

A seamless merger of dance and numbers

Singapore, India Maths Exchange event takes off at colourful function

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: Children from the city's schools brought alive the fascinating world of numbers on the stage at the Russian Cultural Centre on Wednesday afternoon. A priest seeking to please deities equally and a group of Bharathanatyam dancers getting acquainted were some of the situations presented by students of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, Chettinad Vidyashram and Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram in a seamless integration of dance with numbers.

The event was the first session of the Singapore India Maths Exchange (SIMEX), facilitated by HeyMath, an e-learning system teaching mathematics to secondary school students. HeyMath works with schools in Singapore and in India with the e-learning system, with importance placed on innovative methods of arriving at new concepts through investigation rather than conventional teaching methods.

Managing director, Harsh Rajan, says that SIMEX follows a meeting at which the Ministry of Education, Singapore, gave priority to getting students and teachers connect with their counterparts in India and China. R. Sridharan, eminent mathematician and Adjunct Professor, Chennai Mathematical Institute, was the keynote speaker of the afternoon. Called the guru of modern Indian algebra, he spoke about the conceptions of teaching found in the Rig Veda and Egyptian texts.

Jane Cheng, head of the maths department at Bowen's Secondary School, introduced the school, its facilities and maths learning programme to the assembled group of teachers and students. She invited schools that partnered with Bowen's to visit Singapore for joint projects.



MATH THROUGH DANCE: Students of Chettinad Vidyashram perform a 'numerical dance' at the Singapore - India Math Exchange programme in Chennai on Wednesday. - PHOTO: S. THANTHONI