

# Bharatanjali Trust honours dancers



**MATTER OF PRIDE:** The awardees and dignitaries who graced the occasion. PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ

To mark the 83rd birth anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Bharatanjali Trust conducted an event at Vani Mahal, G.N.Chetty Road. The trust honoured senior dance gurus and performers.

The programme began with a mallari, which was an invocation to Amal. It was followed by a dance by students of Anitha Guha, Managing Trustee of Bharatanjali. It began with each of the children entering the stage from a different angle.

Clad in white, all of them brought alive the character of Lord Krishna with a mischievous smile, keeping up to the rhythm and music.

Some of the scenes which were

interspersed in the dance were Krishna stealing butter, encounter with Kamsa and the Kalinga Narthnam. The child who danced to this part of the song executed the footwork to perfection. Her poise and expressions were perfect and reflected the painstaking efforts of the guru.

Some of the popular gurus were honoured with titles: A.L. Lakshman – Sahitya Acharya Sundaram; Priya Murle – Sathya Laya Jala Sundaram, Zakir Hussain – Sathya Kalakara Sundaram; Madhuvanti Arun – Sathya Kalpana Praveena Sundaram; Anjana Bushan & Badari Divya Bushan – Sathya Kala Poshaka Sun-

daram; Sree Latha Vinod – Sathya Lasya Sundaram; Shivakumar – Sathya Manoranjana Sundaram and Gayathri Balagurunathan – Sathya Kalpana Praveena Sundaram.

The awards were presented by danseuse Alarmel Valli. While addressing the gathering she said, “Anitha Guha had paid homage to her spiritual guru by honouring many dance gurus on his birth anniversary. The occasion has brought many rasikas and artists together.”

She further commended her by saying that she was a guru par excellence and a teacher with commitment. “Her humility reflects in the poise and conduct of her students.”

She said that all the awardees have contributed a lot to the field of dance with *shraddha*, *sadhana* and *bhakthi*. She appealed to all the dancers present on the occasion to become one with the art and to identify themselves with it so much that it becomes as natural as breathing. “Everyone here should add to the wonders of the rich heritage of dance.”

Cleveland Sundaram commended about the performances of Anitha Guha’s students. He said, “Anitha Guha is a very dedicated teacher. She introduces creativity in her choreography without losing out on the traditional value. The sight of so many

dancers here gives us confidence that dance will definitely be carried forward to our future generations.”

Y. Prabhu, secretary, Krishna Gana Sabha, said, “The title Acharya Choodamani conferred by the sabha on Anitha Guha is very apt. She is capable of sustaining the interest of the audience throughout the performance.” He also congratulated the awardees for their contribution to dance. “I hope all your students will also give a lot to the art world.”

The trust also honoured its senior disciples who were an asset to Bharatanjali and had taken part in many of their performances.

LALITHASAI