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Kathak dancer casts spell



Kathak dancer Monisa Nayak performs during the 118th baithak programme at Pracheen Kala Kendra in Chandigarh on Friday. Tribune photo: Pradeep Tewari

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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Unlike the south Indian dances, which are purely steeped into religious traditions, kathak is a hybrid offspring of vastly different cultures characterised by lyrical romanticism, delicacy and grace. Young danseuse Monisa Nayak brought alive these salient features of this dance form in her romance-filled recital here at the Pracheen Kala Kendra today. The Delhi-based danseuse and a foremost disciple of Guru Rajendra Gangani of the Jaipur gharana had performed in many countries like Poland, Spain, Norway, Australia and Switzerland. But her fund-raising concerts for Tsunami at the international venues were highly appreciated. Her choreographic classics 'Spectrum' and

'Kabir' are a genuine blend of tradition and modernity which is a testimony to her adroit mastery over the art.

Monisa commenced the concert with Shiva stotra before delineating the technical aspects of pure kathak like tode, tukde, upaj, thaat, uthaans with nimble footwork.

Romance remained the main motif in the subsequent gestures segment as she depicted the myths woven around the life Lord Krishna through Kavits. This was followed by an Abhinaya-based scintillating thumri 'Aiso haahilo chhuil'. The concluding piece 'Sargam' was a musical and rhythmical treat. Kishore Gangani on tabla, Vinod Gangani on vocals and Ravi Sharma on sitar provided the matching melodic support. Kathak gurus Shobha Koser and M.L. Koser honoured the artistes.