

INDRADHANUSH 2016 A REPORT

INDRADHANUSH 2016 was organised by Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.) At Azad Bhavan Auditorium, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi on 21 May 2016. 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 **13th Annual Event INDRADHANUSH 2016** was a kaleidoscope of different dance and music items presented by the little wonders, budding classical dancers, senior disciples of Guru Smt Alpana Nayak 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 mesmerized the audience with different varieties of dance and music.

The event was designed to be a unique demonstration of the 'will to succeed together' where special students and other students performed together on the same stage.

Shri M. L. Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India was the Chief Guest and Shri Padma Lochan Sahu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture; Govt. of India was the Distinguished Guest of the event. After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests the performances started.

At the outset talented singers, keyboard players, Tabla players and flutist presented Ganesh Vandana, Thumri, Khayal, Tarana, folk song and film songs.

Then beginner Odissi dancers started with '**Mangalacharana**' where the artists dedicated themselves to the Almighty and pleaded forgiveness from the Mother Earth for stamping their feet on her, begged apology from the audience for any shortcomings and paid obeisance to their Guru. In Mangalacharana the dancers presented "**Namami Vighna Raja Twam**" - a prayer to Lord Ganesh, the destroyer of all obstacles, the God of Wisdom and the God of Dance.

Special students of A.L.P.A.N.A. were no less than anybody else in terms of talents. They presented Batu along with other dancers. **Batu** is a Nritya or pure dance. It depicts different sculptural postures of ancient temples of Orissa. This item is devoid of lyric and hence there is no Bhava- Abhinaya or expression.

The next item was **Mohana 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. The movements in this item were extremely graceful and lyrical. Pallavi was based on "**Mohana Raga**".

The next item was **Dashavataar** which is an excerpt from "Geetavindam" written by the great Oriya Poet Jayadeva. In this poem the poet has depicted ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu such as Meena (the fish), Kacchhapa (the tortoise), Shukara (the wild boar), Narahari (half-man half-lion), Vamana (the dwarf), Bhrigupati (the warrior), Raghupati (or Rama the great king), Haladhara (the tiller), Buddha (the preacher of non-violence and peace) and Kalki the (destroyer) who is yet to come.

The next item was “**Vrindavani Sarangi Pallavi**” based on raag Vrindani Saarang. This was specially choreographed by Guru Smt Alpana Nayak and music was composed by Shri Prasanta Behera.

The highlight of the evening performances was a special choreography in Odissi style “**Shunya se Shunya tak - Pancha Mahabhoota**”.

According to Hinduism, the five basic elements of the entire universe such as earth, water, air, fire and space are the basis of all cosmic creation. These elements have different characteristics and these also account for different faculties of human experience. In ayurveda and Indian philosophy, the human body is considered to be made of these five elements. The Taittirīya Upanisad describes the five "sheaths" of a person (purusha), starting with the grossest level of the five evolving great elements:

From this very self (ātman) did space come into being; from space, air; from air, fire; from fire, the waters, from the waters, the earth; from the earth, plants; from plants, food; and from food, man....

These five elements contain five characteristics. They account for the five faculties of Shabda(sound), Sparsha(touch), Roopa(sight), Rasa(taste), Gandha (smell). Thus every individual has these distinct five faculties as each of these faculties has emanated from one particular element.

Earth or Akash is the most subtle element, each element in turn is used to create the next element, each less subtle than the next. The basest element earth can be perceived by all five senses sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. The next higher element water has no smell but can be heard, felt, seen and tasted. Next comes fire which can be heard, felt and seen. After that comes air which can be heard and felt. Last comes Akash which can only be heard. Panchabhuta - the five basic elements of the entire universe such as earth, water, air, fire and space- create, nurture and nourish life but at the same time they also have the potential to destroy it.

This was **choreographed by Guru Smt Alpana Nayak** and music was composed by Shri Prasanta Behera and Shri Prafulla Mangaraj.

At the end Mr M L Shrivastava honoured Guru Smt Alpana Nayak, other teachers and accompanying musicians with bouquet and distributed prizes to winning students. Then the Chief Guest said that despite the global influences, today’s children have been taking keen interest in traditional art forms of India. We must give them support and encouragement. He also appreciated Smt. Alpana Nayak’s efforts for inculcating cultural values in the youth and promoting it further. He blessed the children with lots of good wishes to do good in future.