

# **HSTD'S DANCE FOR MOHANJI'S BIRTHDAY 2023**

**Spreading happiness and love through Bharatanatyam!**

As a part of our founder Mohanji's birthday celebrations, HSTD Global Member and Level 4 student Biljana Vozarevic presented a joyful dance demonstration at Speak Up, an Educational institute in Serbia, on February 14th – St Valentines Day.

It was a thematic presentation followed by a mini workshop for the kids based on unconditional love and selfless service that Mohanji always emphasises.

The wonder and joy on the kids' face say it all. Enjoy glimpses from the program. [More photos](#)











## **A Shloka**

On the very special occasion of Mohanji's birthday, we at HSTD offer our humble pranams to our founder and guiding light, Mohanji.

We would like to dedicate a shloka composed by our Artistic Director, Radha Subramanian, as a reflection of our deepest gratitude and reverence.

We are ever conscious of the great privilege of his presence and proximity in everything we do.

Happy Birthday, Dearest Mohanji!

[More photos](#)



**SALUTATIONS TO THE  
SUMMIT OF  
STILLNESS**



Himalayan School  
of Spiritual Education

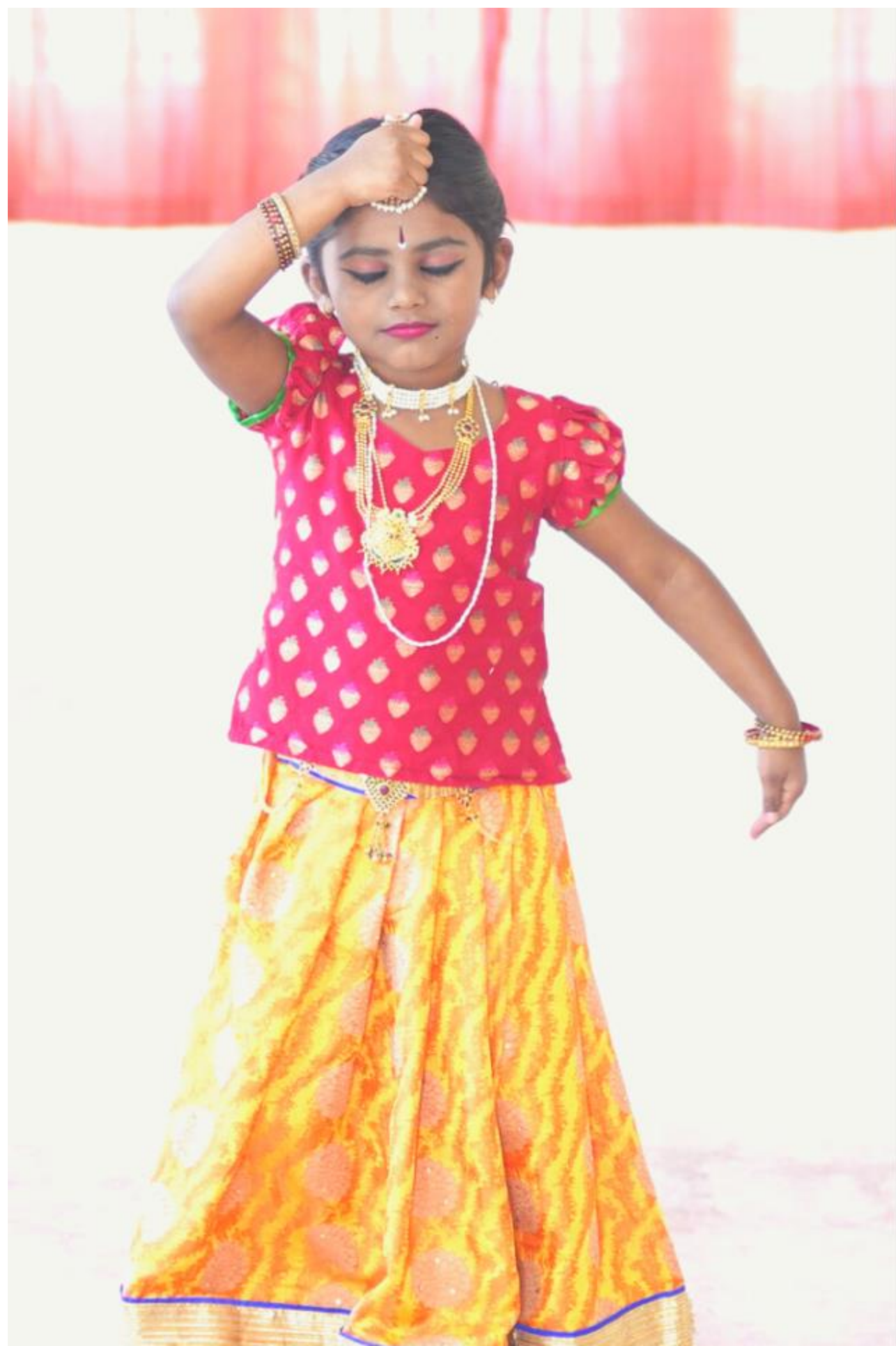








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## **The Awakening Times**

We are happy to share the publication of HSTD's article about the intrinsic connection between Dance and the Divine, in the special edition of the Awakening Times published on the very special occasion of Mohanji's birthday – Feb 23rd, 2023.

Many thanks to [The Awakening Times Magazine](#) for publishing the articles by Sathya Shivakumar, Global member HSTD and Shivakumar Chandrasekaran HSTD content lead, on various topics bringing out the spiritual essence in Dance.

We look forward to continue our strong collaboration with [The Awakening Times](#).



even our soul whispers. As per Mohanji's instructions, Radha conceptualized and recorded the first set of videos that showcased the relationship between traditional dance forms and divinity - showing that one can connect to the divine through dance. HSTD was launched at Tiruvannamalai on the same day as the Mohanji's Home for seniors, in Mohanji's presence. The Himalayan School

The Himalayan School currently offers Bharatanatyam and Kathak workshops and classes, which are traditional dance forms of Bharath. Mohanji guides us through every step of this endeavor, not just physically, but on subtle levels as well. After we took the first exciting steps, we wanted to design a logo for the school. We were on our way to the market, discussing this topic, and just when we agreed to choose Lord Nataraja for the school logo, the song "Sabapathikku Vera Deivam samanam aguma?" ("Is there a Lord that can parallel the Lord of Dance - Lord Nataraja?") started playing in our car. We needed no further confirmation that we were being guided on the right path!

For classical dancers, Nataraja is the ultimate representation of the eternal cosmic dance. Dance is not just a physical activity. It represents the flow of life and the active principle. It is constantly happening at the atomic level as well. The symbolism of Nataraja describes the entire cosmic principle. The divine is con-

stantly performing the fivefold represented by the drum in the lower left hand displaying the lower right hand displaying 4. illusion, represented by the and finally 5. grace, represented by his lower left hand pointing to the leading us from illusion to liberation symbolizes the wheel of time.

The Guru Tattva, working through the years, has been the driving force behind the growth of Traditional Dance. Since its inception in 1960, HSTD has enriched the lives of many in the world by connecting them to the roots of the dance, teaching them its rich history, and providing them with connections through theory and practice. We have prepared students to perform professionally on the world stage, for all those who are interested in experiencing the Dance of the Divine. The Guru Tattva continues to propel the growth of Traditional Dance to even greater heights in the years to come.





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*Sathya Shivakumar recounts the tale of the unexpected blessing, at an unexpected time which resulted in the creation of the Himalayan School of Traditional Dance, weaving together a deep-seated desire to pass on a beloved art form and the preservation of an ancient tradition of transformation through dance.*

Guru tattva (the Guru principle) leads mankind to experience the highest awareness by propelling people to go beyond the gross, all to the subtle levels to connect to the Supreme energetic principle. It is an eternal principle that takes myriad forms to lead those ready to take on a journey of self-nullification and unification.

This grand phenomenon takes over when least expected and leaves a long-lasting impression, burning all lower impressions on the way. From that moment on, things begin to change. Patterns start breaking down, and the person begins a journey of self-exploration, of understanding that what one seeks outside is already inside them.

The focus shifts to the inner world since everything originates from there. The Guru removes the veils of apparent diversity and shows the path to experiencing unity. The true essence of divinity is hidden, like a treasure, a jewel, masked in layers of seeming differences. The Guru Tattva removes the masks and allows us to meet our true selves.

As Mohanji describes, through the journey, layers are removed like peeling an onion. The unwanted coats dissolve, ultimately uncovering a hidden gem. When the truth awakens in us, it is certainly the dance of the divine. A Guru can transform a stone into gold through his Grace. What the seeker can offer is deep gratitude.

non. Those who have na know that Mohanji opera transforming us inside o from him, so many block lems - physical, mental, within our system. The g from Mohanji helps us fa tions. When we connect more and more with our that process, we touch a joy. However, the journey tread carefully, to avoid

Mohanji always says th the power of patterns. Th ness increases, concepts loosen their hold on us. cording to our natural o connection, we see the p stages, as all identificati



of the teaching is that e being has its place and bindings are on the path and valued. Mohanji is and traditions. The path or jnana. Flavors differ, paths stays the same- tra

In Sripada Srivallabh







mother cat carrying a kitten. The book also describes the different stages through which the Guru guides the eligible student. Initially, the Guru watches over and protects the devotee like a tortoise guarding its offspring closely. The Guru then treats the devotee much like a cat that takes its offspring to the places it finds safest. Later on, just like an infant clinging to its mother, it becomes the responsibility of the disciple to hold on to the Guru. With further advancement, the disciple swims like a baby fish with its mother.

Mohanji is a living example of how the Guru Tattva, as explained in the Sripada Charitra, operates. Not only that it guides us spiritually, but also practically. We are encouraged not to run away from our sacred duty, but rather to face it, accept and fulfill it in our best capacity. Not to impress anyone, but to make sure there are no residual unfinished agendas, paving the way to ultimate liberation.

Every aspect of life is valuable, therefore Mohanji guides us to balance these many dimensions. His guidance isn't just through verbal communication but through life experiences too. Mohanji has creat-

breathing techniques, Ammucare a for serving others, to the various H for artistic exploration. Every one a journey from physical to metaphy along with our body as a vehicle fo divine.

The way the Himalayan School was founded is just an example of in which the Guru Tattva operates. nian, the artistic director of the Hi Traditional Dance, and I went thro at Mookambika, in December 20 initiation we experienced a few p Mohanji. A lot of devotees had ga to take his blessings. Given the la didn't want to take much of his tir to receive his blessings, the follo from him:

***"Launch HSTD at Tim  
Timings 11:30 to 12:30.***

As trained Bharatanatyam dan desire to share the beautiful art f erations. The two of us didn't ex

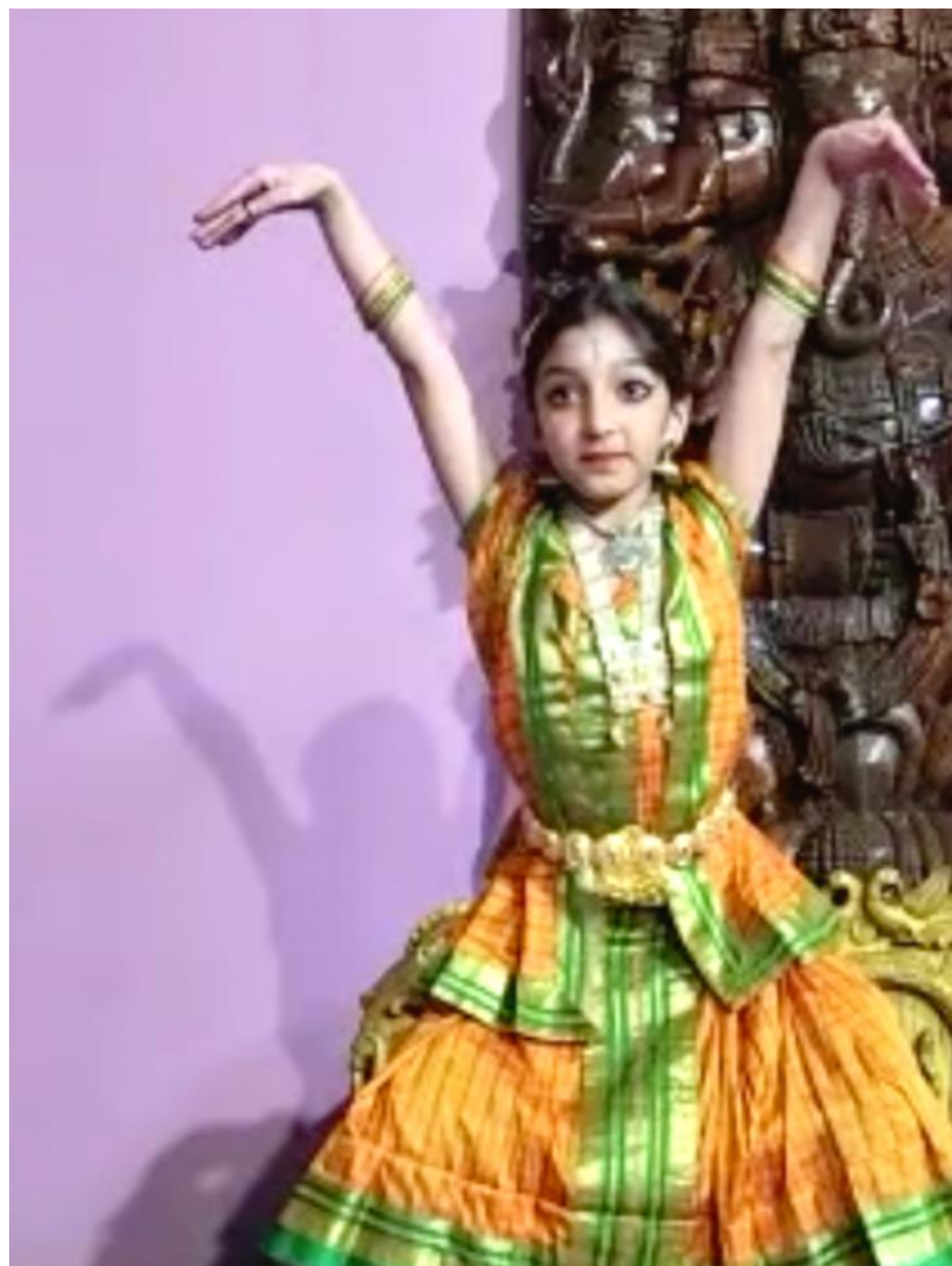


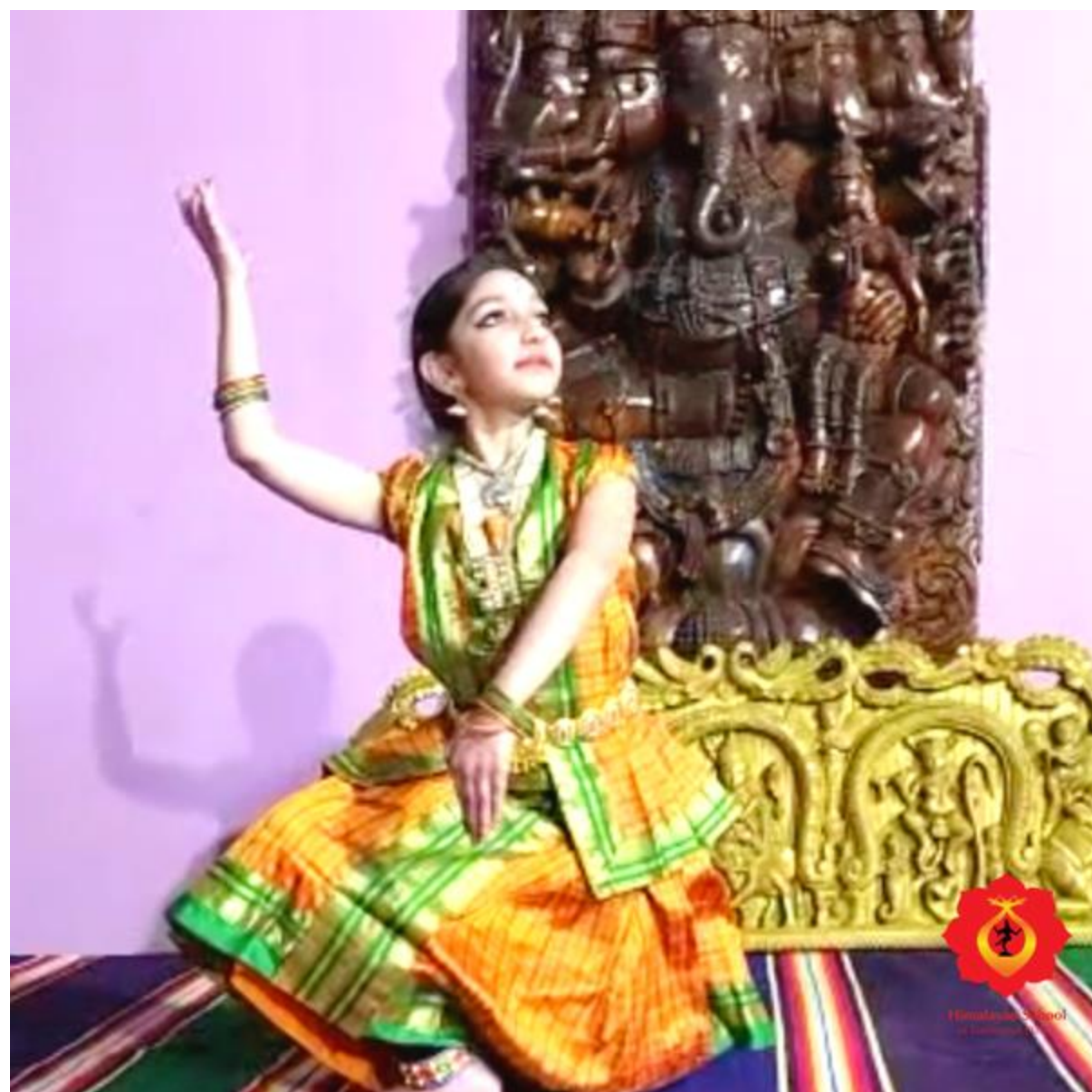
## **Vibrant Shivarathri**

We bring to you snippets from the performance of HSTD student on the occasion of Maha Shivarathri in Sri Shaniswara Mandir, New York on Feb 18th. It was a dynamic performance by HSTD vibrant student, Vaishavi Randev.

Special thanks to Sri Shaniswara Mandir, New York, for organising this wonderful event.

Enjoy the glimpses from the vibrant performance under the guidance of HSTD Artistic Director, [Radha Subramanian](#). [More photos](#)











## **Behind the Scenes**

As soon as we came to know that Mohanji's birthday is being celebrated at Puri Jagannath, we decided to offer a dance recital exclusively for his birthday.

Looking back this is a little sacred journey in itself. Compositions of Guru shlokas which of course spontaneously manifested, recording of songs, costume design, choreography, time management, the pains taking efforts of the children learning every new song, back to back rehearsals, online offline classes coordination, consistent efforts by all the team members, Gejje pooja, dress rehearsal, children helping one another with make up and costumes have all gone behind this production.

Needless to say, Mohanji's grace is the guiding light from start to finish.

Photo credits – Bimal Nair [More photos](#)













### **Performance in Puri**

Glimpses from the HSTD's dance performance on Mohanji's birthday celebrations at Puri Jagannath on Feb 23rd 2023.

Photo credits – Bimal Nair, Sarada Prasanna Sahoo, [Tea Klincov](#) [More photos](#)

























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## Published by HSTD Dance Diaries

Himalayan School of Traditional Dance founded by Brahmarishi Mohanji brings to you the traditional dance forms in their pure form, available and accessible to one and all. This blog offers experiences on this journey - from dance to dissolution. [View more posts](#)