

INDRADHANUSH 2015 A REPORT

INDRADHANUSH 2015 was organised by Association for Learning Performing Arts & Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.) At Azad Bhavan Auditorium, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi on 23th May 2015. A.L.P.A.N.A. was launched in 2003 as a registered Society in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. In a short span of its coming into being, 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.

The 12th Annual Event **INDRADHANUSH 2015** was a kaleidoscope of different dance and music items presented by the little wonders, budding classical dancers and singers and special students of A.L.P.A.N.A. As the rainbow with its vibrant colours fills the heart of the beholder with joy and pleasure, our artists will mesmerize the audience with different varieties of dance and music.

The event was designed to be a unique demonstration of the 'will to succeed together'.

INDRADHANUSH started with a Welcome song "Swagatam Shubha Swagatam." The next item was **Thumri**. Then our talented **Keyboard players** played bollywood film song: **Jeevan ke din**. After keyboard, our young and highly talented **tabla players** enthralled the audience with their performance.

The highlight of the evening cultural programme was a dance based on popular songs of the great musician A. R. Rahman, "**Jai Ho and Vande Mataram**" to be presented by the special students of A.L.P.A.N.A. It is choreographed by **Guru Alpana Nayak**.

Another surprise of the evening was a performance of Sri Lankan Kandyan dance by the senior disciples of Guru Alpana Nayak. They presented a special dance known as "**Gajaga Wannama**", which was one of the 18 **Wannamas** of the Sri Lankan Kandyan dance. As the name suggests, the dance depicts the graceful, swaying movements of elephants. The students of A.L.P.A.N.A. were taught this dance form by Prof. Ariyaratna Kaluarachchi, Vice Chancellor, UVPA, Sri Lanka during a workshop at A.L.P.A.N.A. institute in April 2015.

Our beginner Odissi dancers started the dance performances with "Guruh Brahma Guruh Vishnu Gurur Deva Maheswara.....", a special choreography in Odissi style.

Then followed by '**Mangalacharana**'. Traditionally an Odissi dance recital starts with Mangalacharana, where the artists dedicate themselves to the Almighty and plead forgiveness from the Mother Earth for stamping their feet on her, beg apology from the audience for any shortcomings and pays obeisance to their Guru. In Mangalacharana the dancers of the evening were started with a prayer to Lord Vishnu in the Sanskrit shloka: "Shantakaram Bhujaga Shayanam Padmanabham Suresham....."

The next item was **Saveri Pallavi**. 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. As a small seed grows gradually into a large tree, in Pallavi, a tune is sung in a particular raga and it develops gradually into different varieties. In this item equal importance is given to dance as well as music and rhythm. The movements in this item were extremely graceful and lyrical. The Pallavi was based on "**Saveri Raga**".

Special students of A.L.P.A.N.A. were no less than anybody else in terms of talents. They presented "**Shiva Tandava**" written by Ravana, the demon king of Lanka in which the "Udhata or Rudra" manifestation of Lord Shiva is depicted.

The next item "**Shreeta Kamala Kucha Mandala....**" was an excerpt from "**Geetagovinda**" written by the great Oriya Poet Jayadeva. In this poem the poet had hailed the glory of Lord Vishnu, who wears earrings of precious stones and beautifully designed garland, who is the killer of the poisonous Kaliya snake, whose vehicle is Garuda- the king of birds, who as Rama married Sita and killed the demon Dushan and the ten-headed Ravana, who held the Mandar mountain on his little finger and whose face is as gorgeous as the clouds. The poet prays for the glorification of the Lord.

Last item of the evening was **Tathāgata**, - a ballet in Odissi style. **Tathāgata** is a Pali and Sanskrit word used by the Buddha of the Pali Canon when referring to himself. The term is often thought to mean either "one who has thus gone" (*tathā-gata*) or "one who has thus come" (*tathā-āgata*). This is interpreted as signifying that the Tathagata is beyond all coming and going - beyond all transitory phenomena. There are, however, other interpretations and the precise original meaning of the word is not certain. The Buddha is quoted on numerous occasions in the Pali Canon as referring to himself as *the Tathāgata* instead of using the pronouns *me, I or myself*. This may be meant to emphasize by implication that the teaching is uttered by one who has transcended the human condition, one beyond the otherwise endless cycle of rebirth and death, i.e. beyond suffering. The production in Odissi which is based on a famous poem "**Yoshadhara**" written by the Great Hindi Poet Shri Maithili Sharan Gupta will present the Enlightenment of Lord Buddha beyond suffering.

Shri Umang Narula, CMD, ITDC, Govt. of India & **Padmashree Smt. Geeta Mahalik**, Eminent Choreographer, Guru and Exponent of Odissi Dance were Distinguished Guests of the event. Both the guests 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.