Sangeet Natak Akademi
National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama
New Delhi

PRESS RELEASE

Declaration of Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the Year 2016

The General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi at its meeting held on 24th May 2017 in Guwahati (Assam) unanimously elected four (4) eminent personality in the field of performing arts, namely Shri Arvind Parikh, Smt. R. Vedavalli, Shri Ram Gopal Bajaj and Shri Sunil Kothari as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna).

The Fellowship of the Akademi is the most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 numbers at any given time. By the election of above four fellows there are presently 40 fellows of the SNA Sangeet Natak Akademi.

The General Council of the Akademi also selected forty-three (43) artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2016. These forty-three (43) artists include two joint awards.

In the field of Music, eleven eminent artists, namely Padma Talwalkar and Prabhakar Karekar for Hindustani Vocal Music, Arvind Mulgaonkar for Hindustani Instrumental Music-Tabla, Kala Ramnath for Hindustani Instrumental Music-Violin, Neela Ramgopal and K Omanakuttty for Carnatic Vocal Music, J. Vaidyanathan for Carnatic Instrumental Music-Mridangam, Mysore M Manjunath for Carnatic Instrumental Music-Violin, Ningthoujam Shyamchand Singh (Nata Sankirtana, Manipur), Ratnamala Prakash and Ahmad Hussain & Shri Mohd. Hussain- Hussain Brothers (joint award) for Other Major Traditions of Music—Sugam Sangeet have been selected for the Akademi Awards 2016.
In the field of Dance, nine eminent artists have been selected for the Akademi Awards 2016, namely, Geeta Chandran for Bharatanatyam, Jitendra Maharaj for Kathak, Kalamandalam Ramachandran Unnithan for Kathakali, Maisnam Kaminikumar Singh for Manipuri, A B Bala Kondala Rao for Kuchipudi, Ratikant Mohapatra for Odissi, Haricharan Bhuyan Borbayan for Sattriya Dance, Gopal Prasad Dubey for Chhau and Anita R Ratnam for Contemporary Dance.

In the field of Theatre, nine eminent artists have been selected for Akademi Awards 2016: Kusum Kumar for Playwriting, Satyabrata Rout, Bipin Kumar and Rajkamal Nayak for Direction, Gireesan V, Oinam Biramangol Singh and Mohan Joshi for Acting, Anjana Puri for Allied Theatre Arts– Music for theatre, K Govind Bhat for Other Major Traditions of Theatre–Yakshagana.

In the field of Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre and Puppetry, ten artistes have been selected for Akademi Awards 2016, they are Annabattula Lakshmi Mangatayaru and Leela Sai- Joint award (Traditional Theatre-Kalavantulu, Andhra Pradesh), Yogesh Gadhavi (Folk Music of Gujarat), Vidyasand Sarak (Folk Music of Himachal Pradesh), Somnath D Chari (Traditional Music of Goa), Laxmidhar Raut (Pala, Odisha), Chiranjil Lal (Mand of Rajasthan), Gulzar Ahmad Ganie (Chakri Music of Jammu & Kashmir), Braj Kishore Dubey (Folk Music of Bihar), Prabhitangsu Das and Dattatreya Aralikatte for Puppetry.

Pappu Venugopal Rao for scholarship and Avinash Pasricha for overall contribution have been selected for the Akademi Awards 2016 in the field of Overall Contribution/Scholarship to Performing Arts.

The honour of Akademi Fellow has been conferred since 1954 and Akademi Award since 1952. These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievements, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs 3,00,000/- (Rupees three lakh) and Akademi Award carries Rs 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards will be conferred by the Hon’ble President of India.

The list of Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows and Awardees for the year 2016 is enclosed herewith.

Rita Swami Choudhary
Secretary
Sangeet Natak Akademi