

CULTURAL

DIARY

March

Seminar on Indian Music and Art

A seminar on Indian music and art was inaugurated by Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Vice-Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, at Rang Bhawan, Bombay, on March 1. Speaking on the occasion, she advised artistes not to be publicity conscious and criticised those who desired to become famous overnight. Among the several scholars and artistes who took part in the seminar was Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale who spoke on the 'Development of Art and Music at present'. She was opposed to the view that there should be a synthesis of Western and Eastern music and dance.

Prof. A. X. Lobo presided over the meeting which was organised by Sur-Singar Samsad as part of the Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan.

Playwright Felicitated

Shri P. Sambanda Mudaliar, a well-known Tamil playwright and recipient of the Akademi Award, was felicitated on receiving the President's Award of Padmabhushan at a function organised by the Madras Natya Sangh in Madras on March 1. The Chief Minister, Shri K. Kamaraj, presided and thanked the Government for giving due recognition to the services of Shri Mudaliar who was then garlanded on behalf of various cultural organisations. Later, a silver shield was presented to him on behalf of the Madras Natya Sangh.

Music and Dancing Course in Punjab

The Punjab University will shortly institute a Diploma course in dancing and M.A. course

in music. Decisions to this effect were taken recently at a meeting of the Senate.

The Madras Symphony

The Madras Symphony had its world Premiere in Madras on March 3. Described as the only Western symphony based on Indian ragas and talas, the symphony was performed by the Little Orchestra Society of New York, before an audience of nearly 1,500. The conductor was Mr. Thomas Scherman. Dr. Cowell, the composer of the Symphony, has dedicated it to the Madras Music Academy, which sponsored the recital. Two Indians, Shri N.V. Moorthy on the *Tabla-tarang* and Shri E.M. Ramakrishnan on the *Jaltarang* were guest accompanists of the orchestra.

Recital by Czech Pianist

A piano recital was given at the Jai Hind Hall, Bombay, on March 5, by the visiting Czech pianist Joseph Hala. He entertained the audience with several numbers including Schumann's "*Carnival*", Chopin's "*Nocturne*" and the "*Fantaisie*" in F. Minor, Smetana's *Bohemian Dances*, etc. Hala also gave a performance in Delhi on March 9.

Music in Trains

The Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, disclosed in the Lok Sabha on March 9, that the Railway authorities had tried the experiment of relaying music and news direct from A.I.R. in some moving trains. But the experiment did not succeed due to interference in the reception. However, the Railways were now studying the possibility of installing public address systems in compartments through which music and news items, earlier tape-recorded at strategic points, could be transmitted.

Bombay State Sangeet Mahotsav

The third Bombay State Sangeet Mahotsav was held in Ahmedabad from March 9 to 12. The festival, held under the auspices of the Social Welfare Department, Bombay Government, featured light and classical music by top artistes, a symposium on music and *mushaira* in which leading Gujarati poets participated.

Symphony Concert in Calcutta

The last of the winter series of symphony concerts by the Calcutta Symphony Orchestra took place at New Empire, Calcutta, on March 11. The Symphony,—conducted by Bernard Jacob, was performed before the largest audience of the season. Among the many items played were the overture *Joseph* by Mehul, two Hungarian dances by Brahms and the Piano Concerto No. 1 in E. Minor Op. 11 by Chopin played by the Austrian soloist, Liesl Stry. The programme came to an end with a performance of Symphony No. 103 in E. Flat by Haydn.

Dance Recital by Hadassah

Hadassah, the Jewish-American dancer, who is noted for her interpretation of Oriental and Jewish dances, gave a recital at Sydenham College, Bombay, on March 12. The recital, organised by the Habonim Institute, was witnessed by the State Governor and the Consul for Israel. Among the items presented were "*Gauri*", a composition of Hadassah's own, "*Fable*" and "*Broadway Hindu*", a parody on the so-called Hindu dancing shown in American films. The programme ended with an Israeli dance called "*Israeli Suite*".

Bharatiya Kala Kendra's Annual Function

The Bharatiya Kala Kendra's annual festival of dances and music opened in New Delhi on March 17 with a programme of Bharata Natyam and Kathakali by Mrinalini Sarabhai and her troupe. Among the many top ranking artistes who participated in the festival were the Dagar Brothers, Ghulam Ali Khan, Shri Bhim Sen Joshi, Shri Vilayat Khan, Sm. Gangu Bai Hangal, Shri Amanat Ali Khan and Shri Fateh Ali Khan of Pakistan. The festival also featured dance by Shri Birju Maharaj.

University Status for Sangeet Vidyapith

The Chief Secretary of the U.P. Government, announced recently that the Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyapith, ucknow, is soon to be converted into an academy of music and dance. The Union Government has decided to give a substantial grant for the purpose.

Songs and Dances by Film Artistes

A four-hour programme of songs and dances by prominent playback singers and dancers of the Indian screen was presented in Bombay on March 23 in aid of Rashtra Seva Dal Sane Guruji Samarak Yojana, Kudal Town Vikas Samiti and Walawal Gramashtha Sangh. Participants included Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammad Rafi, Hemant Kumar, Mukesh, Geeta Dutt, Talat Mahmood and Subir Sen, while Gopi Krishna presented Kathak dances.

Swedish Award for Indian Artist

The Swedish Academi of Dance has awarded a bronze medal to Shri K.S. Karanth, an Indian artist and author, for his services to dance and dance-drama. The coveted prize was awarded to him for his work on "*Yaksha-Gana*", a folk dance-drama of South India.

Rabindra University of Dance, Drama and Music

The West Bengal Government proposes to establish a full-fledged University for higher studies and research in dance, drama and music in Calcutta on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore in 1961. The University, which will be the first of its kind in India, will be known as the Rabindra University of Dance, Drama and Music and will be located at the ancestral house of Tagore at Jorasanko.

Music Festival at Amritsar

The All India Music Festival was held in Amritsar on March 23. The festival, which was attended by a large audience, featured classical and light vocal as well as instrumental music. The participants included Smt. Sandhya Mukerji of Calcutta and Nizam Ragi and Party, Qauwwals of Delhi.

All-India Dance Festival

An All-India dance festival was organised by Nritya Bharati in Calcutta from March 27 to 31. Among the varied fare presented was a symphony orchestra conducted by Timir Baran, who presented six of his own compositions. The festival gave dance lovers an opportunity to witness performances by some of the noted exponents of the different classical forms. Kathak was presented by Birju Maharaj and Roshan Kumari, Bharat Natyam by Smt. Balasaraswathi and Manipuri by Guru Atomba Singh and party.

Moscow Puppet Theatre

On the invitation of the Government of India and under the auspices of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Mr. Sergei Obratsov, the leader of the 36 member delegation of the State Central Puppet Theatre of Moscow, gave a lecture demonstration on the Art of Puppetry at Sapru House, New Delhi, on March 25th.

The hall was packed to its capacity and the audience was roaring with laughter. Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, presided and welcomed the artistes.

During the course of his talk Mr. Obratsov said that there were puppet theatres in all Soviet Republics. They numbered over 100 in all. In Moscow they had put a museum where puppets from various countries were housed.

From March 26 the Puppet Theatre gave a number of shows at New Delhi.

Prior to their coming to New Delhi the party had been to Calcutta, Lucknow, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad and Jaipur, where they showed "Alladin's Magic Lamp" and "An Unusual Concert".

April

Sangeet Natak Akademi

The General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi in its meeting held in New Delhi on April 3 decided to confer Akademi Awards to two new categories of dance artistes, namely, exponents of traditional forms other than the usually recognized four classical schools and outstanding creative dance artistes.

The first category would include such dance forms as Satriya of Assam, Odissi of Utkal, Kuchipudi of Andhra, Bhagavatmela and Yakshgana of the South.

The General Council also decided to offer Akademi Awards to outstanding dramatists in the fourteen national languages of India by rotation, so that playwriting may be encouraged on a national basis.

Musician Felicitated

A function was held in Madras on April 11 to celebrate the Shashtiabdhapurthi of Sangeetha Kalanidhi Musiri Subramania Iyer.



Mr. Obratsov, the Soviet puppeteer, with his interpreter

Among the distinguished people who attended the function and paid tributes to the musician, for his services to the cause of Karnatic music, were Prof. P. Sambhamoorthi, Smt. Rukmini Devi, Shri T. K. Shanmugham and the Chief Minister, Shri Kamaraj.

Puppet Show by Putlighar

Putlighar, an amateur marionette theatre, presented its maiden performance at the Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi, on April 12. Their

play, entitled “*Rao Amar Singh Rathor*”, was witnessed by large and distinguished audience including the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru.

Rabindra Jayanti Celebrated

Rabindra Jayanti was celebrated by the Bengali Association in New Delhi on April 15 with a programme of songs and dance. Among the artistes who participated were Smt. Manjushri Sarkar, who danced two numbers, and the vocalists Smt. Shyamali Ganguly and Ashish Mazumdar.

Railway Week Celebration

The Railway Week Celebration began in New Delhi on April 10 with a programme of dance, drama and music, presented exclusively by members of the Railway staff and their families who had come from all over India. Several interesting items were presented including Rajasthani group dance by girls in pleasing costume as also Kathak and Bharata Natyam numbers. Tagore’s dance-drama *Kal-Mrigaya* was also staged.

President Lays Foundation Stone for Rabindra Bhawan

On April 14, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, laid the foundation stone of Rabindra Bhawan, a multi-storeyed building to house the three National Akademies. The proposed building, which is to be erected on Ferozeshah Road in New Delhi, will have a six-storeyed Administrative block, and an exhibition block and a theatre block of three storeys each.

Musical Soiree at Bengal Institute

A cultural programme was organised by the International Institute of Bengal in New Delhi on April 19. The high lights of the programme was the singing of Tagore’s songs and recitation of his poems in Bengali by non-Bengali students, which was greatly appreciated by the audience consisting mostly of Bengalis.

Kairana Music Concert

The Sangeet Bharati Hall, New Delhi, was the venue of a concert of Kairana music on

April 17. Several vocalists gave short recitals at the function which was held to mark the opening of a special branch of Kairana music under the auspices of this institution.

West Bengal Academi Building Opened

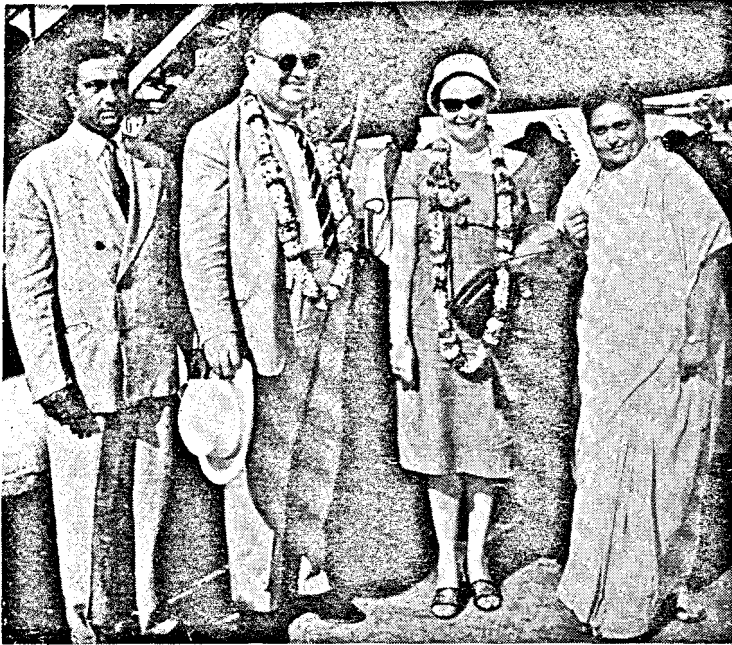
The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Roy, opened the new four-storeyed building of the West Bengal Academi of Dance, Drama and Music, in Calcutta on April 15. A programme of Tagore’s songs, Bharata Natyam, Kathakali and Manipuri dances and instrumental music was arranged on the occasion. An one-act drama was also staged.

Natya Sangh Drama Festival Awards

Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Vice-Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi, presented the awards to the winners in the annual drama festival organised by the Delhi Natya Sangh. The function, which took place in New Delhi on April 26, was attended by a large and distinguished audience including a number of foreigners. Six trophies were presented to the winners and six prizes to the runners up in the competition for the best production, best direction, best stage, best actor, best actress, best supporting actor.

The following is the list of the winners:—

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|-------------------------|---|
| Best Director:— | “ <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i> ”; |
| Best Director:— | Mr. A.C. Hall in “ <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i> ”; |
| Best Stage:— | “ <i>Tea and Sympathy</i> ” by Theatre Workshop; |
| Best Actor:— | Shri K. Venkateswara Rao in <i>Akasa Ramanna</i> by Dakhina Bharata Naty-Nata Samakhya; |
| Best Actress:— | Mrs. Gisela Angus in “ <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i> ”; |
| Best Supporting-Actor:— | Mr. Peter Fredrick in “ <i>Tea and Sympathy</i> ”. |



Mr. Andor Foldes received at the aerodrome

May

Children's Festival of Dance & Music

A four-day festival of dance and music, organised by the Children's Little Theatre, was inaugurated in Calcutta on May 1, by the Law Minister, Shri Ashok Sen. The highlights of the programme on the opening day was the ballet 'Jijo' which was preceded by a musical performance in which well-known artistes took part. Among the other items presented in the festival were a ballet named 'Willy Fox', based on a Russian folk tale and 'Aban Patua' and 'Sumanto'. The festival was organised to raise funds for a garden theatre for children.

Cultural Festival in Delhi

The three-day cultural festival of the All-India Youth Federation was inaugurated at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, on May 1, by Bimal Roy, the famous film Director. Several cultural organisations from different parts of the country participated. Some of the noteworthy performances were a scene from Maxim Gorky's 'Mother' presented by Calcutta's Little Theatre

Group, songs by the Bombay Youth Choir, conducted by Shri Salil Chowdhry, a Tagore song by the Delhi IPTA, Maharashtrian and Marwari folk-dances, Punjabi Bhangra and 'Neechar Mahal', an adaptation of Gorky's 'Lower Depths', also presented by Little Theatre Group. The festival also featured an excellent dance number "The Evolution of Kathak" composed and directed by Shri Shambhu Maharaj and performed by his students.

Piano Recital by Andor Foldes

Andor Foldes, the Hungarian born American pianist, gave a recital at the National Physical Laboratory Auditorium on May 19. The programme, sponsored by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, was in aid of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. The recital, which lasted nearly for an hour, was a varied one and included such popular items as Beethoven's Sonata, Brahms Waltzes, the chromatic *Fantasia* and *Fugue* by Bach and the Spanish Ritual Dance. The programme was attended by a large and distinguished audience which included the Prime Minister.

Symposium of Devotional Music

A symposium on devotional songs was held at the Roxy Theatre, Calcutta on May 3, at the annual function of Bharatiya Sanskriti Samsad. About seventy-five artistes participated and sang devotional songs of Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

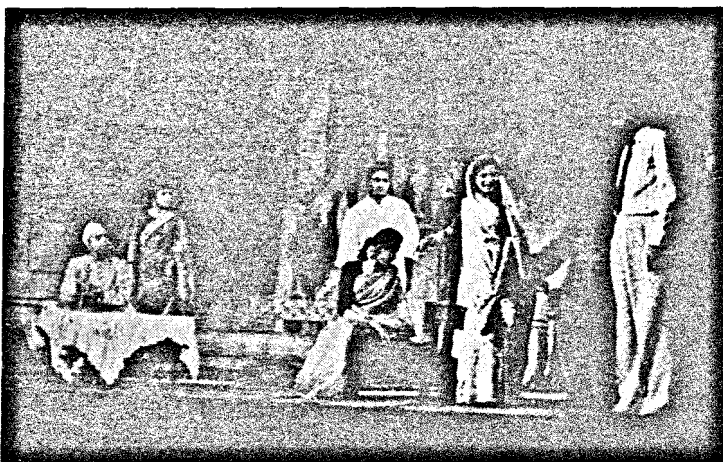
Melatur Bhagavata Mela Dance-Drama

The Bhagavata Dance-Drama Festival of Melatur in Tanjore District was celebrated this year on the night of 21st of May, 1959 in connection with Narasimha Jayanti. The play of

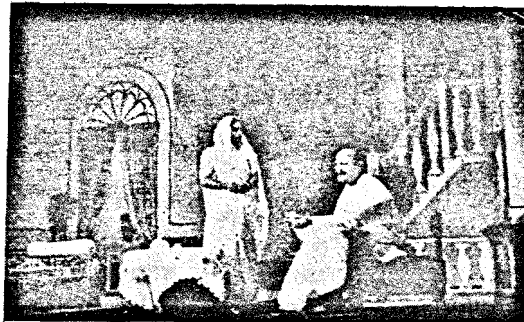
PRAHLADA composed by Venkatrama Sastriar, who lived about 150 years ago in Melatur as a senior contemporary of Thyagaraja was enacted as an all-night show on a small stage in front of Varadarajaswamy Temple, before a large gathering of art lovers, including a few foreigners. At the outset Mr. E. Krishna Iyer, who had been deputed by the Madras State Sangita Nataka Sangam to help the organisers of the festival, welcomed the gathering and said that the Bhagavata Mela tradition was a classical Bharata Natya form of all-India importance, because it was a living exemplification of Bharata's conception of Natya as a Dance-Drama. The drama was conducted by Balu Bhagavathar assisted by Messrs. Ramani Iyer, P. K. Subbier, G. Krishnamurthy and others. Pure classical Karnatak Music of a high standard with an interesting variety of musical forms, elaborate Abhinaya conforming to the Shastras, all-pervading rhythm and Sollukattus and dances of a scintillating type were the most noteworthy features of the show.

Folk-Dance Festival in Dehradun

The second Hill Folk-Dance-Drama Festival opened in Dehradun on May 1. The festival aimed at promoting unity among the hill people and reviving the folk-culture of the Himalayan region. Folk-dancers from Almora, Badrinath in Garhwal, Jaunsar-Bawar in Dehradun and Mahasu district of Himachal Pradesh, participated.



A scene fom 'Naye Haath'



Another scene from 'Naye Haath'

Sangeet Natak Akademi Hindi Drama Competition

The play 'Naye Haath' by Anamika of Calcutta was adjudged the best produced play in the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Hindi Drama Competition held at the Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi, from April 21 to May 7. The judges also commended the following artistes for acting: Pratibha Bharatiya, Anju Dev, Pratibha Agrawal, Sunita Relin, Shyamanand Jalan and Harish Madan (all in 'Naye Haath') Romesh Mehta (in *Zamaana*), Devraj Dinesh (in *Naya Ki Raat*) and Iblash Johar (in *Sarhad*). *Naya Ki Raat*, staged by Little Theatre Group, Delhi, was commended for stage decor.

Sardar Patel Memorial

Shri S. K. Patil, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, announced in Bombay recently that the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Memorial Committee in Bombay is expected to make a donation of Rs. 75,000/- for the construction of a theatre in Delhi, the auditorium of which will be named after Sardar Patel. The theatre, the construction of which had been planned by Hindustani Theatre, Delhi, would cost over six lakhs of rupees and would take nearly two years to complete.

Youth Festival in Delhi

A two-day Youth Cultural Festival was organised at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, on May 23 and 24. The packed audience on both days were entertained by artistes hailing from different parts of the country. The programme included, ballet by the Indian Revival Group of Calcutta, Bharata Natyam dance items by Leela Raman, Kathak dances by Gopi Kishna, Shadowgraphy by Prasanna Rao and several other song and dance numbers by various artistes.

June

Folk Dances in Bombay

A programme of folk dances was presented in Bombay on May 31, by a troupe of dancers from the Tribal High School at Tamulu in Madhya Pradesh. A large audience including many prominent artistes of the city witnessed the performance.

Drama Contests in Hindi

The Bombay Government has decided to hold drama competitions in Hindi along with the Marathi and Gujarati competitions from this year. The Bombay State Drama Festival's final competition in Marathi and Gujarati will be held this year at Ahmednagar and Baroda respectively. The festivals are likely to commence sometime in September.

Drama Competition in Simla

The 5th All-India Prithvi Raj Kapoor Drama Competition, organised by the Himachal Theatres, was held recently in Simla. The First Prize went to the play—*Dhoop Chhaon*, staged by the Indian People's Theatre Association. Agra IPTA artistes also won three other prizes for the best acting and best dances.

Smt. Rattan Mala of Venus Theatre, New Delhi, was considered the best female artiste.

Among the scripts entered for the competition, Shri Adarsh Rana's *Marghat Ke Kutti* was adjudged the best.

July

Indian Play Staged in Uzbekistan

A Russian adaptation of the ancient Indian epic *Mricchhakatika* by Shudraka was presented in the form of a musical drama called the 'White Lotus', for the first time in Uzbekistan on July 6. The Russian version written by the Soviet dramatists Viktor Vinnikov and Yuri Vosnos, has had a successful run of several years in the Moscow Pushkin Drama Theatre and numerous other Soviet theatres.

The music, composed by two Uzbek composers, is drawn widely from Indian Folk tunes.

Talk on Problems of Play Production

A talk on the problems of play production was given by Mr. Alfred Hall in New Delhi on July 11. The talk was held under the auspices of the Bharatiya Natya Sangh. Mr. Hall, a staff member of the U.K. High Commission and winner of the Delhi Natya Sangh Award this year for the production of Agatha Christie's "*Witness for the Prosecution*", spoke about the problems that had to be faced by a director in Delhi. The main among these were, he said, lack of co-operation among the various groups, administrative inefficiency and the lack of rehearsal halls. He also pleaded for an interchange of players and technicians between different groups and stressed the need for drawing upon themes from the Indian classics.

Minerva Theatre Taken Over by Little Theatre Group

The Little Theatre Group, which has endeared itself to the hearts of theatre lovers with its contribution to the world of dramaturgy and stage craft, took over on a long lease the Minerva Theatre, in Calcutta, on July 3. The young group proposes to run the theatre as a co-operative enterprise, its profits, if any, to be shared equally by all the workers.

The inauguration was performed, at a largely attended function by the Mayor of Calcutta, Shri Bejoy Kumar Bannerjee. At the ceremony the Mayor announced that the Theatre Hall would be rechristened Sisir Natya Mandir in memory of Shri Sisir Kumar Bhaduri, who

revolutionised the theatrical art of India and Bengal. The function came to an end with the staging of "Buro Shaliker Gharey Ron".

Production of Dramas

Mr. S.H. Best, Regional Representative of the British Council, gave a talk on "Production Problems" at the Vivekananda College Hall, Mylapore, on July 6. He was addressing the Study Circle of the Amateur Theatre Federation. Mr. Best said that a good producer must be a mixture of an artist and expert craftsman. He must possess a good imagination, sincerity and artistic integrity. Mr. Best then dealt with the problems relating to the preparation of the scripts, the selection of the cast and the conduct of rehearsals.

The talk was followed by a discussion presided over by Shri C. Raghunathan.



Dr. Radhakrishnan awarding first prize to Shri Mohan Rakesh for his play "Ashrah ka Ek Din"



Vice-President delivering speech at the prize-giving function

August

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for Hindi Play

The Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, gave away the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the best Hindi play and the best Hindi play production, at a function organised by the Akademi at the Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi on August 19. The respective winners were, Mohan Rakesh, for his play "Ashrah Ka Ek Din" and the Anamika group of Calcutta who won the award for the play "Naye Haath". Both were awarded Rs. 2,500/- each. After the prize giving ceremony, 'Naye Haath' was staged. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Radhakrishnan referred to the development of dramatic art in the past and said that there was a time when plays written and staged in India were considered as the best in the whole world. He exhorted modern play writers to portray the

spirit of changing India in their works. He also stressed the need for translating plays from one language into other.

The function was presided over by Smt. Kamladevi Chattopadhyaya, Vice-Chairman of the Akademi.

Open-Air Theatres in Rural Areas

The Union Government has tentatively approved a scheme to grant financial assistance to State Governments to start open-air theatres in rural areas.

In the first instance it is proposed that not more than five open-air theatres should be opened in each State during 1959-60.

The decision has been taken to open more cultural centres in rural areas, equipped with open-air theatres, for providing entertainment to the people and encouragement to local talents. State Governments have been asked to provide land for these theatres free of cost.

The theatres, when constructed will be managed either by the village panchayats or by other bodies set-up by the State Government.

Award for Kannada Playwright

Dr. R.S. Mugali, a noted Kannada playwright, has been awarded a prize of Rs. 500/- for his new play "*Dhananjaya*", by the Mysore State Sangeeta Nataka Academy.

The play was adjudged the best in a drama competition held by the Academy last year.

Dr. Mugali was also the recipient year before last, of an award of Rs. 5,000/- from the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi for his "*Kannada Sahitya Charitra*" a history of Kannada literature, which he completed after more than 20 years' labour.

Music Festival in Delhi

Under the joint auspices of Gandharva Maha Vidyalyaya and Saraswati Samaj a three-day

music festival was held at Sapru House, New Delhi, on August 16, to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar, founder of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya. Among the many noteworthy artistes who participated were Shri Manik Verma, Shri Bala Saheb Poochwala and Shri Jamaluddin. A symposium on "Malhar and its varieties" was also held as a part of the festival. Eminent scholars and exponents of music like Pandit Vinayak Rao Patwardhan, Shri Vilayat Hussain Khan, Shri Mushtaq Hussain Khan and Shri N.N. Shukla participated in the symposium, which was presided over by Pt. S. N. Ratanjankar.

Opening the symposium, Pt. Ratanjankar stressed the need for resolving differences among musicians in regard to the shape and structure of *ragas*. Some *ragas*, he said, were rendered in many different ways by exponents of different schools or *gharanas*. He added, that at the annual meeting of the Music Academy in Madras similar differences in Karnatic Music were being resolved.

Pt. Vinayak Rao Patwardhan pleaded to all exponents to pool their knowledge to evolve a standard version of the controversial *ragas* which was acceptable to all. Later on, Shri Vilayat Hussain Khan gave some vocal specimens of a few varieties of Malhar.

Veteran Musician Honoured

Surasamrat Shri Allauddin Khan, the celebrated musician, was given a civic reception in the Central Municipal building, Calcutta, on Aug. 19. On the occasion, an address of welcome in a silver casket and the replica of a *veena* made of silver with his name engraved on it, were presented to him. In a speech that followed the 95 years' old musician related some interesting anecdotes from his life. An interesting feature of his life history was that he was married at the age of 7, when his wife was only 13 months' old and he remained separated from her for nearly fifty years to fulfil the ambition of his life, i.e. to become a great musician. Several outstanding musicians attended the function including his son, Shri Ali Akbar Khan and his son-in-law Shri Ravi Shankar. Later, Shri Allauddin Khan entertained the audience with his enchanting music.

September

Ballets by Bharatiya Kala Kendra

A two-day programme of dance and dance-dramas was presented by the Bharatiya Kala Kendra troupe of Delhi, in Calcutta on September 5 and 6.

The programme, organised by Sangit Kala Mandir opened with the performance of Bhavabhuti's masterpiece, "Malati Madhav", presented in the form of a dance-drama in Kathak style. The dancing was under the direction of Shri Lachhu Maharaj and Shri Brij Mohan Maharaj and music was provided by the Dagar Brothers.

Another item presented was "Evolution of the Kathak Dance". This dance traced the history of Kathak and revealed how this dance art, practised at first in temples and confined mostly to North India, travelled to different parts of the country. Shri Shambhu Maharaj and Shri Brij Mohan Maharaj, two famous exponents of Kathak, were the dance directors.

The troupe also staged Kalidasa's "*Kumar-Sambhav*." Among the artistes featured in this item were Shri Brij Mohan Maharaj, Kumari Chitra Rao, and Smt. Kumudini Lakhia.

Delhi University Music Department Inaugurated

The formal inauguration of the Delhi University's Music Department took place on September 13, at the New Convocation Hall, with two talks by Prof. R. L. Roy, Professor of Hindustani Music, and Prof. V.V. Sadagopan, Professor of Karnatic Music. Later, both these professors gave short vocal recitals.

Television Inaugurated in Delhi

The first television service in Delhi was inaugurated by President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at the Vigyan Bhawan on September 15. The first programme included many items of a varied nature, including a song by Pankaj Mnllick, a *shehanai* recital by Bismillah Khan and party and a humorous puppet play entitled

"*Das Baje*". A documentary film entitled "*Good Manners*" was also shown.

Indian Music at British University

The Asian Music Circle and the Birmingham University have jointly arranged a series of lecture-recitals on Indian music and dance at the academic level, for the first time ever in Britain.

The lecture-recitals will cover Indian vocal music, the art of *tabla*, dance techniques and the influence of Indian musical art in European folk-music.

The University gramophone record library has also opened a special section devoted to Indian recorded music.

Indian Dances in Australian Festival

For the first time India was represented at the ninth International Festival of Drama and Music of Sydney University this year, held at the Wallace Theatre, Sydney.

The Indian items, presented under the auspices of the Music Department of Sydney University, consisted mostly of the classical Bharata Natyam and Manipuri dances, mimes and dance-dramas.

The Indian presentation was produced and directed by Shri Surdool Singh and Kumari Jyoti Kana Ray. Kumari Ray also arranged the choreography and trained the performers.

The programme was presented successfully on two consecutive nights, Kumari Ray performing Bharata Natyam and Manipuri dances. Two of her pupils, Miss Lia and Miss Sama Illision performed a collection of four dances based on a poem by Tagore.

The programme ended with a mime and a dance-drama. The former was based on *Swarga Bhrashta* by Tagore.

Participants in the Indian programme included students from Australia, Pakistan and Fiji besides those from India.