

BY VIJAY SHANKER

NUPUR Zankar Academy of Performing Arts and Research Centre, Kandivli (E) organised the Sanskriti Mahotsav of Music and Dance with the intention of promoting unity through music and dance at the Nupur Zankar Centre, Kandivli. Besides organising programmes, the Academy regularly trains young aspirants in the field of classical music and dance, thereby pro-

Shila Mehta
& Sandhya
Purecha



THE SPLENDOUR AND GRANDEUR OF NATURE

PROMOTING UNITY THROUGH MUSIC AND DANCE

moting and propagating classical music and dance. The director of the academy is the renowned Kathak danseuse Shila Mehta.

The programme featured classical musicians like Dr. Vishal Kashalkar, Pandit Yashwnt Mahle, Pandit Nayan Ghosh, Shila Mehta herself and accomplished Bharatanatyam exponent Dr. Sandhya Purecha. Pandit Ghosh demonstrated the subtle quality of the tabla by playing different rhythmic cycles that enchanted the audience.

Nature has always been a favourite topic for writers and poets. The splendour and grandeur of nature and the varied seasons are vividly described in the classic by Kalidasa known as *Ritu Samharam*. Extracts from *Ritu Samharam* pertaining to the seasons of summer, winter, autumn and spring were described in the styles of both Kathak and Bharatanatyam. It was nice to note that both the styles blended quite well in spite of the technical differences. The orchestral team did their part well by playing the Hindustani and carnatic music to suit the temperament of the north and south styles of dancing.

Shila and her students, Spriha Kundu and Shradha Dighe, performed the Kathak style, while Sandhya and her talented pupils displayed their Bharatanatyam skills. The depiction of nature – the rainy season, the summer and the animals, like the typical jumps of the deers, and the elegant gait of the elephant and the birds, like the enchanting dance of the peacock, were all well-performed.

The orchestral team consisted of tabla by Amit Mishra and Suraj, vocal by Somnath Mishra and Shivprasad and Mridangam by Satish Krishnamurthy.

On the whole, it was an entertaining programme. ■