

SAMANVAY 50 · PRESS BIOGRAPHY

Dr Veena Murthy Vijay

Biography — long (feature cut)

Feature cut · 200 words

Dr Veena Murthy Vijay is the founder of Sri Rajarajeshwari Kala Niketan, the Bengaluru institution turning fifty in 2026, and the reason this festival exists. Born in Bengaluru, she trained first in Bharatanatyam — under Smt Venkatalakshamma and Smt Savithri Jagannatha Rao among others — before turning to Kuchipudi under Dr Korada Narasimha Rao, Sri C.R. Acharyulu and Dr Vempati Chinna Satyam, the central figure in modern Kuchipudi. She holds a Doctor of Letters from the Karnataka State Dr Gangubai Hanagal Music and Performing Arts University, conferred January 2025, and in 2026 received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for Kuchipudi. Her scholarly signature is Yakshagana-inflected Kuchipudi: she restructured twenty new adavu patterns drawing on Karnataka Yakshagana, and authored *Therey*, tracing Kuchipudi's presence in Karnataka, and *Nritya Tarangini*. She sits on the syndicate of the Gangubai Hangal university, the Governing Council of Kalakshetra Foundation as a Ministry of Culture nominee, and the Vision Group for Higher Education and Research, Government of Karnataka. She directs the AIM Bengaluru International Arts Festival and chairs the World Dance Alliance's Karnataka chapter. At Samanvay 50 she closes the premiere in Kuchipudi Yakshagana — the form Satyabhama was born in, and the one the three concert forms before her descend from.

About Sri Rajarajeshwari Kala Niketan · 95 words — use verbatim

Sri Rajarajeshwari Kala Niketan (SRRKN) is a Bengaluru dance institution founded in 1976 by Dr Veena Murthy Vijay. Across fifty years it has trained five generations of dancers in Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam, and through its academic arm, the Samanvay Foundation of Arts, offers a three-year Bachelor of Fine Arts and a two-year Diploma. Its founder is a senior disciple of Dr Vempati Chinna Satyam and a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar (2026) for Kuchipudi. SRRKN produces the Samanvay Arts Festival and the AIM Bengaluru International Arts Festival.