

A woman is shown in profile on the left, playing a veena. The instrument's frame is dark and glossy, with numerous golden strings stretched across it. In the background, a stone carving of a woman's face is visible, looking towards the viewer with a slight smile. The scene is dimly lit, with the woman's face and the veena's strings catching the light.

# VEENAGRAM

....The Strings of Legacy



# JYOTI HEGDE

Jyoti Hegde is a renowned Rudraveena maestro of the Khandarbani style of Dhrupad. Embracing the legacy of her Guru, Ustad Asad Ali Khan Sahab, she stands as his sole female disciple for the Rudraveena. She embraced numerous challenges, including adopting the Dhrupad style when it was unfamiliar in Karnataka and being the sole torchbearer of the Khandarbani tradition of the Rudraveena. Yet, her musical journey is richly adorned with influences from the esteemed Pandit Indudhar Nirody of the Agra Gharana. This amalgamation is evident in her meticulous attention to Bandish, where she infuses subtle nuances significant to Agra Gharana. Her music is reflection of vigor, liveliness and subtle nuances, which is soul of Khandarbani. Her method of presenting Raag can be likened a form of worship, where she seamlessly intertwines the teachings of her gurus with the creativity of her own mind.

Initially trained in Sitar and Rudraveena in Khayal style under the guidance of Dr. Bindu Madhav Pathak, belonging to the Kirana Gharana, Jyoti Hegde later found her true passion in the Rudraveena of the Dhrupad tradition. She felt deeply drawn to the oldest and purest genre of Indian music - Dhrupad.

For her, staying true to tradition doesn't mean stagnation, but rather a deep appreciation and understanding of our rich legacy. She follows the traditional method of playing the Rudraveena, which fosters a profound connection with the player's body. In the traditional posture, the Rudraveena rests entirely upon the body, its resonant sound waves exerting a profound impact that guides the practitioner along the path of Naad-Yog. Her music is an eloquent language of strings, where sound of Rudraveena becomes a voice. While her style is predominantly influenced by Ustad Asad Ali Khan, her distinct nature infuses purity, serenity, and resilience into her music. She is a frequent performer at numerous national and international music festivals, in high demand for her performances worldwide.

She holds a position of **A + Top grade** artist of AIR in Rudraveena. Her music has graced stages across the globe, including prestigious events such as the Darbar Festival in London, where she appeared twice in 2014 and 2023. Additionally, she has showcased her music in various countries including UK, France, Portugal, the USA, and Abu Dhabi. She has been honored with the Dhruvmani Award, Nada-nidhi Award, Sardar Patel National Integration Award, Madhwan Ratna Purskar, Kanakshree Puraskar, and numerous other accolades. A documentary named 'Unparalleled', directed by Rajesh Bhatia, delves into her life. One of her notable recordings is the album titled 'Rare Instruments – Rudraveena' produced by ASA Productions. Born into a household of a Forest Officer, she has been intimately connected with nature since her childhood days.

The serenity of rural living has consistently inspired her quest to discover the unheard music of nature. Presently, she lives a quite farm life alongside her husband, who is an agriculturist, and her students near Sirsi. She runs 'Veenagram' Gurukul, under Himalayan Universal Trust, established by her, where students immerse themselves in learning Rudraveena, Sitar, and the Dhruv style. Numerous students have emerged from the Gurukul and now showcase their talents independently, reflecting their individual merit. She finds joy in farming, gardening, and various other life skills and arts. Her deep-rooted connection with the earth likely explains her inherently down-to-earth nature. She remains steadfast in preserving the esteemed legacy of her gurus, serving as a guiding light for a tradition that is increasingly fading in modern times. She firmly believes in safeguarding the tradition and elevating its legacy to greater heights, ensuring its beauty and ethos.



# OUR GURUS

Dr. Bindu Madhav Pathak was a renowned master of both the Rudraveena and the Sitar, known for his adherence to the Kirana style. Jyoti Hegde began her musical journey under his tutelage, starting with the Sitar and later transitioning to the Rudraveena. Her initial training in these instruments was guided by his expertise.

Pt. Indudhar Nirody is a true gem and a highly respected vocalist of the Agra Gharana. While he is a stickler of tradition, he brings a remarkable imagination to his improvisations, enhancing the aesthetic depth of the Bandish-s. Renowned for his expertise in the Agra Gharana vocal style, he is also adept at performing Dhrupad-Dhamar. Jyoti Hegde spent several years under his guidance, deeply immersing herself in the nuances of the Dhrupad style and studying its intricacies with him.

Ustad Asad Ali Khan is a distinguished figure in the world of Indian classical music as great Rudraveena maestro. He represents the rich heritage of the Khandarbani school of Dhrupad. Jyoti Hegde had the privilege of learning from Khan Sahab for several years. Under his expert guidance, she received extensive Taleem in the Khandarbani style of Dhrupad, gaining invaluable insights into the nuances.



Dr Bindu Madhav Pathak



Pt Indudhar Nirody



Ust Asad Ali Khan

# GREAT PILGRIMS



Receiving award from Vid. Gangubai Hangal



blessings are the most expensive gifts -  
with Wadali Brothers



Moments from Darbar festival 2023



With none other than Vid. Prabha Atre



With SP Balsubramanyam



A true gem - Vid. Ashwini Bhide

# Himalayan Universal Trust



The Himalayan Universal Trust, established by Vid. Jyoti Hegde, is dedicated to advancing the authentic essence of Indian Classical Music, with a special focus on the Dhrupad genre and the Rudraveena instrument. The Trust has made significant contributions to the Indian Classical Music community by organizing numerous concerts, seminars, music festivals, and workshops across the country. Notable annual events hosted by the Trust include 'Anand Spandan,' 'Anand Gulaal,' and 'Anand Malhar; etc.

The Trust also partners with educational institutions and organizations, such as BITS Pilani (Goa) and IMS, to facilitate various cultural activities. It has honored esteemed artists like Pt. Vinayak Torvi, Pt. Venkatesh Kumar, and Pt. Gundecha Bandhu with the 'Swami Rama Pratibha Sanmaan.'

The Himalayan Universal Trust is committed to preserving the rare **Rudraveena instrument** and the ancient Dhrupad genre. Its board members, who are highly respected in the field, strive to enrich the cultural and musical landscape of the country.

The '**Swami Rama Veenagram**' Gurukul, located in the picturesque Sirsi region, is a learning center under the Trust's aegis. This Gurukul aims to foster a deep, thoughtful approach to music, encouraging students to perceive it as an integral aspect of holistic living.



# VEENAGRAM GURUKUL

AN INCLUSIVE JOURNEY OF MUSIC



नव गति, नव लय, ताल छंद नव  
नवल कंठ, नव जलद मन्द्र रव  
नव नभ के नव विहग वृंद को,  
नव पर नव स्वर दे ।  
वर दे, वीणावादिनि वर दे ॥

- सूर्यकांत त्रिपाठी निराला

Harmony with Music

*FARMING*  
*GAUSHALA*  
*STUDYING HERBS*

Art forms taught

*DHRUPAD*  
*RUDRAVEENA*  
*NAAD-YOGA*  
*KHAYAL*  
*SITAR*

Inspired by the traditional musical ideologies of Gurukul, Rudraveena exponent Vidushi Jyoti Hegde founded **Veenagram**. The Veenagram Gurukul is situated in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada, in a region known for its extremely rich forests. A large Arecanut orchard, a farm with abundant yields, cattle and trees makes an incredible atmosphere for music. A variety of medicinal plants can be seen in the periphery of the Gurukul. Students come from various corners of the world to learn Rudraveena and Sitar from Jyoti Hegde Ji. It is exceptional to see female Rudraveena players.

However, there are many female Rudraveena learners in Gurukul. Many students of Swami Rama Veenagram Gurukul are now performing Rudraveena & Sitar on various platforms. Few of the students has been selected for Pt. Bhimsen Joshi Yuva Scholarship of Directorate of Cultural affairs, Maharashtra for the year 2024-25. She has also been selected as a research intern in Nadsadhna Institute for Indian Music & Research Centre. The Veenagram Gurukul also aims to make the younger generation evolve with music and learn the art of joyful living. They try to inculcate Indian traditions in their lives to understand life in harmony with nature.

जोर जोर से खण्डार गावे, मधु बोले से नौहर लेवे ।  
साँस बड़ी है गौहर की, आलापचारी है डागुर की ॥







# Yakshagaana

An elaborate dance-drama performance unique to Karnataka  
By Shivanand Hegde Idagunji Mela  
Organized by Himalayan Universal Trust



# ANAND SPANDAN

Organised by Himalayan Universal Trust in the memory of Dr Bindu Madhav Pathak  
Anand Spandan have been organised at various locations including Kanpur, Dharwad





# ANAND GULAL

Organised by Himalayan Universal Trust  
Anand Gulal was held in Kanpur, UP

The most ancient traveler in the universe is love.  
It is love that travels from the unknown to the known, from eternity to eternity  
- Swami Rama

**HIMALAYAN UNIVERSAL TRUST**  
(U.P., Mumbai-Maharashtra & Karnataka)

**MERCHANTS CHAMBER OF UTTAR PRADESH**  
Cordially invites you to the grand colourful Holi Music Festival:

## Anand Gulal

A beautiful blend of where north meets south with Jugalbandi of SITAR & RUDRA VEENA

**Pl. SATISH CHANDRA**, Sitar (U.P.)  
**JYOTI HEGDE**, Rudra Veena (Karnataka)  
And enigmatic performances by **HARSHADA JAMBEKAR & Group**, Kathak Exponents (Mumbai)  
**RADHIKA & ANUSHKA**

Accompanied by:  
**Sukhad Munde**, Pakhawaj  
**Harish Jha**, Tabla & **Sreeyanshi Chandra**, Tanpura  
On Sunday, 8th March 2020, At 6:00pm  
At Merchants Chamber Hall, Civil Lines, Kanpur.

Chief Guest:  
**Mr. Sudhir M. Bobde** (I.A.S.)  
Commissioner (Kanpur)

<b>Dr. Sheela Chitranshi</b> (President)	<b>Mukul Tandon</b> (President)	<b>Dr. I. M. Rohatgi</b> (Chairman Prog. Comm.)
<b>Vijay Singh</b> (Gen. Secretary)	<b>Abhishek Singhania</b> (Vice-President)	<b>Swatantra Singh</b> (Member Prog. Comm.)

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**MERCHANTS CHAMBER OF UTTAR PRADESH**  
**HIMALAYAN UNIVERSAL TRUST**  
Yoga, Science, Philosophy, Fine Arts & Technology  
(U.P. Mumbai Maharashtra & Karnataka)

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# SUR SANGAM

Organised by Himalayan Universal Trust in collaboration with BITS Pilani, Goa



# RUDRAVEENA FESTIVAL

Organised by Himalayan Universal Trust in collaboration with Anam Prem, Ravindra Kala Kshetra,  
Bangalore



"The first traveller of the universe is Love".  
-Swami Rama

**Rudra Veena Basantotsav**

# Naad-Anand

Anam Prem  
&  
Himalayan Universal Trust

invite you to celebrate  
A grand 3 days Basantotsav Festival.  
In the memory of  
Naad-Yogi Dattatray Parvatikar

On 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February'23,  
at Bengaluru, Karnataka.



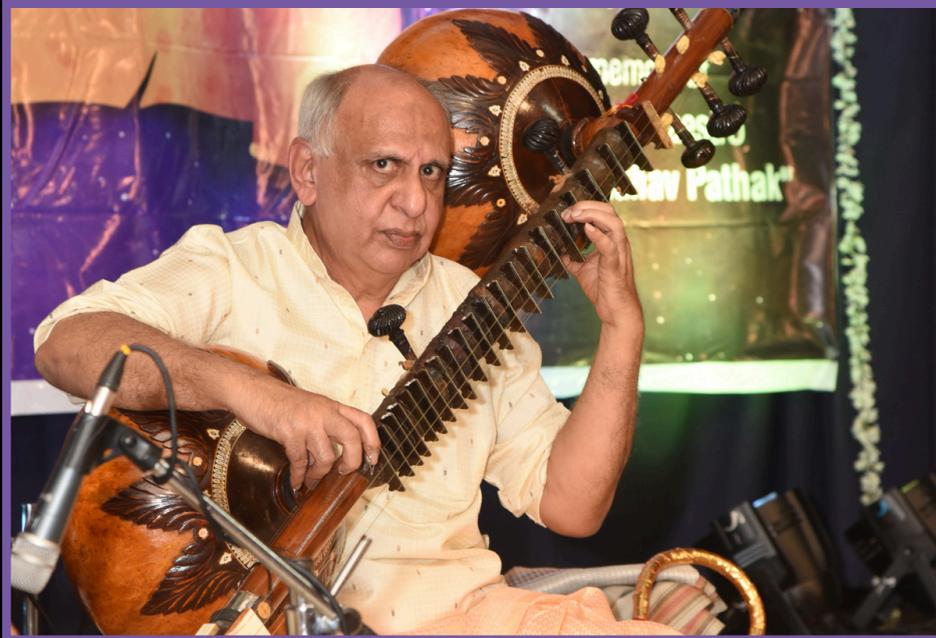
# Significance of Rudraveena

Seminar organized by Himalayan Universal Trust in collaboration with Anam Prem  
Bangalore



# Anand Malhar

Organised by Himalayan Universal Trust in Sirsi town

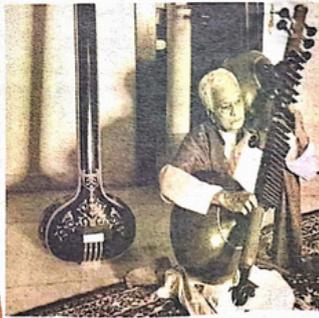


# Strings of a legacy

Shivangi Kapoor, Padmini and Tejaswini Kolhapure, daughters of late Pandit Pandharinath Kolhapure, will pay tribute to their father late Pandit Pandharinath through an evening that will witness a soulful three-hour-long performance featuring the first female rudra veena player Vidushi Jyoti Hegde and Indian musician Savanee Ravindra at Andheri's Veda Kumba Theatre today. "My grandfather [Pandit Krishnarao] would play the rudra veena at the Baroda Palace," Tejaswini reminisced, "My father also mastered the instrument. He wanted to save the veena from fading away from Indian music." The show is organised by Veena Vardayani Trust (an NGO founded by Pandharinath to predominantly promote the veena and in memory of his father Krishnarao), the Ministry of Culture and the Indira Gandhi National Centre.



(Above, from left) Shivangi Kapoor, Padmini and Tejaswini Kolhapure; (right) late Pandit Pandharinath Kolhapure plays rudra veena; (below, from left) Vidushi Jyoti Hegde and Savanee Ravindra



Jyoti Hegde, India's only woman rudra veena artist, talks to *Sanjanya Peddi* about conquering the unconventional rudra veena and storming a male bastion

# Mastering the king of instruments

Jyoti Hegde, India's only woman rudra veena artist, talks to *Sanjanya Peddi* about conquering the unconventional rudra veena and storming a male bastion

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Jyoti Hegde, the only woman Rudra Veena player in the country, has proved that if the intention is clear, nothing can stop you from achieving your goal

GURVINDER SINGH

# String of success

Music was alien to Jyoti Hegde until she stepped into college. The moment she listened to it, it grew on her. But when the music from Rudra Veena fell onto her ears, the passion for music came like a torrent. It has stayed with her forever and she stayed with it forever.

She became the first female Rudra Veena player and still remains the only female Rudra Veena maestro. Rudra Veena is now her extension. Jyoti had to opt for music in college because it was compulsory with a subject combination she had opted for, so she started learning sitar from Bindumadhav Pathak at MEM Arts and Science College, Sirsi. But when she listened to him playing Rudra Veena, she fell in love with its music and sound, and insisted that he should teach Rudra Veena as well.

But the Rudra Veena was played only by men, because of its weight and size. But after much requests, and a meeting with Jyoti's father, he gave her an odd. He decided that she should herself leave the idea of playing Rudra Veena, as the instrument given to her for playing was no good. But seeing Jyoti meticulously practicing on that defunct Veena, her father convinced him about her will and talent, and he decided to teach her. "I was so passionate about learning the instrument that I didn't feel any pain or heaviness of the instrument, as it used to be said," she says. "Guruji used to say that I was quick to learn, and also learned the instrument at a competition at All-India Radio, and I won a gold medal in that," she says. After that, there was no looking back for Jyoti. Because of her passion for learning, she also learnt the instrument from Ustad Asad Ali Khan from Delhi. Hegde has over the years won many accolades and performed at different places in the country and abroad. She has performed at many prominent music festivals in the country, including at Jaipur, Dhruvadhara Meela at



SOUND PROOF: JYOTI HEGDE

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**The origin**  
Mythologically, Rudra Veena was created by Rudra, another name of Lord Shiva. His inspiration is said to be the image of his wife Parvati in a deep sleep, with her hands folded over her chest. This veena thus, is also called Parvati Veena. It has a long tubular body made from wood or bamboo, and ranges between 54 inches and 64 inches. It also has 24 brass-tipped raised wooden frets fixed on the tube, and has 4 main strings and 3 chikri strings. In the earlier times, it was only played in temples, used for meditation only, it was also regarded as the king of all musical instruments.

All India Radio and empaneled artist of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. She has been honoured with many awards, including Naada Nidhi award, Kalra Chetana and Dhruvadhara manni awards and won many competitions. She says that she is teaching the instrument to a female student. "But I want more female musicians to learn to play Rudra Veena to carry forward this tradition of playing this great musical instrument," she says.

lah Khan at Mumbai. She has also performed at Kholapur, Ujjain, etc. She is the 'A' grade artist of the 'punyasthi' of Bismil.

# The instrument

The rudra veena is kept off the shelf. It is made in unique, as it is connected to the player's body. For instance, its length should be 11 times the hand span of the player. The tuning can be completed only after it is placed on the body. The playing is connected to the player's breathing rhythm. Traditionally, it was played only in the virginam poor.

One tumba (ground) is kept on the right thigh and one on the shoulder, the right hand plucks the strings going up through the left ear touching the left tumba. Khajali used to associate it with posture with the sacred Vedic rituals. The instrument's centre falls between the navel and the breast. The vibrations can vibrate in our inner body with the sound of 'om' entering the left ear from the left tumba. The right tumba's vibration goes through the lower body through the left ear touching the left tumba. These vibrations produce inner well-being and act as the universal nada (ground). The instrument is a kind of pranayam and yoga. For those who have not mastered breathing, the instrument is difficult to learn.



RAMANDEEV KAIIR NT BUZZ



# A classic act

Two Indian classical artistes will present a combination of dhruvadh and khayal in jugalbandi-style format on sitar at the music event 'Sursangan' held in memory of professor, Suresh Ramaswamy. NT BUZZ gets more details



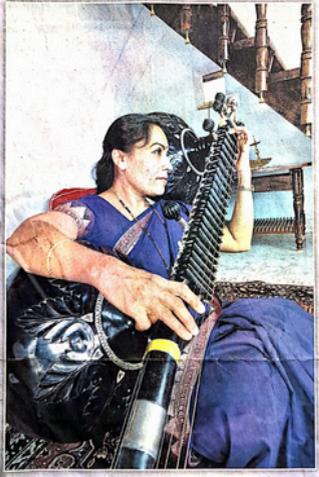
**S**itar artistes Jyoti Hegde and Merulini Kotar are all set to combine together for a performance of dhruvadh and khayal in jugalbandi-style format on sitar at the music event 'Sursangan' at IISc, Bengaluru. Both the artistes will be accompanied by Karnataka-based Jyoti holds a masters degree from Karnataka University, Dhruvadhara where she learned sitar in the khayal style under the guidance of Bindumadhav Pathak. One day she heard him play the rudra veena and was magnetically drawn to the instrument. She felt it evolved the artistic core in her reach more deeply than the sitar. "When I was extremely excited from learning the rudra veena but I convinced him to teach me. I did not fear the auditions and folklore that about sitar in connection to the instrument and overcome resistance from my mother too," she says.

other artiste Merulini who is her disciple for the past few years. Also from Karnataka, Merulini is a post graduate in Mumbai and is a prolific, much sought after translator especially for the Karnataka literature scene in Mumbai. Besides this, she is also an artist. Her musical work was trained under the hands of Dhruvadhara where she learnt harmonium. She has been performing for the last 15 years under Shri. Shri. Chikita of Kolhapur. "I have Jyoti since college days. When I got to know she too was in Dhruvadh. I requested her to teach me and she was very helpful. She is very attractive. Our performance of dhruvadh and khayal is a very good combination and, today's generation need to see and enjoy," says Merulini.

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ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ

## ರೂರೂಣಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಣಿ



ರೂರೂಣಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಣಿ  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ  
ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ

# ಜಗಕೊಬ್ಬ ಟೀ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ!

### ರುದ್ರವೀಣೆ ಪಕ್ಕಗಿವೆ ಕನ್ನಡತಿ



'ನೂರು ಕಿವಿರು ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ  
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ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ

## ಹಿಂದುಸ್ಥಾನಿ ರುದ್ರವೀಣಾ ವಾದಕಿ 'ನಾದನಿಧಿ'ಯ ಗೆರಿ

ಹಿಂದುಸ್ಥಾನಿ ರುದ್ರವೀಣಾ ವಾದಕಿ 'ನಾದನಿಧಿ'ಯ ಗೆರಿ  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ  
ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ



## ಮೆಣಾ ಮಂಥನ

### ರುದ್ರವೀಣೆ ನುಡಿಯಿತು...



ರುದ್ರವೀಣೆ ನುಡಿಯಿತು...  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ  
ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ  
ಮುಖಂಡರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ

# ಗುರು ಬೋಲೆ, महिलाओं के लिए नहीं है रुद्रवीणा, सीखकर बनीं पहली महिला वादक

अब तक नहीं मिली 'रुद्रवीणा' के लिए लालायित शिष्या  
शरणीय संगीत से जुड़े अपने परसंगीतियर शेरर करते हुए बताया कि मैं 14 बरस की उम्र में पीठिड बिंदु मायस पाठक से तितार सीख रही थी। एक दिन जब मैंने उन्हें रुद्रवीणा बजाते सुना। इनकी धुन ने मुझे काफी प्रभावित किया। यह तितार की धुन से अलग थी। मैंने गुरुजी को इस वाद्ययंत्र को सिखाने के लिए कहा। लेकिन उन्होंने यह कहते हुए मना कर दिया कि इसे सिख लड़कें बजाते हैं, लड़कियाँ नहीं। मैंने गुरुजी को इस रुद्रवीणा को सिखाने के बारे में बात की, लेकिन गुरुजी ने उन्हें भी मना कर दिया। ज्योति हेगड़े ने गुरु को रुद्रवीणा सिखाती भी है लेकिन अभी 'पत्रिका प्रवास' से हुई विशेष



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