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News

## Tamil Nadu's folk theatre Kattaikkutu comes to the city with a performance of DRAUPADI KURUVANCHI...

(https://www.facebook.c

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MTG editorial

**Kattaikkutu Sangam**, a performing arts organisation focusing on teaching and performing **Kattaikkutu theatre**, presents **DRAUPADI KURUVANCHI**. The organisation is managed by professional Kattaikkutu performers. The folk theatre adaptation throws light on an almost forgotten episode during the Mahabharata called *Virata Parvam*. It started when the Pandavas had finished their fourteen-year forest exile, and were returning back to the village. Duryodhana with the help of Shakuni and the rest of the Kauravas schemed to destroy their plans. The play tells the story of Draupadi, wife of the Pandavas, who quests to subvert their plans by taking the form of a Kuratti - who is a member of the Kuravar clan famous for fortune telling, traditional tattoos and knowledge of indigenous medicine. She prevents the Kauravas from carrying the funeral rites for her husbands.

The drama is performed in **Kattaikkutu**, which is the folk theatre form of Tamil Nadu. While traditionally a male-dominated theatre form, this adaptation includes two girls as well. The name of the art form is derived from two words- *Kattai* or *kattai samankal*, which means the wooden head, shoulder and the breast ornaments that the performers wear; and *kuttu* means theatre. It is believed that the *kattai*-wearers represent superhuman warriors, and are either divine or demonic. Nearly all the performances are built around mythological battles.

The performers sing themselves and are supported by musicians playing the harmonium, *mrtdangam* and the *mukavini*. The audience sits on all three sides of the stage, where the play starts with a musical introduction and songs in praise to different deities.

**DRAUPADI KURUVANCHI will be staged at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (Prince of Wales museum), on March 6 from 6pm to 7pm.**

### Musicians:

Harmonium - R. Balaji  
Mrdangam/dholak - A. Dillibabu

### Actors:

Draupadi-Tne-Kuratti - S. Tamilarasi  
Kattiyakkaran (Clown) - M. Duraisamy  
Queen Bhanumati - L. Sivasakthi  
King Duryodhana - K. Radhakrishnan

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#### DADA EK GOOD NEWS AAHE

4:30 PM, Sunday, February 7, 2021 - Kashinath Ghanekar Natyagruha ([map link](#))

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#### TU MHANSHIL TASA

4:30 PM, Sunday, February 7, 2021 - Savitribai Phule Natyagruha ([map link](#))

#### PEN@Prithvi

6:00 PM, Saturday, February 6, 2021

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