



SANGEET NATAK  
AKADEMI AWARDS

संगीत नाटक  
अकादेमी पुरस्कार

2022 & 2023

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6 March 2024  
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi



## संगीत नाटक अकादेमी संगीत, नृत्य एवं नाटक की राष्ट्रीय अकादेमी, नई दिल्ली



संगीत नाटक अकादेमी, प्रदर्शन-कला के क्षेत्र में देश की शीर्षस्थ संस्था है जिसकी स्थापना सन् 1953 में हुई थी। अकादेमी की स्थापना का उद्देश्य संगीत, नृत्य और नाट्य रूपों में अभिव्यक्त भारत की विविध संस्कृति की विशाल अमूर्त विरासत का संरक्षण और प्रचार-प्रसार है। अकादेमी का प्रबंधन इसकी महापरिषद् द्वारा किया जाता है। अकादेमी के अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति भारत के राष्ट्रपति द्वारा पांच साल की अवधि के लिए की जाती है। अकादेमी के कार्यों का निर्धारण अकादेमी के संगम ज्ञापन में किया गया है, जिसे 11 सितंबर 1961 को एक सौसायटी के रूप में इसके पंजीकरण के समय अंगीकृत किया गया था। अकादेमी का पंजीकृत कार्यालय रवींद्र भवन, 35 फीरोज शाह रोड, नई दिल्ली है। संगीत नाटक अकादेमी वस्तुतः संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त संस्था है।

संगीत नाटक अकादेमी की अब तीन घटक इकाइयाँ हैं, जिनमें से दो नृत्य-शिक्षण संस्थान हैं: इंफाल में जवाहरलाल नेहरू मणिपुर नृत्य एकेडमी (जेएनएमडीए), और दिल्ली में कथक केन्द्र। जवाहरलाल नेहरू मणिपुर नृत्य एकेडमी की स्थापना भारत सरकार द्वारा अप्रैल 1954 में की गई थी और तब इसका नाम मणिपुर डांस कॉलेज हुआ करता था और अपनी स्थापना काल से ही यह संगीत नाटक अकादेमी द्वारा वित्तपोषित था, सन् 1957 में यह अकादेमी की एक घटक इकाई बन गई। इसी तरह कथक केन्द्र, कथक नृत्य के अग्रणी शिक्षण संस्थानों में से एक है। यह दिल्ली में स्थित है और यहाँ कथक नृत्य और मुखर संगीत के साथ ही पखवाज वादन में विभिन्न स्तरों पर पाठ्यक्रमों का संचालन किया जाता है।

घटक इकाइयों के अतिरिक्त, वर्तमान में अकादेमी के पाँच केन्द्र हैं:

1. केरल के सदियों पुराने संस्कृत रंगमंच कूटियाट्टम के संरक्षण और प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए कूटियाट्टम केन्द्र, तिरुवनंतपुरम।
2. असम की सत्रिय परम्पराओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सत्रिय केन्द्र, गुवाहाटी।
3. पूर्वोत्तर भारत की पारम्परिक और लोक प्रदर्शन कला परम्पराओं के संरक्षण के लिए पूर्वोत्तर केन्द्र, गुवाहाटी।
4. पूर्वोत्तर में उत्सवों और क्षेत्र प्रलेखन के लिए पूर्वोत्तर प्रलेखन केन्द्र, अगरतला।
5. पूर्वी भारत में छऊ नृत्य-रूपों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए छऊ केन्द्र, चंदनकियारी।

प्रदर्शन कला के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय योगदान देने वाले कलाकारों के लिए संगीत नाटक अकादेमी पुरस्कार दिया जाता है। कलाकारों के लिए यह सर्वोच्च राष्ट्रीय मान्यता है। अकादेमी संगीत, नृत्य और नाटक के प्रख्यात कलाकारों और विद्वानों को फैलोशिप भी प्रदान करती है; और वर्ष 2006 में युवा कलाकारों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए उस्ताद बिस्मिल्लाह ख़ाँ युवा पुरस्कार की स्थापना की गई थी जो प्रति वर्ष विभिन्न कला-क्षेत्रों के प्रतिभाशाली युवा कलाकारों को दिया जाता है। अकादेमी का अपना अभिलेखागार है, जिसमें ऑडियो और वीडियो टेप, चित्र और फिल्मों का समृद्ध संकलन है। यह प्रदर्शन कला केन्द्रित देश का सबसे बड़ा और व्यापक अभिलेखागार है और प्रदर्शन कला पर अनुसंधान करने वाले अध्येताओं की सुविधा की दृष्टि से तैयार किया गया है।

### अकादेमी के पदाधिकारी

संध्या पुरेचा, अध्यक्ष

जोरावरसिंह जादव, उपाध्यक्ष

राजू दास, सचिव

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Presentation of the  
**SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI FELLOWSHIPS  
AND SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS  
2022 | 2023**

by  
**Smt. Droupadi Murmu**  
Hon'ble President of India

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**Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 4.00 p.m.  
at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**



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**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA, INDIA  
Rabindra Bhavan, Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi 110001**

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# SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI

## AKADEMI FELLOWS

VINAYAK KHEDEKAR

R. VISWESWARAN

SUNAYANA HAZARILAL

RAJA & RADHA REDDY

DULAL ROY

D. P. SINHA

# SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI

## AKADEMI AWARDS 2022

### MUSIC

**Devaki Pandit Nambear**

Hindustani Vocal

**Harvinder Singh**

Hindustani Vocal

**Dharamnath Mishra**

Hindustani Instrumental –  
Harmonium

**Basant Kabra**

Hindustani Instrumental – Sarod

**Maharajapuram Santhanam**

**Ramachandran**

Carnatic Vocal

**Manda (Alamuru) Sudha Rani**

Carnatic Vocal

**Jayanthi Kumaresh**

Carnatic Instrumental – Veena

**Vinukonda Subrahmanyam**

Carnatic Instrumental – Thavil

**Purushottam Upadhyay**

Creative & Experimental Music

**Osman Mir**

Creative & Experimental Music

**Sapam Kullabi Singh**

Other Major Traditions of Music  
– Nata Pung

**Sitaram Singh**

Other Major Traditions of Music  
– Sugam Sangeet

### DANCE

**Manjula Ramaswamy**

Bharatanatyam

**Nalini and Kamalini Asthana**

Kathak

**Kalamandalam**

**Balasubramanian**

Kathakali

**S. Noyonshakhi Devi**

Manipuri

**Bhagavatula Sethuram**

Kuchipudi

**Niranjan Rout**

Odissi

**Gobinda Saikia**

Sattriya

**Kala Vijayan**

Mohiniattam

**Sadhucharan Mahato**

Chhau

**Bharat Sharma**

Creative & Experimental Dance

**Karuna Borah**

Other Major Traditions of Dance  
and Dance Theatre – Ankiya

Bhaona

**Pusthakam Ramaa**

Music for Dance

### THEATRE

**Gunakar Dev Goswami**

Direction

**Sohan Lal Kaul**

Playwriting

**Suresh Sharma**

Direction

**A. Susairaj**

Direction

**Ashok Saraf**

Acting

**Premlata Mishra**

Acting

**Yumnam Sadananda Singh**

Mime

**Daulat Ram Vaid**

Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting

**Margi Madhu Chakyar**

Other Major Traditions of  
Theatre – Kutiyattam

### TRADITIONAL/FOLK/TRIBAL DANCE/MUSIC/THEATRE AND PUPPETRY

**Shailesh Shrivastava**

Folk Music, Uttar Pradesh

**Vijay Shamrao Chavan**

Folk Music – Dholak,  
Maharashtra

**Tashi Jorgais**

Folk Music, Ladakh

**Olen Megu Damin**

Folk & Traditional Music &  
Dance, Arunachal Pradesh

**Nitu Kumari Nootan**

Folk Music, Bihar

**Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi**

Folk/Traditional Music –  
Bhapang, Rajasthan

**Tarawati Bori**

Folk /Traditional Music, Assam

**K. Viswanatha Pulavar**

Puppetry - Tholpavakoothu

**Mahendrakumar Karsanbhai  
Andani**

Folk Dance, Gujarat

**Chingtham Ranjeet Khuman**

Thang Ta, Manipur

**Poonam Tivari**

Folk Music, Chhattisgarh

### OVERALL CONTRIBUTION/ SCHOLARSHIP IN PERFORMING ARTS

**Lakshahira Das**

Overall contribution in  
performing arts

**Prameela Gurusurthy**

Scholarship in performing arts

# SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI

## AKADEMI AWARDS 2023



### MUSIC

**Kalapini Komkali**

Hindustani Vocal

**Vinod Kumar Dwivedi**

Hindustani Vocal

**Harvinder Kumar Sharma**

Hindustani Instrumental – Sitar

**Moinuddin Khan**

Hindustani Instrumental –

Sarang

**Bombay Jayashri Ramnath**

Carnatic Vocal

**Shankar Sastry**

Carnatic Vocal

**Neyveli R. Narayanan**

Carnatic Instrumental –

Mridangam

**H. K. Venkataram**

Carnatic Instrumental – Violin

**S. Sekhar**

Creative & Experimental Music

**Niladri Kumar**

Creative & Experimental Music

**L. V. Gangadhara Sastry**

Other Major Traditions of Music  
– Sugam Sangeet

**Sangita Gosain**

Other Major Traditions of Music  
– Odissi Music

### DANCE

**Urmila Sathyanarayanan**

Bharatanatyam

**Jagdish Sundarlal Gangani**

Kathak

**Margi Vijayakumar Nair**

Kathakali

**Latasana Devi**

Manipuri

**Maddali Usha Gayatri**

Kuchipudi

**Snehaprava Samantray**

Odissi

**Bhaben Borbayan**

Sattriya

**Pallavi Krishnan**

Mohiniattam

**Parikshit Mahato**

Chhau

**Nirupama Rajendra and**

T.D. Rajendra

Creative & Experimental Dance

**Perini Prakash**

Other Major Traditions of Dance  
and Dance Theatre – Periniattam

**Kalinath Mishra**

Music for Dance

### THEATRE

**Asif Ali Haider Khan**

Playwriting

**Pali Bhupinder Singh**

Playwriting

**Surinder Sharma**

Direction

**Zahoor Alam**

Direction

**Anil Rastogi**

Acting

**Rajiv Verma**

Acting

**Anoop Joshi**

Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting

**Sandeep Dutta**

Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting

**Piyal Bhattacharya**

Other Major Traditions of  
Theatre – Sanskrit Theatre

### TRADITIONAL/FOLK/TRIBAL DANCE/MUSIC/THEATRE AND PUPPETRY

**Kanta Kashinath Gaude**

Folk Music, Goa

**Swapan Mukhopadhyay**

Folk Music, West Bengal

**Rakesh Bhatt**

Folk Theatre/Music, Uttarakhand

**Krishan Lal Sehgal**

Folk Song, Himachal Pradesh

**Bharat Sharma Vyas**

Folk Music, Bihar

**Helen Giri**

Folk & Traditional Music,  
Meghalaya

**Cheruthazham****Kunhirama Marar**

Traditional Music - Chenda,  
Kerala

**Abdul Gaffar Dar Kanihami**

Folk Music, Jammu & Kashmir

**Jayantibhai Maganbhai Sharma**

Instrument Making, Gujarat

**K. Pajanivel**

Martial Arts, Puducherry

**Gurpreet Singh Khalsa**

Martial Arts, Punjab

### OVERALL CONTRIBUTION/ SCHOLARSHIP IN PERFORMING ARTS

**Gopalan Nair Venu (Venu. G)**

Overall contribution in  
performing arts

**Jagdish Trivedi**

Scholarship in performing arts

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# AKADEMI FELLOWS

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## VINAYAK KHEDEKAR

### Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Born on 29 September 1938 in Savoi-Verem, Goa, Shri Vinayak Khedekar, a renowned folklorist from Goa, has made significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of Goa's rich heritage. As the author of 18 books, 14 in Marathi and four in English, his literary works have become invaluable sources for researchers and students of Goan literature and arts.

During his tenure at the Goa Kala Academy, he played a pivotal role in identifying, presenting, and disseminating rural and tribal folk art forms. He conceptualized and executed various programmes showcasing Goa's diverse cultural heritage, including Bhajan, Keertan, and contemporary art forms. Noteworthy programmes such as Swargandha, Drums of Goa, Lok Rang, Gonyche Khel, Gomant Darshan, and Sangeetotsav were conceived by him. Shri Vinayak Khedekar is celebrated as a dedicated folklorist of Goa, recognized for his multidimensional vision and contributions. His efforts in fundamental research, in-situ field studies, and restoration of indigenous art forms have left an indelible mark on Goa's cultural landscape. One of his remarkable achievements includes the restoration of the authentic earthen lamp of Goa, the Diwaj.

Shri Vinayak Khedekar has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the Padma Shri from the Government of India, Gomant Vibhushan from the Government of Goa, Literary Award of Kala Academy for the book *Gomantakiya Loka Kala*, and the State Award of the Government of Goa, Daman & Diu.

Shri Vinayak Khedekar is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian music.





## R. VISWESWARAN

### Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Shri R Visweswaran was born on 15 March 1931 in Mysuru, Karnataka. The senior most Veena virtuoso of India, he is recognized as a top grade artist by the nation and its electronic media.

Renowned at home and abroad, he has an individualistic style in veena playing. Shri R. Visweswaran is a purist in Carnatic music known for innovative and explorative creation and expression. His performances reflect raga purity, discreet gamakas, and effortless laya control. A master composer, Shri R. Visweswaran has over a hundred and fifty compositions in Sanskrit, Telugu, and Kannada, adding lustre to Carnatic music with his new ragas. He is a musicologist known for practice-oriented lecture-demonstrations on Carnatic music intricacies. The BBC, London; Cambridge Radio; Dublin Radio; Independent Television of Birmingham; Belfast TV; Doordarshan; Udaya TV; SVBC; and ETV have interviewed and featured his veena concerts. Shri R. Visweswaran has enthralled audiences at international conferences and festivals in India, London, Aberdeen, Dublin, UAE, Singapore, and Malaysia. He served the University of Mysore as Professor and Head of Music, nurturing disciples who excel in music. A household name, Visweswaran's lec-Dems on intricate music topics and commentary on Lakshya Lakshana are widely acclaimed.

Shri R. Visweswaran has been honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Award, Karnataka Rajya Sangita Vidwan, Chowdaiah Award by the Government of Karnataka, Kannada Rathna by Navika USA, Sangita Choodamani by Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai, and Sangita Vidaynidhi by the Andhra Music Academy.

Shri R. Visweswaran is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian music.



## SUNAYANA HAZARILAL

### Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Born on 28 July 1938 in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, Shrimati Sunayana Hazarilal received her training in Kathak dance from Shri Hazarilal.

Shrimati Sunayana Hazarilal stands as an eminent figure in the world of Kathak dance, known for her captivating performances and profound artistry. With a career spanning several decades, she has enthralled audiences with her graceful movements, intricate footwork, and emotive expressions. Throughout her illustrious career, Shrimati Sunayana Hazarilal has performed on prestigious stages across India and around the world. She has received accolades for her contributions to the art of Kathak, earning the admiration of audiences and critics alike. Shrimati Sunayana Hazarilal's artistry transcends borders, evident in the workshops she has conducted globally. From Turin, Antwerp, and Brussels in Europe to New York and San Francisco in the United States, she has shared the essence of Kathak with enthusiastic learners. Her dedication to preserving and promoting this ancient dance form has been widely recognized.

Shrimati Sunayana Hazarilal's illustrious career in Kathak has been adorned with prestigious awards including the Padma Shri, Kalidas Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar, and Maharashtra State Cultural Award. Her contributions to the world of dance have been widely recognized and celebrated with these honours.

Shrimati Sunayana Hazarilal is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to the field of Indian dance.



## RAJA & RADHA REDDY

### Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Shri Raja Reddy was born on 6 October 1943 in Narsapur, Telangana and Shrimati Radha Reddy was born on 15 February 1950 in Kotalgaon, Telangana. They received their training in Kuchipudi from Vedantam Prahalad Sharma and Veniugopal Krishna Sharma.

Raja and Radha Reddy, the renowned dancing couple, have redefined the art of Kuchipudi Dance over their five-decade-long career. Their performances, both in India and abroad, have set a standard of excellence and technical perfection. They have performed in over 105 countries across three continents, showcasing Indian culture to dignitaries worldwide. In the 70s, Raja Reddy's performance at Lincoln Centre led to an offer to teach Kuchipudi at Juilliard School, which he declined to continue promoting the art globally. Notable milestones include performances for the Rockefeller Foundation, Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Avignon International Dance Festival, and for US President Ford. Their artistic legacy extends beyond their own performances. The Reddys have trained generations of disciples, passing on their knowledge and expertise to ensure the continuity of the Kuchipudi tradition.

Raja and Radha Reddy have garnered a multitude of prestigious awards. Among these accolades are the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri from the Government of India, the Kalidas Samman, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, showcasing their exceptional contributions to Indian classical dance.

Shri Raja Reddy and Shrimati Radha Reddy are elected Fellows of Sangeet Natak Akademi for their contribution to Indian dance.



## DULAL ROY

### Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Born on 1 April 1943 in Guwahati, Assam, Shri Dulal Roy is an alumni of the National School of Drama, New Delhi and the Film & Television Institute of India.

Shri Dulal Roy, has left a mark on the theatrical landscape with his profound and thought-provoking works. With a career spanning several decades, he has crafted plays that resonate with audiences across generations.

Shri Dulal Roy's plays delve deep into the complexities of human emotions and societal issues, offering poignant reflections on life and its myriad facets. His narratives are rich with compelling characters, intricate plots, and powerful dialogues that captivate audiences and leave a lasting impact. As an actor, director and playwright, Shri Dulal Roy has shown his strong competence in many languages. Shri Dulal Roy has served as the Project Director of Sattriya Kendra, Guwahati and In-charge of Sangeet Natak Akademi's North East Centre, Guwahati. He has also served as member of many prestigious committees.

Shri Dulal Roy has received numerous awards and honours like the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Chamanlal Memorial Award, Natasurjya Phani Sharma Award, and Natya Bhaskar Samman.

Shri Dulal Roy is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contributions to Indian theatre.



## D.P. SINHA

### Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Shri Daya Prakash Sinha was born on 2 May 1935 in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Daya Prakash Sinha stands as a stalwart in the realm of theatre, celebrated for his multifaceted contributions as a playwright and as an administrator. His literary oeuvre comprises 13 seminal works on theatre, alongside three insightful books penned by eminent authors, dedicated to his creative genius.

Throughout his illustrious career, Shri Daya Prakash Sinha has held numerous pivotal administrative roles, showcasing his leadership and vision in the realm of cultural affairs. From serving as the Secretary of Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi, to steering the cultural affairs during the Asian Games of 1982 as the Controller, his impact has been profound. Shri Daya Prakash Sinha's tenure as the Director of the Indian Cultural Centre in Suva, Fiji, further underscored his commitment to fostering cultural exchanges on a global scale. In his home State of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Daya Prakash Sinha's leadership was instrumental as he served as the Director of Culture, as well as at the helm of institutions such as UP Hindi Sansthan in Lucknow. His tenure as the Director and Chairman of Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal marked a significant period of cultural enrichment. Shri Daya Prakash Sinha's dedication to promoting the arts extended beyond national borders, evident in his role as the Vice President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in New Delhi.

Shri Daya Prakash Sinha has been honoured with the Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and Sahitya Akademi Award, recognizing his immense contributions to the cultural fabric of India.

Shri Daya Prakash Sinha is elected Fellow of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contributions to Indian theatre.



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AKADEMI AWARDS

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2022



## DEVAKI PANDIT NAMBEEAR

Akademi Award: Hindustani Vocal Music

Born on 6 March 1965 at Mumbai in Maharashtra, Shrimati Devaki Pandit Nambeear received her initial training in Hindustani vocal music from her mother Usha Pandit and later received her formal training under the able guidance of Vasanttrao Kulkarni, Kishori Amonkar, Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki, and Pandit Babanrao Haldankar.

Shrimati Devaki Pandit Nambeear is recognized as one of the foremost singers in the Hindustani music tradition and an eminent exponent of the Jaipur and Agra gharanas. She has performed extensively in many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad, and has proven her virtuosity in varied genres of music including classical, spiritual and devotional, Marathi and Hindi film songs. Shrimati Devaki Pandit Nambeear has recorded songs for many reputed labels and has had the privilege of singing under the music direction of legends like Zakir Hussain, Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Naushad, Jatin-Lalit, and Hariharan.

Shrimati Devaki Pandit Nambeear has received numerous titles and awards including The Young Maestro Award by IMA, the Aditya Birla Kalakiran Puraskar, and the Maharashtra State Award for prolonged contribution in the field of Hindustani music.

Shrimati Devaki Pandit Nambeear receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Hindustani vocal music.





## HARVINDER SINGH

Akademi Award: Hindustani Vocal Music

Born on 15 April 1962 in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, Shri Harvinder Singh received his initial training in music from his father Bhai Santa Singh. He also received advanced training in music under the tutelage of Yunus Hussain Khan and Yash Paul of the Agra gharana, Laxman Krishanrao Pandit and Atam Prakash Sharma of Gwalior gharana, Tarlochan Singh of Kirana gharana and from Gopal Krishan Sharma of Maihar gharana.

Shri Harvinder Singh is a prominent Hindustani vocalist. He is equally proficient in Dhrupad, Dhamaar, Thumri, Tarana, Dadra, Kafi and Bhajan. He has performed in many prestigious music festivals such as Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan, All India Bhaskar Rao Nritya and Sangeet Sammelan, Indian Classical Music Festival, Canada, etc. Shri Harvinder Singh serves as Professor at Department of Music, P.G. Government College for Girls, Chandigarh.

Shri Harvinder Singh has been conferred with numerous awards such as the Sangeet Manishi Samman, the Kala Shree Samman, the Pandit Ghanarang Prakash Samman.

Shri Harvinder Singh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Hindustani vocal music.



## DHARAMNATH MISHRA

Akademi Award: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Harmonium)

Born on 26 February 1969 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Dharamnath Mishra received his training in Hindustani classical and semi-classical music from Pandit Vishwanath Mishra, Pandit Bade Ram Das and Pandit Ganesh Prasad Mishra of Banaras Gharana.

Shri Dharamnath Mishra is one of the most prominent and celebrated Harmonium players of India, who has accompanied almost all the leading artists of India including Bhimsen Joshi, Kishori Amonkar, Kishan Maharaj, Birju Maharaj, Jasraj, Begum Akhtar, Siddheshwari Devi, and Girija Devi.

Shri Mishra is also an outstanding vocalist of Purab Ang Gayaki. He has a mastery in Hindustani Khayal singing and is renowned for his semi-classical renditions of Thumri, Dadra, Chaiti, Hori and Kajri. He has composed music for many acclaimed dance-dramas of outstanding dancers including Lachchu Maharaj, Sitara Devi, Birju Maharaj, and Puru Dadheech.

He has received numerous awards from various prestigious cultural institutions. These include the Swar Sadhna Samiti Award (1990), the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1999), and the Begum Akhtar Puraskar in 2022 conferred by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Dharamnath Mishra receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Hindustani instrumental music.



## **BASANT KABRA**

### **Akademi Award: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Sarod)**

Born on 9 May 1959 in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Shri Basant Kabra received his initial training in Sarod from his father Damodarlal Kabra and later honed his talent under the tutelage of Annapurna Devi.

Shri Basant Kabra belongs to the Maihar Senia gharana. Renowned for his profound musicality, Kabra's performances are distinguished by his masterful Dhrupad Ang Alaps, impeccable phrasing, and technical virtuosity. A top-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Shri Kabra has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and overseas.

Shri Basant Kabra has received numerous awards in his illustrious career spanning six decades. These include the Navdeep Puraskar given by the Honourable President of India (1985), the Yuva Ratna Award bestowed by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan (1985), the Marwar Sangeet Ratna Award in 2012 and the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in the year 2013.

Shri Basant Kabra receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Hindustani instrumental music.



## MAHARAJAPURAM SANTHANAM RAMACHANDRAN

Akademi Award: Carnatic Vocal Music

Born on 30 June 1949 at Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Shri Maharajapuram Santhanam Ramachandran received his training in Carnatic vocal music from his father Maharajapuram Santhanam and later received training from Maharajapuram Vishwanath Iyer.

Shri Maharajapuram Ramachandran also learnt Mridangam. He has worked in the faculty of Fine Arts at Annamalai University, Chidambaram. He has trained many students. Shri Ramachandran has conducted many workshops on music in India and abroad. He has many recordings to his credit.

Shri Maharajapuram Ramachandran has received numerous titles and awards. These include the Sangeetha Choodamani given by Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, the Tamil Isai Vendhar by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Asthana Vidwan from Sri Jagadguru Badari Shankaracharya Samasthanam, the Isai Kalai Selvan from Australian Tamil Foundation, Canberra, and the Kalaimamani conferred by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Shri Maharajapuram Santhanam Ramachandran receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Carnatic vocal music.



## MANDA (ALAMURU) SUDHA RANI

Akademi Award: Carnatic Vocal Music

Born on 19 January 1964 at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Shrimati Manda Sudha Rani received her initial training in Carnatic vocal music from K. Rangacharyulu and M. Seshamani and later honed her talent under the tutelage of Ivaturi Vijayeswara Rao.

Shrimati Manda Sudha Rani is known for her mastery in executing intellectually rich Pallavi compositions in rare and intricate talas with flawless ease and perfection. Her significant contributions to Indian classical music include the creation of Ragamalika, Graha-bheda, and Gati-bheda Pallavi, each renowned for their unique brilliance and aesthetic charm. Notably, Shrimati Manda Sudha Rani possesses the remarkable ability to demonstrate two talas simultaneously with both her hands while singing Pallavi, showcasing her exceptional talent. Her Swara Kalpana in complex Ragas like Malavi, Kadanakutuhalam, and Chenchukambhoji has garnered widespread acclaim and reverence. She has trained many students. A top-grade artist of All India Radio, she has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad, and has several recordings to her credit.

She has been honoured with many titles and awards including, the Vijaya Sangeeta Ratna, the Sunaada Sudha Nidhi, the Sangeetha Sudhaa Nidhi, the Pallavi Award from Madras Music Academy, the M.S. Subbulakshmi Puraskar bestowed by Visakha Music Academy, and the Aasthaana Vidushi conferred by Mysore Sri Datta Peetham.

Shrimati Manda Sudha Rani receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Carnatic vocal music.



## JAYANTHI KUMARESH

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Veena)

Born in 1969 at Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Jayanthi Kumaresh, hailing from the illustrious Lalgudi family, represents the sixth generation of musicians. She received her initial training in Carnatic music from her mother Lalgudi R. Rajalakshmi and later got groomed under the tutelage of Padmavathy Ananthagopalan and S. Balachander. She also received specialized guidance from luminaries like Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, T. Brinda, T. R. Subramaniam, and Thanjavur Shankara Iyer.

Shrimati Jayanthi Kumaresh has devoted her life to the Saraswathi Veena, by presenting it on global platforms. She has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and overseas such as the San Francisco Jazz Festival, Darbar Festival London, Celtic Connections in Scotland, Queensland Music Festival, Darwin Music Festival, Adelaide Music Festival, and notable venues like the United Nations in New York, the Palladium in Indiana, Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, and the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle. She has collaborated with esteemed musicians such as Ustad Zakir Hussain, the Indian National Orchestra, and the British Philharmonia. Her remarkable journey continues to inspire and enchant audiences around the world with the melodic richness of the Veena. She has trained many students. She has many recordings to her credit.

Shrimati Kumaresh has been honoured with many prestigious accolades including the Kalaimamani award from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Sangeet Shikar Samman from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, the Asthana Vidwan by Sringeri Sharadha Peetham, and the Veena Award from The Music Academy, Chennai.

Shrimati Jayanthi Kumaresh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.



## VINUKONDA SUBRAHMANYAM

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Thavil)

Born on 10 February 1957 in Gudur, Andhra Pradesh to Shri V. Krishnaiah, Shri Vinukonda Subrahmanyam received training in Dolu from C.M. Rajgopal and A.K.C. Natarajan.

Shri Vinukonda Subrahmanyam is a distinguished Thavil artist, recognized as a top-grade artist of All India Radio. Shri Vinukonda Subrahmanyam is a regular performer at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, where his rhythmic expertise and melodic precision captivate audiences. His performances resonate with the rich tradition and heritage of Carnatic music, showcasing his deep understanding of the art form. Through his skilful renditions and commitment to preserving the cultural legacy of the Thavil, Shri Vinukonda Subrahmanyam continues to leave an indelible mark on the world of Indian classical music.

Shri Subrahmanyam's has received many accolades including the Dolu Laya Nilaya award from Annavarapu Ramaswamy and the prestigious title of Asthana Vidwan from the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

Shri Vinukonda Subrahmanyam receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.



## PURUSHOTTAM UPADHYAY

### Akademi Award: Creative and Experimental Music

Born on 15 August 1934 at Uttarsanda, Gujarat to Shri Gaurishankar Upadhyay, Shri Purushottam Upadhyay received his training in Hindustani classical music from Shri Navrang Nagpurkar of Bhendi Bazar Gharana.

He has crafted a vast and diverse repertoire that resonates with audiences worldwide. His compositions are marked by a unique blend of traditional melodies with modern arrangements, creating a captivating fusion of classical and contemporary styles. His ability to infuse classical ragas with new life and energy has earned him acclaim from both critics and music enthusiasts. Shri Purushottam Upadhyay's compositions have been featured in numerous albums, films, stage productions, and concerts, showcasing his versatility and depth as a composer.

Shri Purushottam Upadhyay is a recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Padma Shri, the Gujarat Gaurav Award, the Vishwa Gujarat Award, the Nagar Ratna Award, and the Nalanda University Award.

Shri Purushottam Upadhyay receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Creative and Experimental Music.





## OSMAN BHAI HUSEN BHAI MIR

Akademi Award: Creative & Experimental Music

Born on 22 May 1974 in Kutch, Gujarat, Shri Osman Mir received his training in Gujarati folk music from his father Husenbhai Mir and from Ismail Darbar.

Shri Osman Mir is a renowned playback singer known for his soulful renditions and versatile vocal abilities. With a career spanning several decades, Shri Osman Mir has captivated audiences with his melodious voice and heartfelt performances. His mastery over various genres, including Bollywood, Gujarati, and Sufi music, has earned him acclaim and a devoted fan following. He has lent his voice to numerous hit songs in Bollywood films as well as Gujarati cinema, leaving a lasting impact with his powerful vocal delivery.

Shri Osman Mir has received numerous awards, including the Gujarat Pride Ratna Award, 13<sup>th</sup> Dada Saheb Phalke Award, Asmita Sanman Puraskar, MM Manan Award, Gujarat Gaurav Cultural Award (Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada), Pride of India Award, Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, and Gauravvanta Gujarati.

Shri Osman Bhai Husen Bhai Mir receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Creative and Experimental Music.



## SAPAM KULLABI SINGH

Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Music (Nata Pung)

Born on 31 March 1925 at Imphal in Manipur, Shri Sapam Kullabi Singh received his training in Nata Pung from Athokpam Tombi Singh, Aheibam Tocha Singh, Khomdram Selungba Singh, Naorem Dhojo Singh, Peiroijam Ibotombi Singh, Ngangbam Yaima Singh and Mutum Bokul Singh.

A Postgraduate Diploma in Sankirtan (Pung), Shri Sapam Kullabi Singh has served as Pung Yeiba Hanjaba of Pala Ahal at Govindaji Temple and Shree Ramji Prabhu. He has trained many students. A graded artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Imphal, Shri Sapam Kullabi Singh has performed in many prestigious festivals across the country.

Shri Sapam Kullabi Singh has received numerous titles and awards. These include the Manipur State Kala Academy Award.

Shri Sapam Kullabi Singh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Other Major Traditions of Music.



## SITARAM SINGH

### Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Music (Sugam Sangeet)

Born on 25 December 1953 at Mathani in Bihar to Shri Suryanarayan Rai, Shri Sitaram Singh received his initial training in Sugam Sangeet from Laddu Lal Jha and Janardan Jha and later got groomed under the tutelage of Ram Chandra Rai of Panchgachhiya Gharana and Brahmdev Narayan Singh.

Shri Sitaram Singh, a well-known vocalist from Bihar, born visually impaired from birth, has left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape with his enchanting renditions of official songs for various schemes of the Government of Bihar. His contributions in popularizing Hindi, Urdu, and Maithili literature through music are significant. As a mentor, Shri Sitaram Singh has nurtured many talented individuals, with several of his students achieving State and National level recognition. Under his guidance, students are pursuing research for their PhD at prestigious institutions such as at Delhi University and Khairagarh University. A top-grade artist in light music from All India Radio, Shri Sitaram Singh has recorded for renowned labels like HMV, Akashvani, and Doordarshan. His versatile talent and commitment to preserving Bihar's musical traditions have earned him admiration and respect across the region.

Shri Sitaram Singh has been honoured with prestigious awards, including the Kaumudi Ratna from Patliputra Parishad and the Lifetime Achievement Award from IPTA, Raigarh.

Shri Sitaram Singh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Sugam Sangeet.



## MANJULA RAMASWAMY

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Shrimati Manjula Ramaswamy was born on 28 March 1958 in the village of Vishmanpettai, Tanjore district, Tamil Nadu, to the couple V.S. Ramamoorthy and Rajalakshmi Ramamoorthy. She started learning dance at the tender age of eight under her father, V.S. Ramamoorthy.

Shrimati Manjula Ramaswamy, a Gold Medallist in Bharatanatyam from the Central University of Hyderabad, is renowned for her exceptional command of nattuvangam and her versatility. She elevated her father's institute, 'Shri Ram Nataka Niketan', to great heights as its Director, earning it acclaim for its unique presentation of the karanas and yoga postures by dancers on inverted mud pots called 'Deepa Tarangini'. A director of numerous acclaimed Bharatanatyam dance-dramas, her productions have garnered global acclaim. Shrimati Manjula Ramaswamy's dedication to teaching Bharatanatyam is evident through her training of over 3000 students.

Many of her students have received national awards, scholarships, and distinctions, a testament to her profound impact on the art form.

Shrimati Ramaswamy is the recipient of the Ugadi Puraskar by the Andhra Pradesh State Government, and the Nritya Kalasagara conferred by Kalasagaram.

Shrimati Manjula Ramaswamy receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.



## NALINI AND KAMALINI ASTHANA

Akademi Award: Kathak

Shrimati Nalini Asthana was born on 5 November 1955 and Shrimati Kamalini Asthana was born on 11 November 1954 in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. They received their training in Kathak from Jitendra Maharaj of Varanasi gharana.

Nalini-Kamalini have performed in numerous national and international dance festivals. Top grade artists of Doordarshan, Shrimati Nalini Asthana and Shrimati Kamalini Asthana specialize in depicting religious stories through Kathak. Their artistry led them to perform at the sacred Kailash mountain, 18,000 feet above sea level. With a repertoire that includes performances at major pilgrimages and temples across India, they have enchanted audiences with choreographic works such as “Kala aur Vasana,” “Akhand Saubhagyavati,” “Abhivyakti,” “Madhav Kunj Bihari,” and “Yashodhara,” among others. Beyond their performances, their lectures and workshops at prestigious institutions like Oxford, Cambridge, Leiden, Manchester University, London School of Economics, and Kings Medical College have been well appreciated. Nalini-Kamalini’s dedication to Kathak and their ability to weave stories through dance continue to leave a lasting impact on audiences.

Shrimati Nalini Asthana and Shrimati Kamalini Asthana have been honoured with multiple prestigious awards including the Padma Shri, Atal Samman, Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award by Bay Area Guild, USA.

Shrimati Nalini and Kamalini Asthana receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for their contribution to Kathak dance.



## KALAMANDALAM BALASUBRAMANIAN

### Akademi Award: Kathakali

Born on 26 May 1955 in Kothachira, Kerala, Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian received his training in Kathakali from Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair and Kalamandalam Gopi.

Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian, a distinguished Kathakali exponent, holds the prestigious position of being empanelled in the outstanding category of the ICCR. Renowned for his expertise in portraying 'Pacha' characters like Bheema, Arjuna, Krishna, and Nala, as well as 'Kathi' characters such as Kichaka, Narakasura, Duryodhana, and Ravana, and 'Vellathadi' characters like Hanuman. His acclaimed Veshams (roles) include Nalan, Krishna, Roudra Bheeman, Balabhadran, Parasuraman, Kattalan, and Hanuman. Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian's performances have graced stages across India and abroad, captivating audiences with the depth of Kathakali's tradition and artistry. In addition to his performances, he has conducted workshops and lecture demonstrations at various prestigious universities worldwide. Some notable venues include Elkins University in 1981, and Warsaw University in Poland in 2004.

Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian has been honoured with prestigious awards including the 1974 David Boland Gold Medal Award, Kerala Kalamandalam Award in the year 2013, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award from the Kerala Government in the year 2019, and the Amaravati Lifetime Achievement Award from the Amaravati Nrityotsava Festival in Vijayawada in 2020.

Kalamandalam Balasubramanian receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Kathakali.



## S. NOYONSHAKHI DEVI

Akademi Award: Manipuri

Born on 1 February 1961 at Kangabam Leikai, Imphal, S. Noyonshakhi Devi received her training in Manipuri from M Amubi Singh, H Atomba Singh, Lokeshwar Singh, and many others.

Shrimati S. Noyonshakhi Devi, a distinguished Manipuri dancer, is celebrated for her exquisite choreographies that breathe life into the art form. Some of her famous works include “Ahangkar Vinash,” “Basanta Anurag,” and “Atalika Darshan,” each a testament to her creative brilliance. Shrimati S. Noyonshakhi Devi has graced the stage with leading roles in numerous captivating dance-dramas, showcasing her versatility and depth as a performer. Her performances have adorned the most prestigious stages across India and abroad, including the Khajuraho Festival, Surya Festival, Uday Shankar Shatabdi Samaroh, Konark Festival, Festival of India, France, and Octave Festival. Shrimati S. Noyonshakhi Devi’s graceful movements and emotive expressions have mesmerized audiences, transporting them to the mystical world of Manipuri dance. Her contributions to the preservation and promotion of Manipuri dance have earned her acclaim and admiration from audiences and critics alike. Her commitment to the art form has been recognized with a top-grade from Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi.

Shrimati S. Noyonshakhi Devi was honoured with the Manipur State Kala Academy Award in Imphal for the year 2012, recognizing her great contributions to Manipuri dance.

Shrimati S. Noyonshakhi Devi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Manipuri dance.



## BHAGAVATULA SETHURAM

Akademi Award: Kuchipudi

Born on 5 May 1959 in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Bhagvatula Sethuram received his training in Kuchipudi from his father Bhagavatula Ramakotaiah, K. Uma Rao and Vedantam Prahalada Sarma.

Shri Bhagvatula Sethuram is a distinguished Kuchipudi exponent, celebrated for his profound contributions to this classical dance form. With a career spanning decades, he has mesmerized audiences both in India and abroad with his graceful movements and expressive storytelling. Shri Bhagvatula Sethuram's performances reflect a deep understanding of Kuchipudi's traditional repertoire while also showcasing his innovative choreography. As an accomplished dancer, he has been instrumental in preserving and propagating Kuchipudi's rich heritage. Shri Bhagvatula Sethuram has received extensive training under renowned gurus, honing his skills in nritta, nritya, and abhinaya. His performances are marked by intricate footwork, emotive expressions, and captivating stage presence. Beyond his solo performances, Shri Bhagvatula Sethuram has also choreographed numerous dance productions, blending traditional elements with contemporary themes. His dedication to the art form extends to teaching, where he imparts his knowledge to the next generation of dancers.

Shri Bhagvatula Sethuram has been honoured with prestigious awards such as Natya Brahma, Kuchipudi Ratnakar, Nritya Prabha, Natya Kaustubh, and Pratibha Puraskaram, among others.

Shri Bhagvatula Sethuram receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Kuchipudi dance.





**NIRANJAN ROUT**  
Akademi Award: Odissi

Born on 10 August 1953 at Chanarpur, Odisha, Shri Niranjana Rout has been trained in Odissi dance by exponents like Pankaj Charana Das and Deba Prasad Das. He also learnt Pakhawaj and Mardal from Banamali Moharana, Chhau dance in Mayurbhanj style from Srihari Nayak.

Shri Niranjana Rout has performed in numerous prestigious festivals on both the national and international stages. Empanelled as an Odissi artist with the ICCR, his performances are acclaimed for their grace and precision. Beyond his performances, Shri Niranjana Rout is dedicated to imparting his knowledge through workshops and seminars, aiming to spread the beauty of Odissi far and wide. In his commitment to the art form's preservation and growth, he founded a cultural organization which not only promotes Odissi but also provides free lodging and boarding for outstation learners who come to study under his guidance. Shri Niranjana Rout's contributions to Odissi dance and his efforts to support budding artists exemplify his dedication to the art form's legacy and future.

Shri Niranjana Rout is a recipient of the Odisha Sangeet Natak Academy Award for 2010-2011, Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Samman in 2022, Utkal Divas Samman in Atlanta, USA in 2022, and a Senior Fellowship by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, among other prestigious honours.

Shri Niranjana Rout receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Odissi dance.



## GOBINDA SAIKIA

Akademi Award: Sattriya

Born on 30 November 1957 at Majuli, Assam, Shri Gobinda Saikia received his initial training in Sattriya dance from his brother Sunanda Saikia. He then went on to learn dance and Khol from Paramanda Atoi and Gunadutta Bayan, Ojapali from Debananda Barbayan and Kamal Barbayan, theory and stage technique from Jatin Goswami and advanced training from Roseshwar Saikia Borbayan.

Shri Gobinda Saikia, a well-known performer, author, and teacher of Sattriya dance, has been captivating audiences since 1978. He has performed across the country, including at the Khajuraho Dance Festival, Octave Festival in Goa, Nritya Parva in Delhi, and Satriya Mahotsav in Guwahati. A prolific author, Shri Gobinda Saikia has penned three books on Sattriya dance traditions: *Sattriya Nrityar Rup Rekha*, *Sattriya Khol Pradip*, and *Nrityar Mukta wali*. His choreographic works are equally celebrated, with notable pieces such as “Rasa Kriya,” “Narakasur Badh,” “Sugandhika Puspa,” “Nrisingha Jatra”, etc. Shri Gobinda Saikia’s dedication to preserving and promoting Sattriya dance shines through his performances and scholarly contributions.

Shri Gobinda Saikia has been honoured with titles including Bor Natua Nirmali in 1970 from Natun Kamalabari Sattra, Borbayan in 2001 from Sattradhikar, Natun Kamalabari Sattra, Majuli, and Nritya Samrat by Majuli Sattriya Sangit Academy in 2015. He is also a recipient of the Anandamohan Bhagawati Award, Devadasi Award, Nritya Choodamani, and Prerona Bota Award.

Shri Gobinda Saikia receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Sattriya dance.



## KALA VIJAYAN

### Akademi Award: Mohiniattam

Born on 8 May 1944 in Deshamanglam, Kerala in the illustrious family of Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair and Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma, Shrimati Kala Vijayan received her training in Mohiniattam from her mother. She has also learnt Bharatanatyam from Thanjavoor A.R.R. Bhaskar and Kathakali from her father.

Shrimati Kala Vijayan has made remarkable contributions to the Mohiniattam dance form's repertoire. She is credited with creating 25 new adavus and categorizing them into four groups and five subgroups based on movements. Vijayan has enriched the repertoire further with ten 'Mandala Bhedas' and eighteen 'Paadabhedas,' accompanied by slokas composed by her. Additionally, she has created slokas for Chaarees and Paadagathi, and shlokas for 35 taals formed by blending Saptha Thaala with Pancha Jaatis. Over six decades in her illustrious career, Vijayan has composed and choreographed numerous acclaimed productions in Mohiniattam. Notable among these are 'Nritha Panchaka,' illustrating the Panchabhoota, 'Poothana Moksham,' and 'Nrithasilpam,' depicting Hanuman's meeting with Sita.

Shrimati Kala Vijayan has received Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award for Mohiniattam in the year 1998. She is also a recipient of State Award for Mohiniattam by the Govt. of Kerala conferred upon her in the year 2019 and Swathi Thirunal Performing Arts Trust's Award for Mohiniattam in the year 2006.

Shrimati Kala Vijayan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Mohiniattam dance.



## SADHUCHARAN MAHATO

Akademi Award: Chhau

Born on 1 January 1970 at Kushaldih, West Bengal, Shri Sadhucharan Mahato received his training in Chhau dance from Khagen Laya. He also had the privilege to learn Chau from Gambhir Sing Mura, Kalebar Kumar, Lal Mahato, Juru Kumar & Jagru Mahato.

Shri Sadhucharan Mahato, celebrated for his depiction of Lord Ganesh in Chhau dance, has been entralling audiences with his performances. For over three decades, he has selflessly provided free training in Chhau to children in remote areas of West Bengal, helping in preserving this traditional art form. His dedication to Chhau's promotion and his commitment to nurturing young talents reflect his deep-rooted passion for the art and its heritage.

Shri Sadhucharan Mahato receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Chhau dance.



## BHARAT SHARMA

### Akademi Award: Creative and Experimental Dance

Born on 13 September 1956 in New Delhi, Shri Bharat Sharma was groomed in principles of choreography by his father, Narendra Sharma at Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre in New Delhi. He also received thorough grounding in Mayurbhanj Chhau under Krishna Chandra Naik and Kathakali under Sadanam Balakrishnan. In New York he studied at Nikolais Louis Dance Lab and Ruth Currier Studio.

As a performer with Bhoomika he danced as a soloist in India and abroad. As an independent soloist, he has participated in major festivals including Navritya Festival, Kolkata, Nritya Pratibha, Delhi, Sangeet Natak Akademi Festival, Kolkata. He has choreographed numerous productions including 'Pathik' (1988), 'Swapnakosh' (1990), 'Nothing in Particular' (1992), 'Kalaasham' (1992), 'Nightingale' (2008), 'Metro! Metro!' (2010), Jatak-Mala (2012) and 'Nusrat Song' (2012) for Bhoomika. He has also choreographed dances for large groups for the Republic Day Parade (1985 and 1991) in New Delhi and was co-choreographer of dances produced for the closing event of the Festival of India in Moscow (1988) with 100 Indian and Russian dancers. He was Performance Coordinator for the inaugural event of first South Asian Cultural Festival in Delhi (1992) and Festival of India in China (1993), and Associate Director of the opening ceremony of Apna Utsav in Delhi (1988). Shri Bharat Sharma has also taught choreography and modern technique of dance at the University of Hyderabad. Currently he is serving as the Director of Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre, New Delhi.

Shri Bharat Sharma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Creative and Experimental Dance.



## KARUNA BORAH

Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Theatre (Ankiya Bhaona)

Born on 1 December 1961 in Kamalabari, Assam, Shri Karuna Borah received his training in Sattriya from Cheniram Borbayan Mukter, Paramananda Borbayan, Roseswar Borbayan and Gopiram Oza Borbayan.

Shri Karuna Borah, a celebrated artist of Ankiya Bhaona of Assam, has performed across the country. In addition to his performances, Shri Borah is also a prolific writer, having authored four books on Sattriya dance-drama and music. Beyond his written contributions, Shri Karuna Borah's dedication to preserving and promoting Satriya is evident in his extensive workshops and lecture-demonstrations.

Shri Karuna Borah has received several awards, including the Roseswar Saikia Bor Bayon Award from Sanskritik Mahasabha, Assam in 2012, the Adhyapak Boloram Borgayan Award from Satraranga, Majuli in 2013, and the State Award for Excellence as a teacher from the Government of Assam in 2019.

Shri Karuna Borah receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Ankiya Bhaona.



## PUSTHAKAM RAMAA

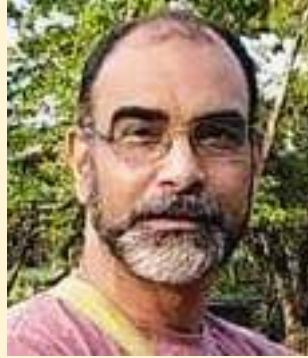
### Akademi Award: Music for Dance

Born on 1 September 1954 in Mysuru, Karnataka, Shrimati Pusthakam Ramaa received her training in Carnatic music from R.K. Srikantan and learnt Veena from M.J. Shrinivasa Iyer.

Shrimati Pusthakam Ramaa, a distinguished Carnatic musician, is renowned for her prolific compositions for numerous dance ballets such as “Sri Ramanuja Vaibhavam,” “Sage Agastya,” “Srimad Bhagavatam,” “Sri Krishna Parijatam,” and more. Her musical genius shines through in albums like “Seek God through Music and Dance,” “Flowers of Eternity,” “Haridasa,” and “Navarathna Malika,” among others. Recognizing her exceptional talent, Zee TV Kannada and Chandana TV have created documentaries on her life and musical journey. Shrimati Pusthakam Ramaa’s expertise extends to training dance musicians, and many of her students have gone on to establish successful careers as dance singers. Through her compositions and teachings, she continues to enrich the world of Carnatic music, leaving a lasting impact on her students and audiences alike.

Shrimati Pusthakam Ramaa has been honoured with prestigious awards including Karnataka Kalasri from Sangeetha Nritya Academy, Government of Karnataka in 1995, Swara Bhooshini from Gayana Samaja, Bangalore in 2015, and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Award from Government of Karnataka in 2020.

Shrimati Pusthakam Ramaa receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Music for Dance.



## GUNAKAR DEV GOSWAMI

Akademi Award: Direction

Born on 1 October 1969 in Guwahati, Gunakar Dev Goswami is a prominent figure in Indian theatre with a career spanning 37 years. He hails from a ninth-generation Sattriya culture practicing family and is an exponent of Suknaani Ojapaali and Deodhani – Assamese folk forms. He further demonstrates his versatility through his performances in Ankiya Bhaona, a traditional theatre form.

Shri Goswami excels as a writer, director, actor, and trainer. He has written over 14 plays and directed more than 45 productions. His contributions extend to composing music and choreography. As a dedicated researcher, he explores innovative acting methodologies and the application of Mati Akhora in modern theatre.

Shri Goswami has received numerous accolades, including the Mahendra Barthakur State Award, Hemanta Kumar Baruah State Award, and Santosh Kumar Karmakar State Award.

Shri Gunakar Dev Goswami receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Indian theatre as a director.





## SOHAN LAL KAUL

Akademi Award: Playwriting

Born on 17 June 1955 at Parnewah, Jammu and Kashmir, Sohan Lal Kaul, a distinguished figure in Kashmiri literature, holds a PhD and has established himself as a prolific writer across several genres.

Shri Kaul has enriched the Kashmiri theatrical landscape with over 24 plays, renowned for their depth and audience engagement. Notable works include collections such as *Naad*, *Shakespeare*, and *Ginden Tamashe*, as well as individual plays such as *Khar Kalle* and *Yousuf Shah Chak*. Beyond his theatrical achievements, Shri Kaul has authored 12 critically acclaimed novels, recognized for their contribution to Kashmiri literary fiction. Extending his contributions beyond original works, Kaul has skilfully translated renowned plays such as *Zoo Story* by Albee, *Seagull* by Chekhov, *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestly, *Hayavadana* and *Tughlaq* by Girish Karnad. These translations not only bring these literary gems to Kashmiri readers but also showcase his ability to bridge cultural divides through the art of translation.

Shri Sohan Lal Kaul receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Indian theatre as a playwright.



## SURESH SHARMA

Akademi Award: Direction

Born on 9 July 1959 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Suresh Sharma began his journey in theatre at the Bharatendu Natya Academy, Lucknow graduating from their first batch with a Two-year Diploma (1980-1982). He further honed his craft at the National School of Drama, earning a Three-year Diploma (1982-1985). He currently holds the position of Director at the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, working for cultural preservation and promotion.

Shri Sharma's career has been a dynamic blend of acting and directing. As a performer, he has performed in over forty plays directed by M.K. Raina, Arun Mukherjee, Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha, and Ram Gopal Bajaj among others. Some notable productions include *Adhe Adhure*, *Marish Sambad*, *Tughlaq*, *Andha Yug*, and *Jis Lahore Nai Dekhya*. Shri Suresh Sharma has established himself as a prolific director, having directed over 25 plays. He actively shares his knowledge and passion for theatre by conducting workshops, holding over 15 theatre workshops and an impressive 25 children's theatre workshops. Sharma's dedication to theatre extends beyond the stage. Shri Suresh Sharma has also established a repertory company and training institution in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.

His contributions have been recognized by institutions such as the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi and many other institutions of repute.

Shri Suresh Sharma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Indian theatre as a director.



## A. SUSAIRAJ

### Akademi Award: Direction

Born on 24 March 1949 in Karaikal, Puducherry, A. Susairaj is a renowned theatre director. His unwavering dedication is evident in his remarkable record of involvement in over 11,000 dramas, either as an actor or director.

Susairaj's influence extends beyond the stage through his extensive workshop activity across India and internationally. He has conducted workshops for prestigious organizations like the Song and Drama Division (Chennai) and the South Zone Cultural Centre (Thanjavur). His expertise has also been sought by UNICEF and ONGC, further solidifying his reputation within the theatrical community.

Susairaj is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Kalaimamani (Puducherry Government), Nadaga Perarasu, and Nadaga Kalai Selvam.

Shri A. Susairaj receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Indian theatre as a director.



## ASHOK SARAF

Akademi Award: Acting

Born on 4 June 1947 in Mumbai, Maharashtra Ashok Saraf has entertained audiences across various platforms for over several decades as a multifaceted artist. He received his training in acting from his maternal uncle, Gopinath Sawkar.

Shri Saraf's career began in Sangeet Natak (musical plays) and professional theatre, before making a seamless transition to Marathi and Hindi films. A veteran of Marathi theatre, Saraf played a crucial role in its revival and continues to contribute significantly to its growth and popularity. He further established himself in television with both Marathi and Hindi serials. While widely recognized for his comic roles, Saraf also demonstrates his versatility by portraying serious and negative characters with equal mastery.

His dedication has been recognized through numerous awards, including 11 Maharashtra State Awards, five Filmfare Awards, the V. Shantaram Award, the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Puraskar, Sahyadri Ratna, and the Babasaheb Purandare Award.

Shri Ashok Saraf receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Indian theatre as an actor.



## PREMLATA MISHRA

Akademi Award: Acting

Born on 29 September 1948 in Bihar, Premlata Mishra is considered a pioneer of Maithili theatre. Her journey began in the 1960s, promoting Maithili dramas through Akashvani (All India Radio) before transitioning these performances onto the stage.

Shrimati Mishra, known for her over 250 lead roles in Maithili dramas, has also acted in films and television serials. Her impact extends beyond the stage as she played a crucial role in shifting societal views towards women from elite classes performing on stage.

Through her dedication to promoting Maithili language and culture through theatre, Mishra has garnered widespread recognition. As a doyenne of Maithili theatre, she has not only enriched the artistic landscape but also inspired generations of artists.

Shrimati Premlata Mishra receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Indian theatre as an actor.



## YUMNAM SADANANDA SINGH

Akademi Award: Mime

Born on 1 February 1965 in Imphal, Manipur, Yumnam Sadananda Singh learnt the nuances of theatre and mime under H. Kanhailal, Y. Rajendra, Y. Khogen, and others, establishing himself as a highly respected mime artist.

His exceptional performances, including *Naughty Boy*, *My Obedient Doll*, and *Magic Bottle* have captivated audiences in India and abroad. He has participated in various national and international mime festivals, garnering widespread acclaim. Beyond his acclaimed performances, Shri Singh is also a revered educator and scholar. He has presented research papers at prestigious platforms, contributing significantly to the academic discourse on mime and performing arts. His artistic journey includes performances at renowned international mime festivals in South Korea, Greece, Macedonia, Armenia, and Germany, solidifying his position as a leading figure in the mime scene.

Shri Singh has received many accolades including Manipur State Kala Akademi Award.

Shri Yumnam Sadananda Singh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Mime.



## DAULAT RAM VAID

Akademi Award: Allied Theatre Arts (Lighting)

Born on 3 October 1967 in Jaipur, Rajasthan, Shri Daulat Ram Vaid is an alumnus of the University of Rajasthan and the National School of Drama. He has carved a distinguished career as a lighting designer, collaborating with renowned figures in the world of theatre and films.

Shri Vaid's expertise brings depth and dimension to countless productions, weaving light into the very fabric of visual storytelling. Beyond his technical mastery, he also possesses a gift for playwriting, having penned well-known works such as *Behad Nafrat Ke Dino Mein*, *Ek Anjaan Aurat Ka Khat*, *Akash Ke Niche Ghar*, and *Andhera*. His dedication extends beyond the stage, as he has served as a technical director/coordinator for prestigious international theatre festivals. Some of his notable contributions include the Prithvi Theatre Festival (Delhi, 2004-5), the German Theatre Festival (India, 2000), Russian Days in India (2003), and the Bharat Rang Mahotsav (2001-2012). Shri Vaid's extensive travels across India and abroad have fostered collaborations with renowned artists, allowing him to showcase his lighting design talents in diverse performances.

His accomplishments have been recognized with several awards, including the Nukkad Natak Award, the Yuva Ratna Award, the Srijak Shri Samman, and the Kala Samman.

Shri Daulat Ram Vaid receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to allied theatre arts as a lighting designer.



## MARGI MADHU CHAKYAR

Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Theatre (Kutiyattam)

Born on 19 May 1966 in Moozhikkulam, Kerala into a lineage of artistic excellence, Shri Margi Madhu Chakyar began his journey in Kutiyattam at a young age under the esteemed guidance of his father Ammannoor Kochukuttan Chakyar, his renowned uncle Ammannoor Madhava Chakyar, P.K. Narayanan Nambiar, and M. Madhavanunni.

Shri Chakyar is celebrated for his mastery of this ancient art form. His captivating performances have enthralled audiences worldwide, not only showcasing the beauty of Kutiyattam but also ensuring its preservation and growth. Shri Chakyar is a distinguished scholar, contributing significantly to the field with his publications and research articles. His dedication extends even further, as he actively travels the globe for performing Kutiyattam. He actively participates in workshops, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and exchange through the lens of theatre.

Shri Chakyar's dedication has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including the Kerala Kalamandalam Award, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award, Sanskriti National Award, and the Krishna Gana Sabha Award.

Shri Margi Madhu Chakyar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Kutiyattam.





## SHAILESH SHRIVASTAVA

Akademi Award: Folk Music, Uttar Pradesh

Born on 6 April 1959 at Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Shrimati Shailesh Shrivastava received her training in Classical and Light Classical Music from Rajan-Sajan Mishra and Kashinath Mishra, and Narendra Sharma of Banaras gharana.

Shrimati Shailesh Shrivastava is a distinguished singer hailing from the folk traditions of Uttar Pradesh. Recognized for her exceptional talent, she is empanelled with the ICCR in the outstanding category and holds the A grade artist status with All India Radio and Doordarshan. Shrivastava's contributions extend beyond her captivating performances; she is also an author, having written the book *Bhojpuri Sanskar Geet aur Prasar Madhyam*. Additionally, she has released music album "Hai Daiya 'Chatani Chataka'" showcasing her versatility. Shrimati Shailesh Shrivastava's numerous performances were well received in across India and abroad, where she has shared the rich folk traditions of Uttar Pradesh with audiences worldwide.

Shrimati Shailesh Shrivastava is a recipient of Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award given by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for her contribution to the folk music of India.

Shrimati Shailesh Shrivastava receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to the folk music of Uttar Pradesh.



## VIJAY SHAMRAO CHAVAN

Akademi Award: Folk Music – Dholak (Maharashtra)

Born on 12 August 1959 in Maharashtra, Shri Vijay Shamrao Chavan received his training in Dholak from Anna Joshi, Lalbhau Gangawane, Pandit Widhate and Baban Kale.

Shri Vijay Sharmrao Chavan is a celebrated Dholak player hailing from Maharashtra, recognized as a leading exponent of the Dholki, a premier folk instrument of the region. Apart from the Dholki, he is proficient in playing other folk instruments such as the Duff, Chanda, Halgi, and the Dafali. Known for his versatility, he is a sought-after concert artist and has collaborated with famous composers for Hindi, Marathi, and Tamil films. Son of noted Lavani singer Shrimati Sulochana Chavan, Shri Vijay Shamrao Chavan began his musical journey accompanying his mother and recording for Akashwani Mumbai. His expertise on the dholaki has led him to collaborate with renowned music directors such as Illay Raja, Anand Milind, Annu Malik, Laxmikant Pyarelal, Bappi Lahiri, Ram Laxman, Ram Kadam, Vitthal Shinde, Ashok Patki, and others. Notably, he has participated in Jugalbandi performances with artists of international fame, including Zakir Hussain.

Shri Vijay Shamrao Chavan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to the folk music of Maharashtra.



## TASHI JORGAIS

Akademi Award: Folk Music (Ladakh)

Born on 12 May 1960 in Chushot Yokma, Ladakh, Shri Tashi Jorgais received his training in Ladakhi folk music from Tsering Nangyal.

Shri Tashi Jorgais, a Ladakhi folk artist, has made significant contributions to Ladakhi culture through his music. He has played background traditional music in numerous Ladakhi movies, adding authenticity and cultural richness to the films. Additionally, he has recorded several Ladakhi folk songs and music for All India Radio, Leh, helping to preserve and promote the traditional music of Ladakh. Through his performances and recordings, Shri Tsering Jorgais has become a prominent figure in the Ladakhi music scene, showcasing the vibrant and diverse musical heritage of the region.

Shri Tashi Jorgais receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to the folk music of Ladakh.



## OLEN MEGU DAMIN

Akademi Award: Folk and Traditional Music and Dance (Arunachal Pradesh)

Born on 12 September 1963 in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh. Shrimati Olen Megu Damin is a celebrated folk artist renowned for her expertise in Ponung, a traditional folk dance of the Adi tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. Beginning her journey as an Assistant Professor at Government Primary School, Raj Bhawan, she transitioned into a pivotal role as the President of Adi Bane Kebang. In this position, she has tirelessly worked towards preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Adi community. Her contributions extend beyond the realm of folk art, as she is an active social worker dedicated to community development. Shrimati Olen Megu Damin's commitment to the Adi culture is evident in her endeavors, including the launch of two CDs, each featuring eight Adi songs.

Shrimati Olen Megu Damin receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to the folk and traditional music and dance of Arunachal Pradesh.



## NITU KUMARI NOOTAN

Akademi Award: Folk Music (Bihar)

Born on 6 February 1975 in Motihari, Bihar, Shrimati Nitu Kumari Nootan received her training in Hindustani and folk music from Markande Mishra of Banaras gharana and Ram Singh of Kirana gharana.

Shrimati Nitu Kumari Nootan stands as a distinguished folk singer hailing from Bihar, known for her captivating performances in the folk traditions of the region. Empanelled with the ICCR, she has travelled extensively, both within India and abroad, sharing the rich musical heritage of Bihar with diverse audiences. Her talent has earned her the status of a graded artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, where she has recorded her melodious renditions numerous times. In addition to her musical pursuits, Shrimati Nitu Kumari Nootan is a dedicated scholar, having completed an extensive PhD research in her field. Her scholarly endeavours have resulted in several published research works, adding valuable insights in the study of folk music. Through her performances and research contributions, she has contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Bihar's folk music traditions.

Shrimati Nitu Kumari Nootan has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the Lokvid Samman, Vindhyaivasini Devi Bihar Kala Puraskar, Bhojpuri Kala Samman, Bharat Utsav Samman, and the Lata Mangeshkar Swar Kokila Award, recognizing her exceptional contributions to the field of folk music from Bihar.

Shrimati Nitu Kumari Nootan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to the folk music of Bihar.



## GAFARUDDIN MEWATI JOGI

Akademi Award: Folk and Traditional Music – Bhapang (Rajasthan)

Born on 26 September 1962 in Kithwara, Rajasthan, Shri Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi received his training in Bhapang from his father Budh Singh Jogi.

Shri Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi is an internationally acclaimed Bhapang player of the Mewati Jogi community. He also happens to be the last surviving folk artist who knows and performs all the 2500 plus dohas of *Pandun ka kada* (*Mahabharata*). Shri Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi has many commendations to his name for playing and promoting Bhapang. In an illustrious career spanning 6 decades, he has travelled extensively in India and abroad. His performances in Australia, Canada, France, England, Germany, Japan, etc., were very well appreciated by the international audience. Shri Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi has performed in numerous music and folk festivals including the ones organised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Shri Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi is a recipient of numerous awards and honours including the Rajasthan State Government Award in the year 2016, Lok Kala Samman in the year 2009 by Jawahar Kala Kendra, Sur Samman in the year 1993 by Brij Sur Mandal and the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi Samman in the year 1997.

Shri Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to the folk and traditional music of Rajasthan (Bhapang).



## TARAWATI BORI

Akademi Award: Folk and Traditional Music (Assam)

Born on 9 January 1959 in Ratkey, Assam, Shrimati Tarawati Bori learnt Assamese folk music traditionally.

Shrimati Tarawati Bori is an eminent traditional musician from Assam, known for her remarkable contributions to Assamese music. With a career spanning several decades, she has released 10 audio cassettes and lent her soulful voice to songs in numerous films. Bori's passion for preserving Assamese culture is evident in her efforts to propagate many Mising folk songs of different styles, bringing these traditional melodies to a wider audience.

Shrimati Tarawati Bori has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the National Artist Award, Dr Bhupen Hazarika Sanghati Award, Zikir Samrat Rekubuddin Ahmed Award, Oi Appun Ganesh Pegu Award, Prag Prerana Award, etc.

Shrimati Tarawati Bori receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to the folk and traditional music of Assam.



## K. VISWANATHA PULAVAR

Akademi Award: Puppetry - Tholpavakoothu

Born on 31 May 1963 at Koonathara, Kerala into a traditional family of noted Tholpavakoothu artists, Shri K. Vishwanath Pulavar received his training in the art of puppetry (Tholpavakoothu) from his father K.L. Krishnankutty Pulavar, founder of Tholpavakoothu Sangam.

Shri K. Vishwanath Pulavar has an outstanding career spanning five decades of performing and promoting the art of Tholpavakoothu, manipulation of Puppets and Puppet making. He has many acclaimed productions to his credit like *Meesa Madhavan* (Malayalam Film), *Borrowed Fire* (American Documentary), *Shri Krishna Jananam*, *Narsimha Avtaram*, *LankaLakshmi*, etc. Shri K. Vishwanath Pulavar has gathered praise for his performance in many countries like Sweden, Singapore, Japan, Ireland, Germany, etc. He has conducted various workshops and demonstrations of this unique traditional art form of Leather Puppetry.

Shri K. Vishwanath Pulavar is a recipient of Kerala State Award from Kerala Folklore Academy, received in the year 2013. He has also been awarded with the Kerala State Fellowship for the year 2021 from Kerala Folklore Academy, The Samhita Sanskrit Puraskar by the hands of His Highness Uthradam Marathanda Verma in the year 2009.

Shri K. Vishwanath Pulavar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to the art of puppetry (Tholpavakoothu).





## MAHENDRAKUMAR KARSANBHAI ANDANI

Akademi Award: Folk Dance (Gujarat)

Born on 17 August 1966 in Lalitpur, Gujarat, Shri Mahendrakumar Karsanbhai Andani received his training in Folk Dance.

Shri Mahendrakumar Karsanbhai Andani is a well-known folk artist from Gujarat, known for his tireless efforts in cultural uplift. He has played a pivotal role in imparting training in folk dances and music to rural youth, fostering their interest through camps and seminars. Committed to economic empowerment, Shri Mahendrakumar Karsanbhai Andani has encouraged rural communities to create handicrafts, promoting sustainable livelihood. A true visionary, he has conducted folk dance programmes for the Well and Borewell Recharge Campaign, raising awareness among farmers about groundwater conservation. His dedication extends to training officers of Lalbahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie in Gujarat's folk dances. Shri Andani's impact transcends borders, having trained thousands of students in folk dances from Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra in state, regional, and district-level camps across India and abroad. Notably, he has mentored over 3000 youths from schools and colleges in the vibrant Ras-Garba.

Shri Mahendrakumar Karsanbhai Andani has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, Lok Kala Award, Gujarat Lok Kala Award, Dr. Nelson Mandela Global Brilliance Award, and the Gurjar Kala Bhushan.

Shri Mahendrakumar Karsanbhai Andani receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to the folk dance of Gujarat.



## CHINGTHAM RANJEET KHUMAN

Akademi Award: Thang-ta (Manipur)

Born on 1 January 1966 in Manipur, Shri Chingtham Ranjeet Khuman received his training in the traditional martial art form Thang-ta from Ojha Sinam Devabrata, N Kelchandra Singh and many others.

Shri Chingtham Ranjeet Khuman is a distinguished artist of Manipuri martial arts, particularly known for his expertise in the Thang-ta form. Known widely, he has extensively travelled to countries such as Sweden, Italy, China, Ecuador, Mexico, Argentina, USA, Venezuela, UK, Brazil, Peru, South Africa, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, among others, promoting and performing this rare art form. He has performed in several national festivals across India, showcasing the rich heritage of Thang-ta. Shri Chingtham Ranjeet Khuman is a dedicated ambassador of Manipuri martial arts, regularly conducting lecture-demonstrations worldwide to introduce audiences to the art's depth and beauty. With numerous Thang-ta and folk choreographies to his credit, Shri Khuman's efforts have played a pivotal role in elevating the profile of this ancient martial art on the global stage.

Shri Khuman has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the National Award for Thang-ta, Manipur State Kala Academy Award, Senior and Junior Fellowships from the Ministry of Culture, and the Tuli Yaima Major award.

Shri Chingtham Ranjeet Khuman receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to the traditional martial art form Thang-ta of Manipur.



## POONAM TIVARI

Akademi Award: Folk Music (Chhattisgarh)

Shrimati Poonam Tivari was born on 13 November 1963 in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.

A celebrated folk artist hailing from Chattisgarh, Shrimati Poonam Tiwari embarked on her illustrious career at the tender age of 9 with Dau Mandraji Nacha Party, Jaalbandha Nacha Party, Pateva Nacha Party, and Madan Nishad Nacha Party. Introduced to the realm of theatre by the eminent playwright and director Habib Tanvir, Tiwari's journey transcends boundaries. She graced stages across India and internationally in London, Paris, Germany, Russia, Sweden, and more, captivating audiences with performances in iconic plays such as *Charandas Chor*, *Mitti ki Gadi*, *Agra Bazar*, *Sonsagar*, *Manglu Didi*, and *Sutradhar*. Presently, she voyages extensively to showcase her talent with her husband's cultural group, 'Rang Chattisa,' delivering acclaimed performances in plays like *Lottery*, *Rajim Bhaktin*, and *Pathshala*. Tiwari's artistry not only entertains but also preserves the rich cultural heritage of Chattisgarh's folk traditions.

Shrimati Poonam Tivari receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to the folk music of Chattisagarh.



## LAKSHAHIRA DAS

### Akademi Award: Overall Contribution in the Performing Arts

Born on 2 February 1933 in Sualkuchi, Assam. Shrimati Lakshahira Das, a prolific writer, academician and vocalist, has left an indelible mark on Assamese literature and education. As the author of five collections of Assamese poems and eight collections of lyrics, her literary contributions include works like *Pranganga*, *Bhaswar Langa*, *Awagahanar Muhurta*, *Priya Prithiber Babe*, and *Iswar Aru Santanar Sate*. She has also published two collections of translated poems, *Desh Bideshar Kabita* and *Nirbachita Bharatiya Kabita*. In addition to her literary achievements, Das has authored several books including *Lakshahira Das Katha Prakashan Rachanawali Vol.I and Vol.II*, *Mou Mitha Mat*, and *Desh Bideshar Sisu Galpasangrah*, among others. Her distinguished career as a Professor and Head of the Department of Education at Gauhati University (1977-1993), and Cotton College, Guwahati (1959-1977) has been instrumental in shaping the field of education in Assam. Das's scholarly pursuits have taken her around the globe, presenting research papers in International Education Conferences in countries such as England, France, Malaysia, Singapore, Kenya, and Bangkok. Her mentorship has also resulted in 14 research scholars obtaining their PhD degrees under her guidance. Shrimati Lakshahira Das's invaluable contributions to literature and education have inspired generations of scholars and readers alike.

Shrimati Lakshahira Das has received numerous awards such as the “Basanti Bordoloi Award” for Best Women Writer of Assam, Sangeetacharya, Silpi Puraskar, and Amol Prova Das Bota from the State Government of Assam.

Shrimati Lakshahira Das receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her Overall Contribution in the Performing Arts.



## PRAMEELA GURUMURTHY

### Akademi Award: Scholarship in the Performing Arts

Born on 5 October 1954 in Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Prameela Gurumurthy received her training in Carnatic music from Mudicondan Venkatarama Iyer, T.K. Govinda Rao and others. She was trained in Hindustani music by Krishnanand of the Kirana gharana.

Shrimati Prameela Gurumurthy is a distinguished classical vocalist renowned for her profound contributions to scholarship in the performing arts. Having served as the Chairperson of the School of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Madras and later as the Vice-Chancellor of The Dr J Jayalithaa Music and Fine Arts University, she is esteemed for her academic excellence. A scholar of high repute, Shrimati Prameela Gurumurthy has authored several publications, including *Gopalakrishna Bharathiyar* published by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, and *Musings of Music* published by the University of Madras. Her scholarly work has significantly enriched the understanding of classical music and literature. Additionally, she has released numerous audio cassettes and CDs featuring her classical and devotional songs. Shrimati Prameela Gurumurthy's performances and lecture-demonstrations have taken her across India and abroad.

Shrimati Prameela Gurumurthy has been honoured with numerous awards, including Isai Kalai Chelvar, Acharya Ratnakara Award, and Acharya Choodamani.

Shrimati Prameela Gurumurthy receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for her contribution to Scholarship in the Performing Arts.



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Akademi Awards

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2023



## KALAPINI KOMKALI

### Akademi Award: Hindustani Vocal Music

Born on 12 March 1966 at Dewas in Madhya Pradesh, Shrimati Kalapini Komkali is the daughter and disciple of Kumar Gandharva and her illustrious mother Vasundhara Komkali.

Shrimati Kalapini Komkali is widely recognized as one of the finest classical vocalists of India. Her performances are marked by youthful imagination, artistic thoughtfulness and a mature command over various aspects of classical vocalism. Her musical lineage is most manifested in the emphasis laid on the rendition of the bandish, its bhava, and in the studied restraint which does not allow the notes, or laya, to overwhelm the lyrics. The improvisations made by her are generally rooted in the Gwalior gharana gayaki, but carry her own distinct identity. Shrimati Kalapini Komkali's wide repertoire of ragas and compositions is further supplemented by the presentation of the traditional songs of Malwa representing the folklore and ethnic essence of the region. The Sagun-Nirgun bhajans of the various saint poets rendered in her inimitable style provide the ascetic flavour to her music. Shrimati Kalapini Komkali has recorded for numerous top music labels including HMV, Times Music and Venus Records. She has performed extensively throughout India and abroad.

Shrimati Kalapini Komkali receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Hindustani vocal music.





## VINOD KUMAR DWIVEDI

Akademi Award: Hindustani Vocal Music (Dhrupad)

Born on 10 May 1961 in Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Vinod Kumar Dwivedi received his training in Hindustani music and Dhrupad from Shobhan Sarkar, Kashi Nath Bodas, Vidur Mallick and Abhay Narayan Mallick.

Shri Vinod Kumar Dwivedi, a distinguished Dhrupad-Dhamar exponent, has been a pivotal figure in preserving and promoting this genre of Hindustani vocal music. Over his illustrious career spanning 35 years, he has established himself as a leading vocalist, composer, and guru in the field. Shri Dwivedi's contributions are not only confined to his captivating performances but also extend to his role as an esteemed educator and author.

A graded artist of the All India Radio and Doordarshan, Shri Vinod Kumar Dwivedi has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad such as the Indian Embassy UAE Dhrupad Mela, and Haridas Sangeet Sammelan. He has authored the book *Dhrupad Shobhanam* in two volumes, a valuable resource that includes around 400 of his compositions spanning various genres of Indian classical music. Shri Vinod Kumar Dwivedi has an extensive discography (CDs and albums) that includes Dhrupad albums, Parv Geets, Bhajans, Desh Bhakti Geets, Rare Talas, Ragas, and Bandishes in the Dhrupad genre. He has trained many students.

Shri Vinod Kumar Dwivedi has received the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Utsad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Rang Bharti Samman, the Kala Vibhushan, the Dhrupad Kala Ratna Samman, and the Dhrupad Ratna Samman. He has established the Dhrupad Kendra at Kanpur to promote Hindustani music.

Shri Vinod Kumar Dwivedi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Hindustani vocal music.



## HARVINDER KUMAR SHARMA

Akademi Award: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Sitar)

Born on 29 May 1957 at Kapurthala in Punjab, Shri Harvinder Kumar Sharma received his training in Sitar from his father Meghraj Sharma and was later groomed under the tutelage of Vilayat Khan, R.D. Verma and Jatinder Kumar of the Imdadkhani gharana.

A top-grade artist from the All India Radio and Doordarshan and an empanelled artist with the ICCR, he has showcased his musical brilliance on prestigious stages worldwide, including Russia, Canada, New Zealand, and more. With a career spanning six decades, Shri Sharma's performances have left an indelible mark on audiences. Beyond his musical pursuits, he has also contributed significantly to education as the Joint Director in the Department of Higher Education, Haryana. In his tenure spanning over 36 years as Professor of Music in the Department of Higher Education, Haryana, Shri Harvinder Kumar Sharma has trained many students, who have gone on to become A grade artists of All India Radio.

Shri Harvinder Kumar Sharma has been honoured with many awards including the Pandit Lakhmi Chand State Award, the Karmyogi State Award, the Naadyogi Award, and the Surmani Award.

Shri Harvinder Kumar Sharma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Hindustani instrumental music .



## MOINUDDIN KHAN

Akademi Award: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Sarangi)

Born on 21 April 1965 at Jaipur, Rajasthan, Shri Moinuddin Khan received his training in Hindustani music from his father and guru Shri Mahboob Khan of the Jaipur gharana.

A top-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Shri Moinuddin Khan has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad. He has performed in the orchestra of famous music directors, Ravindra Jain and Kalyanji-Anandji and also performed in an Australian film *Holy Smoke*. He has many students world-wide.

Shri Moinuddin Khan has received many prestigious awards. These include the Surmani, the Sangeet Kala Ratna, the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and the Padma Shri conferred by the Government of India.

Shri Moinuddin Khan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Hindustani instrumental music.



## BOMBAY JAYASHRI RAMNATH

Akademi Award: Carnatic Vocal Music

Born on 2 December 1964 in Kolkata, West Bengal, Shrimati Bombay Jayashri Ramnath received her training in Carnatic vocal music from T.R. Balamani and Lalgudi G. Jayaraman and Hindustani vocal music from Mahavir Jaipurwale and Ajay Pohankar. She has also trained in Carnatic instrumental music (Veena), as well as Bharatanatyam dance.

Shrimati Bombay Jayashri Ramnath is a versatile artist, known for her unwavering dedication to Carnatic music while also exploring creative fusions with various art forms. Notably, her rendition of Pi's Lullaby in the movie *Life of Pi* earned her a nomination for Best Original Song at the Oscars - Academy Awards, adding to her long list of achievements. Shrimati Bombay Jayashri Ramnath has also been a cultural ambassador, participating in events promoting national integration like 'Spirit of Unity' Concerts. Her lecture-demonstrations on classical art forms have reached diverse audiences, from Ahmedabad University to universities in Beijing and Shanghai. In September 2014, she mesmerized audiences at the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., USA, showcasing her global reach and influence. Shrimati Bombay Jayashri has authored books including *Prof. Sambamoorthy, the Visionary Musicologist* and the *Voices Within*.

Shrimati Bombay Jayashri Ramnath has been honoured with the Padma Shri conferred by the Government of India, the Kalaimamani by the Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Tamil Nadu State Film Award.

Shrimati Bombay Jayashri Ramnath receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Carnatic vocal music.



## SHANKAR SASTRY

### Akademi Award: Carnatic Vocal Music

Born on 27 November 1950 at Shimogga district in Karnataka, Shri Shankar Sastry received his training in Carnatic vocal music from Rajamma G.V. Sastry, Nagarathna Bai and Vallabham Kalyana Sundaram.

A top-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Shri Shankar Sastry has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and overseas. Belonging to the Tanjore School of Carnatic music, he has authored many books including the *Sadaashiva Brahmendra - Jeevana Mattu Rachanegalu*, the *Sangraha Kruti Maala*, rare compositions of old and contemporary composers with notations in Kannada language, the *Vasudeva Keertana Manjari* – compositions of Mysore Vasudevacharya with notations in English, the *Sreekantha Sangeethamritha* – compositions of Shimoga Y.K. Srikantiah. Shri Shankar Sastry has also worked on a Documentary film – *Dhwaja Vandanam* on 75 year of Indian Independence. He has conducted many workshops on music in India and abroad. He has many recordings to his credit.

Shri Shankar Sastry has received many titles and awards. These include the Sangeetha Kalanidhi award from Sri Guru Raghavendra Trust, Bangalore, the Karnataka Kalaasri given by the Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy, and the Asthana Vidwan conferred by the Aavani Sringeri Mutt and Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

Shri Shankar Sastry receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Carnatic vocal music.



## NEYVELI R. NARAYANAN

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Mridangam)

Born on 21 July 1967 in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, Shri Neyveli Narayanan received his training in Mridangam from Neyveli Shri Ganesa Pillai and Thanjavur Shri Upendran of Thanjavur School of Mridangam.

Shri Neyveli Narayanan is a distinguished Mridangam artist hailing from the illustrious Thanjavur School of Mridangam. Recognized as a Top-grade artist by the All India Radio, he has conducted various workshops on music in many prestigious cultural institutions in India and abroad. Known for his impeccable technique and deep understanding of rhythm, Shri Neyveli Narayanan has performed extensively across the globe, captivating audiences with his mastery of the Mridangam.

Shri Neyveli Narayanan has received many prestigious titles and awards including the Asthana Vidwan by Kanchi Kamakoi Peetam in 2006, the Vani Kala Sudhakara by Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha in 2010, the Laya Vadya Chathura by Sri Sathguru Sangeeta Vidyalaya in 2014, and the Nada Vallabha by Nada Sudha in 2019. He was honoured with the Palghat Mani Iyer Puraskar bestowed by the Chennai Fine Arts in 2023.

Shri Neyveli Narayanan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.



## H. K. VENKATARAM

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Violin)

Born on 5 May 1965 in Bangalore, Karnataka, Shri H.K. Venkataram received his training in Violin from his father H.V. Krishnamurthy.

Shri H.K. Venkataram is one of the most accomplished and sought-after violinists in the Carnatic music field, with a career spanning close to four-and-a-half decades. An A Grade artist from the All India Radio, he has performed extensively both solo and as an accompanist at many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad, has shared the stage with many eminent musicians in Carnatic music and participated in Jugalbandi concerts with stalwarts of Hindustani music.

Shri H.K. Venkataram has been honoured with numerous titles and accolades throughout his illustrious career, including the Ganakalashree by Karnataka Gana Kala Parishath, and the Sathyashree by Vani Institute of Music.

Shri H.K. Venkataram receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.



## S. SEKHAR

### Akademi Award: Creative & Experimental Music

Born on 25 June 1952 at Trichur, Kerala. Shri Subramaniam Sekhar received his training in Mridangam from Shri L.V. Vaidyanathan of Thanjavur Bani. He is also trained in Konnakol.

Shri S. Sekhar is a renowned Mridangam maestro known for his incredibly relevant and expansive collaborative contemporary music. As a senior founder member of the first Indian fusion band by Ananda Shankar, his contributions are legendary. He has played for the background scores of films by Indian film icons such as Satyajit Ray, Salil Chowdhury, Tapan Sinha, and Goutam Ghosh. Pandit Sekhar's collaboration with guitarist Arthur Gracias in the 1970s were immensely popular.

Shri S. Sekhar has collaborated with tabla maestros like Kishan Maharaj, Shankar Ghosh, Swapan Chowdhuri, Anindo Chatterjee, Sabir Khan, Bickram Ghosh, Vijay Ghate, and Shubhankar Banerjee. He has also accompanied unique Jugalbanti concerts, including one with Ustad Rashid Khan and Shankar Mahadevan. He has performed in many prestigious music festivals and participated in many lec-dems in India and overseas.

Shri S. Sekhar has received many awards including the Isai Perarignar conferred by the Tamil Manram.

Shri S. Sekhar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Creative and Experimental music.





## NILADRI KUMAR

### Akademi Award: Creative & Experimental Music

Born on 9 April 1973 at Kolkata in West Bengal, Shri Niladri Kumar received his training in Sitar from his father and guru Kartick Kumar. He belongs to the Dhaka, Imdad Khani and Maihar gharana.

Shri Niladri Kumar is considered the maverick classical musician of the country. He is a celebrated ambassador and an Indian music icon. He is the creator of the Zitar, an electric Sitar. He has gained an in-depth understanding, technique and unmatched mastery over the Sitar and developed his own distinct style. A top-grade artist of All India Radio, Shri Niladri Kumar has made a large contribution and mega impact in all spheres from classical music to film music. He has created many albums and given music to many films including *Chup Chup Ke*, *Bheegi Bheegi*, *Crazy Kiya Re*, *Bahubali*, *Aashique 2*, *Life in a Metro*, and a few others. Shri Niladri Kumar has conducted many seminars and workshops in India and overseas. He has associated with many prestigious cultural institutions such as Board of ISAMRA and Lata Mangeshkar University Board.

Shri Niladri Kumar has received many titles and awards. These include the MTD Immies (2004), the Sangeet Natak Akademi Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2007), the Gima Award (twice in 2011 & 2015), the Kumar Gandharva Award conferred by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Radio Mirchi Award (2018), and the Filmfare- RD Burman Music Composer Award (2019).

Shri Niladri Kumar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Creative and Experimental music.



## L.V. GANGADHARA SASTRY

Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Music (Sugam Sangeet)

Born on 27 June 1966 in Avanigadda, Andhra Pradesh, Shri L.V. Gangadhara Sastry received his training in Carnatic music from Srirangam Gopala Ratnam, Haripriya, Kovala Santha and Vasa Padmanabham.

Shri L.V. Gangadhara Sastry is a distinguished name in the world of Carnatic music. He is renowned for his remarkable contribution to the world of music through his project on the complete Musical *Bhagavadgita*. He holds the distinction of being the first classical musician to compose, sing, and record the entire 700 verses of this philosophical treatise with Telugu meanings. His work stands out for its world-class technical excellence, and fostering of a selfless society as well as promoting world peace and universal brotherhood. Shri L.V.

Gangadhara Sastry's efforts have extended beyond musical recordings, as he has tirelessly propagated the *Bhagavadgita* through lectures and discourses in numerous countries such as the USA, UK, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Muscat, and Australia. His impactful work has garnered appreciation from esteemed figures like former Presidents Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Sri Ramnath Kovind.

Shri L.V. Gangadhara Sastry has been honoured with numerous awards including an Honorary Doctorate from 'Maharshi Panini Samskrit evam Vaidik Viswavidyalaya', the Atal Foundation Award, the Swarna Bharat Trust Felicitation, the Saraswathi Putra Award, the Kala Ratna (Hamsa) Award, the Ugadi Puraskaram, and the Nandi Award bestowed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Shri L.V. Gangadhara Sastry receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Sugam Sangeet.



## SANGITA GOSAIN

### Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Music (Odissi Music)

Born on 25 June 1960 in Cuttak, Orissa, Shrimati Sangita Gosain received her training in Odissi Music from her mother Shrimati Rama Devi and later was groomed under the tutelage of Padmalaya Garabadu, and Suchitra Mohapatra.

Shrimati Sangita Gosain is a distinguished Odissi music artist with a remarkable career in the world of music. A top-grade artist of the All India Radio and Doordarshan, and an empanelled artist of I.C.C.R., she has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and overseas. With a doctorate in English and in Music, she has imparted her knowledge and expertise as an Associate Professor of Odissi music at Utkal University, Odisha, and as Chief Executive at the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre. She has many recordings in Sanskrit and other languages. She has trained many students.

Shrimati Sangita Gosain has received the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Award conferred by the Government of Odisha.

Shrimati Sangita Gosain receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Hindustani music.



## URMILA SATHYANARAYANAN

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born on 8 January 1966 in Chennai, Shrimati Urmila Sathyanarayanan received her initial training in Bharatanatyam from Sarasawathy Gana Nilayam. Later she received her advanced training under K. N. Dandayuthapani Pillai and K. J. Sarasa.

Shrimati Urmila Sathyanarayanan is a well-known Bharatanatyam artist who has captivated audiences both nationally and internationally through her performances, workshops, and lecture-demonstrations. Noteworthy highlights of her career include performances at prestigious events such as the Festival of India in Edinburgh and the Centenary of the Salt Sathyagraha in South Africa. She has been featured in major dance festivals across India including the festivals organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. As the Artistic Director of Natya Sankalpaa, she imparts holistic training in Bharatanatyam, shaping the next generation of dancers.

Shrimati Urmila Sathyanarayanan has been honoured with prestigious awards and titles such as Kalaimamani by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Kiran Puraskar, and Nritya Choodamani among others.

Shrimati Urmila Sathyanarayanan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.



## JAGDISH SUNDARLAL GANGANI

Akademi Award: Kathak

Born on 9 May 1958 in Vadodara, Gujarat, Shri Jagdish Sundarlal Gangani received his training in Kathak dance from his father, Sundarlal Gangani of the Jaipur Gharana.

Shri Jagdish Gangani, a renowned choreographer, has performed widely in various dance festivals within the country and abroad including the Chidambaram festival, Swar Naad festival, and events organized by the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi and the central Sangeet Natak Akademi. He has also conducted lecture-demonstrations and workshops at various prestigious universities such as Kansas University, Kansas; Rochester University, New York; U.C.L.A. University, Los Angeles and many more. He has released two audio CDs, “Vol-1 Sundar Kathak Katha” and “Vol-2 He Ree Sakhi,” featuring compositions by his father, showcasing his creativity in concept, direction, and music. Shri Jagdish Gangani has taught Kathak dance at several institutions including the Jaipur Kathak Kendra. He joined the M.S. University as lecturer in the Dance Department in 1995 and retired as Professor and Head in 2020.

Shri Jagdish Gangani has received many awards and honours including the Gaurav Puraskar conferred by the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2004 and the Nritya Ratnakar conferred by the Swaminarayan Sansthan in 2017.

Shri Jagdish Sundarlal Gangani receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Kathak dance.



## MARGI VIJAYAKUMAR

Akademi Award: Kathakali

Born on 31 May 1960 in Thonnakkal, Kerala, Shri Margi Vijayakumar was groomed in Kathakali in the traditional Gurukulam system under several eminent gurus Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair, Mankulam Vishnu Namboodiri, Inchakkattu Ramachandran Pillai and Thonnakkal Peethambaran.

Shri Margi Vijayakumar is known today as an outstanding Vesham artist who excels in almost all the roles but gained popularity particularly for his performance in the female roles. He performed extensively and conducted Kathakali workshops in several countries including France, the U.K., the U.S.A., Germany, Italy, Poland, Thailand, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Malayasia, Mexico and Japan. Shri Margi Vijayakumar joined the Margi Kathakali School as a teacher and artist in 1982 and served as Principal from 2014 to 2020.

Shri Margi Vijayakumar has been conferred honours for his work including the Kerala Kalamandalam V.S. Sarma Endowment Award (2005), Kerala Kalamandalam Award (2021), and Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Guru Pooja Puraskaram (2022).

Shri Margi Vijayakumar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Kathakali.



## LATASANA DEVI

Akademi Award: Manipuri

Born on 1 April 1967 in Imphal, Manipur, Shrimati Latasana Devi received her training in Manipuri dance from Guneswori Devi, Bipin Singh, Kalavati Devi and Darshana Jhaveri.

Shrimati Latasana Devi has performed in major dance festivals in India and abroad including Khajuraho festival, Ganga festival in Banaras, Nishagandhi festival, Soorya festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Haridas Sammelan in Mumbai, Alauddin Khan festival in Maihar, Chhanda festival in Bhopal, Somnath festival and Modhera festival in Gujarat, Maharaja Chakradhar Festival in Chhattisgarh, Sangeet Natak Akademi choreography festival in Tripura and the Astha Nayika event organized by the Nehru Center, Mumbai. She has toured extensively, showcasing her artistry in the USA, Mexico, Indonesia and Italy for solo performances. Her dedication to promoting Indian culture has earned her accolades, including being a top-grade artist and an empanelled artist of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Shrimati Latasana Devi has received numerous prestigious awards including the Sringarmani (1985), Guru Abhibadhan conferred by the Tamil Sangam, Mumbai (2016), and Tarang Ratna by the Takshashila Nrityakala Mandir, Thane (2018).

Shrimati Latasana Devi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Manipuri dance.



## MADDALI USHA GAYATRI

Akademi Award: Kuchipudi

Born on 26 April 1955 in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Shrimati Maddali Usha Gayatri received her training in Kuchipudi under Vedantam Jagannadha Sarma.

Shrimati Maddali Usha Gayatri has choreographed numerous ballets including Yasoda Krishna, Alamelu Mega Charitam, Geethanjali, Aamrapali, Alokaye Sree Bala Krishnam, Matrudevobhava, Ila Vaikuntham, Trishakthi Vaibhavam, Swatatra Bharath, Amruthotsava Bharathi, Shiva Bhakta Markandeya and Pushkara Pulakita Godavari and Varnam - the colours of the life and many more. She has presented her dance ballet extensively in major festivals and acted roles such as Sathyabhama, Mandodari, Yasoda, Gouthama Buddha, Yama and five different roles of mothers in Mathrudevobhava. Shrimati Maddali Usha Gayatri has established a dance institute named Nrutya Kinnera at Hyderabad with a branch at Mumbai where she imparts training in the art form to young aspirants.

She has received numerous prestigious awards including the Hamsa award, Nrutya Ratna, Ugadi Puraskaram, and many more.

Shrimati Maddali Usha Gayatri receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Kuchipudi dance.





## SNEHAPRAVA SAMANTRAY

Akademi Award: Odissi

Born on 8 January 1952 in Ganjam, Odisha, Shrimati Snehaprava Samantray received her training in Odissi dance from Pankaj Charan Das, Kelucharan Mohapatra and Debaprasad Das.

Shrimati Snehaprava Samantray is a highly regarded Odissi dance performer and educator. In her tenure as a professor of Dance in Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Bhubaneswar, she has groomed many talented Odissi performers and has supervised PhD research of Odissi scholars. An A grade artist of Doordarshan, Shrimati Snehaprava Samantray has performed extensively throughout the nation and abroad. Her notable performances are in the Khajuraho Dance Festival, Konark Festival, Kumbh Mela, etc. She has also travelled abroad for performances in Singapore, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, Laos, Hongkong and Thailand.

Shrimati Snehaprava Samantray is a recipient of numerous awards including the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2007) Mahari Award (2008), and Guru Gangadhar Smruti Samman (2021).

Shrimati Snehaprava Samantray receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Odissi dance.



## BHABEN BORBAYAN

Akademi Award: Sattriya

Born on 14 April 1967 in Majuli, Assam, Shri Bhaben Borbayan has received training in Sattriya under Nandiram Borgayan, Tuniram Borgayan, Komal Ch. Borgayan, Maniram Borgayan, Paramanda Borgayan, and many others.

Shri Bhaben Borbayan, a well-known Sattriya dancer, has showcased his exceptional skills not only in India but also in countries like France, Portugal, and Bhutan at prestigious festivals such as Festival Orientals and Festival International De Folklore. He has participated in many festivals organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, displaying his profound understanding of dance. Recognized for his expertise, he has been invited as an expert by various government organizations like the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) and Sangeet Natak Akademi for Gayan Bayan workshop. From 1991 to 1997, he served as a dance teacher at Pitambardev Mahavidyalay, Garamur, Majuli, and Tribeni Sangeet Vidyalaya, Kamalabari, Majuli. With technical mastery over Ankiya Nats, he has directed over 10 Bhaonas at national platforms. As the leading drama director at Uttar Kamalabari Sattra since 2000, he skilfully directs and tells stories, enriching audiences with the beauty of Sattriya traditions.

Shri Bhaben Borbayan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Sattriya dance.



## PALLAVI KRISHNAN

### Akademi Award: Mohiniattam

Born on 21 September 1968 in Durgapur, West Bengal, Shrimati Pallavi Krishnan received her initial training in Kathakali and Mohiniyattam under Kalamandalam Sankaranarayanan at Santiniketan. Subsequently, she earned an M.A. in Mohiniattam from Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University. Later, she received her advanced training under Kalamandalam Sugandhi and Bharati Shivaji.

Shrimati Pallavi Krishnan has performed extensively in dance festivals within India and outside including the Nishagandhi festival, Khajuraho festival, Konark festival, Dover-lane festival, Soorya festival, events of Sabhas in Chennai, and festivals organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi. She is a recipient of the scholarship (1995-1997), Junior fellowship (1998-2000) and Senior Fellowship (2009-2011) from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. She is an empanelled ICCR artist and a top-grade artist of Doordarshan. Shrimati Pallavi Krishnan has travelled abroad for performances including Canada, Poland, Austria, Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.A.

Shrimati Pallavi Krishnan has received numerous prestigious awards and honours including the Kerala Kalamandalam and Kerala Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Shrimati Pallavi Krishnan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to Mohiniattam.



## PARIKSHIT MAHATO

Akademi Award: Chhau

Born on 1 January 1954 in Kherabera, Jharkhand, Shri Parikshit Mahato received his training in Chhau under Dhananjay Mahato.

Since his parents noticed his passion in Chhau dance they encouraged him in his skill. He then started to perform in their village team. Shri Parikshit Mahato established his group named, Ghoshal Krishi Mangal Chhow Nriya Samiti and performed in many prestigious events across the country including the events organized by the Government organization. He popularized Chhau and imparted training to many young aspirants.

Shri Parikshit Mahato receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Chhau dance.



## NIRUPAMA RAJENDRA AND T.D. RAJENDRA

Akademi Award: Creative & Experimental Dance

Shrimati Nirupama Rajendra was born on 1 March 1970 and Shri T.D. Rajendra was born on 16 July 1965 at Bengaluru, Karnataka. They have learnt Kathak from Maya Rao, Kumudini Lakhia and Arjun Mishra, Bharatanatyam from U.S Krishnarao and Chandrabhaga Devi, Kalamandalam Radhika and Narmada. They also learnt Natyashastra from Sundari Santanam and Padma Subrahmanyam.

Nirupama and Rajendra have flourished in the arts for over three decades, excelling as dancers, choreographers, producers, and directors. As founders of Abhinava Dance Company, they have toured globally for performances in prestigious dance festivals. They have extensively performed and conducted lecture demonstrations within the country and abroad including the festivals organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Nirupama Rajendra have received numerous awards and recognitions including the Karnataka Kalashree Award 2011, Nrithya Choodamani Award 2016, Governor's Commendation for Outstanding Contribution to Indian Dance in Oklahoma 2008, and many more prestigious accolades from institutions and organizations worldwide.

Shrimati Nirupama and Shri Rajendra receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for their contribution to Creative & Experimental dance.



## PERINI PRAKASH

Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Theatre (Periniattam)

Born on 20 October 1965 in Yellareddy Pet, Telangana, Shri Perini Prakash has learnt the art form of Perini Natyam from Nataraja Ramakrishna. He has also obtained a Masters in Andhra Natyam from P.S.T.U, Hyderabad.

Shri Prakash Dumpeti, alias Perini Prakash, a distinguished Perini Natyam artist, has left his mark in the world of dance through his exceptional talent and dedication. With a career spanning across India and abroad, he has enchanted audiences in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Katmandu, Dubai, the U.K., and Mauritius with his mesmerizing performances. A true ambassador of Indian culture, Shri Prakash has not only showcased the beauty of Perini Natyam on international stages but also trained numerous students in this traditional art form. Some of his disciples have gone on to receive prestigious national and state awards. In addition to his contributions as a performer and teacher, Shri Perini Prakash is also an accomplished author, having written four books on the subject of Perini Natyam.

Shri Perini Prakash has been honoured with numerous awards, including the Life Achievement Award by Kamalakar Bharathi Memorial Trust, Perini Rudra and Nritya Choodamani by Andhra Natya Peetam, Vijayawada and many more.

Shri Perini Prakash receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Theatre.



## KALINATH MISHRA

### Akademi Award: Music for Dance

Born on 4 May 1964 in Kolkata, West Bengal, Shri Kalinath Mishra received training in Tabla from Shambhu Nath Mishra, Madan Mishra and Kishan Maharaj of Benaras gharana.

Shri Kalinath Mishra is a well-known Tabla artist known for his impeccable accompaniment to eminent artists of Hindustani music and dance. He has performed both in India and abroad, lending his rhythmic prowess to performances by well-known artists such as Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ram Narayan Mishra, Karthick Kumar, Sitara Devi, Brij Narayan, Birju Maharaj, Damayanti Joshi, Sunayana Hazarilal, Sandhya Purecha, Uma Dogra and many more. In addition to his stellar accompaniment, Shri Mishra is also an accomplished workshop conductor, sharing his expertise with eager learners both in India and abroad. His talent extends to the world of cinema, where he has contributed background scores to numerous Hindi movies, including classics like *Devdas*, *Silsila*, and *Vijay*.

Shri Kalinath Mishra has been honoured with prestigious awards such as Taalmani from Sur Singar Sansad.

Shri Kalinath Mishra receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to dance music.



## ASIF ALI HAIDER KHAN

Akademi Award: Playwriting

Born on 18 January 1972 in Baranpura, Bihar, Shri Asif Ali Haider Khan is an alumnus of the National School of Drama.

Shri Asif Ali Haider Khan is a distinguished theatre playwright known for his remarkable contribution to the world of performing arts. With a passion for theatre that spans decades, Shri Asif Ali Haider Khan has organized numerous workshops. His workshops, including those at the prestigious National School of Drama, have inspired countless individuals across the nation.

Shri Asif Ali Haider Khan has received numerous awards in his career including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, and the Manohar Singh Smriti Puraskar of the National School of Drama.

Shri Asif Ali Haider Khan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of theatre as a playwright.





## PALI BHUPINDER SINGH

Akademi Award: Playwriting

Born on 6 September 1965 in Jaito, Punjab, Shri Bhupinder Singh has crafted numerous impactful plays that delve into the depths of human emotions and societal issues.

His works have been staged in prestigious venues across the country, captivating audiences with their profound storytelling and powerful messages. Shri Singh's commitment to the art of theatre is evident in his dedication to nurturing young talents and promoting theatre culture. His plays have received critical acclaim and accolades, earning him a revered status in the theatre fraternity. Shri Pali Bhupinder Singh is also an educationist and scholar par excellence, having 30 published books to his credit.

Shri Pali Bhupinder Singh is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Ishwar Chander Nanda Award from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in 1990, the Kartar Singh Dhaliwal Award from Punjabi Sahit Akademi, Ludhiana in 2005, the Shiromani Natakkar Award from Bhasha Vibhag, Punjab in 2014, and the Guru Nanak Dev Ji Achievers Award from the Government of Punjab in 2019.

Shri Pali Bhupinder Singh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of theatre as a playwright.



## SURINDER SHARMA

Akademi Award: Direction

Born on 22 March 1958 in Delhi, Shri Surinder Sharma has earned a special reputation for his adaptation of novels for stage performances. He completed his graduation in Commerce from Delhi University before his passion for acting inspired him to seek admission in National School of Drama from where he specialized in acting. He has been active both as actor and director since.

He worked mainly as an actor for a long time. Later he established his own theatre group Rangsapatak which produces plays, among others, based on novels adapted by him such as, Prem Chand's *Rangbhoomi*, *Nirmala*, Phanishwar Nath Renu's *Mailaa Anchal*, Amritlal Nagar's *Boond aur Samudra*, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi's *Baanbhatt Ki Aatmakatha*, among many others. Many of his plays such as *Mithyabhimaan*, *Jayaz Hathyare*, *Mahaanirwan*, *Aashadh Ka Ek Din*, etc., have been performed in different cities. He has translated and adapted at least 10 plays so far. He has acted in more than 70 plays, such as *Panchhi Aise Ate Hai* (Gulshan Kumar), *Apna Morcha* (Devendra Raj Ankur), *Juloos* (M.K. Raina), (Prasanna), *Life of Galileo* (Fritz Benevitz), *Andha Yug* (Ratan Thiyam), (T. Subhagi) *Ye Aadmi Ye Chuhey* (Virendra Sharma), etc. He has worked in television serials and films also. He has been a visiting faculty at NSD acting workshops.

Shri Sharma has been felicitated by a number of institutions including the Hindi Academy, Delhi, and Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi.

Shri Surinder Sharma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of theatre as a director.



## ZAHOOR ALAM

Akademi Award: Direction

Born on 20 December 1955 in Nainital, Uttarakhand, Shri Zahoor Alam has been associated with theatre since his childhood. He earned his Master's in Sociology, and later in Commerce. He learnt the nuances of theatre while working with many esteemed directors including B.M. Shah, Mohan Upreti, D.R. Ankur, Suresh Sharma and D.R. Purohit. Beyond his directorial prowess, Zahoor Alam has held prestigious positions such as Vice President of Uttarakhand Sahitya Kala Parishad and membership in several cultural governing bodies including Uttarakhand Sanskriti Vibhag.

Shri Zahoor Alam has extensively worked for nurturing theatre environment in the hill city of Nainital and nearby areas. His theatre group Yugmanch has been active for the past more than 45 years which has provided stage to budding and upcoming as well as amateur and professional artists of the city. His play *Natak Jaari Hai* (1986) was staged with the Akademi's support and since then he has directed numerous plays, conducted theatre workshops for a number of institutions including universities. His more recent production Hari Suman Bisht's *Khwab Ek Uda Hua Parinda* based on the folklore of *Rajula Malushahi* has also been appreciated by audience and critics alike.

Shri Zahoor Alam has been honoured by a number of institutions.

Shri Zahoor Alam receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of theatre as a director.



## ANIL RASTOGI

Akademi Award: Acting

Source - Wikipedia

Born on 4 April 1943 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi has been active in theatre for more than six decades now. He joined CDRI in 1962 as Junior Research Fellow and retired from the Institute as Head of Biochemistry and Director's Grade Scientist in 2003. His doctorate degree is in microbiology.

He has acted in plays directed by a number of esteemed and senior directors including Raj Bisaria, B.V. Karanth, Bansi Kaul, Urmil Kumar Thapliyal, Ranjit Kapoor, Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha and many others. Some of his most prominent plays as actor include *Hayavadan*, *Evam Indrajit*, *Katha Ek Kans ki*, *Rustam Sohrab*, *Taj Mahal Ka Tender*, *Yehoodi Ki Ladki*, *A View From the Bridge*, *Kanya Daan*, *Harischannar Ki Ladai*, *Sakharam Binder*, and *Bare Foot in Athens*. Overall he has acted in more than 95 plays with more than 1000 performances. Apart from theatre he has worked for radio, television, and films including web-series and commercials. Indeed, as Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences as well as of Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi, he is a rare combination of a scientist and a theatre artist.

Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi has been honoured with many awards including the Kalidas Samman, Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and Yash Bharti Samman.

Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of theatre as an actor.



## RAJIV VERMA

Akademi Award: Acting

Born on 7 July 1948 in Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Rajiv Verma has learnt the nuances of acting from Shri B.V. Karanth. He has also received training in architecture. He has served the Government of Madhya Pradesh as a Joint Secretary.

Shri Rajiv Verma's artistic journey has spanned over six decades, beginning as a child artist in Ramleela performances in his locality. He has also given virtuoso performances through radio and other media.

Shri Rajiv Verma has been honoured with prestigious awards including the Kalidas Samman by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Rajiv Verma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of theatre as an actor.



## ANOOP JOSHI

Akademi Award: Allied Theatre Arts (Lighting)

Born on 23 September 1968 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Anoop Joshi has learnt the nuances of theatre at Rang Mandal, Bharat Bhawan from Shri B.V. Karanth and craft of stage lighting from Tapas Sen, Rammurthy, George Lavado and Ashok Sagar Bhagat.

Shri Joshi has contributed to theatre in almost every department ranging from acting and directing to its technical aspects. As the technical director of numerous national and international festivals, including the Khajuraho Dance Festival and Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, he has showcased his exceptional skills and meticulous attention to detail in theatre and ambience lighting. As a director and/or lighting designer his plays have participated in many theatre festivals. As a lighting designer he has worked with B.V. Karanth, Barry John, Habib Tanvir among many others.

Shri Anoop Joshi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to allied theatre arts as a lighting designer.



## SANDEEP DUTTA

Akademi Award: Allied Theatre Arts (Lighting)

Born on 1 March 1970 in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Shri Sandeep Dutta is a disciple of Gautam Bhattacharya and R.K. Dhingra.

Throughout his career, Shri Sandeep Dutta has collaborated with esteemed gurus and dancers, including Birju Maharaj, Sonal Mansingh, and Raja Radha Reddy among others. He has designed and executed lights for their solo dance performances and dance productions. Shri Sandeep Dutta's expertise extends to handling mega projects such as the G-20 Summit in Delhi, Eastern Economic Forum Summit in Vladivostok, Russia, and SCO Summit in Delhi, as well as 'Festivals of India' held abroad. He has also been entrusted with assignments by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), designing and executing lights for Festivals of India held in various countries including France, Germany, Russia, and Spain, among others. Notably, Dutta has contributed to the Indira Gandhi Center for Art & Culture (IGNCA), designing lights for various programmes in Delhi and Indonesia.

Shri Sandeep Dutta receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of theatre as a lighting designer.



## PIYAL BHATTACHARYA

Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Theatre (Sanskrit Theatre)

Born on 26 August 1976 in Howrah, West Bengal, Shri Piyal Bhattacharya received training in Kathakali under Kalamandalam Balasubramanian at Kerala Kalamandalam. Later, he studied *Natyashastra* and musicology under some eminent teachers – K.D. Tripathi, Bharat Gupt, Puru Dadheech, N. Ramanathan, Urmila Sharma and others. He learnt Rudraveena of Dagar Gharana under Suvir Mishra, Asit Banerjee, Bahauddin Dagar, and of Dabir Khan Gharana from Ujwalendu Chakraborty; Haveli Sangeet under Gokulotsav Maharaj; Sarasvathi-veena under Vijaya Varalakshmi; Pung-Achoba under Premjit Singh; and Kalaripayettu under P.K. Balan Gurukkal.

Piyal Bhattacharya is known for his extensive work on the reconstruction of a holistic system of Natya from the *Natyashastra*, i.e., the Marga Natya. He has contributed significantly with reconstruction of the *Karana* including *Vachikabhinaya*, and *Aharya*, and *Angahara* (movements of the body, including gestures, facial expressions, and dance). He has also worked towards reconstructing the *Atodyas* (musical instruments or instrumental music) – *Tri-Pushkaras*, *Vipanchi-Chitra-Mattakokila Vinas* – and the *Gandharva* system of singing. He has directed *Chitra-Purvaranga*, *Uparupaka Bhanaka*, *Bhanika* and Shudraka's *Padmapabhritakam Bhana* as *Padmanka-Gatha*. For two other directorial ventures, he adopted Kalidasa's *Meghadutam* and *Ritusamharam* respectively as *Viraha-Gatha* and *Samvatsar-Kathaa*. His directorial ventures have been performed in major national and international dance and theatre festivals in India. He has also adopted Bhasa's five Sanskrit plays to direct *Bhasa-Bharatam*, a repertory-production of the National School of Drama, Sikkim. He is a visiting faculty of NSD Sikkim, etc.

Shri Piyal Bhattacharya receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to Sanskrit Theatre.





## KANTA KASHINATH GAUDE

Akademi Award: Folk Music, Goa

Born on 15 April 1956 in Ponda, Goa, Shri Kanta Gaude learnt folk music of Goa from his father Shri Kashinath Zanju Gaude and Shri Tatoba Velingkar.

Shri Kanta Kashinath Gaude, an eminent folk artist from Goa, embodies a rich tradition of folk culture, having been born and raised in a family deeply rooted in these art forms. With a career spanning 45 years, Shri Kanta Kashinath Gaude has become a stalwart in the field of folk arts, particularly in the realm of the “Jagor” folk form, establishing himself as a distinguished folk artist of Goa. Shri Kanta Kashinath Gaude’s passion for preserving and reviving vanishing art forms such as Jagor, Kalo, Musal Khel, and Suvari is evident in his voluntary efforts. He actively encourages rural youth to embrace and revive these traditional art forms, fostering a new generation of folk artists. Shri Kanta Kashinath Gaude’s demonstrative performances of Goan folk dances and music have enlightened students at Goa University and numerous secondary schools and colleges across the state.

Shri Kanta Kashinath Gaude has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the Adivasi Pradnyavant Puraskar from the Department of Tribal Welfare Goa, and the State Cultural Award from the Department of Art and Culture of the Government of Goa. Additionally, he has been bestowed with the Gomant Kala Bhushan Award by Rasikranjan Goa, and the Kala Bhushan Award by Kalavrund, Goa.

Shri Kanta Kashinath Gaude receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution the field of folk music of Goa.



## SWAPAN MUKHOPADHYAY

Akademi Award: Folk Music (West Bengal)

Born on 21 August 1953 in Nimta, West Bengal, Shri Swapan Mukhopadhyay received his initial training in folk music from his parents, then he went on to get advanced training from Shri Nirmalendu Choudhury, Paresh Deb, Shri Dinendra Choudhury and voice training from Shri Arya Choudhury.

Shri Swapan Mukhopadhyay, a distinguished folk artist from West Bengal, stands as a top-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, exemplifying excellence in his craft. Empanelled in the outstanding category of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), he has graced prestigious folk festivals across India and abroad, including those organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi. With a passion for preserving and promoting folk traditions, Shri Swapan Mukhopadhyay has released numerous CDs, cassettes, and books, contributing to the dissemination of rich cultural heritage.

Shri Swapan Mukhopadhyay has been bestowed with the “Sangeet Ratna” by Bharatiya Sangeet Vidya Vihar among other honours.

Shri Swapan Mukhopadhyay receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the folk music of West Bengal.



## RAKESH BHATT

### Akademi Award: Folk Theatre and Music (Uttarakhand)

Born on 18 July 1973 at Ukhimath, Uttarakhand, Shri Rakesh Bhatt is known for his creativity. He has created many telefilms and numerous songs, directing several acclaimed plays.

His contributions as a music director for prestigious plays at renowned stages like Bharat Rang Mahotsav and the IGNCA have earned him widespread acclaim. Through his work, he has enriched the cultural landscape of Uttarakhand and beyond, showcasing the vibrant folk traditions of the region to audiences far and wide. His dedication to preserving and promoting folk theatre and music has garnered him respect and recognition in the realm of the performing arts.

Shri Rakesh Bhatt has received several prestigious awards, including the Vocational Award from Rotary Club of Srinagar Garhwal for Contribution in promotion of Folk Theatre and Hindi theatre, the Uttarakhand Youth Icon Award, and Uttarakhand Ratna from Amar Ujala Group, Uttarakhand.

Shri Rakesh Bhatt receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of folk theatre and music of Uttarakhand.



## KRISHAN LAL SEHGAL

Akademi Award: Folk Music (Himachal Pradesh)

Born on 9 January 1949 in Bhaira, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Krishan Lal Sehgal received his training in Hindustani and folk music from A.R. Chaudhary and Som Dutt Battu.

Shri Krishan Lal Sehgal has dedicated over five decades to the preservation and promotion of Himachali folk music. As a vocal music teacher, he has trained hundreds of students who have achieved recognition in national-level music competitions. He has published research papers in prominent magazines such as *Sangeet Masik*, *Somsi*, and *Him Prastha*, and authored the book *Geet Meri Maati Re* in 2020. Shri Sehgal has recorded songs for albums by Music India, and released audio cassettes featuring traditional folk songs like ‘Lok Madhuri’, ‘Lok Ranjani’, ‘Swaranjli’, ‘Nati Ra Phera’, ‘Meri Jaani Ra Basera’, and ‘Shirgul Mahima’. He composed two audio albums for Anup Jalota, ‘Koke De Lashkare’, and provided voice, music, and lyrics for video albums ‘Maa Ki Mahima’ and ‘Jaikare Naa Re Dware’ by T Series. Additionally, Shri Sehgal released his Ghazal albums ‘Tallash’ and ‘Ittefaq’ in 2009. Under his guidance, four music students received scholarships from CCRT, Delhi, with one winning first prize in the all-India folk music competition.

Shri Krishan Lal Sehgal has been honoured with numerous awards including the “Himachal Gaurav Samman” by the HP Government in 2017, and the “Karmveer Samman” from Swatantra Sainani ‘Sanstha (Pajhota), HP in 1996.

Shri Krishna Lal Sehgal receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the folk music of Himachal Pradesh.



## **BHARAT SHARMA VYAS**

**Akademi Award: Folk Music (Bihar)**

Born on 1 August 1957 in Nagpura, Bihar, Shri Bharat Sharma Vyas got his training from Shri Jagdish Singh.

Shri Bharat Sharma Vyas is a reputed artist who has performed extensively across the nation and abroad including Oman, Mauritius, Thailand and Nepal.

Shri Bharat Sharma Vyas has received numerous awards including Bhikhari Thakur Samman, Bhojpuri Samrat Samman, Bhojpuri Ratna Samman, Bhojpuri Bhishm Pitamah Samman and Lok Gourav Samman.

Shri Bharat Sharma Vyas receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the folk music of Bihar.



## HELEN GIRI

### Akademi Award: Folk and Traditional Music (Meghalaya)

Born on 7 February 1944, Shrimati Helen Giri is a distinguished folk and traditional artist from Meghalaya, renowned for her tireless efforts in the promotion and preservation of Khasi dance. As a top-grade folk singer of All India Radio, she has been instrumental in bringing Khasi traditional music to national platforms. Her performances as a singer at various State, National, and International levels have garnered widespread recognition. Not only has she actively participated in numerous programmes and festivals, but she has also organized festivals dedicated to traditional music and dance in Meghalaya, which have been warmly embraced by the community. Through her dedicated work, she has sparked a revival in the field of arts and culture, particularly in the context of Khasi traditions. Furthermore, Shrimati Helen Giri has taken initiatives to identify Master Craftsmen skilled in various categories of musical instruments. This endeavour has not only preserved the artistry but also served as an avenue for income generation in the villages she has supported. Her multifaceted contributions have significantly enriched the cultural landscape of Meghalaya.

Shrimati Helen Giri has been honoured with the Padma Shri for her contribution to the Arts and Culture of Meghalaya.

Shrimati Helen Giri receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for her contribution to the folk and traditional music of Meghalaya.



## CHERUTHAZHAM KUNHIRAMA MARAR

Akademi Award: Traditional Music - Chenda (Kerala)

Born on 20 May 1962 in Cheruthazham, Kerala, Shri Cheruthazham Kunhiraman Marar learnt the art form of Chenda from P. Sankara Marar and Pallavoor Maniyan Marar.

Shri Cheruthazham Kunhiraman Marar is a distinguished artist known for his mastery of the traditional percussion instrument, Chenda. Hailing from Kerala, Marar has dedicated his life to preserving and promoting this ancient art form. His skilful and mesmerizing performances on the Chenda have earned him acclaim and admiration from audiences across the region. As a custodian of the rich musical heritage of Kerala, Shri Cheruthazham Kunhiraman Marar has played a pivotal role in keeping the tradition of Chenda alive. His deep understanding of rhythm and intricate techniques make his performances a captivating experience for listeners.

Shri Cheruthazham Kunhiraman Marar has been honoured with prestigious awards including the Kerala Kshetra Kala Academy Award by the Government of Kerala, Thala Kalanidhi Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award for his remarkable contributions to the art of Chenda.

Shri Cheruthazham Kunhiraman Marar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the traditional music of Kerala.



## ABDUL GAFFAR DAR KANIHAMI

Akademi Award: Folk Music (Jammu & Kashmir)

Born on 9 September 1952 in Batapora Kanihama, Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Abdul Gaffar Dar Kanihami received his training in folk music from M. Abdullah Ganie.

Shri Abdul Gaffar Dar Kanihami is known for his profound contribution to the traditional music of the region.

Hailing from the picturesque village of Kanihami, Shri Abdul Gaffar Dar Kanihami has dedicated his life to preserving and promoting Kashmiri folk music. Shri Abdul Gaffar Dar Kanihami's repertoire includes a rich array of traditional Kashmiri folk songs, reflecting the cultural heritage and history of the region.

Shri Abdul Gaffar Dar Kanihami has been honoured with several awards, including Khilati Harmukh by the State Administration of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Harmukh Award, Shashrang Award, Nishan e Hami, and Khilate Shams Fakeer.

Shri Abdul Gaffar Dar Kanihami receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the folk music of Jammu and Kashmir.





## JAYANTI SHARMA

Akademi Award: Instrument Making (Gujarat)

Born on 1 January 1947, Shri Jayanti Maganbhai Sharma is an alumni of M.S. University, Baroda.

Shri Jayanti Sharma is a visionary innovator of the ancient classical Tarang music instruments such as Jaltarang, Kaachtarang, Nallikatarang, and Lohtarang. His innovative creations have breathed new life into traditional music, expanding the possibilities of sound. He has showcased his talents at numerous prestigious music festivals, leaving audiences in awe with his mastery of these unique instruments. Notably, he has performed at the Saptak International Music Festival, captivating listeners with the mesmerizing melodies produced by his creations.

Shri Jayanti Sharma holds the record in the Limca Book of Records for his innovative Tarang music instruments. He has also been honoured with the GIAA Award and the 5th Genius Indian Achiever's Award in association with World Records India for his remarkable contributions.

Shri Jayanti Maganbhai Sharma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the art of instrument-making.



## K. PAJANIVEL

### Akademi Award: Martial Arts (Puducherry)

Born on 30 January 1973 in Pooranankuppam, Pudducherry, Shri K. Pajanivel learnt the art of Silambam from Master Rajaram.

With a career spanning decades, Shri Pajanivel has dedicated himself to preserving and promoting the ancient art of Silambam, a traditional Indian martial art form. As a master practitioner, he has honed his skills and knowledge in Silambam, becoming an authority in this art form. Shri K. Pajanivel has not only excelled as a practitioner but has also played a pivotal role in passing on his expertise to the younger generation. He has trained numerous students in the art of Silambam, ensuring that this rich heritage continues to thrive. His commitment to preserving traditional martial arts has earned him widespread recognition and respect within the martial arts community. Throughout his illustrious career, Shri K. Pajanivel has showcased his skills in various performances, demonstrations, and competitions, both nationally and internationally.

Shri K. Pajanivel has been honoured with numerous awards, including the Kalaimamani Award by the Pondicherry Government in 2012, the Best Youth Award by Nehru Yuva Kendra in 2004, and the Silambam International Award in 2002.

Shri K Pajanivel receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the Martial Arts of Puducherry.



## GURPREET SINGH KHALSA

Akademi Award: Martial Arts (Punjab)

Born on 22 April 1948 at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Gurpreet Singh Khalsa received his training in Gatka from Jathedar Baba Pritam Singh ji of Patiala.

Shri Gurpreet Singh Khalsa stands as a well-known figure in the realm of Gatka, the traditional Sikh martial art. Hailing from Punjab, Khalsa has dedicated his life to mastering and propagating this ancient art form. Shri Gurpreet Singh Khalsa's journey in Gatka began at a young age, under the guidance of esteemed gurus, where he honed his skills in the art of wielding the traditional weapons used in Gatka. Over the years, he has not only excelled in the practice of Gatka but also emerged as a passionate teacher, imparting his knowledge to numerous disciples. Khalsa's dynamic performances, showcasing the fluid movements and precise techniques of Gatka, have captivated audiences worldwide. He has also conducted workshops and demonstrations to raise awareness and appreciation for this traditional martial art.

Shri Gurpreet Singh Khalsa has received numerous awards, including the Desh Sena Rattan Award and Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the traditional Sikh martial art of Gatka.

Shri Gurpreet Singh Khalsa receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the martial arts of Punjab.



## GOPALAN NAIR VENU (G. VENU)

### Akademi Award: Overall Contribution in the Performing Arts

Shri Gopalán Nair Venu (also known as G. Venu) was born on 1 July 1945 in Pappanamcode, Kerala. At the age of eleven, he began taking instruction in Kathakali from Keerickattu Sankar Pillai. Under Gopinath, he pursued his studies further and studied the nuances of the Kathakali mudras from Chengannur Raman Pillai. Under the guidance of Ammannur Madhava Chakyar and Ammannur Parameswara Chakyar, Gopalán Nair Venu joined a course in Kūṭiyāṭṭam in 1977.

Shri G. Venu has been credited by many for developing his own training methodology based on Navarasa (the nine *rasa*) for actors and dancers. He has trained several young actors at the National School of Drama, New Delhi, ITI, Singapore, and by conducting regular workshops. Shri Venu's adaptations of Mahakavi Kalidasa's plays *Abhigyan Shakuntalam* and *Vikramorvarsiyam* and Bhasa's play *Urubhangam* and *Dutavakyam* for Kutiyattam are considered as his major contributions to the art form. He was nominated as one of the honorary directors of the "World Theatre Project" in Sweden together with eminent theatre directors from around the world.

Shri Venu has received several honours and awards, which include Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award (2007), Kerala Kalamandalam Award (2005), Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture (Japan) 2007, and Kerala Sahitya Academy Award (1977).

Shri Gopalán Nair Venu receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his Overall Contribution in the Performing Arts.



## JAGDISH TRIVEDI

### Akademi Award: Scholarship in the Performing Arts

Born on 12 October 1967 in Wadhwan, Gujarat, Shri Jagdish Trivedi is a multifaceted personality, serving as an Author, Poet, Actor, Philosopher, and Philanthropist for the past 35 years.

His artistic endeavours have not only entertained but also played a significant role in preserving and promoting Indianness and culture among the Indian diaspora worldwide. As an international performer, Shri Jagdish Trivedi has brought the richness of cultural literature, ethos, and values to audiences in 28 countries, fostering a sense of connection to their homeland for non-resident Indians. His philanthropic spirit is evident through his pledge to donate 100% of his income from Comedy Shows, besides contributing to hospitals and individuals.

With 3100 shows, 78 books, columns in various national and international newspapers and magazines, and innumerable videos, Shri Jagdish Trivedi has made significant contribution to the arts. He has also supported government awareness campaigns through his oratory, raising awareness on issues like 'Beti Bachao,' 'Swine Flu,' and 'Covid' through 360 shows and 150 videos.

Shri Jagdish Trivedi has been honoured with prestigious awards including the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2024, Gujarat Garima Award by the Gujarat State Government in 2023, Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar by the Gujarat State Government in 2018, and the Jyotindra Dave Paritoshik by the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad in 2006.

Additionally, six of his books have been awarded by the Gujarat Sahitya Academy between 1990 and 2006.

Shri Jagdish Trivedi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023 for his contribution to the field of scholarship in the performing arts.

Note: The biographical particulars and other factual information contained in these citations are based on information made available by the Awardees and Fellows.



## Sangeet Natak Akademi

National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi



Sangeet Natak Akademi, the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, was set up in 1953 for the preservation and promotion of the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance and drama. The management of the Akademi vests in its General Council. The Chairman of the Akademi is appointed by the President of India for a term of five years. The functions of the Akademi are set down in the Akademi's Memorandum of Association, adopted at its registration as a society on 11 September 1961. The registered office of the Akademi is at Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi. Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Sangeet Natak Akademi now has three constituent units, two of these being dance-teaching institutions: the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA) at Imphal, and Kathak Kendra in Delhi. JMDA has its origin in the Manipur Dance College established by the Government of India in April 1954. Funded by the Akademi since its inception, it became a constituent unit of the Akademi in 1957. Similarly Kathak Kendra is one of the leading teaching institutions in Kathak dance. Located in Delhi, it offers courses at various levels in Kathak dance and in vocal music and Pakhawaj.

Besides the constituent units, the Akademi presently has five centres:

1. Kutiyattam Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram for preserving and promoting the age-old Sanskrit theatre of Kerala, Kutiyattam.
2. Sattriya Kendra, Guwahati for promoting the Sattriya traditions of Assam.
3. North-East Centre, Guwahati for preserving the traditional and folk performing art traditions of northeastern India.
4. North-East Documentation Centre, Agartala for festival and field documentation in the North-east.
5. Chhau Kendra, Chandankiyari for promoting the Chhau Dances of eastern India

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are the highest national recognition conferred on practising artists. The Akademi also confers Fellowships on eminent artists and scholars of music, dance and drama; and has in 2006 instituted annual awards to young artists - the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar. The Akademi's archive, comprising audio and video tapes, photographs, and films is one of the largest in the country and is extensively drawn upon for research in the performing arts.

### Akademi Officials

**Sandhya Purecha**, Chairman

**Joravarsinh Jadav**, Vice-Chairman

**Raju Das**, Secretary



**Ministry of Culture**  
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA, INDIA



भारत 2023 INDIA