



## Event Recap

### **DANCER GEETA CHANDRAN'S WORLD DANCE DAY 2022 CELEBRATIONS**

**New Delhi**, this year WadzPay have joined hands to support Natya Vriksha's World Dance Day celebrations. For the first time-ever, WadzPay is collaborating with presenting Indian classical dance.

After a hiatus of two-years brought about by the pandemic, renowned classical dancer Geeta Chandran has once again announced resuming her highly popular WORLD DANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS in NEW DELHI organized in collaboration with the India International Centre. The 2022 edition is planned with interesting dance workshops, a national seminar, a celebration of a major dance website completing 30 years and the unique Young Dancers Festival that Geeta Chandran curates.

"We are delighted to be aligning ourselves with the renowned dancer Geeta Chandran to mark NATYA VRIKSHA's 15<sup>th</sup> World Dance Day Festival, the leading dance day festival that supports and promotes the glorious legacy of Indian Art & Culture. This year's festival has one of the best line-ups and programs yet, and we look forward to generating exciting collaboration and making the year better than the last" notes Anish Jain, Managing Director, and CEO of WadzPay Group.

**KOODIYATTAM WORKSHOP:** The WDD-22 celebrations open on Friday 22 April morning with a Koodiyattam Workshop led by upcoming practitioner Kalamandalam Dr. Krishnendu. Koodiyattam hailed by UNESCO as an integral part of global intangible heritage, enshrines *satwik* abhinaya. In this workshop participants will learn how through nature symbols and other character roles, the face can be mobilized to express the innermost human sentiments. The workshop is open to dancers of all streams and is open and free.

**SEMINAR ON GROUP CHOREOGRAPHY:** The morning session on Saturday, 23 April 2022 will be a National Seminar on Assessing Classical Group Choreography – Past, Present and Future featuring all-time greats of Indian Classical Dance Choreography: Vidushi Madhavi Mudgal, Vidushi Shama Bhate, Vidushi Dr. Anita Ratnam, Vidushi Vanashree Rao, and Shri Sanjeev Bhargava as panelists. The session would be moderated by Vidushi Geeta Chandran.

**THREE DECADES OF NARTHAKI.COM:** One of the interesting features of this year's World Dance Day program is a conversation celebrating the global success of the Indian Dance

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webportal NARTHAKI.COM. From a humble phone directory to an award-winning online portal connecting the global dance world, with main focus on the Indian dances, [narthaki.com](http://narthaki.com) is every Indian dancer and dance aficionado's one stop for information.

Founded by Dr Anita Ratnam, [narthaki.com](http://narthaki.com) is not only a platform for interviews, profiles, reviews, previews and performance listings, but also a place to discover and nurture new talent in the dance world through curated commissions. Now in its 30th year, it is truly the gateway to the world of Indian dance. Following a short film on the web portal's birth and growth, this segment will feature founder of Narthaki, Dr. Anita Ratnam in conversation with Padmapriya, Dancer/Actor/Activist.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** During this year's World Dance Day festivities, the **3<sup>rd</sup> Natya Vriksha Lifetime Achievement Award** will be conferred upon **Mr. Brij Mohan Gupta** for his contribution to the Indian Classical Dance (Make-Up). Earlier Awardees have been the renowned dance critic, the late Smt. Shanta Serbjeet Singh and the legendary dance photographer Shri Avinash Pasricha. The Lifetime Achievement Award consists of an angavastram and a cash honour of Rupees One Lakh.

**YOUNG DANCERS FEST:** Both evenings on 22 and 23 April will be dedicated to the much awaited NATYA VRIKSHA DANCE FEST featuring solo classical dance recitals by young and talented dancers from different parts of India. Day 1 features recitals by Dr. Kalamandalam Krishnendu (Koodiyattam), and Sowmya Laxmi Narayanan (Bharatanatyam), while Day 2 features recitals by Lipsa Satpathy (Odissi) and Abhimanyu Lal (Kathak). **The Dance Festival will also be broadcast to world audiences via Metaverse.**

**QUOTE BY DANCER (PADMASHRI) GEETA CHANDRAN:** This is the 15th year of my curating World Dance Day events with the India International Centre in Delhi. So many artists have participated; my fondest memories are of (late) Mrinalini Sarabhai, Dr. Yamini Krishnamurthi, Smt. Kumudini Lakhia and Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan sharing their dance-life experiences at the Natya Vriksha forum. Our Young Dancers Festival has become an important showcase for young talent. Each year I try to change the format of the observance; sometimes it is lectures, other times it is films, discussions, seminars, workshops, demonstrations. The fluidity of the festival is its strength and its resilience. The 2022 Festival is bigger and more exciting. says Dancer (Padmashri) Geeta Chandran.

Also coming on board as Friends of Natya Vriksha are the Rasaja Foundation, Nirogam (Ayurveda), KRIBHCO and HIL.

2022 edition of curator Geeta Chandran's World Dance Day celebrations are something to be eagerly awaited.



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