



The participants showed impressive verve and calibre at the dance-off

Dance enthusiasts battle it out at the '7 UP Dance for Me'

# Up beat about dance

GAUTAM SUNDER

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✓ Loud music, flashy cut-outs and a variety of glittering outfits flooded the Sathya Narayan Hall at Tatabad for the city auditions of '7UP Dance For Me — Dance Pattalam'. Nearly 100 teams from Coimbatore, comprising of seven members each, participated putting on a riveting spectacle for the audience.

From jazz to hip-hop, and classical to modern; the fest showcased a wide range of dance forms demonstrated enthusiastically by the city's talented youngsters.

Says Jill Patel, a student at Kikani School and part of the Footloose crew, "We're a team of four boys and three girls. Our genre is mostly contemporary with some spontaneous improv work also thrown in for good measure. The competition seems really tough as there are several crews and teams from every nook and corner of



Coimbatore, some even from out of the city. Our performance is inspired from the elemental aesthetics of space and planets, and I hope we've done well enough to go to the next round!"

The shortlisted teams travel to the centre auditions, where they shall dance-off against other crews from Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai, before the grand finale judged by Simbu and Allu Arjun.

One of the choreographers judging the auditions, R. Johnson remarks, "This fest has exceeded expectations — I never knew Coimbatore could pull off such a grand show! It's been a tough job for us

to select winners, as so many crews have shown presence of mind, technique and new-age art on stage. There's a good rapport among all the members in the groups. I'm impressed enough to believe a crew from Coimbatore could might as well win the 'Dance For Me' contest!"

As for the boisterous youngsters, it was a great platform for them to get recognition.

Nandu, a college student comments, "It's heartening to see such a huge crowd turn up to watch us. It's really encouraging. We've danced our hearts out and fingers crossed, we'll do it again with Simbu and Allu Arjun!"