

INDRADHANUSH 2014, 11th Annual Event at Azad Bhawan Auditorium, ICCR, New Delhi on 24 May 2014

INDRADHANUSH 2014, 11th Annual Event of Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.) at Azad Bhawan Auditorium, New Delhi was a kaleidoscope of different dance and music items presented by the little wonders, budding classical dancers and singers and special children of A.L.P.A.N.A. As the rainbow with its vibrant colours fills the heart of the beholder with joy and enjoyment, the artists of A.L.P.A.N.A. mesmerized the audience with different varieties of dance and music.

A.L.P.A.N.A. was launched in 2003 as a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. In a short span of its coming into being, it 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. A.L.P.A.N.A. is one among the few selected Organizations which trains specially gifted (Mentally and Physically Challenged) persons in Indian classical and folk dance forms and music for their holistic development and inclusive growth.

A.L.P.A.N.A. has been organizing **INDRADHANUSH** (rainbow) by its students since 2004. The event is designed to be a unique demonstration of the 'will to succeed together'.

INDRADHANUSH 2014 started with a Welcome song "**Swagatam Shubha Swagatam.....**" followed by a musical presentation by talented budding singers, Keyboard players, Tabla players, Guitarists and Flutist of A.L.P.A.N.A. which was based on **Miyam Malhar** Raag and **Teen Taal**.

The next item was a popular film song: "**Ajeeb dastan hai yeh....**" by **Keyboard players and Guitarists accompanied on Kongo** by a Special Student, Preeti.

The highlight of the evening cultural programme was a dance ballet presented by the **special students** of A.L.P.A.N.A. Through this act the differently-abled dancers demanded equal status and respect in the society which is their right, instead of sympathy and pity.

Odissi dancers began their repertoire with '**Mangalacharana**' where they presented "**Namami Vighna Raja Twam**" – a prayer to Lord Ganesha, the destroyer of all obstacles, the God of Wisdom and the God of Dance followed by a popular prayer "**Jay Ganesha Jay Ganesha Jay Ganesha Deva, Mata Jaaki Parvati Pita Mahadeva.....**

The next item was **Batu**, which is a Nritya or pure dance. It depicts different sculptural postures of ancient temples of Odisha.

Special students of A.L.P.A.N.A. are no less than anybody else in terms of talents. They presented **Dashavataar** which is an excerpt from "Geetgovindam" written by the great Oriya Poet Jayadeva.

The next item was a Sabhinaya Pallavi : **Kalyan Pallavi with Odia Abhinaya " Dekhiba Para Aasa Re....."** The word "**Pallavi**" has been derived from the Sanskrit word "pallava", which means the bud of a leaf, or the shoots of a tree, which are very tender. In this item equal importance is given to dance as well as music and rhythm. The movements in this item are extremely graceful and lyrical. In the Odia Abhinaya the Sakhis are inviting Radha to witness the beauty and grace of Krishna while playing His magical flute.

The next item was an Abhinaya based on a very popular Odia devotional song “**Ahe Nila Shaila Prabala Matta Barana.....**” written by 17th century Devotional poet Salabega. An ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath, the poet prays to the Lord to save him from sufferings as He had come to the rescue of the elephant attacked by the crocodile, the Deer from the cruel hunter and Draupadi whose honour was at stake in the Kaurava’s court. It is written in such a simple style that any reader would find it very evocative. In order to beautify the dance composition and also to dramatise the inherent theme, a lot of Sancharis had been used.

Last item of the evening was **Shivastakam** a prayer to Lord Shiva who is the God of all Gods. He is the destroyer as well as the preserver of whole universe. This item was specially choreographed by eminent Odissi Guru Shri Sudhakar Sahoo of Nrutya Sangeet Kala Mandir, Balasore which is the alma mater of Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak. All other items were choreographed by Guru Alpana Nayak.

The accompanists were Sri Prasanta Behera as Vocalist, Sri Prafulla Mangaraj on Mardala, Sri Dhiraj Pandey on Flute, Sri Gopinath Swain on Violin, Sri Subash Behera on Tabla and Sri Lavinya Ambade on Sitar.

Shri Satyanarayan Mohanty, IAS, Secretary, NDMA in Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India was the Chief Guest of the event and Shri Chandra Kishore Mishra, Additional Secretary and Mission Director of National Health Mission of Government of India and eminent choreographer, Guru and exponent of Odissi Dance Padma Shri Smt Kiran Segal were the Distinguished Guests of the event. Shri Mohanty blessed the children with lots of good wishes to do good in future and appreciated the hard work of A.L.P.A.N.A. in spreading awareness among today’s youth about rich cultural heritage of India.
