

NRITYA PRAVAH 2020

REPORT

NRITYA PRAVAHA - An evening of Odissi Dance by extraordinarily talented upcoming Odissi Dancer Ms Pihu Shrivastava, senior disciple of Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak and daughter of Shri Ashok Shrivastava, eminent anchor of DD News was held on 2nd February 2020 at the auditorium of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

The uniqueness of "NRITYA PRAVAHA" event was Odissi Dance performances by Ms Pihu along with four very talented Divyang Odissi dancers namely Tanmay Aggrawal, Abhishek Rana, Khushi Sagar and Preeti on the same platform. Our beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has articulated inclusiveness of Global Society with special emphasis on DIVYANGJAN (persons with special ability). A.L.P.A.N.A., a Delhi based registered NGO has been training Divyangjan in Odissi dance, folk dances, Vocal and instrumental music and Art and craft since 2003 for their holistic development and inclusion in the society. Ms Pihu Shrivastava has been assisting Guru smt Alpana Nayak in teaching odissi dance to Divyangjan for last two years.

Shri R K Sinha, Member of Parliament & Chairman of Hindustan Samachar News Agency was the Chief Guest of the event. Padmashri and Sangeet Natak Akademy awardee Guru Smt Geeta Mahalik, Eminent Odissi Exponent, Shri Mayank Agarwal, Director General of DD News, Mrs Bharati Singh, Social Activist & wife of General V K Singh and Ms Rama Sharma, Principal of Hansraj College, Delhi University have graced the occasion as distinguished guests.

After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests the performances started. The event started with Mangalacharana by Pihu Shrivastava and Divyang students - Abhishek Rana, Preeti & Khushi Sagar. They offered prayer to Lord Shiva through "Shiva Tandava" written by Ravana, the demon king of Lanka in which the "Udhata or Rudra" manifestation of Lord Shiva was depicted. This dance was choreographed by Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak.

The next item was "Raageshri Pallavi" by Ms Pihu. 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. In this item the movements and postures of Pihu was extremely graceful and lyrical.

Divyang students of A.L.P.A.N.A. are no less than anybody else in terms of talents. They proved the slogan “Hum Saksham hain” through their performance. Tanmay Aggarwal, Abhishek Rana, Preeti & Khushi Sagar - all Divyang Odissi dancer presented “Batu” which is a Nritya or pure dance. In this dance different sculptural postures of ancient temples of Orissa were depicted.

Then Pihu presented Ashtapadi: Dhira Samire Yamuna Tire Basati Vane Vanamaali..... which is an excerpt from Geeta Govindam by the legendary Odia poet Jayadeva. In this Ashtapadi a Sakhi tells Radha: “Oh my dear! On the bank of river Yamuna in the forest of Vrindavan where the cool wind blows gently Lord Krishna, the God of Love and the God of your heart awaits for you. Oh beautiful lady with lovely hips make haste. Your lover waits while playing his flute very softly. It calls only your name. Today he welcomes even an infinitesimal grain of dust upon his hands as that grain has touched you and returned to him. When a bird alights upon a branch there is a rustle, a noise and a sound which makes him feel as if you are coming. He is making a place for you to rest and to make love with you. Oh my Sakhi, take off your anklet today as the agitated sound of bells is a barrier to the silence when lovers meet. Wrap yourself in a blue saree to match the colour of the night and hurry to the dark silence of love’s bower where the God of your heart - Lord Krishna awaits for you”. Pihu’s Abhinaya was extremely beautiful and subtle.

The last item of the evening 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, Draupadi whose honour was at stake in the Kaurava’s court and Prahalad who was tortured by his father Hiranya Kashyapu. 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 has been used. Sanchari in Classical dances is a choreographic technique in which the same idea or meaning is expressed in a variety of ways.

All the guests of the evening praised Pihu for her intriguing footwork, elegant postures, mesmerising abhinaya and also appreciated Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak’s efforts for inculcating cultural values in the youth and promoting it further. They wished Ms Pihu and Divyang Dancers bright future in the field of Odissi dance.
