

# NRITYANJALI 2019

## REPORT

**NRITYANJALI 2019** - an evening of Odissi Dance was organised by Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.) at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre, New Delhi on 17 April 2019 where senior disciples of Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak and talented upcoming Odissi dancers Anoushka Agrawal, Akankshya Satapathy & Disha Kannan presented special choreographies in Odissi Dance style. A.L.P.A.N.A., a fifteen year old organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in NCT of Delhi aims at promotion of performing arts and working towards equitable human development and growth.. 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 composite cultural heritage of India, especially Odissi Dance, Vocal and Instrumental Music.

**Shri Suresh Chandra Panda, IAS (Retd.)** former CEO of Prasar Bharati, Govt. of India, presided over the event and **Shri Mukul Goel, IPS, Addl. DGP, BSF** was the Chief Guest of the event. After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests the performances started.

The event started with Mangalacharana, where Anoushka Agrawal, Akankshya Satapathy & Disha Kannan, the dancers of the evening offered prayer to Guru who is considered as Brahma, Vishnu & Maheshwar through the shloka "Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu Gurur Deva Maheshwar.....". This dance was choreographed by Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak.

Then Akankshya Satapathy presented "Batu" which is a Nritya or pure dance. It depicted different sculptural postures of ancient temples of Orissa.

The next item was "Shankarabharana Pallavi" by Anoushka Agrawal. 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 gradually it develops into different varieties. The movements in this item are extremely graceful and lyrical.

Then Akankshya presented an Odia Abhinaya "Malli Maala Shyama ku debi...." written by the celebrated Oriya poet Kavi Samrat Upendra Bhanja in the 16th century CE and choreographed by Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak. This song depicts "Basakasajjika Naayika" and portrays the happiness and excitement with which a woman dresses up for her lover. While thinking of Lord Krishna Radha is saying "I'll

put garland of Jasmine flowers around his neck to enchant him with the lovely fragrance; if he feels hot and sweaty because of the Sun's intense heat, I'll rub sandalwood paste to cool him; I'll use my saree to fan him; I'll kiss him to make him forget about everything. If he gets angry I'll offer him betel leaves".

Then Anoushka presented "Shreeta Kamala Kucha Mandala...." which is an excerpt from "Geetagevinda" written by the great Oriya Poet Jayadeva. In this poem the poet has 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. The poet prays for the glorification of the Lord.

Then Disha Kannan performed 'Nava Durga', a prayer to Goddess Durga through a song "Jaya Bhagabati Devi Namoh Varade.....". In this presentation nine manifestations of the Goddess such as Bana Durga, Maha Durga, Kiri Durga, Jaya Durga, Shuli Durga, Mahisha Mardini, Shakti Durga and Ghoru Durga are praised.

The Last item of the evening was Moksha meaning salvation or "spiritual liberation". With the cosmic sound of the "Om", the dance dissolves into nothingness – just like Moksha or the deliverance of the soul in real life.

All the guests of the evening praised Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak and her senior disciples for their elegant postures, beautiful abhinaya and also appreciated Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak's efforts for inculcating cultural values in the youth and promoting it further.

\*\*\*\*\*