



19-Feb-2020

Email: [mediarelations@ishafoundation.org](mailto:mediarelations@ishafoundation.org)

### **3-day Yaksha festival concludes at Isha**

**20 February 2020, Coimbatore:** The 3-day Yaksha festival, the annual precursor to Mahashivaratri at Isha Yoga Center concluded today with a stellar Odissi performance by Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Smt. Sharmila Biswas. A disciple of the legendary Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, Biswas is one of the finest exponents of the dance form. She is also a choreographer and the Artistic Director of Odissi Vision & Movement Center. Biswas' graceful performance blending the contemporary with the traditional wowed audiences at the Suryakund Mandapam at the Isha Yoga Center on the final day of the 3-day Yaksha festival.

Renowned Carnatic vocalists, Hyderabad Brothers Shri. D. Raghavachari and Shri. D. Seshachari performed yesterday on day 2 of Yaksha. Their distinct singing styles that are perfectly synchronized in rendition creating a unique melody, have enthralled listeners for over 45 years. The Hyderabad Brothers have delivered over 3000 concerts.

The Yaksha festival got underway with classical instrumentalist Smt. Kala Ramnath known for her unmatched mastery over her "singing violin", opening proceedings on the inaugural day of Yaksha on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Smt. Ramnath has performed at some of the most prestigious global and Indian music festivals and is recipient of several awards. Her work has been featured in Oscar and Grammy-nominated albums as well demonstrating the universal appeal of her music.

The 3-day Yaksha festival is an annual event that precedes Mahashivaratri at Isha. Some of the most well known classical and folk artists perform at the event each year.

The festival is held 3 days before the night of Mahashivaratri, one of the grandest and most auspicious events on the Isha calendar. The Yaksha aims to promote the rich Indian classical art forms. Audiences from all over the world attend the 3-day music, dance and art festival. Entry is free and open to all.

### **Mahashivaratri**

Mahashivaratri is significant because of the immense spiritual benefits it offers due to natural planetary positions. On this night, the northern hemisphere of the planet is positioned such that there is a natural upsurge of energy in the human system, pushing one towards their spiritual peak. It is therefore considered important to stay awake with the spine erect to benefit from this natural upsurge of energy. The forces of the night are agnostic to faith or religion making Mahashivaratri a universally significant night for all human beings, especially those on the spiritual path.

**If you would like to know more about this, please write to [mediarelations@ishafoundation.org](mailto:mediarelations@ishafoundation.org).**