

SAMBHAV 2011: showcasing artistic talent of the disabled for inclusive growth

The sixth edition of SAMBHAV, showcasing the artistic talent of physically and mentally challenged artistes from 18 countries including India, concluded in the weekend of 12 & 13 November 2011 with a resounding success. The two-day festival, organised annually by A.L.P.A.N.A. Society, this year attracted groups from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Germany, Nigeria, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Thailand besides groups from Indian States (Provinces) of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Odisha.

Felicitations

President Smt Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Human Resources Development Minister Mr Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for External Affairs Mrs Perneet Kour, Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Sheila Dikshit and German Federal Government's Commissioner on Disabled Persons Mr. Hubert Hueppe were among the dignitaries who sent their felicitation messages to A.L.P.A.N.A. Society wishing SAMBHAV 2011 a grand success.

Inauguration

Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, Chairman, National Commission for Minorities, recounting his previous association with this event, said the present foray into building an international understanding in the field of inclusive arts and growth was commendable. 'SAMBHAV', which literally means- 'possible', has achieved an extraordinary feat through this effort, he said. SAMBHAV-2011 was inaugurated by Mr. Wajahat Habibullah on Saturday, the 12th of November 2011 at India International Centre. It included a series of seminars on challenged persons, an exhibition of art and craft by challenged artists and performances by twenty two

troupes from sixteen countries at two prominent venues in New Delhi, the India International Centre and the India Islamic Cultural Centre.

International Performances

The challenged performers from different countries impressed the audience with their excellence in the 2-day long International Performances segment of SAMBHAV 2011. Union Minister for Culture Kumari Selja was the Chief Guest while renowned danseuse Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sonal Mansingh presided over the function on 12 November 2011. Mr. Justice A.K. Patnaik of Supreme Court of India was the Chief Guest while Chief Central Information Commissioner Mr. Satyanand Mishra presided over the function on 13 November 2011. Indian Culture Minister Kumari Selja was particularly touched by the performance of the wheel chair bound autistic artiste from Australia and her companion. In the International Performances segment, forty-five choreographed items and compositions were presented by as many as ninety-eight challenged performers from twenty-two groups belonging to sixteen different countries.

International Coopertaion Framework

SAMBHAV 2011 set a landmark by providing a platform, where eleven Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the A.L.P.A.N.A. Society and organisations from eleven different countries that have been working for inclusive growth of mentally and physically challenged persons through performing arts. The objective of these MoUs is to cooperate and to share experience in the sector for mutual benefit and, also, to provide mechanisms in the countries of the signatories to undertake similar participative efforts. The MoU signing ceremony was presided over by Ambassador Mr R.M. Agrawal. These MoUs were signed with organisations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

International Art Exhibition

In the International Art Exhibition segment of SAMBHAV 2011, about 120 high quality paintings by challenged artists from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Russia, Sri Lanka and Mongolia were displayed at India International Centre. Mr Aleksandr Pushilko from Russia conducted a painting workshop. Also on display were craft items produced by challenged craft-students of A.L.P.A.N.A. Society.

International Seminar

SAMBHAV 2011 had a segment of International Seminars on the theme, “Challenged Young Persons, Mental Health and Inclusive Growth.” Experts from India and abroad presented their papers and spoke in the Seminar. Among the experts were Mr. TR Meena, Joint Secretary to Govt of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; Ms Roopa Srinivasan, Director in the Ministry of Culture, Government of India; Dr Nimesh G. Desai, Director, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, New Delhi; Dr. N. K. Chadha, Professor of Psychology and Head of the Department of Psychology, Delhi University; Dr. G. N. Karna, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Prof. Dr. Sanga Dorji, Psychiatry Department, JDW National Referral Hospital, Thimphu and Executive Director of Disabled Persons’ Association of Bhutan (DPAB); Mr Telge Vijaya Kurukulanatha, Secretary General, ESCO Rehab, Sri Lanka; Ms Dianne Reid, Performer & Choreographer with differently-abled dance company, Weave Movement Theatre, Australia; Mr Jowaherul Islam Mamun, President, Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh (SWID, Bangladesh); Ms. Marcela Londoño, Secretary, Asociación Amigos de India-Colombia; Mr. Balraz Boodoo, President, Association pour L'Education et la Rehabilitation des personnes Avec Deficiencie Intellectuelle (APERPDI), Mauritius; Dr Pramila Balasundaram, Founder Director, SAMADHAN, New Delhi and President 21st Asian Federation for the Intellectually Disabled Conference (21 AFID); Dr. Nantarika

Chansue, Associate Professor, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, Bangkok.

Acknowledgements

SAMBHAV was conceived and started in 2006 by Delhi-based not-for-profit organization, Association for Learning Performing Arts & Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.)—to help promote inclusive arts within the context of inclusive growth. SAMBHAV showcases artistic empowerment of disabled persons. Society president Alpana Nayak, herself a professional Odissi dancer, said, we run a small school having about 160 students in different streams and try contribute our bit in an often neglected and difficult area. She added, SAMBHAV 2011 was made possible due to unstinted support and encouragement of Jeevan Jyoti Home of the Missionaries of Charity, Indian Corporate Sector lead institutions, Ministries of Culture, Health and External Affairs, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Zonal Cultural Centres, State Governments, Indian Cultural Centres abroad, Indian Missions abroad, Foreign Missions in New Delhi, members of media and innumerable well wishers, friends and stake holders.

SAMBHAV 2012

Mr. Bijay Kumar Dash, vice president of A.L.P.A.N.A. announced that SAMBHAV 2012 was scheduled to be held at New Delhi on 11 and 12 November 2012.