

## **BHOOMI PRANAM 2022-A salute to Mother India**

Delhi based NGO Association for Learning Performing Arts & Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.) which was launched in 2004 as a registered Society in the National Capital Territory of Delhi presented **BHOOMI PRANAM 2022-A salute to Mother India to celebrate AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV** on 12 September 2022 at M P Hall, India International Centre, New Delhi.

During last nineteen years A.L.P.A.N.A. has made significant contribution to its espoused cause of spreading awareness among today's youth about the rich cultural heritage of India, especially Odissi Dance, Vocal and Instrumental Music.

Guru Smt Alpana Nayak, the Founder President of A.L.P.A.N.A. and other Gurus associated with the organisation have trained innumerable students including Divyang students in Dance, Music and Art and Craft who have won many laurels including CCRT Scholarships over the years. To showcase the talents of its students A.L.P.A.N.A. has organised numerous events in the past.

To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence music teacher Smt. Saswati Chatterjee and her student Satwiki Dunguna presented three patriotic songs such as 'Sarve Saang no Janani Bharata....', 'Dhano Dhanye Pushpe Bharaa...' and 'Ae Watan Watan Mere Awaad Rahe Tu.....'. Shri Subash Chandra Behera accompanied on Tabla.

To celebrate "Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" senior students of A.L.P.A.N.A. Pihu Shrivastava, Disha Kannan and Shreysha presented a special choreography on a song "Bharat Anokha Raag hai...." which is a salute to a country blessed with beautiful music, to a country which is the melody of love and peace and to a country ornamented with extraordinary diversity in unity. This was choreographed by Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak.

The next item was a special choreography by Prapti Gupta, the senior most disciple of Guru Alpana on contemporary style based on a motivational poem "Main Naye Bharat ka Chehra hoon" by sadiyon ka Maha Nayak Shri Amitabh Bachchan Ji followed by "Har Ghar Tiranga Anthem song". This presentation was to rekindle our pride and love for the Tiranga (Tri colour flag) of our nation and was presented by Prapti, Lavisha Gulati, Shreysha and Samiksha Shamyal.

Nerissa Rout, the upcoming Odissi dancer mesmerised the audience with her Abhinaya based on the most popular Odia patriotic song "Tuhi maa janama bhumi..." written by Bhakta Kabi Madhusudan Rao the founder of Utkal Sahitya Samaj in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is a prayer to our beloved Motherland who is very pious, generous and has produced great Muni Rishis, warriors and unparalleled women like Sita, Savitri, Padmini, Durgabati, Laxmi Bai etc. Choreography of this item was done by Guru Alpana Nayak.

Next item of the evening was based on our National song Vande Mataram written by Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Choreographed by Guru Alpana Nayak & Guru Shri Santosh Swain. It is a prayer to our beloved country India which is the most beautiful place on earth. She provides us with trees, fruits, flowers, rivers, birds, animals – everything in abundance. Vande Mataram was presented by budding Odissi dancers Ishita Rajput, Anwasha Das, Hanshika Dev, Twinkle Gupta, Samiksha Shamyal, Lavisha Gulati and Katya Chadha.

Last item of BHOOMI PRANAM 2022 was Moksha which means salvation or spiritual liberation. It ended with a very popular peace Mantra "Sarve bhavantu Shukhinah, Sarve santu niramaya..." which simply means may everyone be happy, may everyone be healthy, may everyone see what is favourable and may no one suffer with a wish of peace for the whole world.

Guru Smt. Sharon Lowen, internationally acclaimed Odissi, Manipuri and Chhau Exponent, Scholar and Researcher was the Chief Guest of the evening whereas Ambassador Shri Amarendra Khatua, former Director General of ICCR and Shri Wajahat Habibullah, former Chief Information Commissioner of India were the Distinguished Guests of the event. At the end Shri B C Nayak, Mentor of A.L.P.A.N.A. presented Vote of Thanks.