

# Padma gives a grand start to dance fest

By Vijay Shanker

TO celebrate the platinum jubilee and to observe the 125 birth anniversary of Kulapati Dr. K.M. Munshi, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan organised a week-long festival of classical dances and included art forms like Vilasini Natyam and Yakshagana at the Bhavan's Kanji Khetsey Sabhagriha. Most of the performances were of high calibre with a few exceptions.

The performers were Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam and Jayashree Rajagopal for Bharata Nrityam, Guru Kalyanasundaram, Madhavapeddi Murthy, Raminder Khurana, Sanjib Bhattacharya, Sadanam Harikumar for Kathakali, Yasoda Thakore, Kaberi Sen, Sadanand Biswas, Vidya Kolyur, Nirupama and Rajendra, Pallavi Krishnan.

Renowned danseuse Dr. Subrahmanyam's rendering of the Meera Bhajan 'Pyare Darshan Deejyo' was scintillating and elevating too. The transformation of dream into reality when the devotee realises that the Lord has finally appeared, the joy and the happiness was portrayed with subtle and impeccable abhinaya, thereby receiving a standing ovation for the performance. Padma received excellent vocal support from Gayatri Kumar and Radhika from Chennai.

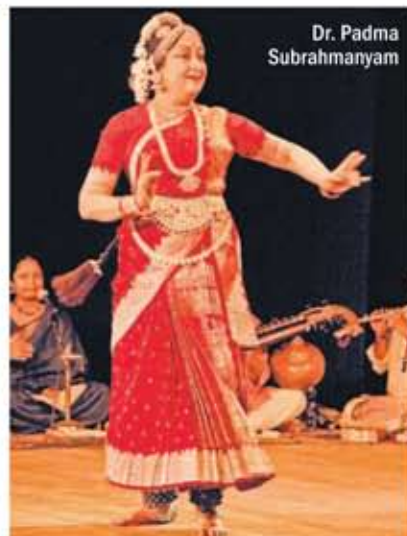
Bangalore based husband and wife team Nirupama and Rajendra rendered a brilliant Kathak performance note-



Rajendra Nirupama and Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

worthy for its theatrical appeal, precision and command over the technical quality of Kathak. Shringara Ramayana was an expressive delight, Tarang for the quality of pure dance and technique and Varsha for the dramatic and exciting downpour of the monsoon. Undoubtedly Nirupama and Rajendra are among the best dancing couples of the country.

One of the foremost Manipuri dancers of the country, Sanjib Bhattacharya impressed the audience with the subtle and dramatic portrayal of



Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

Dashavatara. The co-artists were impressive in the drum dance known as *pung cholom* and ball play known as *Konduk-khel*. Pallavi Krishnan's Mohiniattam and Yasoda Thakore's Vilasini Natyam was pleasing for its technical and expressive quality! It was interesting to watch Vilasini Natyam due to its rustic and *desi* touch. Murthy rendered a brilliant Kuchipudi performance, the most impressive being the number *Bhaja Govindam*. On the whole it was a grand festival.

# Sunita Bhuyan's passionate violin performance

By Amarendra Dhaneshwar

SUNITA BHUYAN is one of the most charming violinists of the country. The daughter and disciple of Minnaoti Khaund, a senior violin exponent from Assam, Sunita who has been a resident of Mumbai has been performing regularly on the city concert circuit. We have watched her grow as a musician at an exponential rate. She performed recently at the Mumbai Book Fair recently and the performance completely captivated the audience.

Power and passion are the two words that can perhaps only remotely do justice to Sunita's performance as she romanced the violin, taking the audience through a beau-



Sunita Bhuyan in performance.

tiful musical experience. What was significant about her performance was the way she handled both Indian classical and fusion with equal expertise. One does not get to see an Indian classical violinist who plays standing on the stage, and if that was not all, also sing and emote with equal passion!

The show started with an

invocation to lord Ganesha sung by Sunita and it was followed by a fusion piece with her accompanists on the tabla, keyboards and jembay (from the album 'conversations' by Stephn Graphelli and L. Subramaniam). Viewers were delighted as ragas flowed in and out of chords with elan. This was followed by a medley in ragas called 'Bharat Darshan, where short renditions comprising music from different states of India were portrayed.

The next item 'Raga to Bollywood' was very entertaining as she quizzed the audience about various Bollywood numbers that she played and showed how these everyday songs that we hummed, all originated from

the seven notes 'Sa re ga ma pa dha ni'. The audience was by then rocking and swaying to her!

What took the cake was the part on the Assamese Bihu, from her Album 'Bihu Strings'. She sang and played the violin with equal ease, swaying to the beats herself. By this time, there was no holding back the audience in the ground, which was jam packed. The evening was invigorating. There is a certain purity and positive energy in Sunita's music that stays with you, that has a promise, a heady rush! More than a musical treat, we would call it a wonderful and energetic presentation, a combo of positive talk, songs and music!

# A father's conflict with his wife, daughter

By Sandeep Hattangadi

SACHIN PILGAONKAR adapts the popular Neil Simon play *I Ought to be in the Pictures* to launch his daughter Shreya Pilgaonkar in the Marathi film *Ekulti Ek*. Arun Deshpande (Sachin Pilgaonkar) is a revered singer who has to sacrifice his family life for his career and one fine day his 18-year-old daughter Swara (Shreya Pilgaonkar) lands up at his house with the intention of becoming a heroine.

Her father is shell shocked but he slowly warms up to his daughter who tries to get her father back in the family fold again and becomes a successful actor. But the rift between Arun Deshpande and his wife (Supriya Pilgaonkar) is too wide and once they literally have a pow wow during a radio interview conducted by Deshpande's wife where he storms out after the interview. There are

many funny and touching situations between father and daughter. Swara, with the help of her father's loyal secretary Mehta and her boyfriend played by Siddharth Menon then tries to bring the estranged couple together. The film is thoroughly watchable especially for the lead cast who put in fine performances, especially Shreya Pilgaonkar who makes a good debut.



Sachin and Shreya in a still from Ekulti Ek.

Ashok Saraf, Supriya Pilgaonkar, Nirmitee Sawant, Siddharth Menon, lend good support. The music and background music by Jitendra Kulkarni is good. The DOP Rahul Jadhav has lensed some colorful frames. The editing is slick. The film is worth watching by the entire family.

## « NEWS IN BRIEF »

### UDAYAN'S MUSIC CONCERT



UDAYAN presents on Saturday, June 1, a vocal recital by Prasad Khaparde at Hall of Harmony, Nehru Centre at 6.30 pm. Prasad Khaparde is a senior disciple of Ustad Rashid Khan. His initial training in classical music was under the guidance of the eminent gurus of Gwalior Gharana Bhalerao Guruji, Lt. Pandit D.V. Panke and Lt. Pandita Sumantai Choudhari. Later, he became a scholar at ITC Sangeet Research Academy of Kolkata and since then has been under the tutelage of Ustad Rashid Khan.

### CONCERT OF CLASSICAL SONGS



NATIONAL Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) will feature classical singer Neela Bhagwat and Soma Sen in an evening concert entitled 'Robi Anurag' which includes Rabindra Sangeet numbers and their interpretation through Hindustani bandishes. Niranjan Lele on the harmonium and Anutosh Degharia on the tabla at NGMA, opposite the Museum/Regal Cinema on Saturday, June 1 at 6.30 pm. Admission Free.

### DILIP SEN RECORDS SONG



MUSIC Director Dilip Sen recorded a Marathi song in voice of Hariharan and Sangeeta Kopalkar at Hariharan's recording studio in Chandivali, Powai recently. The song was penned by M.Prakash. This song was recorded for director Guddu Dhanoa's Marathi film 'Gulabi' starring Sachin Khedekar and Pakhi, where in Pakhi is portraying the roll of call girl Gulabi in the movie.

### 'GAMMAT' MAHURAT HELD



THE mahurat of Silver Screen Entertainments 'Gammat' was held recently at the Empire Recording Studio with a song recording by Soumya Rao. The film is written and directed by Milind Kavde and music is by Nitinkumar Gupta and lyrics by Francis. The film stars Sanjay Narvekar, Smita Gondkar and Vijay Patkar among others.

### 'MAJHI SHALA' TO RELEASE SOON



WRITER director Shantanu Tambe's 'Majhi Shala' dealing with the lack of education issue among farmers' children is set for an early release. The film stars Arun Nalawde in an important role along with Alka Kubal Athalye, Jayant Sawarkar, Devendra Dodke, etc. The music is by Sachin Dipesh and the lyrics by Hrishikesh Koli. The DOP is Vinayak Jadhav.

## ANUPAM KHERS 'KUCCH BHI HO SAKTA HAI' COMPLETES 300 PERFORMANCES!

By Sandeep Hattangadi



ACTOR Anupam Kher is delighted about performing the play *Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai* for the 300th time and dedicates it to his late father Pushkar Nath Kher. The autobiographical play is presented by Anupam Kher, 58, who narrates his journey to success through a monologue. "I am happy about the 300 performances of *Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai* and I dedicate it to my father's philosophy of 'Life is too short to complain'," Anupam says.

The play, written by Ashok Patole and Kher himself, deals with the struggles that Kher had to undergo in his life before achieving success and how he played an old man in *Saaransh* at the young age of 28 years which was the turning point in his life. He further adds that the play has been a cathartic experience for him and people come to him saying that it's very brave on his part to do a play like this. Real characters like Mahesh Bhatt and Subhash Ghai are also a part of the play. Kher wants to continue doing the play for the next 20 years even if he is on a wheel chair.

That's commitment for you, from an actor par excellence!