



GICC Newsletter Vol. 6

 **GICC NEWS**

**Foremost Bharathanatyam dancer Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam addresses GICC dance students**



Warm welcome to Dr Padma Subrahmanyam



Dr Padma enthusiastically addressing the students



An interactive session



Dr Padma with GICC dance students and teachers

The Global Indian Cultural Centre (GICC) had the unique privilege of hosting a motivational talk by one of the most famous classical dancers of India and a living legend, Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam.

Dr. Padma is a renowned choreographer, dancer, research scholar, music composer, singer, teacher and author. Nrityodaya, the dance school established by her father in 1942, is testimony to her dedication and passion for the art. Her initial training was under Smt. Kausalya, after which she honed her skills under the great nattuvanar, Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai. She has given innumerable performances since her arangetram (first performance) in 1956 and continues to do so even today, well into her 60s.

On Thursday, 7th May 2009, Dr. Padma, accompanied by her niece and disciple Dr. Gayatri Kannan, visited the Queenstown branch of GICC to give a motivational talk to young, aspiring students. The students and parents in the packed Audio Visual Room listened in awe as she spoke about the great heritage of India.

The versatile dancer emphasized the importance of age-old traditions and wisdom that is passed on from grand

parents and parents to the children or from the guru to the disciple. She compared Indian culture to a banyan tree that stands tall for several years, its roots multiplying and giving birth to new shoots and branches. Just as these branches and their leaves are supported by the root, so also must we keep in touch with our roots, she said. Dance is a form of prayer, she pointed out. She addressed such concepts at a level cognizable to the students. This was evident through their response to her questions and reactions to her remarks. She inspired them to work harder at their art, to practice it and, above all, to love and enjoy it.

It was truly a once in a lifetime experience for one and all to be in the presence of such a stalwart artist whose humility, grace and love for art shined like a beacon. Dr. Padma was also delighted to meet the GICC teachers, most of whom were known to her. Meeting young GICC students clad in pattupavadai (traditional long silk skirt and blouse), brought forth an enthusiastic response from her and she expressed her happiness at seeing an oasis of rich Indian culture and traditions in GIIS amidst the developed world of Singapore.

### GICC Stars on Vasantham Central

GICC stars continue to show their talent on the popular programme Chellame on Vasantham Central. (Chellame is telecast from 6.30 to 7.00 pm on Fridays)



One of the participants of Chellame

### GICC students perform Purandara Dasa Kritis



Basmasura, Krishna, Shiva and the dancers

On 23rd April, our Bharathanatyam students performed the popular Devaranama\*

Jaganmohanane krishna composed by Sri Purandara Dasa, popularly known as the "Pitamaha of Carnatic music" at the motivational talk organised by the Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre. The concept was based on Hari bhakti.

\*Devaranamas are devotional songs written in the Kannada language describing the philosophy of love, devotion and peaceful co-existence.

The song Jaganmohane krishna is set to Raga Ragamalika and Adi Talam describes baby Krishna eating sand and the Bhasmasura samhara (killing of Bhasmasura)

### GICC-UPCOMING EVENTS

Odissi workshop by eminent dancer Ms Sangeeta Dash on the 27th and 28th of June, 2009 at Global Indian Cultural Centre, Queenstown campus. For more details, please log on to <http://www.giissingapore.org/gicc-images/Odissi-Workshop.gif>

#### PERFORMING ARTS

Carnatic Vocal  
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Hindustani Vocal  
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Bharathanatyam  
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Odissi  
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Kathak  
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Contemporary Dance  
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Indian Keyboard  
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Mridangam  
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Tabla  
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Violin  
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#### LANGUAGES

Hindi  
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Sanskrit  
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Malayalam  
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French  
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Mandarin  
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Japanese  
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#### SPORTS AND GAMES

Cricket  
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Gymnastics  
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TaeKwonDo  
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Tennis  
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#### YOGA

Hatha Yoga  
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#### FINE ARTS

Visual Arts  
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Single Stroke Painting  
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Rangoli  
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#### DRAMA AND PRODUCTION

Speech and Drama  
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Shloka Chanting  
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Public Speaking  
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