

Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (ALPANA) was set up in the year 2004. It is registered with the Registrar of Societies, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The mission of the Society is to promote performing arts and to facilitate holistic human development. The Society is also actively involved in teaching of Odissi dance, music and crafts to specially gifted (mentally and physically challenged) persons. Through its regular classes, special shows and stage events, ALPANA intends to contribute towards making society more inclusive towards the differently abled.

For the past eight years, ALPANA has been holding an annual event called 'SAMBHAV' which showcases the abilities of the differently abled people in the field of performing arts. It had its beginnings as a local event, but grew to become a national event. In 2008, ALPANA decided to expand 'SAMBHAV' to include a few countries of South Asia - Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. 'SAMBHAV' 2009 saw a total of ten countries participate in the event. The participants were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. 'SAMBHAV' 2010 had participation from sixteen countries, namely, India, Canada, United Kingdom, Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Mongolia, Bhutan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and South Africa. The successes of 'SAMBHAV' encouraged ALPANA to plan a bigger event in 2011 by expanding the participation to all continents and also to start new activities. In SAMBHAV 2011 physically and mentally challenged artistes from 18 countries such as 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 participated.

The seventh edition of SAMBHAV showcasing the artistic talent of physically and mentally challenged artists, from 19 countries including India concluded in the weekend of 9, 10 and 11 November 2012 with a resounding success. It included international seminars on artistic empowerment of disabled persons, an exhibition of art and craft by the challenged artists and participating countries, signing of MoUs and performances by 23 troupes from 19 countries such as Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA and Vietnam. Over the years, "SAMBHAV" has grown to become a major event of inclusive arts in the Indian National capital. The main objectives of SAMBHAV are:

To promote inclusive growth and be a catalyst in fulfilling commitments of the global society towards persons with disability

To showcase inclusiveness of Indian society

To empower challenged persons particularly artists, through development of skills and enhancement of creativity in various fields of arts

To work towards sharing of ideas, knowledge, achievements and experiences through sustainable interactions among different stake holders.

FELICITATIONS

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Human Resources Development Minister Mr Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for External Affairs Mrs Perneet Kour,

Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Shri Tejendra Khanna and Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Sheila Dikshit were among the dignitaries who sent their felicitation messages to ALPANA Society wishing SAMBHAV 2012 a grand success.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SAMBHAV 2012 set a landmark by providing a platform, where six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the ALPANA Society and premier civil society organizations from 6 different countries such as Vietnam, Colombia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia and USA/Nigeria which 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 on 10 November 2012 was co-chaired by Ambassador Mr R.M. Agrawal and Deaconess Linda Olissa E Middleton, JP, Nigeria/USA. Mr Agarwal a career diplomat with a career spanning over 35 years was a Foreign Service Officer of the Govt of India. He had been Ambassador to many countries and was also in-charge of flagship department of Indian Council of Cultural Relations under the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr Agarwal was invited to share his expertise and knowledge within the participants of SAMBHAV 2012. He started his speech by defining what SAMBHAV means and its objectives. Then he talked about ALPANA. He gave a detailed account of the policies undertaken at national and international level for the physically and mentally challenged persons.

He mentioned that-

India has a long tradition of protecting the physically challenged person (Article 14 stresses on this). The national policy on education 1986 aims to integrate the physically and mentally handicapped as equal partner in achieving the goals of education.

Important rules under the United Nations conventions on the rights of the child - 1989

Article 31 recognises the right of child to rest and engage in recreational activities and participate freely in cultural life and arts.

Government of India has two ministries that deals with this. The two ministries are Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

National policy of persons within disability.

Central govt. as well as state govt. has made many policies with respect to this secretariat and budgetary provisions are provided to the different organisations.

Due importance is given for women and child development.

NGOs have also been given a great deal of importance to the persons with disability.

Countries of Europe, Gulf, Asia and Africa have done commendable job and have provided --

Old Age Home

Homes for Blind

Maternity and child care centre

Tight Budgetary provisions

Important organizations in International Level --

- US International Council

- Canadian Association for Community Living

-International Disability Alliance

-UNICEF

-World Organization on Children by UNICEF

IPO-Handbook Mr. Den O. Donald

Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates the inclusive society includes person with disabilities.

Census 2001 - 2.19 crore person with disability in India which constitutes 2.13%

Deaconess Linda is a quite known face in the Ministry of Commerce and in ALPANA organized events. She has been the CEO and MD of African Theatrical project and has been promoting the activities based in Nigeria she has now shifted their base to USA. She has been working for the US-Nigerian Development Institute. Ministry of information and National orientation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism embassies of both the countries (USA and Nigeria) are working in association with her organisation. She has been a pioneer in the field of national co-operation and Business promotion, who has a vision for Nigeria her birth country. She has wide ranging experiences that have helped her in gaining different perspectives. She looks at people with disabilities differently. According to her with disabilities come great power, talent and potentiality. She was completely amazed by seeing the performance of a girl from Nepal on one leg. It was phenomenal according to her. She explained that the disabled people have more potentiality than the able bodied person. She said that she was happy and was touched after her discussion with Smt. Gursharan Kaur the wife of the Prime Minister of India, who said that there is great power that comes in form of disability. The disabled person showed that what abled bodied person can't do is done by them. She talked about what provisions govt can make for them. She comes from Nigeria where there are 160 million people and 19 million live with disability (that mean 20%).

She wants action to be taken rather than mere talking to be done. Take action to help human beings, she said. She shared her personal experience where her husband (a able bodied person) went through a major change (and became a disabled person). She was deeply saddened by the discrimination of people between able bodied and disabled. She wanted rehabilitation centres to be built in each and every place. She wanted the disabled person to be given equal opportunity in the society. She wanted people to do what we feel and what we are happy about. She wanted disabled persons to be given equal rights. She wanted us to know "what we can do for our people." She said that they are also humans and they are also like us. She shared her experience about how she had to fight in the US for her husband's treatment because there was no help in the dialysis centre and was turned down without any treatment when she was not around. But she was thankful to a policy under which she complained and immediately her husband was given all the treatment and help. When she informed that her husband was rejected immediate action was taken. She wants a revolution to be there after which a blind man can teach us what he knows. She expressed that if policies and actions are taken seriously then the world will definitely be a better place to live. Ms Linda then thanked everyone associated with SAMBHAV 2012 for this programme. She thanked all the participants who travelled all the way from their countries to be a part of SAMBHAV 2012 and showcased the talent that they have got. She applauded their efforts to word had to show their talents. She enthusiastically gave a slogan -- "Dream about your country, change your country".

Ms Linda encouraged everyone to dream and to try to change their country in whatever way possible. She encouraged the disabled ones to see dreams and to work hard to fulfil them. She asked people to dream for a change because people of the country are itself the government of the country. She asked people to set dreams/goals for themselves.

Shri B. K. Dash thanked both Mr. Agarwal and Deaconess Linda for their valuable speech.

THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

The Art and craft exhibition was inaugurated in the IIC foyer by Dr. Alok Mehta, Chief Editor, *National Duniya* on 9 November at 4:00 pm. In the International Art Exhibition segment of SAMBHAV 2012, about 120 high quality paintings by challenged artists from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Mongolia were displayed. Also on display were craft items produced by challenged craft-students of A.L.P.A.N.A. Society.

FIRST DAY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

SESSION A

The International Seminar which was held on 10th and 11th of November 2012 had five sessions. The general theme for the seminar was “The challenges encountered by persons with disability and the ways and means to enable them to live with respect and dignity in the society”. Dr. K. E. S. Unni, Child Psychiatrist, Head of Psychiatry Dept. & De-addiction Centre, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi conducted the Seminars.

In session A, Ms Jenine Elizabeth Mackay, Chairperson of Art Access Australia (AAA) was the Keynote Presenter and Ms. Ajanta Rani Saha of SWID, Bangladesh and Ms Sofi Fathiya of Pantai Social Bina Netra (PSBN) Mahatmiya, Indonesia were the Paper Presenters.

Ms Jenine Mackay gave a detailed account of the works of AAA which is famous for the improvement of access of opportunities for disabled persons and encouraging arts & culture. According to Jennie, Australia ranks 21 out of 29 countries in standards of people in disabilities. Last year, Australia had introduced new projects, new arts and organisations to make more accessible for the people challenged with disabilities. Australia introduced a scheme to make more jobs available for the disabled people. In her presentation, she mentioned that AAA has launched a new website - www.artsaccessibleaustralia.org which is full information about arts and disability and is highly accessible website. A short film on people suffering from disabilities was shown by her which showed the fact that nothing is impossible. Dedication and hard work will definitely bring success. After repeated learning and practice they made an impossible thing possible and the fact that nothing is impossible is the main theme of this festival called 'Sambhav' which is a Sanskrit word meaning “possible”.

Sofi Fathiya from Bali, Indonesia initiated her presentation with an introduction to the organisation named Pantai Social Bina Netra Mahatmiya (PSBN), Bali which aimed for creating prosperity for people with disabilities.

PSBN Mahatmiya - It is the direct services unit of Ministry Social Affairs of Indonesia dealing with social & rehabilitation services to create an equality and antinomy.

Mission of PSBN Mahatmiya -

- i) To implement the social rehabilitation for people with disabilities based on the valid social rehabilitation standard.
- ii) To improve the human resources of people with disabilities.
- iii) To improve the professionalism of the social workers.
- iv) To fulfill the infrastructures in supporting the institution activities.

Programme- The social rehabilitation programmes, implemented in serving homes & to outside.
Nursing homes-

Regular seminars - Services for people with blind disabilities.

Multi resources - Services for people with light weight body disabilities, speech impaired high & mild mental. Out search Services - Activities of mersing personnel in a more proactivement to traget, the source of the problem & sources of social seminars.

They have an action step to implement their programme --

- Initial Approach
- Acceptance
- Resocialization
- After-care
- Termination

Sofi in her presentation mentioned about data of PSBN Mahatmiya Beneficiaries. PSBN Mahatmiya after its establishment in 1957, total were 953 out of which 18 are contemning educations, 155 were self employed, 62 were the employee, 4 were the civil servants, 5 were artists, athlete & 24 ment no record. They started building their network through partnership increasing capacity, identification, business support in changing, reform people with disabilities and for the expansion of information for the people with disabilities. the purpose of their networking is to promote & provide the provision of job training.

Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha from SWID, Bangladesh mentioned that out of 16.5 million population of Bangladesh more than 3.1 % people are mentally retarded & 9% are retarded with all types of disabilities. SWID Bangladesh was started in 1977 and its objectives are:

Education for all

Rehabilitation of PWDs (Persons with Disabilities) in the society

- Welfare Act for the PWDs
- Early intervention & Detection
- Inclusive vocational education & training

She mentioned about the journey of SWID during last 35 years.

SWID Bangladesh is running now about 69 branches in 55 districts of Bangladesh.

SWID is working to demonstrate the abilities & education system of the children with intellectual disability >7000 students, 445 classes & highly skilled professionals and teachers

Advocacy is one of their programmes.

SWID advocates for establishing the full participation & equal opportunities of the persons with disabilities, ensure inclusion of people with ID & their interest in all levels of activities throughout the society and provide the services that are necessary to be enabled to participate in all spheres of society.

To empower parents.

SWID has goal making relations with government officials & also with NGOs in getting encouragement.

This organisation started participating in the Special Olympics since 2007. In 1994 SWID Bangladesh launched special programmes for the welfare of PWIDs(Persons With Intellectual Disability) which are as follows:

- To provide rehabilitation resource
- To give financial assistance to PWID
- To take care of PWID & their assets in absence of their parents & guardians
- To advocate programmes for health care, education & training for setting up Homes for women.
- To collect donation in cash & kinds for programme of PWID from government, individuals, private, national & international organisations.

Rehabilitation is done by -

- Finding employment opportunities for PWID
- Providing capital for self-employment of PWID
- Associating PWID in communicating Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programmes.

SESSION B

In Session B of the International seminar, Dr. Pramila Balasundaram, Chairperson, SAMADHAN, India was the Keynote Presenter and Mr Viraj Peiris from ESCO Rehab, Sri Lanka, Mr. Namsrain Gankhuyag, Arts Council, Mongolia and Mrs Mya Myahnin, Blind School ,Sangain City, Myanmar were the paper presenters.

Dr. Pramila Balasundaram who is a theatre therapist gave an introduction about theatre and the role of theatre in every body's life. According to her, every child is special. Every art is not done by special kind of person but every person is a special kind of artist as quoted by Dr. Anand Swami. No matter who we are, where we come from, we all have a basic need for creating expertise whether through dance, music or theatre which are very essential for our survival. She focused on creativity. It has been researched and well documented that drama starts at home. We are able to respond dramatically to the world around us. It starts right from our birth. Imagination keeps increasing as we grow older. Our perceptions keep changing as we grow old. We do continue with dramatic expression all throughout our lives.

Mr Viraj Peiris gave an introduction to their organisation which is for educational, social & cultural enhancement of the persons with disability. In Sri Lankan parents do not send their challenged children for socialization due to social stigma. He said that parents should not be ashamed of their child challenged with disabilities. Instead, parents should allow their disabled child to go and attend special schools meant for them. Their organisation - ESCO Sri Lanka was founded by late Mr. Tissa Krurukulanatha. The main objective of ESCO is to boost up the confidence of the people with disabilities by providing them with opportunities to grow and learn. In Sri Lanka, technology and computer informatics are used judiciously along with other support for the development of disabled people.

Next presenter was Mrs Mya Myahnin, from the School for the Blind, Sangain City, Myanmar. She gave a detailed account of different programmes of the Ministry of Social Welfare of Myanmar which are as follows:

- Public Welfare Service
- Children and Youth Welfare Service
- Women Welfare Service

Under Children and Youth Welfare Service different schemes are meant for the rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. For social rehabilitation training in recreation, sports, music, painting and vocational training as well as job opportunities are provided. In Myanmar there is inclusive education system which means that there is provision of education for disabled children in both normal as well as special school. Special technology is used for the blind students.

After Myanmar, Mr. Namsrain Gankhuyag, Arts Council, Mongolia presented his paper. The prime mission of Arts Council is to support sustainable development of Art and culture in Mongolia. One of its most important projects is "I Can Do It" where they train people different art forms irrespective of their abilities. In Mongolia a significant percentage of people are disabled. Arts Council of Mongolia tries to enhance the self confidence and self esteem of disabled people through Arts therapy. Painting, sculpting, clay modeling, dancing and music can release feelings and emotions of the children and give vent to their thoughts. Different art forms help children with disability grow happily.

SECOND DAY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Dr. K. E. S. Unni, Child Psychiatrist, Head of Psychiatry Dept. & De-addiction Centre, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi conducted the Seminar. To highlight the capabilities of

challenged persons, two video films “Water Burns Sun” by Prof Petra Koppers, University of Michigan and “Triptychon” by Evelyne Wohlfarter tanzfähig, Berlin were shown. Performances by Challenged persons were highly appreciated by all as all challenged artists in spite of their disabilities, exhibited their differently abled inherent talent flawlessly.

After screening of two films there was a presentation on Panel Theatre by APERPDI, Mauritius. Mr. Balraz Boodoo of Mauritius talked about his experiences about using simple materials and organised methods to deal with challenged children. He did this in his Panel Theatre. He expressed his thankfulness to A.L.P.A.N.A. by working together for challenged persons. Various materials were used in Panel Theatre. To learn Panel Theatre a child has to be shown visually and musically. Panel Theatre is shown at pre-schools and K.G. schools in Japan and other Asian countries for inclusive education.

SESSION C

After Panel Theatre presentation SESSION C of International Seminar started. Dr. K. E. S. Unni was the Keynote presenter and Mr Truong Nhuan of Vietnam Youth Theatre (Nha hat Tuoi tre), Vietnam and Ms. Jeannette Alexandra Rosas Rodriguez of CORPOALEGRIA, Colombia were the paper presenters for this session.

First Mr Truong Nhuan of Vietnam Youth Theatre (Nha hat Tuoi tre), Vietnam presented his paper. Mr Truong told about the Vietnam War which made many people in their country disabled. Vietnam Youth Theatre is training the disabled people in Theatre and Mime Act and is helping them to put up public performances. The main objective of the organisation is to improve the conditions of living of the persons with disabilities.

Ms. Jeannette Alexandra Rosas Rodriguez of CORPOALEGRIA, Colombo made a video presentation of the activities done by persons with disabilities in their organisation. She indicated that seven countries of Latin America have large number of disabled persons. It is pertinent that mindset of able-bodied persons should change. All should work for development of talents and living conditions of disabled persons, social integration and policy change. U.N.O. report for the disabled in Colombia emphasises on art, sports, rights of disabled, education, health care and economic growth.

Bhutan was represented by Mr. Pema Chhogyel who gave an account of various activities undertaken by the Government of Bhutan and related organisations for education, collaboration with various organisations, improvement in quality of life of disabled. Vocational training schools have been established. Home based mentally challenged persons are being taken care by physiotherapists and psychiatrists for disabled persons.

SESSION D

In this session Dr. G. N. Karna from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi was the Key note presenter and Mr Paul Lau Chee Doo of Spastic Children’s Association of Selangor & Federal Territory, Malaysia and Prof. Ms. Parichart Bhusawang of Art for All Foundation, Thailand were the paper presenters.

Dr. Karna appreciated works of ALPANA in overall development of persons with disability. According to him art, drama and dance are effective tools for development of PWDs.

Mr Paul stressed the need for cooperation of all to help PWDs and change of mindset of the people in the society.

Prof. Ms. Parichart elaborated the activities taken up in their county for the development of disabled people through a video presentation.

SESSION E

Mr Khamsouk Keovongsay, Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Information and Culture, Lao PDR and Mr. Chiran Jeevy Pokhrel, Nepal were the paper presenters for this session.

Mr Khamsouk spoke about steps taken in their country for the upliftment of the disabled people. Training in craft wood carving, painting, pottery making are being conducted. For hearing impaired, a special school has been started. Teachers for this school have been trained in Thailand. A residential school has been started for blind persons which provides free training and education. Many challenged children have gone up to high school standard.

Mr. Chiran Jeevy Pokhrel said that Government of Nepal provides opportunities to disabled children in the field of health, education, talent improvement training programme and for economic empowerment through sports, dance and art activities.

Dr. K. E. S. Unni, key note presenter of this session in his concluding speech on the discussions in the seminar said that activities of children through performances show that disability is not a hindrance for good work along with grown-up persons. This is inclusive education. Art and therapy can go together. Comprehensive programme for development of disabled people in improving their daily life is necessary. Disabled people have become differently abled through various activities and programmes. He stressed the need of inter subjectivity and attitudinal activity among trainers. In this regard Dr. Rajendrani Saha, psychiatrist from Bangladesh demonstrated how to wake up a child with soft touch on ear. Psychiatrist should be dear to disabled children at the time of stress even if he/ she is not present with them. This activity is apparent from the fact that when one is in stress, he/she utters "Oh Maa" which indicates CARE of mother even when she is not with the child.

PERFORMANCES

9 November 2012

On behalf of ALPANA, Ms Ayushi Nayak, MC of the evening programme welcomed the Guests and audience. Hon'ble Smt. Gursharan Kaur, wife of the PM of India was the Chief Guest and Smt. Stuti Kacker, Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice, Shri Sudhir Vasudeva, Chairman, ONGC and Shri R. N. Nayak, Chairman, Powergrid were the Distinguished Guests for the event. MC requested Ms Alpana Nayak, President of ALPANA to welcome the Chief Guest and Shri B. K. Dash to welcome the Distinguished Guests with bouquet. Then MC requested dignitaries to inaugurate the event by lighting the Ceremonial Lamp.

After that MC gave an introduction about ALPANA and SAMBHAV. Then performances by the specially gifted artists of eight different countries started. First performance was by the students of ALPANA who presented "Dashavtaar", ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu in Odissi dance style which is the oldest classical dance form of India.

Next performance was by the challenged performers of CORPOALEGRIA, Colombia. The wheel-chair-bound artists presented folk dances of Colombia and one of them played flute flawlessly.

Then the challenged performer of Pakistan played Sarangi so beautifully that everybody in the audience got spellbound.

Then MC requested Chief Guest and other distinguished guests to come on stage to release the Souvenir of SAMBHAV 2012.

After that Smt. Gursharan Kaur, the Chief Guest was requested to speak few words. She expressed her happiness to be the part of SAMBHAV once again after 2009 when she was the Chief Guest for SAMBHAV 2009. She praised ALPANA for doing a commendable job to promote and spread awareness amongst the youth about the cultural heritage of our country. She congratulated ALPANA for being consistently engaged in training special children in different art forms and putting up performances by them. She said that the performances she witnessed were so excellent that it is hard to believe that the performers lack in any aspect. She was touched by the involvement, dedication and hard work of the trainers as well who train them.

After Chief Guest's valuable speech performances continued. Specially talented performers from Nepal, Iran, Assam (India), Lao PDR, Mauritius and Bhutan mesmerised everybody in the audience with their great talents and confidence.

After all the performances MC requested Ms Alpana Nayak to give vote of thanks.

10 November 2012

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra of Supreme Court of India was the Chief Guest for the International Performances on 10 November 2012, the second day of SAMBHAV 2012. On his arrival at the venue he was received and welcome by Mr. B. K. Dash, Vice President of ALPANA with bouquet. MC Ms Ayushi Nayak requested the Chief Guest to light the ceremonial lamp.

After that the special students of ALPANA began the performances of the evening with a dance item Tricolour set to a medley of patriotic songs.

Next performance was by the students of Supun Dance Academy for Special Needs Persons, Sri Lanka. They presented traditional Low Country Mask Dance of Sri Lanka titled as "Jasaya and Lenchina Kolama".

Then next performance of the evening was by the mentally challenged performers of SWID, Bangladesh. They presented traditional folk dances of Bangladesh depicting the beauty of six seasons.

After Bangladesh two blind children from Myanmar sang traditional folk songs from Myanmar.

The last performance of the evening was by the hearing impaired Artists of Vietnam Youth Theatre who presented Mime. After all the performances MC requested the Chief Guest to speak few words.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra congratulated ALPANA for their mindboggling efforts to organise an International event for the challenged artists from all parts of the world in such a large scale. The performances were no less than professional performances by reputed artists. Having seen the performances, he expressed his dilemma of who should be called "disabled".

Then MC requested Mr. B. K. Dash to give vote of thanks.

11 November 2012

For the closing ceremony of SAMBHAV 2012 Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce & Industries, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Mr. C. S. Verma, Chairman, SAIL, HE Mr.

Sanjay Suren Bayara, Ambassador of Mongolia to India and Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, Chairman, Minority Commission of India were the Distinguished Guests.

MC Ms Ayushi Nayak requested Ms Alpana Nayak, President, ALPANA and Mr. B. K. Dash, Vice President, ALPANA to welcome dignitaries with bouquets. Then all the dignitaries lighted the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the closing ceremony.

After that performances of the evening started with the challenged performers of Art Council of Mongolia. They presented traditional Mongolian dances from “Nut Cracker” Ballet.

Next performers were from PSBN Mahatmiya, Bali, Indonesia. They presented traditional Balinese Dance. Then the performers from Art for All, Thailand presented magic show which was titled as Rainbow Magic.

After that special students of ALPANA presented Live Band performance.

Highlight of the closing ceremony was a joint production by ALPANA (India), SWID (Bangladesh) and Supun Dancing Academy (Sri Lanka). They presented a Dance ballet based on the theme of SAMBHAV.

Now performance was by Spastic Children’s Association of Selangor & Federal Territory, Malaysia who presented band performance based on different ethnicity of Malaysia.

After that the students of Jeevodaya Special School for the Mentally Handicapped, Nagpur, India presented variety of dances which included classical, folk & Bollywood Dancing.

Next performance of the evening was a solo Bharatnatyam Dance performance and a group performance based on the traditional Fire Dance of Sri Lanka by the students of ESCO Rehab, Sri Lanka.

Last performance of the closing ceremony was by Afghan Mobile Mini Circus for Children, Afghanistan. They presented traditional Afghani Folk Dance called “Fikrona” which means “Don’t worry”.

After all the performances, MC Ms Ayushi Nayak requested Chief Guest to speak few words.

Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce & Industries, Government of India congratulated ALPANA for bringing so many specially gifted artists from all over the world to one platform, i.e. SAMBHAV 2012. He appreciated the art & craft works exhibited during SAMBAHV. He emphasised on the efforts needed to create awareness in the society for special children.

After delivery of speech by the Chief Guest Shri B. K. Dash, Vice President of ALPANA presented the Vote of Thanks. Then MC requested all delegates and performers from different countries, members of ALPANA and volunteers of SAMBHAV to come the stage for a group photograph with Dignitaries.