

## **Brief Report**

### **On SAMBHAV 2016**

Divyang persons are more able than others. This has been proved year after year by Delhi based NGO, Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.), since 2006 when SAMBHAV was launched as a platform for showcasing the artistic talents of Divyang persons.

The eleventh edition of SAMBHAV, supported by Government of India Ministries of Tourism, Social Justice & Empowerment, Culture etc., attracted groups from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK, Uzbekistan and Vietnam besides groups from Indian States of Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telengana, and West Bengal. SAMBHAV 2016 was held at India International Centre, New Delhi from 11 to 13 November 2016.

Witnessing their performances and artistic talent the able bodied too would bow out. The performances of these specially gifted persons at the inaugural event of International Performances of ‘SAMBHAV 2016’ at New Delhi were like a picture of perfection.

SAMBHAV which means “possible” was conceived and started in 2006 by A.L.P.A.N.A. to help promote inclusive arts within the context of inclusive growth. SAMBHAV showcases artistic empowerment of specially talented persons. The 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 and to work towards sharing of ideas, knowledge, achievements and experiences through sustainable interactions among different stake holders.

A.L.P.A.N.A. is a registered NGO working in the national capital territory of Delhi. Within a short span of its coming into being, A.L.P.A.N.A. has made significant contributions to its espoused cause of promoting Indian performing arts and crafts, with an inclusive and holistic view of society. For this very reason, A.L.P.A.N.A. provides teaching in these art forms in classes that comprise of able-bodied persons, low-income background persons, as well as persons with a range of different disabilities. The NGO has also pledged to work on many socially relevant issues through research and analysis, documentation, dissemination, building human and intellectual capital and advising on matters of public policy formulation.

SAMBHAV 2016 had International seminars on artistic empowerment of disabled persons, an exhibition of art and craft by the challenged artists from participating countries, signing of Memorandum of Understanding for mutual collaboration, International Yoga workshop, International Art & Craft Workshop, Workshop on Dance Therapy and Music Therapy and performances by twenty five troupe from sixteen countries at India International Centre, New Delhi.

SAMBHAV 2016 was inaugurated in the morning by **Shri Anil Swarup**, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt of India. He exhorted all sections of society to work with the challenged artists.

Art and craft exhibition was inaugurated by **Dr Sachidananda Joshi**, Member Secretary of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.

An International Art and Craft workshop was held. All the participants from sixteen countries participated in the workshop and it was a tribute to learning from each other, across the cultures towards an inclusive global society.

The inaugural event on the first evening started with a short film on the ten years journey of SAMBHAV. Cultural programme started with a fabulous performance by the special students of 'A.L.P.A.N.A.' who presented Ganesha Vandana in Odissi style. Other groups who performed were **The Salvation Army Likoni School for the Blind from Kenya, Sahaya-Odisha, JPUF – Bangladesh, Roma Foundation – Nepal, Cherry Blossom Society – Nagaland, Vietnam Youth Theatre, Pathum Uyana – Sri Lanka, Behala Bodhayan – West Bengal.**

**Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta**, Principal Resident Commissioner of Jammu & Kashmir was the Chief Guest and distinguished guests were **Shri Suresh Kumar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt of India; **Shri Umang Narula**, Chairman and Managing Director, India Tourism Development Corporation; **Mr Sushanta Kumar Pramanik**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Welfare, Govt of People's Republic of Bangladesh, **Ms Ruth Agesa**, Assistant Director of Ministry of Education, Govt of Kenya and **Mr F. Tashmukhamedov**, Deputy Chairman of the National Academy of Art, Uzbekistan. After watching the fabulous performances, all the dignitaries concluded that persons who are physically or mentally challenged have different and special talents in them. If their potential is rightly identified, tapped and channeled they too are capable of doing and producing results like other people. All the groups performed so well that it was impossible to tell from their synchronization and rhythm in group and solo, on traditional dance, folk and group performances that they were mentally or physically challenged. It proved that they had special ability!

On the second day, in the morning there was Yoga Workshop which was inaugurated by **Dr Ishwar V Basavaraddi**, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Govt of India and then yoga workshop was conducted by **Prof. Dr. R. M. Acharya**, from S-VYASA University, Bengaluru.

After Yoga Workshop there were three sessions of International Seminars on “**Challenges of working with Divyang Persons (Physically and Mentally challenged persons) for inclusive growth with special focus on inclusive arts: shared experiences**”.

The Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker for the inauguration of Seminar was **Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi**, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, MSJE. In three sessions of the seminar

nine papers were presented by resource persons from **Australia, Bangladesh & India (Behala Bodhayan), Kenya, Afghanistan, India (Sahaya) , South Africa, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.**

SAMBHAV 2016 was a platform, where Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between A.L.P.A.N.A Society and **Organizations from Uzbekistan, Kenya, Iran and Bhutan.** These organisations have been working for inclusive growth of Divyangs (mentally and physically challenged persons) through performing arts. The objective of the MoU was to share the experience in the field for mutual benefit and to provide such platforms in the countries of the signatories to stage similar participative efforts.

On the second day evening, **Shri Taj Hassan**, Spl. Commissioner, Delhi Police and **Mrs Meenakshi Sharma**, Addl. DG, Min of Tourism, GoI were the Distinguished Guests. Artists with special abilities from **Russia, South Africa, Jeevoday Education Society – Nagpur (India), Myanmar, SWID-Bangladesh, Cotagala Special School- Sri Lanka, Maa Shraavanvani Mukbadhir Vidyalay – Gujarat(India), A.L.P.A.N.A.(India)** mesmerized the audience with their spectacular performances. The specially gifted students of A.L.P.A.N.A. Institute presented a band.

On the second day, for the first time in SAMBHAV ambit, workshops on Dance Therapy and Music Therapy were held. Workshops on Dance Therapy were conducted by **Supun Dance Academy, Sri Lanka and A.L.P.A.N.A. and Workshop on Music & Rhythm Therapy was conducted by Salubrious Productions, Australia.**

For the closing ceremony on the third day, **Dr. A.K. Dubey**, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Govt of India was the Chief Guest. **Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra**, Chairman, Airports Authority of India was the Distinguished Guest. Artists from **A.L.P.A.N.A. (India), Australia, Hyderabad, Iranian Disabled Scientific & Artists Creation Association - Iran, Art for All-Thailand, Wangsel Institute – Bhutan, Supun Dancing Academy – Sri Lanka, PRAYAS Centre for Special Education and Vocational Training – Jaipur (India) and Pawan Sewa Samiti, School for Deaf – Punjab(India)** performed so well and with so much energy and perfect coordination that it was hard to believe that they were Divyangjan.

. “I am touched by the talents of so many challenged people at one platform from across the world made possible by A.L.P.A.N.A. Society” said the Chief Guest. He congratulated A.L.P.A.N.A for organizing the grand event, SAMBHAV.