thank Belgium Kala Vedike for inviting me to inaugurate this occassion.





UGADI UTSAVA 2025

PARTICIPANT'S REVIEW

Shri. Ajeeth Prabhu *Yakshagana, Frankfurt, Germany*

A heartfelt thank you to Belgium Kala Vedike for graciously hosting our Yakshagana team and giving us the opportunity to showcase our cultural heritage. With over 15 Yakshagana artists and a total team of 30+, we know it wasn't an easy task - but your hospitality, seamless organization, and warm support made everything smooth and memorable.



Shri. Kishor Matagodu *Yakshagana, Antwerp, Belgium*

The event was exceptionally well-organized. Everything - from water, tea, and lunch to snacks - was provided on time for all 30 participants without a hitch. We especially appreciated the spacious green room, the stage setup, and all the other thoughtful arrangements. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Belgium Kala Vedike and all the dedicated volunteers for their outstanding support in making this event a great success. We sincerely hope this tradition continues with same enthusiasm, and we look forward to many more such opportunities in the future. Thank you Naveen and BKV team.



Ms. Shilpa Abhiram *Bharatanatyam, Bengaluru, India*

Ugadi Utsava organised by the Belgium Kala Vedike was well planned with good performances and yummy food. A thoughtfull initiative by Dr. Naveen and his team to bring everyone together and celebrate the festival. It was a great experience to share my art on that day. Thank you so much for inviting me. All the very best to you and your team for your future work to promote Indian art and culture.



Ms. Amogha Kamath *Dancer, Leuven, Belgium*

Ugadi Utsava was really well organised by Belgium Kala Vedike and I had a lovely time. It was my first Kannada event and it was pure joy to see multilingual audience though it was organised by Kannadigas.





UGADI UTSAVA 2025

PARTICIPANT'S REVIEW

Dhvani & Ninadha Team *Live Music Band, Belgium*

A well organised event. We didn't feel like it was BKV's first event. Great support from Volunteers. It was a great collaboration between BKV, Dhvani and Ninadha team. It was nice performing on a wonderful stage and in front of joyful audience. We look forward to collaborate in many more projects in coming days.

ಊರಿನಿಂದ ದೂರ ಬಂದರೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಲೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿ ಬಂದಿರುವ ವೇದಿಕೆ ನವೀನ್ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಸಂಘಟಿಸಿರುವ 'ಬೆಲ್ಜಿಯಂ ಕಲಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ'. ಇವರ ಚೊಚ್ಚಲ ಯುಗಾದಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ತುಂಬಾ ಸೊಗಸಾಗಿ ಮೂಡಿಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಗಂಡು ಕಲೆ ಯಕ್ಷಗಾನ ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪಾತ್ರಗಳು ಆಕರ್ಷಕವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಭರತನಾಟ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ನೃತ್ಯ ಮನೋಹರವಾಗಿ ಮೂಡಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಸಂಗೀತ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಮುದಗೊಳಿಸಿತು. ಊಟ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಿರ್ವಹನೆ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ತುಂಬಾ ಅಚ್ಚು ಕಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಮೂಡಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ.



Ms. Priti Manoor *Bharatanatyam, Antwerp, Belgium*

Ugadi Utsava 2025, organized by Belgium Kala Vedike, was a wonderful platform that showcased enthusiastic artists and vibrant talent. Hats off to Naveen and the entire team for a job well done! Kudos to everyone involved - keep uplifting and supporting the artist community!

Mr. Shravan Kumar *Dancer, Brussels, Belgium*

It was a great event! Absolute treat to watch Yakshagana and Dhvani & Ninadha live music band were amazing. Thank you so much Naveen Shetty and Belgium Kala Vedike for giving an opportunity to perform. Stage was awesome for performance.

Overall arrangement ★★★★★(5 star)





UGADI UTSAVA 2025

AUDIENCE REVIEW

Mr. Sachin *Sint-Truiden, Belgium*

Brilliant work! It was very well organised, entertaining and good food. Thanks for bringing Karnataka to Belgium. Thanks to the whole Belgium Kala Vedike team.



Mr. Anirudh *Leuven, Belgium*

Bharatanatya from Ms. Shilpa Abhiram was one of the most exquisite performances. And ofcourse Yakshagaana was captivating and very engaging too. Thank you BKV team for bringing them. The sound design is good and can be refined further. Overall the cultural events were fantastic.



Ms. Divya *Mol, Belgium*

Naveen kudos to you and your team who pulled off Ugadi event so well with professional artists. All the programs in the event were engaging and entertaining. Looking forward to other events which Belgium Kala Vedike offers!



Mr. Shashi *Brussels, Belgium*

It was a very well organised event, we enjoyed all the programs. It is not an easy task hosting such an event but you guys did very well. Congratulations to all of you involved.



Mr. Rishabh *Leuven, Belgium*

I was there basically from the beginning to the end. All the programs were very nicely done and I enjoyed it!!! Thanks a lot for the wonderful organisation.





UGADI UTSAVA 2025

AUDIENCE REVIEW

Ms. Chaithra Sreekanth *Brussels, Belgium*

The Ugadi festival hosted by Belgium Kala Vedike was a wonderful celebration far from home, beautifully capturing the spirit of the festival. The event offered delicious traditional food that brought the authentic taste of Ugadi to Belgium. The entertainment was exceptional, featuring captivating performances of Bharatanatyam and the mesmerizing Yakshagana dance-drama, which was presented for the first time in Belgium. Witnessing these rich cultural art forms in a foreign land truly made us feel connected to our roots and allowed us to celebrate Ugadi just like at home.



Mr. Balaraj *Brussels, Belgium*

Thank you Belgium Kala Vedike for organizing such a beautiful event. We enjoyed all the programmes and it was a fantastic cultural event.



Mr. Vinay *Mol, Belgium*

A heartfelt appreciation to Belgium Kala Vedika for organizing such a vibrant and memorable Ugadi celebration. What an incredible crowd—it was truly heartwarming to witness such a large gathering filled with joy, laughter, and cultural pride. A special mention goes to the Yakshagana performance. It was awe-inspiring to see this intricate and traditional art form, typically seen in South India, being brought to life abroad. The kids truly stole the show, making the performance all the more special. It was a day well spent, filled with new connections, cultural pride, and the warmth of shared traditions.





UGADI UTSAVA 2025

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS TEAM

BACKSTAGE NINJAS



MADHU



SANGEETH



THEJES

THE GLAM GANG



RASHMI



RANJINI



RENUKA

THE GREET SQUAD



TANUJA



ASHA

THE LENS LEGENDS



RAJASHEKAR



STEVE



UGADI UTSAVA 2025

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS TEAM

THE FEAST FORCE



SANTOSH



PRASAD



ABHISHEK



AVINASH



SACHIN



SUHAS



BHARGAV



JEEVAN

HEART OF SERVICE



SHRUTHI



KARAN



NITHIN



ANITHA



KISHOR



NITHIN



NUPUR



SHOBHA



ARPITHA



BHAGYA

UGADI UTSAVA 2025

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

THE EVENT ARCHITECTS



NAVEEN



RASHMI

Dedicated to ALL VOLUNTEERS and WELL-WISHERS

In every smile, in every light, YOU brought BKV's Ugadi dreams to flight.
With hearts so warm and hands so kind, YOU lifted BKV's vision, soul and mind.
Together WE walked, in rhythm and grace, Bringing culture alive, lighting up the place.
Each moment YOU gave, each effort YOU shared, Spoke of a spirit truly rare.
From the tiniest task to the grandest feat, YOU made BKV's Utsava truly complete.
For standing with US, come sun or rain,
We thank YOU again and again.

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