

1. Konark Festival 2015 - A life time achievement

It is not a mere festival for me. It is the life time experience for me. When I was a small child learning dance, probably I didn't know the meaning of dance. But as I grew older, dance became my life. Konark is a place where every dancer gets mesmerized seeing the beautiful poses of Odissi. It is really a miracle in stone.

When I got the call from Sangeet Natak Academy Odisha, informing me that I had got selected for Konark Festival, I couldn't believe to my ears. Then suddenly I realized what to do next. The preparation had to start from ground level. First I prepared the list of students who will participate and then began the rehearsal. We prepared for the Narayani Stuti from Saptasati Chandi, Kalavati Pallavi and the Priya Bhajan of Babu "Vaishnava Jana to tenere Kahiye" written by Sant Narsingh Mehta.

The students really worked hard, perfect team spirit. We arrived on 1st December at Konark and witnessed the perfect performance of the Odissi group Srujan dancing on the big back drop of Konark temple.

Students got a little confused but slowly they gained the confidence and started the stage rehearsal with the live musicians.

On 2nd December morning, all the corrections were done. At last the moment came and count down began. In the green room I could see that the students were silent and serious. Finally music started and one by one we performed the repertoires. Vaishnav Jana was appreciated by all dancers, critics. Padamshree Dr Priyambada Hejmedi felicitated me, musicians and my students.

I am really grateful to God, my parents, Guru and all my students for this great performance at Konark which is for me a life time achievement.

Guru Suprava Mishra