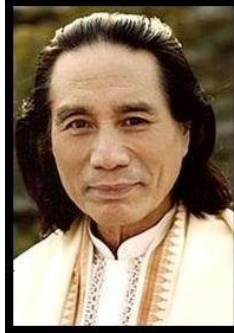


TAGORE AWARD FOR CULTURAL HARMONY - 2014

CITATION

SHRI RAJKUMAR SINGHAJIT SINGH



Born at Imphal, Manipur on 3 November 1932, Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh is a highly accomplished and senior most guru, exponent, choreographer, prolific writer and scholar of Manipuri dance.

He was trained in the Guru Shishya Parampara under eminent Ojhas Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akedemi awardee Guru Maisnam Amubi Singh in Jagoi, Guru Thangjam Chaoba Singh in Cholom traditions. He has not only preserved the chaste culture of Manipur but also expanded its horizon extensively. He has also trained under various Ojhas in the martial arts of Manipur which equipped him for his future role as a versatile and creative artiste.

He moved to Delhi teaching Manipuri dance at the Triveni Kala Sangam, a multi faceted art institution and leading its dance repertory. In 1998, he established his own institution in the Capital, the Manipuri Nrityashram, where he continues to impart training in Manipuri dance. Several of his students have made a name for themselves at the national and international level.

His name is synonymous with the propagation of Manipuri dance both in and outside Manipur. His work as a performer and choreographer spanning over 60 years bears witness to his creativity within the framework of traditional Manipuri dance. As a pioneer of Manipuri ballet, he broke new ground by presenting the first full length dance drama 'Brabhruvahan' in 1964 using all aspects of Manipuri performing arts as well as typical Manipuri music and costumes. His choreography has been enriched by elements incorporated from various forms of performance of Manipur such as Thang-ta, Nata-sankirtana, Lai-haraoba and Rasleela. He choreographed the Manipuri dance segment of the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2010 at Delhi. He has performed around the world, participating in national and international festivals drawing great applause.

As a scholar and dancer, his lecture-performances have been a treat for educational institutions and universities both in India and abroad. His book on Manipuri dance and articles in various publications have remained highly valuable source of information all over the world.

In view of his contribution in the field of Manipuri dance, Government of India presented him Padma Shri in 1986 and Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2011.

The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony recognizes his contribution in keeping the tradition of Manipuri dance alive and vibrant, promoting harmony through dance and also pays tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who, deeply influenced by Manipuri dance, made it an integral part of the education curriculum at Visva Bharati.

TAGORE AWARD FOR CULTURAL HARMONY - 2015

CITATION

CHHAYANAUT



The logo of the Organisation.

Chhayanaut (a cultural organisation) was established in 1961 by leading organizers of Tagore centenary celebration. This organization was part of the movement for an independent Bangladesh that provided a platform for cultural expression and assertion of the Bengali identity at a time when such activities were considered anti-state and acts of sedition. During the liberation war, Chhayanaut singers organized performances to inspire freedom fighters and refugees. After independence, Chhayanaut has been involved in seeking creative ways to broaden and intensify the practice and celebration of mainstream music and culture. The organisation upholds its liberal and progressive tradition promoting the spirit of cultural harmony within the people of Bangladesh till date. It is the focal point for promotion of universalist thoughts and Bangla tradition with which all legendary Tagore experts in Bangladesh are associated.

Chhayanaut has played a leading role in the promotion of Tagore's works and Bangla arts and literature not only within Bangladesh, but all across the world. It has also rushed to the aid of people at times of famines, floods or riots, bringing people together to resolve crisis with songs of protest on their lips.

Since 1963, through its school of music, Chhayanaut gradually broadened its curriculum to include Tagore songs, Nazrul songs, traditional Bengali songs, folk songs, classical vocal music, the playing of instruments (tabla, sitar, violin, flute and esraj) and dance (Manipuri and Baratanatyam) in their original form. In 1967, Chhayanaut started Bengali new year celebration through open air concert which has now turned into national festival, also celebrated by Bengalis all over the world. Chhayanaut is currently the largest informal school of music in the subcontinent with over four thousand students, unmatched by any such endeavour elsewhere in the subcontinent. To achieve its broader goals besides administering its music school, Chhayanaut has expanded its activities to disseminate and strengthen Bengali cultural heritage for different groups of people. *Nalanda Vidyalaya* is a mainstream general education school, run by Chhayanaut, with an emphasis on cultural traditions and holistic development of children. Further programmes organized and operated by Chhayanaut are – *Shikor*, an informal arrangement for children to familiarize with Bangla culture and heritage through holistic development; *Shurer Jadu-Ranger Jadu*, a music therapy and painting program for autistic children enabling them to naturalize the usual human abilities; *Bhasha-Shanshkritir Alap*, an interactive program that promotes the proper usage of Bangla and developing awareness of language and literature.

Chhayanaut believes that particularly in facing extremism which is a global phenomenon, people with an outlook enriched by a humanitarian cultural consciousness will create a tolerant and

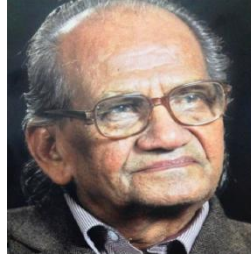
liberal pluralist society, and this is how Bengalis will progress towards building a modern advanced nation.

The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony recognizes the contribution of the organization in upholding the liberal progressive tradition of universal humanism of Gurudev and in promoting the spirit of cultural harmony.

TAGORE AWARD FOR CULTURAL HARMONY - 2016

CITATION

SHRI RAM VANJI SUTAR



Born in Dhule District of Maharashtra on 19 February 1925, Shri Ram Vanji Sutar is a renowned sculptor and scholar.

A gold medallist from Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay in sculpture, Shri Sutar started his career in 1954 as a modeller in the Department of Archaeology, South Western Circle, Aurangabad. From 1959 onwards, he has been working as freelance sculptor making monumental statues.

At the beginning of his career, he was involved in restoring several ancient sculptures found in the caves of Ellora and Ajanta. His first and one of the most notable work was the 45 feet Chambal monument at the Gandhi Sagar Dam, in Madhya Pradesh. This gigantic masterpiece carved out of a single block depicts mother Chambal with her two children- Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan symbolizing the brotherhood of the two states. His iconic bust of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the most celebrated representations of the Mahatma, has been installed in more than 350 cities all over the world including France, Italy, Argentina, Barbados, Russia, England, Malaysia, Caracas, Germany, Australia, China, Egypt, Poland, South Africa.

He has made more than 600 monumental sculptures in last eighty years. Many of the statues adorn the Parliament House at New Delhi like statues of Mahatma Gandhi (meditation pose), Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Babu Jagjivan Ram and many more.

He had a great desire to make the world's tallest statue since his early school days when he first saw the pictures of Statue of Liberty. His dream came true when he sculptured the mammoth 182 metres high statue of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the world's tallest statue (The Statue of Unity) which has recently been installed at Sardar Sarovar Dam, Gujarat.

Today Ram Sutar is one of the renowned sculptor to create monumental sculptures in his studio located at Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Artists from all over the world have visited his studio to see and learn the techniques of sculpting.

In view of his contribution in the field of sculpture, Government of India honoured him with Padmashri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2016.

The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony recognizes his outstanding contribution to the preservation of Indian culture and its artistic tradition.