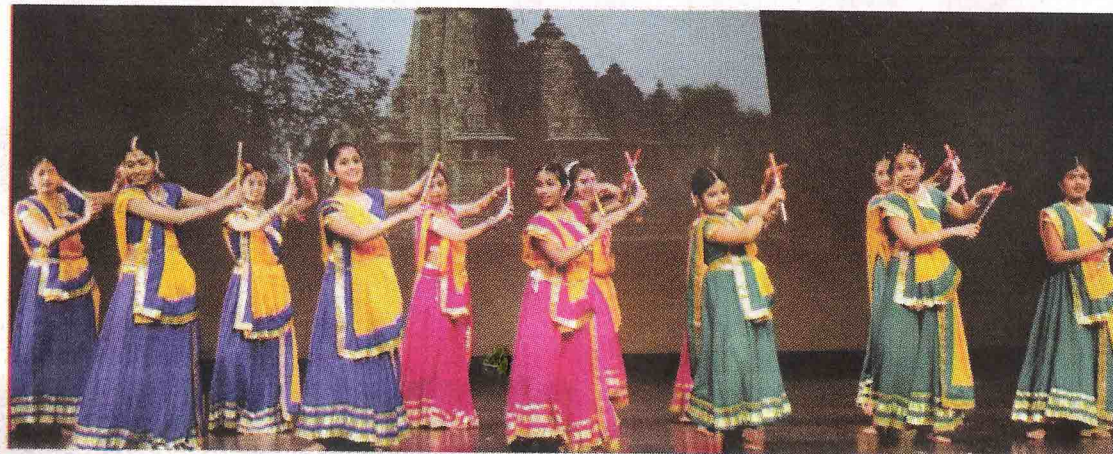


# Indian Dance School Stages Krishna Leela in Schaumburg

By A STAFF WRITER

— SCHAUMBURG, Ill.  
**S**tories from Lord Krishna's life from childhood to his divine self-revelation in the Bhagavad Gita were depicted to a full house through the Kathak dance drama "Krishna Leela," staged by Gauri Jog's Indian Dance School at Prairie Center for the Arts here, March 21.

Among the episodes were harassment of the milkmaids and prankish theft of butter (makhan chori), subjugation of the serpent of the lake (Kaliya mardan), and safeguarding Draupadi's honor as she was being disrobed (vastraharan). They culminated in the cen-



Above, Lord Krishna delivering the Bhagavad Gita sermon on the battle field.  
 Left, milkmaids (gopi) performing dandiya raas.

terpiece – Krishna's 'Song of God' – to the confused and demoralized princely warrior Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, performed by Jog and her students. The program started with traditional prayer to Ganesh, according to the press release, that depicted his world tour.

Other items included portraying the flute player's charm, devotee Meera invoking Krishna as child, teenage girl, and adult successively, group snake dance, a Bollywood number ("Ja To Se"), dalliance with Radha, playing Holi with Krishna ending up hurt, classical dandiya and folk garba.

Jog, who has been practicing Kathak for the past 35 years and founded IDS 15 years ago, rebuked parents for expecting their kids to perform on the public stage after just a few months of apprenticeship at a dance school.

"There are more than 20 mother-daughter pairs learning Kathak, garba, etc., together at IDS," Jog told Desi Talk, and quoted a mother as saying, "it is perhaps the best time spent with my daughter to build an everlasting relationship."

In addition to Indian classical dance, IDS also offers classes in Bollywood dancing and yoga.

The group has staged more than 230 shows since 1999 including dance dramas such as "Kathak Yatra," "Shakuntala," "Queen of Jhansi," "Fire the Fiery tale," "East meets West," and "Ramayana."

Jog also teaches Kathak online to large number of students from more than 12 countries.