

CULTURAL

DIARY

October

Kabul Musician's Concert

MOHAMMED Hussain Sarhang, a Court musician of Kabul, was presented to an eagerly curious audience at Hasman, Bombay, on October 3. The artiste has had considerable residence in this country and learnt his ragas from a well known Ustad in Lahore. Gifted with a melodious voice, he was able to satisfy not only the curiosity but also to a fair extent the musical demands of the audience.

Puppet Ballet Show

The Indian Drama Association presented two one-act plays and a children's puppet-ballet, 'CINDERELLA' in New Delhi on October 4. The two one-act plays demonstrated the unsuitability of the English Language to Indian themes.

The puppet-ballet "Cinderella" proved to be the best item in the evening fare.

Drama Festival

The Matunga Dramatic Society held a three day drama festival on October 5, 6 and 7, in connection with its 18th anniversary. The following dramas were staged at the open air theatre of Andhra Mahasabha, Bombay; "President Panchaksharan"; "Unnaiye Nee Ennippar" and "This is Heaven".

Dance performance at Kathmandu

Nearly fifteen thousand Nepalese gathered at the Indian Embassy grounds on October 7,

at Kathmandu, to witness a three-hour performance by the well-known Indian Kathak Dancer, Kumari Damyanti Joshi. The famous singer, Smt. Gangubhai Hangal, who was also present in Kathmandu at the invitation of the Indian Embassy, sang devotional songs at the temple of Lord Pasupatinath, the guardian deity of Nepal.

Konkani Singing Contest

The Goan Dramatic Group staged their singing contest in Bombay, on October 11. A packed hall saw the various singers give off their best for the handsome trophies that were displayed and from among twenty contestants taking part, the judges selected Joseph S. Fernandes as the best. Miss Rofin Seguire was adjudged the best among the four women contestants.

Drama Festival at Nainital

A four day drama festival, sponsored by the Sharda Sangh, was inaugurated on October 11 in Nainital by Shri Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna, Parliamentary Secretary of the U. P. Government. The festival aimed at providing first class entertainment to tourists and visitors. Fourteen cultural and dramatic associations from different parts of the State participated.

Ramlila Celebrations

The eleven day traditional Ramlila Celebrations began in the Capital on October 13. The three main centres were Ramlila Grounds, Parade Grounds and Gandhi Grounds where thousands of people witnessed the celebrations.

Bharatiya Kala Kendra staged the Ramlila in the Willingdon Pavillion. The Show, directed by Shri Devendra Shankar, depicted the story of Ramayana in a delightful dance-drama form, employing both classical and folk dance and music.

Indira Music University

Shri S. N. Ratanjankar, Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Music and Fine Arts University, told a Press Conference at Raipur, on October 14, that a separate wing for research in classical music had been started in the University. So far 125 trainees had been admitted to the University. Fifteen renowned music institutions had been affiliated to it.

All India Folk Cultural Research Institute

The All India Folk Cultural Conference, which concluded at Allahabad on October 16, passed a resolution deciding that an All-India Folk Culture Research Institute be established at Allahabad shortly, with a view to coordinating, collecting and preserving the different publications on folk-lore.

Music, Dance Programme

The Gujrati Mahila Kala Kendra celebrated the 'Navaratri Utsav' with a music, dance and drama programme held from October 18 to 21, in Bombay. The highlight of the performances were "Tanariri" and "Nalkat", staged on October 21. All the proceeds will go towards building a High School.

Title Conferred on Artist

A scroll, conferring the title of "Bharata Sastra Ratna" was presented to Vidwan G. Ellapa Pillai of Kancheepuram, on October 19 in appreciation of his services to Bharatnatyam, on behalf of the Arts Academy, Puraswalkam. Shri E. Krishna Iyer, Secretary, Madras State Sangeeta Nataka Sangam, presented the scroll in the presence of many art critics and music lovers.

Regimentation of Art Opposed

At a function, organised by the Indian National Theatre, in Bombay, on October 20,

Shri M. C. Chagla, India's Ambassador to the U.S. said that art should never be permitted to be regimented. It should be free like a bird, like the human spirit. Shri Chagla referred to the role of art and culture in fostering international relations and said that there should be a greater emphasis on cultural links and cultural exchanges between two countries rather than on their politics or diplomacy, to ensure and strengthen friendly relations between them.

Piano Recital at National Sports Club

On October 22, Charlie Lilamand, the French Pianist, gave a recital to an invited audience, at the National Sports Club in New Delhi. The recital took place under the joint auspices of the Alliance Francaise of Delhi and the Delhi Music Society.

Classical Singer Dead

Shri Govind Dattatrya Apte, an eminent classical singer, died in Gwalior on October 23 at the age of 80. A great creative artiste and an authority on music, he was the first music teacher in this part of the country to do away with the harmonium and insisted on singing to the accompaniment of *tanpura* or *dilruba*. Before Partition, he helped the authorities of the Punjab University in establishing a Faculty of Music. In his death, the country has lost an expert in the art of classical music.

Music Concert by Delhi University

A concert of classical, vocal and instrumental music was presented by the Delhi University Music Society on October 24. All performers, except the Sarodist were students.

Cultural Centre for Delhi

At a meeting of the enlarged preparation committee held at the residence of Dr. Radhakrishnan on October 24, it was decided to set up an International Cultural Centre at New Delhi, on the lines of the International Centre at Tokyo. The main objective of the Centre will be to promote understanding and unity among people of different countries.

Drama by A. T. A.

The American Theatre Association presented its first production, the comedy, "The man who came to dinner", to Delhi's theatre lovers on October 26. The main purpose of the group is to promote interest in and appreciation of American Drama.

Inter-Varsity Youth Festival

The fifth Inter-Varsity Youth Festival was held in Delhi from October 27 to November 6. Delegates from most of the Indian Universities participated. The ten-day fare consisted of numerous programmes of group singing, dance and vocal and instrumental music representing different styles in the country. This time the festival was exclusively meant for students.

Music Institute of Delhi University

The Rockefeller Foundation has agreed to allow a grant of Rs. 1,92,000 to Delhi University for its proposed Institute of Music. It is expected that the Institute will start functioning by February 1959. This was disclosed in Delhi on October 28 by Shri V. K. R. V. Rao, the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University.

Music of India

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India, inaugurating the fifth annual music and dance festival of the Bhartiya Music and Arts Society, in Bombay on October 31, said that arts constituted an essential part of education. He welcomed the efforts of the Society to teach different types of music that belonged to the country.

Gujerati Drama Contest

Of the Six Gujerati dramas that were staged in the regional competition of the fifth Bombay State Natya Mahotsav, in Bombay, three have been selected for prizes. A silver medal each was also awarded to the five best artistes.

Prize for Best Drama

Mancha Mugdha, the well-known amateur theatrical organisation of Calcutta, has

placed Rs. 1,000/- at the disposal of Biswaroopa Natya Unnyan Parikalpana Committee for awarding the same to the best dramatist to be selected in next years Girish Natya Pratijogita.

One-Act Play Winners

The 4th One-Act Play Competition, organised by Theatre Centre, Calcutta, concluded recently. The prize-winning plays are 1st 'Swetapadma' in Oriya by Kala Bikash Kendra of Cuttuck, 2nd 'Meghamukti' by R. C. Sirgam Shilpi Sangha and 3rd 'Ek Adhyaya' by Loke-o-Natak, the last two being in Bengali.

German Scholarship for Drama

Shri P. S. Rama Rao, who is at present taking training in drama at the Academy of Dance, Drama and Music, West Bengal, has been selected for the Scholarship offered by the West German Government for training in drama in a West German University.

November

Inter-University Radio Play Competition

ON November 3, Dr. B. V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, presented prizes to student playwrights, drama producers and artists from thirteen Universities, for the best plays in twelve Indian Languages, entered for the Inter-University Radio Play competition.

Music Symposium

A symposium on Music was held in Delhi from November 3 to 5, in which musicologists of the Hindustani and Karnataka system discussed "The essentials of Raga". The symposium was organised by All-India Radio. Justice Shri Venkatarama Aiyar, presiding over the concluding session of the three-day symposium, said that ragas were the foundation and essence of Indian music and that nothing should be done that would injure the raga pattern which was a common heritage for both the Hindustani and Karnataka system. The subject of the symposium was "Raga Lakshanas". In all eight papers were read at the symposium.

Songs by Russian Baritone

The Russian baritone, Pavel Lisitsian, gave two concerts in New Delhi on November 4 and 18. The most interesting part of the recital were the folk songs, at the close of the performance. He was ably assisted by Naum Valter on the Piano.

Staging of Play by U.K.C.O.M.

The U.K.C.O.M. Amateur Dramatic Club staged the play "Separate Tables" in New Delhi on November 5. The play, produced by Terence Rattigan, was staged with great competence. The acting was superb. This play is actually a combination of the two plays "Talk by the Window" and "Table Number Seven."

Marathi Drama Contest

The results of the regional Marathi drama competitions, held as part of the fifth Bombay State Nātya Mahotsav, were announced by the Bombay Government on November 5. Prizes of Rs. 500/- were given to the winners in each region, and a second prize of Rs. 250/- to the runners up. The first two prize-winning dramas of all the three centres have been selected for the final competition to be held in Nagpur.

Youth Festival Ends

The Union Home Minister, Shri G. B. Pant distributed the prizes to the winners, when the Fifth Inter-University Youth Festival ended in New Delhi on November 5. While distributing the awards, Shri Pant said that the festival was a gift of freedom and added that in contrast with olden days, the youth of today had an opportunity to lead an active and happy life. Dr. K. L. Shrimali, Union Education Minister also welcomed the guests and emphasised the role of such festivals in the life of students. Nearly 1,500 students were present at the ending ceremony.

Tagore Dance-Drama in Madras

Tagore's Dance-Drama, "Shyama", produced by Suramandir, Calcutta, was presented in Madras by the Madras Natya Sangh in aid of the Bengal Association (Madras) on November 7. The excellent performance,

lasted two hours. Dr. P. V. Rajamannar, President of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, who was present at the performance, commended the idea of presenting a Bengali dance-drama in the City as it would help the bringing of the culture of one region nearer to the people of another. Smt. Rukmini Devi, President of the Madras Natya Sangh, recalled the staging of Tagore's plays with the poet himself taking part in them. Mr. G. K. Seshagiri, Secretary of the Sangh also made a few introductory remarks. Dr. V. Raghavan and others also spoke on the occasion.

Czech Puppet Theatre

The members of the Joy Puppet Theatre of Czechoslovakia, were given a reception by the Sheriff of Bombay, Shri J. C. Jain, in Bombay, on November 6. The Governor, Shri Sri Prakasa said at the reception that the visit of the Czech cultural team would help the people of India to learn how well indigenous arts were encouraged in foreign countries. Several prominent artists, members of the Consular Corps, etc. attended the function.

New Music Society Formed

On November 7, at a very pleasant function in New Delhi a new society for the appreciation of Indian and Western music and dancing was inaugurated by Smt. Comolala Dutt. The invited audience included Shri Humayun Kabir, Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya and many other distinguished music lovers. In her introductory remarks, Smt. Dutt said that the new society would foster the appreciation of the music and dance forms of as many countries as possible and emphasised the need for such an organisation in Delhi. A programme of music and dancing, Indian and western, was presented, including a Kathakali dance by the famous dancer Guru Gopinath.

Inter-Collegiate Punjabi Music Competition

The Third Punjab Inter-Collegiate Punjabi music and folk-dance competition was held in Jagadhri on November 9, under the auspices of the Punjabi Association of M. L. National College, Yamuna Nagar. Shri N. V. Gadgil inaugurated and presided over the function. Participants included teams and individual competitors from various institutions of Punjab.

Cultural Show in Delhi

A Cultural Show was arranged on the occasion of the civic reception to the Union Cabinet, at Delhi, on November 9. The Show which comprised a colourful programme of dance and drama, was attended by Shri Nehru and other members of the Central Cabinet. Well known artistes of the Bharatiya Kala Kendra, the Maharani College of Jaipur and Delhi University, participated in the forty-five minute cultural programme.

New Music Society Founded

A new Music Society, named Kala Vikas Kendra, was inaugurated in Delhi on November 9 by Thakur Jaideva Singh. The object of the society is to popularise music and provide opportunities to young competent amateurs to perform before the public.

Teacher's Training Centre Opened

The Teachers Training Centre of the Children's Little Theatre was inaugurated on November 10 at C.L.T. Headquarters, Calcutta, by Shri S. N. Tagore, with Shri N. N. Ghose presiding. The inaugural meeting concluded with a nice social meet, with the children trainees entertaining the guests.

Kathakali Performance by Young Girls

A very creditable performance was put up by the Trichur Natana Niketanam Troupe at the Kathakali Dance Festival held on November 13, 14, 15 and 16 in Bombay. A notable feature of the Show was that all the members of the troupe were girls between the age of 10 and 12.

Madras Varsity Diploma in Dramatics and Theatre Arts

The Senate of the Madras University in its meeting on November 14 decided to institute a diploma in dramatics and theatre Arts. The details will be worked out by the Academic Council.

International Festival of Music, Costumes and Dances

An International festival of music, costumes and dances was presented by the Foreign Students, Association, Delhi, at the new convocation hall of Delhi University, on November 15. About a hundred foreign students presented an entertaining three-hour programme of songs, dances and a costume parade. The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru was the chief guest. The Show was in aid of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and was enjoyed thoroughly by the audience as well as the performers.

Piano Recital at National Sports Club

There was a magnificent Piano forte recital by the Austrian pianist, Hans Kahn, at the National Sports Club, Delhi, on November 19. The Pianist, who is a Professor of Arts, U.E.N.O., Japan, performed before an invited audience. The performance was arranged by the Delhi Music Society.

Music Conference at Paris

A Conference was held recently in Paris by the International Music Council, under the auspices of UNESCO. 166 delegates from over 50 countries, including Asia, Australia, North and South America took part in the Conference. India was represented by Prof. P. Sambamoorthy. This Conference was an epoch-making one as the people of the Western Countries awakened to the beauties of Indian and Oriental music. Demonstrations on Oriental music were given and proved to be very popular.

Synthetic Music

An electronic musical instrument capable of reproducing the sounds of practically any instrument in a symphony orchestra has been built by a firm in Japan after eight years of work. The musical wonder, called the Electone, claimed to be the first of its kind in the world, was exhibited at an audio fair in Tokyo. It has 184 keys, 32 pedals, 3 rhythm buttons and 4 rhythm pedals, all electronically controlled. The sounds produced are claimed to be almost

identical with those of the original instruments. The present instrument, however, is too large and expensive for popular use.

Cultural Festival in Bombay

A cultural festival was organised recently in Bombay by the Bharatiya Music and Arts Society. The highlights of the festival were a delightful Bharata Natya performance by Smt. Balasaraswathy, a dance-drama by Mrinalini Sarabhai, a flute recital by T.R. Mahalingam and songs by Smt. M. S. Subbulakshmi.

Financial Aid to Dance, Music Schools

The Madras State Sangita Nataka Sangam has decided to give grants of Rs. 500/- each to a few deserving institutions giving training in dance or music or in both. To be eligible for the grant, institutions, must either have been registered and working for not less than three years, and if not registered must have been working for not less than five years.

Scholarships for Musicians

To encourage the art of instrumental music, the Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad has decided to award a scholarship for special study of instrumental music. It will be given to a talented artiste of Madhya Pradesh.

Bal Abhinaya Kala Kendra

A Children's dramatic association called "Bal Abhinaya Kala Kendra" was formed recently in Varanasi. On the opening day a one-act drama "Man-Mandir" was staged by children.

December

Convocation Week Concert

THE Convocation Week Celebrations of Delhi University began on December 1, with a concert of classical, vocal and instrumental music and group dances. Students from different colleges participated in the concert.

Song Recital at Sapru House

Hanna Ludwig, mezzo-soprano of the Dusseldorf opera gave a song recital at the Sapru House, New Delhi, on December 2. Hanna's voice control was superb, and her recital was very much appreciated by the large audience that had gathered to hear her.

Karnatic Music Conference

A five day Karnatic Music Conference was held from December 2 to 6, by Bidaram Krishnappa's Rama Mandiram in Mysore, under the presidentship of Shri Chintanapalli Venkata Rao. Besides Concerts, lectures on music were also included in the Conference.

Tamil Drama Festival

The Bombay Tamil Sangh celebrated their eighth Tamil Drama Festival from December 2 to 7. Inaugurating the festival, Shri K. M. Munshi called for an exchange of artistic activities of different regions of the country, so as to bring about the cultural unity of the Nation. A Drama, "Maliliam Mangalam" was presented at the function.

Tansen Music Conference

The eleventh session of the All India Tansen Music Conference was held in Calcutta from December 5 to 12. Speaking on the opening day Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that music fulfils its objective only when it gives joy to the listeners. Urging the people to raise the standard of music, he expressed himself against any form of Governmental control of music.

Dances, Dramas and Ballets

The Seventh Festival of Children's Little Theatre opened in Calcutta on December 20. The twelve-day festival had as its greatest attraction the puppet dances of Czechoslovakia, presented by the "Joy Puppeteers" of Czechoslovakia. A programme of dances, dramas and ballets was also presented during the festival.

Lecture on Indian and Western Music

Dr. (Miss) Roselte Renshaw, lecturer in Musicology, University of Montreal, gave a delightful one-hour talk on 'Indian and Western Music' in the Delhi University Campus on December 11. Dr. Renshaw, whose visit to India for a year to make a survey of Indian Music, is sponsored by UNESCO and the Indian Government, spoke of the similarities in Indian and Western Music. She illustrated her observations by actual Performance by two noted Indian instrumentalists, Shri Chatur Lal, a tabla player, and Shri Ramanad Ishwaran, a Mridangam player, and recordings of Western Music.

Inauguration of South India Theatre

A South India Theatres group was formed in New Delhi on December 11. The object of the group is to bring together the South Indian dramatic talent in Delhi in order to be able to present the best in South Indian drama in Delhi and thus make its contribution to the growth of the stage.

North Indian Musicians in South India

Madras Music Academy held its annual Conference from 20th December, 1958, to 1st January, 1959.

The Conference featured music and dance by eminent artists besides the academic discussion on various aspects of music in which musicologists and musicians from various parts of the country as also abroad took part.

An important feature of the Conference this year was a programme of North Indian Music and Dance presented by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi. Participants in this programme were Ustad Mustaq Husain Khan, Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, Shri Shambhoo Maharaj, Ustad Ghulam Jaffar Khan, Daggarr Brothers, Shri Brijmohan Maharaj. A dance-drama "Malti Madhav", in Kathak Style, produced by Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Delhi was also presented.

University Music Conference

Shri V. V. Giri, Governor of U.P. and Chancellor of Allahabad University, inaugurated the three-day music conference sponsored by the University of Allahabad, on December 22, in Allahabad. He stressed the need for encouraging the study of Indian music and dancing with all its regional variations. Pt. Onkarnath Thakur, in his presidential address, complimented the University on having made a pioneer effort to encourage and foster Indian music in Universities. Several well-known musicians such as Ravi Shankar, Onkarnath Thakur, took part in the Conference. A number of dance items were also included.

Poush Utsav at Santiniketan

With the singing of baitalik (Prabhat Pheri) on December 23, the annual Poush Utsav was inaugurated. A large number of boys and girls participated in the singing. Thousands of men and women from Calcutta and other parts of the country visited Shantiniketan during Poush Utsav. The main feature of the day's programme was the traditional congregational prayers at Chhatimtala.

Karan Singh's Call to Musicians

Yuvraj Karan Singh, Sadr-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, inaugurated the fourteenth session of the All-India Music Conference, in Calcutta, on December 24. He observed that music had an important role to play in preserving and developing our artistic heritage and added that we must maintain our ancient cultural heritage.

Urdu Play Staged

Hindustani Theatre's Urdu play, "Mitti Ki Gaddi" was staged in New Delhi on December 27. The play is a version of Shudrakas famous classic "Mrichchakatika". The drama's technique was an experiment in urbanised folk-theatre 'Nautanki'. It was produced by Habib Tanvir.

Madras Sangita Nataka Sangam

The Madras State Sangita Nataka Sangam has instituted a competition in one-act plays in Tamil, open to individual authors and organizations, with a view to encouraging original

playwriting and production. Prizes of Rs. 500, Rs. 300, Rs. 200/-, will be awarded, for the first three plays selected in order of merit, by the judges.

Musician Honoured

Prof. P. Sambamoorthy, the well-known musicologist, was honoured by the Andhra Samsad at Guntur recently. On that occasion he was given a Shawl in appreciation of the services rendered by him to the cause of music.

Award of Cultural Scholarships

The Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has awarded scholarships to 46 persons under the "Scheme of scholarships to young artists in different cultural fields" during 1958-59. The value of each scholarship is Rs. 150/- and it is tenable for two years.

January

Youth Festival at Lucknow

THE Second Youth Festival started in Lucknow on January 1. The programme on the opening day included twentyone items presented by various Youth Club teams from different districts. A nice performance on tabla and dholak was given by six year-old Rajendra Prasad of Basti District.

Czech. Puppet Show

A performance by the 'Joy' Puppet Theatre Troupe of Czechoslovakia, took place at Sapru House, New Delhi, on January 2. The show was held under the auspices of the Triveni Kala Sangam. Among the distinguished gathering present were the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru. Later the Czech Puppeteers presented a puppet each to the President and the Prime Minister.

Music, Dance & Drama Festival

A music, dance and drama festival, sponsored by the All India Industrial Exhibition Society and the Andhra Pradesh Sangeeta Nataka Akademi, was inaugurated by the State Chief Minister, Shri Sanjiva Reddy, in Hyderabad, on January 2. The Festival was

organised by the Andhra Pradesh Natya Sangham. The five-week festival included, among other things, two dance dramas, 'Ramayana' and 'Meghdoot' by the Little Ballet Troupe of Bombay; Bharata Natyam by Kamla Laxman, two Hindustani dramas by Prithvi Theatres of Bombay, an English play entitled 'Born Yesterday' by the Theatre Centre, Bombay, and competitions in full-length and one-act plays in various languages, and competitions in vocal music, Hindustani and Karnatic. Nearly one thousand artists participated in the Festival, which came to a close on February 7.

Street Singers go on Stage

A programme of music and songs by the Street Singers of Bombay was organised on January 3, by the Indian National Theatre. The artists rendered Bhajans, qawwalis, ragas, film-songs, etc., in Hindi, Gujarati and Urdu. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the show and showed its appreciation by showering currency notes on the stage.

Recital of Czech Music

A magnificent violin and piano recital was given in Sapru House, New Delhi, on January 4, by the two Czech musicians, Ladislav Jasek and Josef Hala.

Dance Performance at Sapru House

The Bharatiya Natya Sangh presented an entertaining programme of dance and music at Sapru House, New Delhi, on January 6. The programme called 'Nriyanjali', was arranged in honour of the delegates to the International Congress of Jurists. The programme included Guru Gopinath's depiction of a scene from the *Gita* in Kathakali style, a Kathak number by Kumari Maya Rao, a Bharatnatyam number by Kumari Yamini Krishnamurti and a Rajasthani Folk dance by Bharatiya Kalakendra Troupe.

Concert by American Pianist

The young American Pianist, Joel Rosen, made his debut in Bombay on January 6, at the American Consulate General. A product of the Julliard School of Music, he gave an excellent recital of the music of such famous composers as Haydn, Chopin, Ravel, Listz, etc.,

Indo-German Cultural Society

The Dorian Quartet and the Paranjoti Chorus pooled their talents and provided some excellent musical entertainment when they appeared in Bombay on January 8. The show was organised by the Indo-German Cultural Society and held under the patronage of His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay.

Music Contest Prize Winners

The music competition sponsored by the All India Music Conference, Lucknow, ended on January 8. The competition was inaugurated by Shri Girja Kumar Mathur of A.I.R. and the prizes were distributed by Shri Ram Kumar Bhargava. In all eight competitors won the first prize for various types of music.

Children's Theatre Established

On January 11, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. B. C. Roy, inaugurated the first regular children's theatre in India, at Biswaroopa Theatre House in Calcutta. A large and distinguished audience was present at the function, which was presided over by Shri Ahindra Chowdhri, Dean of the Academy of Dance, Drama and Music, West Bengal. On the opening day, juvenile artists staged the drama 'Maya Mayur', in which more than 60 children participated.

Noted Karnatic Musician Dead

Shri K. S. Narayana Iyengar, a veteran gottuvadyam player, died on January 12, in Bangalore, soon after giving a recital over A. I. R. He was the Palace Vidwan during the regime of the late Maharaja of Mysore.

Talks on Drama Technique

The three days' Bengal Drama Conference opened on January 16, in Calcutta. Several well-known dramatists of Bengal participated in it and gave their views on present day drama. One of the participants, Shri Sachin Sen Gupta regretted that drama now-a-days

were being written and played on the pattern of Cinemas. Dr. Srikumar Banerjee urged the dramatists to try to portray life in its true perspective. He said that the dramatists should see that National Culture should find expression in their writings. The Chief Guest, Dr. Sasi Bhushan Das Gupta was of the opinion that dramatists should have close contact with national life. Dr. Ashutosh Bhattacharya also spoke on the trends of modern Bengali Drama.

Inter-College Music Conference

The Sixth All-Assam Inter-College Music Conference was inaugurated on January 16 in Tezpur by Shri Dev Kanta Barooah, Speaker Assam Assembly, Shri Radha Karam Das, Deputy Minister for Education, presided over the function. More than 300 delegates from about 20 colleges of Assam participated.

Pantomime Performance in New Delhi

Bharatiya Natya Sangh presented Theo Lesoualch and Nie Yalter in a programme of Pantomime in New Delhi, on January 18. Theo Lesoualch, who had his training under the French Master M. Etienne Decroux, gave a series of delightful acts. His portrayal of the Photographer, the Bicycle, the Sculptor and the Rendezvous were very entertaining and adroitly drawn.

Bharatiya Natya Sangh Conference

Addressing the annual conference of the Bharatiya Natya Sangh on January 18, Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya said that the renaissance in the field of theatre had petered out in the country. She regretted that many of the theatre groups had strayed away from their original programmes, and added that some specialization was necessary for the development of the theatre movement. She praised the Calcutta Natya Sangh which carried out its functions effectively and conducted drama festivals every year.

Smt. Leela P. Trikamdass, General Secretary of the Sangh said in her report that it had started the Asian Theatre Institute with the help of UNESCO. The Institute had 26 students sent by the various State Natya

Sanghs and the State Governments. It had now been taken over by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. She added that the Sangh had launched a project in October to collect authentic traditional costumes, jewellery, stage decor, puppets and masks used by theatres in the country.

Dr. Renshaw's Lecture

A Canadian Musicologist, Dr. (Miss) Renshaw, gave a lecture on the "Music of India and the West" at Madras on January 17. The lecture was given under the auspices of the Madras State Sangita Nataka Sangham. She traced the evolution of Western Music and felt that there should be an international centre in India where Indian people could go and listen to the best Western Classical Music.

Drama Festival Concludes

The four day drama festival, organised by the Y. M. C. A., Allahabad, concluded on January 19. The first prize in Hindi drama went to the dramatic group 'Vikas' for their drama 'Rehearsal', whereas the second prize was awarded to Ajanta. 'Lakshmi Priyas Sansar' presented by the Bengal Club was adjudged to be the best Bengali play and second place was achieved by 'Navasanskaram' by the South Malaka Dramatic Club. The first prize for the best acting in Hindi plays went to Shri Naqui for his performance in 'Batwa', the second prize to Shri K.B. Lal. Among the Bengali actors, Shri Indranatha and Shri P.K. Mukerjee won the first and the second prize, respectively. Among the Bengali women artistes, Smt. Shipra Haldar and Smt. Manashi Bannerjee won the first and the second prize, respectively, while in Hindi plays the first and the second prize went to Miss Una Peters and Smt. Kansala. Shri Indranath was declared to be the best artiste at the Festival and a special prize was awarded to Shri Anukul Bannerjee on behalf of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan.

Dance-Drama at Fine Arts Theatre

Bhavabhuti's Sanskrit Classic 'Malati Madhav' was presented on January 20, at Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi, as a dance-drama in Kathak style by the Bharatiya Kala Kendra.

It was directed by Shri Lachoo Maharaj with music under the supervision of Dagar Brothers.

Children's Drama Festival Inaugurated

A Children's Drama Festival, organised by the Natya Sangh, was inaugurated in Bombay on January 21 by Shri N. K. Tirpude, Bombay Minister for Social Welfare. Shri Tirpude congratulated the Sangh for their pioneer efforts towards starting a theatre for Children and appealed to professional artistes to assist in every way the Children's Theatre movement.

Benefit Music Performance

Shri Y.B. Chavan, Chief Minister of Bombay, inaugurated on January 25 Shri Ramakrishna Ashram Temple and Prayer Hall Fund Committee when Smt. M.S. Subbalakshmi gave a music performance at the Ashram premises. The recital was in aid of the Ashram Fund for the construction of a temple with Prayer Hall. She entertained the audience with Hindi devotional songs, which were well appreciated by the audience.

Play Staged by the Homeless

Pavement dwellers of Delhi presented a play 'Rain Basera' at the Delhi Gate night shelter, on January 25. The play, written and directed by "Shri Jagdish Arya, porter at Delhi Railway Station, has as its theme the life of the homeless who sleep on the Capital's pavements. In the audience of 250 were Aruna Asaf Ali, Mayor of Delhi, Shri Shriman Narayan, member of the Planning Commission, Shri Gopi Nath Aman, Shri Radha Raman, M.P. and Shri Krishnan Nayar, M.P.

Telugu Drama Competition

On January 25, a colourful function took place at the Sri Sarathi Studios, Hyderabad, in connection with the giving away of the trophy and prizes awarded by the Sarathi Studios to the winners in the drama competition, organised by the Osmania University Students' Union. Dr. D.S. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of the University presided.

A rolling cup was presented to the Government Technical College for the best play. Shri Banerjee and Kumari Uma received

prizes for the best actor and actress, respectively. Cups for meritorious acting were presented to Smt. Annapurna Devi, Smt. Sarojini Devi and Shri Prabhakar Reddy. A prize by the Indian Arts Theatre was awarded to RBRV Women's College for the best play.

Dances of Ceylon

A programme of dances and music of Ceylon was presented by a group of artistes sponsored by the Government of Ceylon and led by the Parliamentary Secretary Shri B.D. Mediwake, at the Kala Mandap, Madras, on January 25. The programme included classical and folk dances of Ceylon, interspersed with items of music. Though most Ceylonese dances for a long time were rendered by men only, modern trends brought in women also into the field and a good many of them in attractive costumes enlivened the programme.

The Folk Dance Festival

This year, 17 States participated in the Folk Dance Festival which is held annually in Delhi as part of the Republic Day Celebrations. The dance performances, which took place at the National Stadium on January 27 and 31, were witnessed by thousands of people.

The Prime Minister presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Trophy to the troupe from Bihar, whose 'Shikar Dance' was adjudged the best. Cups were given to the troupes from Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Pondicherry. Madhya Pradesh dancers, in addition, got a special prize.

Piano Recital in Delhi

Delhi music lovers had a rare feast when Jascha Spivakovsky gave a piano forte recital on January 28. He regaled the audience with his wizardry at the Piano, playing music by such famous composers as Bach, Brahms, Liszt, etc.

February

Ceylon Dancers' Performance in Delhi

A troupe of dancers from Ceylon gave a performance at the Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi, on January 31 and February 1. The large audience present thoroughly enjoyed the Kandyan and Ruhunu dances and the folk songs presented by the troupe.

On February 2, the visiting Ceylonese delegation gave a performance before a rural gathering at Karala, a village 17 miles from Delhi. Wearing colourful and attractive costumes the troupe sang and danced for two hours. The sturdy peasants of the area, themselves fond of vigorous dancing, wildly cheered and acclaimed the artistes. This is perhaps the first time that a visiting cultural delegation has performed in a rural area. This rural programme was sponsored jointly by the Bharat Sevak Samaj and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

Recital of Modern Dance

Madame Erika Weynert gave a recital of interpretative dancing at the Birla Theatre, Bombay, on February 3. The performance was organised by the Time and Talents Club. Madame Weynert rendered several items of her art, which relies more on the employment of body for conveying the meaning of the dance, than on the footwork.

Andhra Natya Kala Parishat Conference

The four day session of the Andhra Pradesh Natya Kala Parishat was inaugurated in Hyderabad on February 4, by Shri Herbert Marshall, Principal, Natya Academy, Bombay. Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy, Finance Minister of the State, who presided over the opening session, expressed the hope that before long the State Capital would have a full-fledged theatre. He agreed with Shri Marshall that State Governments and municipalities should provide greater financial aid for the development of theatre.