

# Khaidem Lokeshwar Singh



I present to you, Sir, Shri Khaidem Lokeshwar Singh.

Shri Khaidem Lokeshwar Singh was born in Imphal in 1920. He was trained in classical Manipuri dances by his father the late Khaidem Khoidong Singh as also the late Gurus Ojha Chaoba Singh, Khoidum Sharma and Tharongoubi Devi. He also learnt playing the Pung from his Gurus.

Shri Lokeshwar Singh taught Manipuri dance in New Delhi, Bombay and, for a longer period at the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy, Imphal. He made vital contributions to the development of the Academy, retiring as a senior Guru of the institution and head of its Ras Department. He is the author of a book entitled *Manipuri Ras*. Shri Lokeshwar Singh has been variously honoured. He received the royal award in 1950 from the then Maharaja of Manipur. The Manipur Kala Akademi Award and the Nritya-Ratna of the Manipuri Sahitya Parishad were conferred upon him in 1975 and 1976 respectively.

For his eminence in the field of Dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri Khaidem Lokeshwar Singh receives the Sangeet Natak-Akademi Award for Manipuri Dance for 1985.