

Creditable performance of Kshetram dance ballet



The All India Movement (AIM) for SEVA, a new charity organisation launched its Sydney chapter on May 14, to mark the 80th Birthday of Swami Dayananda Saraswati, founder of this global charity which helps disadvantaged children in rural/remote villages of India.

Sri Vasudevacharya of Brahma Vidya Inc. inaugurated the proceedings of the evening, briefing the audience about preserving *Sanatana Dharma* and the attempts by the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha and various organisations associated with it, in reviving old traditions. This was followed by a video presentation of the activities of AIM for Seva in India, showcasing the excellent work being done in the fields of education for underprivileged children, health and hygiene, physical fitness and cultural validation. Also ongoing is local enrolment and training of teachers to improve the functionality of the Gurukulams.

This was followed by a special invocation and chanting in Sanskrit by students of the John Cole School, Belrose – an educational institution that offers courses in learning the Sanskrit language as a choice.

Smt. Manjula Viswanath from the Rasika Dance Academy and creator of the Kshetram Dance Ballet introduced the unique format of the Kshetram, a **divine journey following the travels** of two Australian children through South India's temples with their grandmother, who gives them a guided tour describing the legend and grandeur of Indian mythology. Their travels across begin with the Shiva Temple in Chidambaram, followed by Ganesha Shrine in Trichy, Sri Subramania Swamy temple in Palani, Sri Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala and finally the Sri Mahavishnu temple in Srirangapatnam.

Students of the Rasika Dance Academy who have been bred and brought up in

Australia performed the ballet with great credit, considering that they have hardly any regular contact with temples, traditions or mythological folklore. **It is noteworthy that the choreographer's hard work with the pupils paid off so handsomely. The costume changes were lightning fast, and the young dancers had no breathing space between the changing acts. The musical accompaniments were near professional class and inspired the audience, who found themselves immersed in the proceedings. Sound and lighting effects added a special touch, which made the total performance thoroughly enjoyable and deserving of the repeated applause from the audience.**

The response from Sydney audience to the call of charity was spontaneous. **They dug deep into their pockets to enable the organisers to collect nearly \$25,000, most of which will go towards helping many more children to get the right foundation for their future.**

Pujya Swami Dayanand Saraswati has changed and influenced the lives of countless people with his knowledge of Vedanta, and has spent his lifetime teaching and sharing this abundant knowledge. He is famously quoted as saying that "there is nothing as purifying as knowledge". AIM for Seva has already spread across the Indian landscape with over 80 *Chhatralayas* (student homes) and over 600 *Sandhya Gurukulams* which offer numerous short courses. It offers a cross-section of children, without consideration of caste, creed or religious affiliation, full education in a residential care. AIM for Seva also manages hospitals, health care centres and self help groups where their services are free of cost. They may be reached through www.aimfor.seva.org

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