Pushpavanam Kuppusamy appointed Chairperson of the Iyal Isai Nataka Manram

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News

On **5 October 2026** the Tamil Nadu Government appointed folk singer **Dr Pushpavanam Kuppusamy** as Chairperson of the **Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram**. He succeeds actor **Vagai Chandrasekar**. The Manram works under the State's Tamil Development Department.

Key facts

Who	**Dr Pushpavanam Kuppusamy**: folk singer, playback singer, lyricist and researcher; credited with reviving **Naattupura Paattu** (Tamil folk song) on stage and screen
Home town	**Vedaranyam**, Nagapattinam district
Education	MA, MPhil and **PhD in music** from the **University of Madras**
Family	Wife **Anitha Kuppusamy**, also a folk singer; the couple have given thousands of stage shows in India and abroad
Honour	**Kalaimamani** awardee
Body	**Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram**, Chennai

Background

- **1955:** set up as the **Tamil Nadu Sangeetha Nataka Sangam**, the State counterpart of the central **Sangeet Natak Akademi** (1953, New Delhi).
- **1973:** renamed **Iyal Isai Nataka Manram**, after the three branches of Tamil, **Muthamizh**: **Iyal** (literature), **Isai** (music) and **Nadagam** (drama).
- It gives the **Kalaimamani** awards, the State's highest honour for artists, and also the **Bharathi, M.S. Subbulakshmi and Balasaraswathi** national awards.
- At the national level, the **Sangeet Natak Akademi** (music, dance, drama), **Sahitya Akademi** (1954, letters) and **Lalit Kala Akademi** (1954, fine arts) work under the Ministry of Culture.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's folk arts such as **Karagattam, Oyilattam, Therukoothu, Villupattu, Kavadi attam and Silambattam** are promoted by the Manram and by the State's **Kalai Panpattu Thurai** (Art and Culture Department). Vedaranyam, Kuppusamy's home town, is also famous for **Rajaji's Salt Satyagraha (1930)**.

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