

A 6th generation shadow puppeteer—the man with many voices and the man who has mastered the art of shadow puppetry...

Hailing from Thirumalapuram village near Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district, Kalaimamani Muthuchandran Rao manages to keep the art alive even in the age of social media.

'Thol Pavai Koothu' is believed to have originated around 1025 CE in Southern India as a theatre form to convey puranas. With many years of experience, Muthuchandran is an authority on Ramayana & Mahabharata. He learnt this art from his father as an oral tradition. There is no script for this art form and he has learnt only by observing his father's performance since childhood.

He can speak in over 20 voices and has been lending his voice to the various characters. It is a traditional art that reaches the general masses. Even now 'Thol Paavai Koothu' is considered a powerful medium of communication in rural areas and is a crowd puller. At times the government uses the medium to launch awareness campaigns on AIDS, Malaria, Dengue & Polio in rural areas.

Muthuchandran Rao will bring to life through Shadow Puppetry, 'Sundara Kandam' in Ramayanam for the audience at Children's Club.

