



PRESS RELEASE

**HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO CONFER
SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI FELLOWSHIPS AND
SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS FOR 2014
ON 23 OCTOBER 2015 AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI**

23 October 2015, New Delhi: The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2014 to an eminent group of musicians, dancers, and theatre artists at a ceremony held on 23 October 2015 at 18:00 hours at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. This year, four eminent artists and scholars in the performing arts were conferred Fellowships of the Akademi and thirty-six artists received the Akademi's Awards.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) are national honours bestowed by the Republic of India on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts. The recipients are selected by the Akademi's General Council, consisting of musicians, dancers, theatre artists and scholars in these disciplines, and nominees of the Government of India and of the States and Union Territories of the Indian Union.

The four Fellowships (Akademi Ratna)* this year were conferred on Shri. S.R. Janakiraman, Shri. M.S. Sathyu, Shri. Vijay Kumar Kichlu and Shri. Tulsidas Borkar. The Fellows receive a purse of three lakh rupees, an angavastram, and a tamrapatra. The artists to be honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2014 receive a purse of one lakh rupees, an angavastram, and a tamrapatra.

*The Fellowships are restricted to forty living recipients at any given time. New Fellows are elected upon demise of an existing Fellow

In the field of music, nine eminent artists received the Akademi's Awards this year: Smt. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, Shri. Iqbal Ahmed Khan and Shri. Nath Neralkar for Hindustani Vocal Music; Shri Nayan Ghosh and Shri Ronu Majumdar for Hindustani Instrumental Music (Tabla and Flute respectively); Shri. R. Santhanagopalan for Carnatic Vocal Music; Shri. T.A. Kaliyamurty, Smt. Sukanya Ramgopal and Shri. Dwaram Durga Prasada Rao for Carnatic Instrumental Music (Thavil, Ghatam and Violin respectively).

Nine artists received the Awards of the Akademi in the field of dance: Shri. Arayambath Janardhanan for Bharatanatyam; Smt. Uma Dogra for Kathak; Smt. N. Amusana Devi for Manipuri; Shri. Vedantam Radhesyam for Kuchipudi; Shri. Sudhakar Sahoo for Odissi; Smt. Anita Sharma for Sattriya dance; Shri. Jagru Mahato for Chhau; Shri. Navtej Singh Johar for Contemporary Dance and Shri Varanasi Vishnu Nampoothiri (in the category of Music for Kathakali).

In the field of theatre, eight artists received the Akademi's Awards: Shri Asghar Wajahat for Playwriting; Shri Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha and Shri. Chidambar Rao Jambe for Direction; Shri Deb Sankar Halder and Shri. Ramdas Kamat for Acting; Shri Amod Bhatt for Music (in the category of Allied Theatre Arts); Shri. Manjunath Bhagwat Hostota for Yakshgan (in the category other major traditions of theatre) and Shri. Amar Das Manikpuri for Music for Theatre, Chhatisgarh.

Eight artists received the Akademi's Awards for their work in Traditional, Folk and Tribal Dance, Music, Theatre and Puppetry: Shri. Puran Shah Koti for Traditional Music, Punjab, Shri. K. Kesavasamy for Puppetry Puducherry, Shri. Kalamandalam Ram Mohan for Make-Up/Costume for Kathakali, Shri. Reba Kanta Mahanta for Mask Making, Assam, Shri. Abdul Rashid Hafiz for Folk Music, Jammu and Kashmir, Shri. K. Shanathoiba Sharma for Thangta (Manipur), Ram Dayal Sharma for Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh and Shri. Thanga Darlong for Folk Music, Tripura.

Shri Akshara K.V. and Shri. Indudhar Nirody received the Akademi's Awards for their Overall Contribution and Scholarship in the Performing Arts.

The Fellowships and Awards ceremony for 2014 is followed by a festival of music, dance and drama scheduled from 24 October to 31 October 2015, featuring Fellows and Award-winners of the year. The festival will be held at the Meghdoot Theatre Complex and LTG Auditorium on Copernicus Marg, New Delhi and Abhimanch Theatre on Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi from 24th October onwards (The programme is enclosed).

Sangeet Natak Akademi, established by the Government of India in 1953, is India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama. It is responsible for the promotion and preservation of the performing arts of the country, and works to achieve these goals by means of specially designed programmes in various fields. One of the important activities of the Akademi is to recognise the contribution of outstanding musicians, dancers and theatre artists, bestowing on them its Fellowships and Awards. The ultimate aim of the activity is to create benchmarks in the practice of the performing arts.

Helen Acharya
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SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS 2014

**Festival of Music, Dance and Drama
24 – 31 October 2015, Delhi**

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 11.00 a.m.

**THANGA DARLONG: Folk Music (Tripura)
ABDUL RASHID HAFIZ: Folk Music (Jammu and Kashmir)
PURAN SHAH KOTI: Traditional Music (Punjab)**

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 3.00 p.m.

VIJAY KICHLU: Interaction Session

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 6.00 p.m.

**RONU MAJUMDAR: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Flute)
NAYAN GHOSH: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Tabla)
UMA DOGRA: Kathak**

Abhimanch Theatre, 6.30 p.m.

Muntazir – a play in Hindi directed by SURYA MOHAN KULSHRESHTHA, Lucknow

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 3.00 p.m.

**AKSHARA K.V.: Lecture-Demonstration/ Interaction Session on Ninasam and his journey
in theatre**

Meghdoot Theatre–I, 4.30 p.m.

**K. SHANATHOIBA SHARMA: Thang-Ta (Manipur)
JAGRU MAHATO: Purulia Chhau**

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 6.00 p.m.

**TULSIDAS BORKAR: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Harmonium)
ASHWINI BHIDE DESHPANDE: Hindustani Vocal Music
SUKANYA RAMGOPAL: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Ghatam)**

Meghdoot Theatre–I, 8.00 p.m.

VEDANTAM RADHESYAM: Kuchipudi

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 3.00 p.m.

REBA KANTA MAHANTA: Mask Making (Assam)

Meghdoot Theatre–I, 4.30 p.m.

Kalayavana Samhara – A play in Yakshagana style written and directed by MANJUNATH BHAGWAT

HOSTOTA, presented by Sri Idagunji Mahaganapati Yakshagana Mandali, Keremane, Karnataka

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 6.00 p.m.

S.R. JANAKIRAMAN: Carnatic Vocal Music with DWARAM DURGA PRASADA RAO (Violin)

THIRUVALAPUTHUR T. A. KALIYAMURTHY: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Thavil)

R. SANTHANAGOPALAN: Carnatic Vocal Music

LTG Auditorium, 7.00 p.m.

Mudra Rakshas – A play in Hindi directed by M S SATHYU presented by Impresario Asia, Delhi

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 3.00 p.m.

AMARDAS MANIKPURI: Natya Sangeet on folk theatre of Chhattisgarh

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 6.00 p.m.

INDUDHAR NIRODI: Hindustani Vocal Music

N. AMUSANA DEVI: Manipuri

NATH NARELKAR: Hindustani Vocal Music

SUDHAKAR SAHOO: Odissi

LTG Auditorium, 7.00 p.m.

AMOD BHATT: Natya Sangeet/ Interaction Session on his journey in theatre music

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 3.00 p.m.

KALAMANDALAM RAM MOHAN: Make Up/Costume for Kathakali

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 6.00 p.m.

DWARAM DURGA PRASADA RAO: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Violin)

IQBAL AHMED KHAN: Hindustani Vocal Music

ANITA SHARMA: Sattriya

LTG Auditorium, 7.00 p.m.

Kallumama – A play in Bengali featuring DEB SANKAR HALDER presented by Ushneek, Kolkata

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

Meghdoot Theatre–III, 3.00 p.m.

RAMDAS KAMAT

Lecture – Demonstration/Interaction Session on Acting & Marathi Sangeet Natak

LTG Auditorium, 7.00 pm

Shivarathri – A play in Kannada written by CHANDRASHEKHARA KAMBARA directed by CHIDAMBARA

RAO JAMBE presented by Niranthara Foundation, Mysore

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

Meghdoot Theatre–I, 5.00 p.m.

Indal Haran – A Nautanki Play in Hindi directed by RAM DAYAL SHARMA

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER

Abhimanch Theatre, 6.30 p.m.

Yadi – A play in Hindi written by ASGHAR WAJAHAT directed & presented by Tom Alter & group, Mumbai