

CULTURAL

DIARY

JULY

During her recent tour of Andhra Pradesh, Shrimati Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya,

Making Musical Instruments

Chairman of the All-India Handicrafts Board, and Vice-Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, explored the possibility of promoting cottage industries for the manufacture of musical instruments such as Veena, Harmonium and Violin on co-operative lines. She visited the Lalitha Musical Works and similar institutions in Hyderabad and held discussions with the local people and Andhra Pradesh Government officials on the possibility of starting similar industries.

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Rajasthan is reported to have taken the lead as being the first State to organise training camps for rural artistes.

Training Camps For Artistes

A number of such camps were organised by the Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal for the State Development Department and rural artistes from different development blocks were enrolled as trainees. The Mandal organised a camp recently in the Udaipur area.

The camps were intended to inculcate interest in recreative aspects of life and develop taste in healthy and educative entertainment in rural areas, to train artistes in simple rural types of community singing, community dancing and community dramas.

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An association known as Sreemanta Sankardev Natya Samaj has been formed at Shillong for propagating Sankari Art and Music,

Sankardev Natya Samaj

organising stage Bhaonas, reviving and carrying on research on original tunes of *Bargeet* and other Sankari music, orga-

nising a small museum of old Bhaona dresses, masks, musical instruments, etc.

Shri Kunja Barua is the President of the Samaj, while Shri Chandra Majumdar and Shri Bapukon Neog are its Vice-President and Secretary, respectively.

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A proposal to construct a theatre at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 lakhs in Andhra region is under active consideration of the Andhra Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi, according to Shri M. S. Ramachary,

Proposal for Rs. 4-Lakh Theatre

who has been deputed by the Akademi to tour the districts of Khammam, Krishna, East and West Godavari, to find out the existing conditions of various dramatic associations, sangeet and janapada organisations in order to promote them in the State.

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Inaugurating the fourth Annual Drama Festival organised in Tirupati by the Tirupati Amateurs' Association,

Drama Festival Inaugurated

Shri R. B. Ramakrishna Raju, President of the Andhra Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi regretted the neglect of music in modern dramas. The function was presided over by Shri M. Ramanuja Rao Naidu, Registrar, S. V. University, and messages wishing the Festival success were received from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. P. V. Rajamannar, Dr. B. V. Keskar, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri B. Ramakrishna Rao and Shri B. Gopala Reddi.

A branch of the Mysore State Sangeet Natak Akademi was inaugurated in Belgaum recently with a music recital by Shrimati Gangubai Hangal, a noted musician. Shri K.R. Ramachandran, Deputy Commissioner of Belgaum, who is also the president of the branch, welcomed the distinguished gathering on the occasion and said that the branch would help financially or otherwise the existing organisations of dance, drama and music to carry on their activities.

Branch of Mysore State Akademi

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Kalidasa's *Shakuntala* was staged in the Netherlands this summer as part of the Holland Festival, 1958. The play has been translated by the well-known poet, Bert Voeten into Dutch from English and German translations of the Sanskrit original.

According to a spokesman of the Indian Embassy at The Hague, "the successful actor-producer and director Cees Laseur achieved yet another milestone in the history of dramatic art in the Netherlands when he presented Kalidasa's *Shakuntla* at a gala performance during the Holland Festival. The decor and costumes were excellent and contributed to a large extent to the admirable atmosphere that was created. Westerners, who might find it difficult to fully comprehend the simplicity of the play, were vividly affected by the poetic genius of adaptation. The credit, however, goes also to Nicolaas Wijnberg for translating in actual effect the spirit of Kalidasa on the Dutch stage.

"Contributing to all this was Indian music adapted to Western ears by Jurriaan Andriessen which completed the picture".

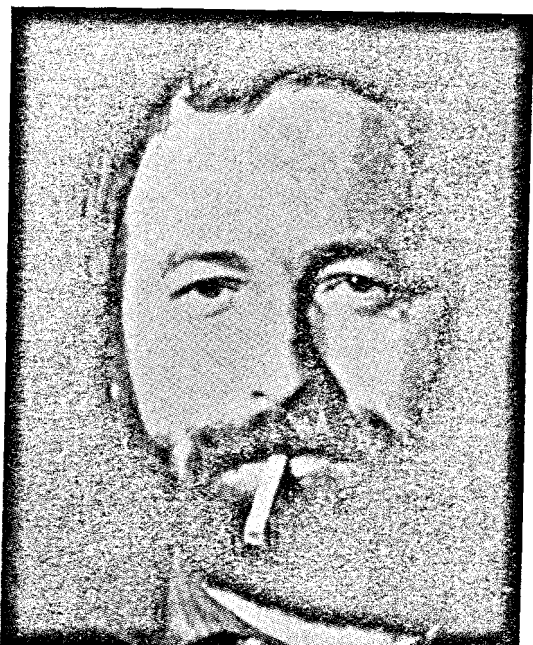
The Dutch Press on July 1 acclaimed the performance of the Indian play *Shakuntla* as a "climax of the Holland Festival". Queen Juliana, the Indian Ambassador, Shri John A. Thivy, Shrimati Thivy and several Dutch Cabinet Ministers attended the performance.



Bert Voeten



Cees Laseur



Nicolaas Wijnberg



Jurriaan Andriessen

The well-known Negro singer, Paul Robeson, said in New York on July 1 that he was looking forward to visit India "in the near future". In a signed statement released to the Press, he thanked the Robeson Birthday Committee and all Indians for their wonderful manifestation of interest, support and warm feeling on the occasion of his 60th birthday. The statement said : "I now have my passport restored and I am preparing to travel abroad. I look forward to coming to India some time in the near future to thank you all in person. Meanwhile, my warmest greetings and thanks".

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Robeson May Visit India Soon

A Children's Little Theatre, sponsored by the Natya Sangh, Bombay, was inaugurated in Bombay on July 2. The Theatre has, as its aim, promotion of theatrical activity in all its forms among children and youth. It will also try to discover and encourage talent in children in the field of drama and allied arts. The programme of the Theatre also includes regular presentation of plays by children.

Little Theatre for Children

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The Andhra Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi has decided to give a monthly allowance of Rs. 25 each to ten actors and artistes for a period of eight months, according to a report in Hyderabad on July 10. This is the first time that the State Akademi has given financial assistance to artistes.

Grant to Artistes

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The Rangpur Jyoti Sangha organised a three-day demonstration of songs and dances in the Sibsagar Natya Mandir on July 18, 19 and 20. The dances of little Abanti Barua and Baby Sharma of Usha Nritya Parishad, Jorhat, the songs of Deben Sharma and Ramen Barua of Gauhati, the *bhajans* of Durga Bhuyan and Tariquddin of Nowgong, the Sitar solo of Satish Rajkhowa, the Violin solo of Indra

Musical Soiree at Sibsagar

Sharma and the dances by the artistes of Manipur Nritya Ashram were the highlights of the function.

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The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has offered one scholarship to Indian nationals for training in Theatre Arts at one of its universities with a view to exchanging technical knowledge in the field of drama and also promoting better understanding between the two countries. The duration of the scholarship will be one year.

Scholarship for Training in Germany

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The Indian Sitar player, Ustad Vilayat Khan, was warmly cheered by a large audience on July 21 when he presented Indian classical music in the American Pavilion theatre at the Brussels World Fair. The programme, the first in a series to be given in U. S. Pavilion theatre as a token of recognition to artistes of other nations, was presented under the auspices of the Asian Music Circle. Accompanying Ustad Vilayat Khan was Nikhil Ghosh on the *tabla*.

Indian Artiste in Brussels Fair

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The citation for the best actress in Czechoslovakia's International Film Festival at Karlovy Vary, which ended on July 27, went to Nargis for her role in the Indian film, "Mother India", according to the official news agency, CTK. The Festival's Grand Prix was shared by Japan and the Soviet Union, the former winning the prize for the "Step-Brothers" and the latter for "Quiet Flows the Don". The United Arab Republic received an honourable mention for "Land of our Father".

Czech Film Festival

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On the occasion of the Foundation Day celebrations of Bangiya Sanskrita Siksha Parishat, West Bengal, the Sanskrit play, *Sakti-Saradam*, by Dr. Jatindra Bimal Chaudhuri, was staged in Calcutta on July 24 by the members of the Pracyavani under

Sanskrit Drama Staged

the direction of Dr. Roma Chaudhuri. The Sanskrit songs of Dr. Chaudhuri, sung by Smt. Chhabi Banerji at the beginning of the play, were applauded by the large audience.

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Speaking at a function to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the Institute of Indian Music (Ganamandiram), Prof. P. Sambamoorthy, Head of the Department of Music, Madras University, said in Bangalore on July 27 that in view of the great traditions Mysore had established in music, he was very anxious that all facilities should be provided to the State for advanced study in the subject.

Prof. Sambamoorthy's Lecture

Prof. Sambamoorthy spoke at length on how Indian music, particularly Karnatic music differed from Western music and said our ancestors had developed an inexhaustible fountain of *Ragas*. Therefore, he added, the West was looking to the East for inspiration in music.

Earlier, the pupils of the Ganamandiram entertained the gathering to a programme of music and dance.

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All India Radio is organising an All-India Music Competition for discovering and encouraging young artistes. The competition will be held in two stages : (1) a preliminary competition at each station of All India Radio and (2) a final competition at two centres, Delhi and Madras, for the Hindustani and the Karnatic systems, respectively.

A.I.R. Music Competition

The competition will be open to those who are between 16 and 21 years of age on September 15 and who have never broadcast from any A. I. R. Station in general or minority music programmes except in children's programmes.

The competition will cover the following categories:

1. Vocal Music (Classical, Light Classical)

and Light) and 2. Instrumental Music (Classical, and Light Classical).

The preliminary competition will be held from September 15, winners of which will be eligible for the final competition to be held at Delhi and Madras. Suitable prizes will be awarded to those adjudged as the best in the final competition.

AUGUST

A survey of Bengal's folk songs has been completed by the State Government and a book incorporating the findings of the survey is to be published soon by the authorities. An eminent artiste, Shri Mani Bardhan, toured large parts of the State for a couple of years in order to collect material and a sum of Rs. 20,000/- has been spent on the survey.

Survey of Bengal's Folk Songs

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The Kishore Kala Kendra presented an interesting programme of music and dance in Delhi on August 3 to welcome the rainy season. The programme consisted mainly of the famous songs of poet Tagore.

Rainy Season Songs

The other highlights of the evening were some songs sung in chorus, attractive solos by Miss Krishna Dass Gupta and Miss Sumitra Ghosh and a couple of Manipuri dances.

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A leading music and dance organisation of Delhi, the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, presented a programme of classical and modern music in the Capital on August 2 to celebrate its 18th anniversary. A feature of the programme was a dance-ballet based on the life of Mira, the woman saint, whose hymns in praise of Lord Krishna have immortalised her. An item of choral music was also presented.

Ballet on Mirabai's Life

The Vidyalaya was given a special grant

of Rs. 5,000 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi for developing choral music.

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Music and dance programmes are to be exempted from payment of entertainment duty in Bombay State by the middle of August. So far, only drama and "tamasha" performances were exempted from this tax. The State Minister for Social Welfare, Shri N.K. Tirpude, announcing this in Bombay on August 2, said that Western music and dance performances would not be covered by the new concession. He added that ballet, classical and folk dances, classical and light music, concerts, *bhavageets*, *kavi sammelans* and *mushairas* would be exempted from entertainment duty. Shri Tirpude said that the Government would announce its decision through a notification within a fortnight.

The Minister said that the Government was already losing Rs. 2,50,000 a year by the exemption of drama performances from duty and Rs. 40,000 on "tamasha" shows. The new concession, according to Shri Tirpude, would mean an additional loss of Rs. 1,00,000 a year to the State Government.

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Shrimati Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya, President of the Bharatiya Natya Sangh, inaugurated the Natya Academy set up by the Natya Sangh, Bombay, in Bombay on August 3. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, she said that to improve the standard of theatrical art in the country, it was necessary that training in all aspects of stagecraft should be given to the votaries of the art. Shrimati Kamala Devi emphasised that unless training was imparted on scientific and systematic lines, the standard of the Indian stage would continue to deteriorate.

Paying a compliment to the Academy, which will also train teachers, she said that in the absence of trained personnel, pupils were deprived of proper guidance. By imparting training to teachers, she added,

the Academy would be fulfilling a long-felt need.

Shri Herbert Marshall, Principal of the Academy, who also addressed the gathering, disclosed that training would be imparted in direction, acting, production, and allied subjects. He also announced that seven full and three partial scholarships had been awarded by the Academy to students of the current session.

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The Government of Bombay has appointed a 30-member Central Committee under the Chairmanship of the State Minister for Social Welfare to organise dramatic competitions for the Fifth Natya Mahotsava which will be held at the close of this year.

Fifth Natya Mahotsava

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The Shahabad Sangeet Sangh, a premier cultural organisation of Arrah, celebrated its anniversary recently by organising a musical concert in which prizes were given to outstanding performers.

Musical Concert at Arrah

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To celebrate the 61st birthday of Sangeet Choodamani, Pandit Vinayaka Rao Patwardhan, a function was organised by the Delhi University Music Society, in co-operation with music institutions of Delhi, in Delhi on August 3.

V.R. Patwardhan's Birthday

The programme started with an invocatory *dhrupad* (in praise of Mahadev) sung in chorus by the boys and girls of the local Gandharva Mahavidyalaya. This was followed by speeches stressing the achievements of Pandit V. R. Patwardhan and his services to the art of classical music. There was a violin recital by V. G. Jog. Pandit Patwardhan himself gave a rendering of *Bhupali*.

The Bombay Gramophone Society and the Indo-Czechoslovak Cultural Society jointly sponsored a concert of recorded music in Bombay on August 12 to commemorate the 30th death anniversary of the Czech Composer, Leos Janacek.

In Commemoration of Czech Composer

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An appeal to literary critics, especially those in the field of research work in the evolution of Bengali drama, was made by Shri Ahindra Chaudhury, Dean of the Faculty of Drama in the West Bengal Academy of Dance, Drama and Music, for the collection of material connected with the life and work of Shri Lebedoff, the Russian scholar, who started the first Bengali stage in Calcutta and his Indian tutor, Shri Golak Nath Das, who taught him Bengali and helped him in his maiden venture. Shri Choudhury was delivering his first of the four lectures at the Calcutta University on August 11, in the Girish Memorial Lecture series.

Russian Founder of Bengali Stage

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A programme of classical and folk dances was presented in Bombay on August 13 by the Sitara Dance Ballet on the eve of the team's departure on a cultural tour of East Africa. Sitara Devi, a leading exponent of the Kathak school of Indian dance, gave several performances. During its three-month stay in East Africa, the Ballet will give programmes in Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Rhodesia, Madagascar, Mauritius and Aden.

Classical and Folk Dances

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Shrimati Snehlata Sanyal, well-known in Delhi and Punjab for her pioneer work in theatrical ventures like "*Shakuntala*" in *Hir Ranjha*, has been given an assignment in East Germany. She will advise the Karl Marx Stadt Theatre in settings, costumes and basic

"Shakuntala" in East Germany

interpretations for the Sanskrit play, *Shakuntala*. The theatre first produced this play last year but were not satisfied with it and are now trying their hand again—this time with the assistance of an Indian adviser.

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The Swami Samarth Sangeet Vidyalyaya, Bombay, an institute of music and dancing for women, celebrated Independence Day with a programme of dance and music. The pupils of the institute, under the guidance of Shrimati Hirabai Javeri and Shrimati Shamala Majgoanker, presented interesting items of vocal and instrumental music and classical dances.

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Under the auspices of the Sree Shanmukhanda Sangeetha Sabha, Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer gave a concert of Karnatik music in New Delhi on August 24. It was a delightful performance, packed with crisp *kritis* that had been judiciously selected. R. K. Venkatarama Sastri, who accompanied Maharajapuram on the violin, gave able support to the artist.

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The Indian Cultural Association (*Der Indische Verein*) of Bonn, West Germany, staged with great success Rabindranath Tagore's drama, *Taser Desh*, at the University of Bonn recently. The audience consisted of distinguished citizens of the Capital and senior officials of the Indian Embassy. There was a record crowd. The original play was translated into German and then dramatised with the help of the Pantomime technique. Its theme and spirit were highly appreciated by the German public.

One of the striking novelties of the performance was the participation of German students in some of the important roles along

with Indian students who came from different parts of India. Though the play was done in German, yet all the songs were sung in Bengali with their original tunes.

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The TV premiere of the play, *The Roads Apart (Alag Alag Raste)* written by Upendranath Ashk was held in Moscow recently. It is not very often that modern Indian plays are shown on the Soviet stage and this explains the keen interest displayed by Muscovites in this play.

Soviet readers became acquainted with the work of the Indian novelist through several selections of stories by Indian writers translated into Russian. Upendranath Ashk is known to readers as a fine Psychologist, imbued with humanism and patriotism.

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The four-day festival of classical music, sponsored jointly by the Saraswati Samaj and the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, in commemoration of the 86th birth anniversary of the late Pandit Vishnu Digamber Paluskar, was inaugurated in Delhi on August 29 by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan presided. The musicians, who took part in the opening session, included A. Kanan, Malavika Roy, Amjad Ali Khan and Urmil Arora.

Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan's son, Amjad Ali, who is just 12 years old, surprised the audience with his talent and skill in handling the sarod.

The highlights of the programme on August 30 were the recitals of Shara'at Hussain Khan, Balram Pathak, Mani Krishna Swamy, Gopal Krishan and V. R. Athavale while the morning session on August 31 featured recitals by Mahmood Mirza, Sudha Malhotra, D. K. Datar, Hafiz Ahmed Khan and U. R. Patwardhan. Narayan Rao Vyas, D. L. Kabra, Kamal Singh, Arvind Parikh, Kasir Ahmed and Prakash Wadhera presented recitals in the evening



A group photograph of the students who joined the Kerala Kala Kendra, New Delhi, on the opening day. Guru Gopinath, Principal of the Kendra, is seen at extreme right

session. In the concluding session of the festival on September 1, T. K. Jayarama Iyer (violin), Alla Rakha (tabla) and Ravi Shankar (sitar) gave memorable recitals.

SEPTEMBER

All India Radio will hold an Inter-University Radio Play Competition this year. Each university has been requested to enter one play each, in Hindi (for students from non-Hindi universities). This should be confined to students whose mother tongue is not Hindi) and in as many languages as possible (viz., English, Urdu, Telugu, Marathi, Kannada and Sanskrit).

The author of the best play in each language will be awarded Rs. 100. The second best, if any, will be awarded Rs. 50.

Messrs S. Venkateswaran, K. V. Ramanathan, Deputy Secretary, Education Department, M. Periaswami Thooran, K. Chandrasekharan, M. G. Ramachandran, P. S. Veeruwami Pillai and Shrimati

Soundaram Kailasam have been appointed members of the General Council of the Madras State Sangeetha Nataka Sangam for a period of three years with effect from August 28, 1958. Shri Venkateswaran and Shri Ramanathan have been chosen as Chairman and Treasurer, respectively.

The General Council consists of 29 members of whom 12 eminent artistes have been elected by the outgoing Council and 10 persons elected by the representative organisations recognised for the purpose by the Sangam.

The Kerala Kala Kendra, the first school of Kathakali dancing in Northern India, founded under the auspices of the Kerala Education Society, was inaugurated in New Delhi on September 6. Mama Warekar, M. P. and well-known Marathi playwright, presided over the function.

Guru Gopinath, well-known exponent of Kathakali and Principal of the School, initiated a number of students and demonstrated some forms of the art.

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The eighth annual drama festival of the Delhi Natya Sangh got off to a start in New Delhi on September 6. Prof. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, who inaugurated the festival, stressed the need for a solid body

Natya Sangh Festival

of social support to the theatre. Twenty amateur groups are expected to take part in this year's festival which will extend up to February next.

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The Kishinchand Chellaram College, Bombay, won the trophy for the best play in the eighth Inter-Collegiate Dramatic Competition (final) held in Bombay on September 6 at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan under the auspices of the Bhaven's Kala Kendra.

The winning college presented *Vigil*, a one-act play. Three colleges participated in the competition—K. C. College, Wilson College and Elphinstone College.

A scene from "Nagananda" staged in the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Kala Kendra Inter-Collegiate Drama Competition held in Bombay recently



The local conference of the Gauhati Branch of the Indian People's Theatre Association was held on September 6, 7,

Gauhati I.P.T.A. Conference

9 and 10, 1958. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Justice Mehrotra of the Assam High Court. Shri Raghunath Chaudhuri, the famous bard-poet of Assam, addressed the conference as Chief Guest. Messages wishing success to the conference and festival were received from Dr. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President, Shri S. Fazl Ali, Governor of Assam, Shri Sachin Sen Gupta, Shri Ahindra Chowdhury, Shri Balraj Sahni, Capt. Williamson Sangma, Minister of Assam, Kumari Nirmala Joshi, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, Smt. Sabita Devi, Hony. Secretary, Assam Sangeet Natak Akademi and many other noted personalities in the field of art and culture of Assam and elsewhere.

The conference discussed and adopted resolutions on repealing the Dramatic Performances Act of 1876, abolition of the entertainment tax on cultural shows, provision of adequate open-air theatres in Gauhati, awarding Rupkonwar Jyotiprosad Agarwalla Memorial Scholarships to deserving youths of Assam to learn cinematography and on other important issues.

A symposium was also held on the first day of the conference. The subjects selected were: (i) Progressive trend in Assamese Music and (ii) Problems of Assamese drama.

The principal items presented in the Festival sessions were the ballets—*Panier Ponakan* and *Ek Paisar Bhepu*, a one-act play, *Sonar Kharu* (Gold Bangles), modern and folk songs, Manipuri style *Kartali Nritya*, Dhole display by Moghai Ojha and songs by the famous Calcutta singer, Shyamal Mitra.

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T. V. Subba Rao, a great musicologist and a leading personality in the world of music, passed away on September 9, 1958. Even as a busy lawyer, the late Shri Subba Rao found time to study and practise music. He had a complete mastery over *Veena* and Violin. He was an authority on the works of the saint poet Thyagaraja and of Purandar Das,

T. V. Subba Rao Dead

and he admired equally the *kritis* of Shyama Shastri and Dixitar.

He founded the Music Academy at Madras in 1928 and was the editor of its journal and the Principal of the Teachers' College there. The title of Sangeet Kalanidhi was conferred on him by the Academy. Shri Subba Rao was responsible for introducing music as one of the subjects in the Universities of Madras, (Annamalai), Chidambaram and Andhra. He was as ardent and zealous in his study of the North Indian music as in that of the Karnatik music. He was the Vice-Chairman of the Southern Panel of the Music Audition Board.

His passing away is a great loss to the country and has created a gap in the musical sphere which cannot easily be filled.

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Ravi Shankar, noted sitar player, kept one of Patna's largest and distinguished musical gatherings spellbound for nearly three hours with his sitar recital on September 14. Earlier on September 12, speaking at

Ravi Shankar's Sitar Recital

a function arranged in his honour in the city by the Patna Sangeet Parishad, Ravi Shankar said that Indian music was much appreciated by foreign audiences. Giving impressions of his tour abroad, he said wherever he gave his performance, he found the audience highly receptive. He added that the people of Japan were very much interested in Indian music. Ravi Shankar had been to Japan recently on an invitation from that country.

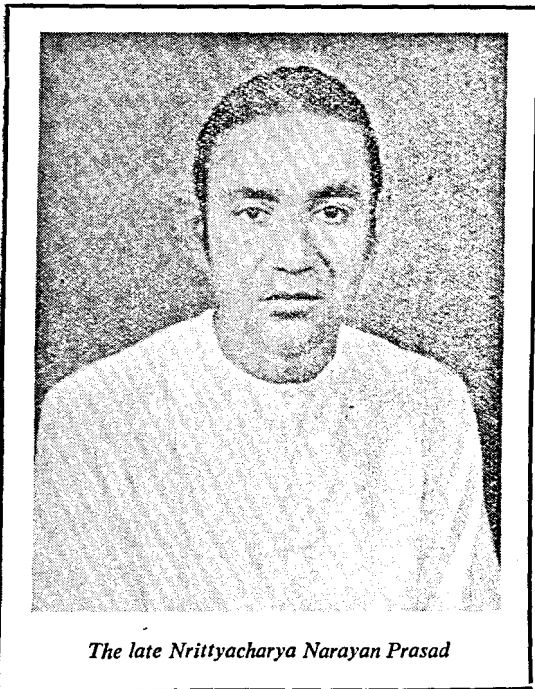
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A Punjabi play, *Ratta Salu*, depicting the police terror and zamindari oppression in the former princely States before 1947, was the highlight of a cultural programme presented in New Delhi on September 13 on the occasion of the Punjabi Writers' Conference. Among the music artistes, Jagga deeply moved the audience with his powerful recitation of verses from the tragic love story of *Sassi-Punnu*. Surinder Kaur and Parkash Kaur rendered a lovely duet.

Punjabi Cultural Programme

An interesting programme of Karnatic music and Bharata Natyam dances was presented in New Delhi on September 14 by the **Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha** in connection with its annual day celebrations.

A feature of the programme was, however, a pleasant vocal recital by Gomathi Ramasubramaniam, who sang with ease and confidence in rendering three Karnatik songs.



The late Nrityacharya Narayan Prasad

Narayan Prasad Dead Nrityacharya Narayan Prasad, famous exponent of the Jaipur school of Kathak Dance, died in New Delhi on September 12. He had been ailing for the last three months. Son of Shri Hanuman Prasad of Jaipur, Narayan Prasad had distinguished himself as a Kathak dancer of the highest class. As a recognition of his merit, he was awarded the title of *Nrityacharya* by the Gandharva

Mahavidyala Mandal at Belgaum. An excellent teacher, he had been working as a Kathak dance instructor at the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Delhi, for the last 12 years.

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New Theatre For Hyderabad The Executive Board of the Andhra Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi, at a meeting held recently, resolved to take up the scheme of constructing a theatre in Hyderabad at a cost of about Rs. 6 lakhs and to approach the Central and State Governments and the public for aid.

The Board adopted a condolence resolution on the death of Sangeet Kalanidhi Shri Karai-kudi Sambasiva Aiyar, the reputed *Vainika*.

The Board also decided to hold a seminar on Kuchipudi dance shortly which all consider the question of starting a training school for teachers of that art. It was also decided to hold a dance, drama and music festival for seven days in February next. The Board approved the Akademi's participation in the forthcoming Tagore's centenary celebrations in 1961.

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Permanent Theatre For Delhi A welcome addition in New Delhi's public buildings is a theatre hall with a seating capacity of 800 which is being constructed by the Union Ministry of Defence at the Exhibition Grounds on Mathura Road. The theatre hall forms a wing of the Defence Exhibition building which will be retained after the "India-1958 Exhibition." The theatre hall, which may be used as a conference room and cinema hall for the use of the Defence Services, may also be loaned to cultural organisations in Delhi.

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New Amateur Dramatic Group The Capital's theatre lovers on September 25 welcomed a new amateur dramatic group—The American Theater Association—which presented its first production in New Delhi that evening. The well-tryed comedy was *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. The

REMISSION OF TAX ON DRAMAS

All dramatic performances in Orissa have been exempted from the entertainment tax with effect from April 1, 1958, according to a notification issued by the State Finance Department on March 31, 1958. A recommendation to this effect was made by the Drama Seminar organised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi and the latter, after accepting this recommendation, addressed all State Governments for the exemption. The Government of Orissa, in a notification dated September 24, 1958, has informed the Sangeet Natak Akademi of its decision.

main purpose of the new group is to promote interest in and appreciation of American drama.

Clad in priceless costumes, a young dancer from Bali gave a demonstration of Balinese

Demonstration of Balinese Dances

dances in Calcutta recently. The programme was organised by the India-Asia Cultural Society. The dancer, Wajandija, who has arrived in India on a scholarship to study Indian classical dances, is an exponent of the Kebyar style, a Balinese solo dance form which depicts a series of rapidly changing emotions through subtle movements of fingers, hands and eyes. Three of the four items presented narrated certain episodes from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The most outstanding thing in the dancing was the *abhinaya* and certain movements of the arms and eyes were similar to those of Kathakali.

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Two important events for the music world came about in Bombay in the end of the second week of September, the

Music Pioneers Commemorated

Jayanti of Swami Haridas and the 22nd death anniversary of Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande. While the first was celebrated under the auspices of the Sur-Singer Samsad with a programme of classical music and dance, a two-day festival was held by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Bharatiya Sangeet Shiksha Pith to pay homage to the late Pandit Bhatkhande.

