

Cultural

Diary

October

Sanskrit Plays at Madras and Pondicherry

THE Prachyavani Mandir, which has already earned an all-India reputation by staging Sanskrit dramas in different parts of India, obtained fresh laurels by staging six Sanskrit dramas, composed by Dr. Jatindra Bimal Chaudhuri and directed by Principal Dr. Rama Chaudhuri, in Madras and Pondicherry Shri Aurobindo Ashram. The dramas staged included *Mahaprabhu-Haridasam*, *Shakti-Saradam* and *Bharata-Hridaya Aravindam*, on the holy lives of Bhakta Haridas, Shri Saradamani Devi and Shri Aurobindo respectively. Three were staged in Madras under the auspices of Shri Gaudiya Math, Madras Sanskrita Ranga and Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Vidyapitha, Madras, and three were staged at Pondicherry Ashram. The Gaudiya Math function was presided over by the Governor of Madras. The Prachyavani Mandir troupe was given a reception by Dr. Raghavan and others under the auspices of Madras Sanskrita Ranga at the Y.M.C.A., Roypettah.

Qawali in Urs Celebrations

Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs were present in large numbers to give a grand start to the three-day Urs Celebrations of Khwaja Nizamuddin Aulia at Dargah Nizamuddin, New Delhi, on the evening of Oct. 20, 1959. The highlight of the celebrations was the participation of nearly 150 delegates from Pakistan and a programme of Qawalis—one of the finest to be heard in Delhi for years. Among those who attended the programme were Shri B.P. Sinha, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, Dr. P. Subbarayan, Minister of Transport and Communications, the U.A.R. Ambas-

sador and the Indonesian Ambassador, in New Delhi.

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under its famed conductor, Herbert Von Karajan, brilliantly justified its reputation in a programme of masterpieces in three characteristic symphonic forms before a keenly expectant audience which packed Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on Oct. 19, 1959. Von Karajan, since 1956 the permanent conductor of both the Vienna State Opera Orchestra and the Philharmonic, chose a programme of music including the "Overture to *Euryanthe*" by Weber, the symphonic poem "*Till Einterspieget's Merry Pranks*" by Richard Strauss and finally the "*Symphony No. 5 in C. Minor*" by Beethoven. The programme concluded with the "*Blue Danube*" by Waltz, "*King Johann Strauss*" and the "*Radetzky March*".

Indrani Dances for Press Guild

Smt. Indrani Rehman, the celebrated Indian dancer, gave a dance recital on Oct. 21, 1959, at the Birla Hall, Bombay. The recital was in aid of the Press Guild Building Fund. Indrani presented four styles of classical dancing—*Bharat Natyam*, *Kuchipudi*, *Mohini Attam* and *Odissi* styles. On the next day she and her troupe left India for a tour of Indonesia and Australia.

Drama Competitions at Naini Tal

The Lucknow University Union Dramatic Club had annexed the shield in the drama competitions, which concluded at Naini Tal on Oct. 18, 1959. Kala Mandir of Gwalior won the second prize, while the third prize was won by the CRST Old Boys Association,

Naini Tal. Mohan Joshi of the DSB College was acclaimed the best actor and won the first prize in one-act play competitions. In all fifteen teams including three outside cultural associations participated in the three-days drama competition sponsored by the Sharda Sangh, Naini Tal, as part of the autumn festival programme.

Urdu Drama Staged

The Theatre Workshop presented on Oct. 16, 1959, an Urdu Drama entitled "*Yasmeen*", written and produced by D.N. Zutshi at the AIFACS Hall, New Delhi. The play was based on Alexander Dumas French classic *Camille*. The plot narrated the story of a martyr at the alter of love. Shanti Mathur and H.K. Verma were in the stellar roles, having a supporting cast consisting of D.N. Zutshi (father), Kedar Sharma (friend) and Bina. Michael Overman was responsible for the sets.

Variety Entertainment by Children

It was a huge crowd, men, women and children, at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, on October 13, 1959. A three hour and a half programme of dance, music and drama, presented by the Fine Arts wing of the Andhra Association in connection with the Dussehra Celebrations, was enjoyed by one and all. Some half-a-dozen tiny tots performed four dance numbers to the *Swaram* rendered by Smt. Bhanumati Rao, and the two chosen disciples of Smt. Lalita Kamasastri, a noted teacher. The function ended with a short quip and comedy *Asampoorna Ramayanam* written by Malladi Aradhani.

"Chitralekha" Staged

Indraprastha Theatre's "*Chitralekha*", adapted by R.G. Anand from the famous novel of Bhagwati Charan Verma, was staged at the Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi on Oct. 1, 1959, and a few days following. The play narrated the moving story of the loves and hates of the bold and beautiful dancing girl, who lived once upon a time at Pataliputra. Kumari Pramila enacted the role of the heroine, whereas Darshan Bedi played the part of Beejgupta, and C.D. Pande that of Kumargiri. They were supported by Chanchala, Mridula and Bhushan Sethi. Satish Gujral was in charge of the costumes and the credit for the stage sets goes to C.S.H. Jhabvala. Surinder Soni gave the music.

Tagore Theatre in Calcutta

The Government of India will pay Rs. 2.5 lakhs as its share to the West Bengal Government for the construction of a theatre in Calcutta to be named after Tagore. The theatre will be ready by 1961 to coincide with the Tagore centenary celebrations. The Theatre in Calcutta is being set up as a part of the Central Government's scheme to set up one theatre in each state capital to promote cultural activities all over the country. The decision on this was taken at a meeting in Calcutta between the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Roy, and Prof. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs. The West Bengal Government has also agreed to make a plot available to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for a permanent building for the International Students House in Calcutta.

Madras State Sangit Natak Sangam

The Madras State Sangit Natak Sangam conducted its first Seminar on Drama on Oct. 4 at the Srinivasa Sastri Hall Mylapore, Madras. Sri V.C. Gopalaratnam, Advocate, a leading amateur actor and Vice-Chairman of the State Sangam, presided. Shri T. K. Shanmugam, one of the foremost professional actors, spoke at the outset on 'Drama' in general. The subjects which were taken up for discussion were: choice of play, story and dialogue, production, acting, place of music, dance and other allied arts in drama. As many as twelve speakers, including leading professional and amateur actors, took part in the discussion. Shri C.R. Miteru, Professor of English, Annamalai University, Shri C.S. Kamalpathy of Shakespearian Head-players, Tiruchirappalli, Shri S.V. Sahasranamam of the Seva Stage Service, Shri N.V. Rajamani, a trainee of the Asian Theatre Institute, New Delhi, Dr. V. Ramamurthy, Shri C.G. Visvanathan and Y.C. Parthasarathy were among the speakers.

Musical Composition Competition

"The Queen Elizabeth of Belgium International Musical Composition Competition" will be held in Brussels in the year 1961. For further information the competitors may directly contact "The Queen Elizabeth of Belgium International Musical Competition", Palais des Beaux-Arts, 11, rue Baron Horta, Brussels, (Belgium).

November

Comic Play Staged

The Three Arts Club presented at Sapru House, New Delhi, on Nov. 28, 1959, Mr. Romesh Mehta's comic play, *Under-Secretary* in aid of the Indian New Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, before a distinguished gathering.

Bharat Natyam by Tembe

Kumari Nalini Tembe, disciple of Natyacharya S. Kulkarni of Dharwar, gave a *Bharat Natyam* recital at Mor Bhavan, Nagpur, on Nov. 27, 1959. The function was arranged by the local Tamil Students' Union, under the patronage of South India Ladies Club. Nalini Tembe demonstrated *Tandava-Nritya, Tillana, Jethiswaram* and *Taye-Yasoda*. The music for the dance was provided by Smt. Nalini Swamy, Nagalakshmi, Govindarajan, Pattammal Ganapathy, Ganeshan, Mudaliar, Km. Sarasa Vaidyanathan and Km. Usha Jayanathan.

East-West Music Festival

According to an announcement made by the Congress for Cultural Freedom it is learnt that plans are under way for a festival of eastern and western music to be held in Tokyo in April 1960. The festival to be called "East-West Music Encounter" will be sponsored by the society for International Cultural Exchange (K.B.K.) at Tokyo and the Congress, whose international secretariat is in Paris. The festival will be a "musical confrontation" of East and West featuring outstanding artists in traditional and modern music. East traditions will be represented by instrumental, vocal, choreographic and various theatrical performances in India, South-East Asia and the Middle East.

French Comedy Screened

"*Les Grandes Manoeuvres*" (The Big Manoeuvres), first of the three Festival films from France was shown to an invited audience at Sapru House, New Delhi, on Nov. 30, 1959. A Cannes International Festival Award Winner, the film, produced and directed by René Clai, is a light romantic comedy in colour set in the provincial France of 1960. The comedy featured Michele Morgan, Gerard Philipe and

Brigitte Bardot in the stellar roles. The festival has been sponsored by the French Embassy and the Bharatiya Natya Sangh.

"Putul Khela" Staged at Delhi

Chaturanga of Delhi produced at the Fine Arts Theatre "*Putul Khela*", an adaptation in Bengali by Shambhu Mittra of Ibsen's, "*A Doll's House*", on Nov. 1959. Dipali Dass Gupta (Bulu), Sudhir Sarbadhikary (Bulu's husband), Amina Bose (Krishna, friend of Bulu), Phulkumar Sen (Krishnapada—the blackmailer) and Sabyasachi (Dr. Roy) played the principal roles.

Ballet in Kathak Style

Bharatiya Kala Kendra of New Delhi presented a ballet Kalidas's immortal "*Kumar Sambhav*" in Kathak style at Fine Arts Theatre on Nov. 28, 1959. The direction in dancing was given by Shambhu Maharaj, and music was composed for the ballet by the Daggar brothers. Brij Mohan Maharaj and Kumudini Lakhia played the roles of Kamadeva and Rati respectively. Major S.S. Sokhey, husband of the late famous Kathak ballerina, Menaka, distributed bouquets to the artists.

Humorous Play Staged

The Army Headquarters Dramatic Society staged a humorous play "*Little Lambs Eat Ivy*" by Noel Langley on Nov. 20, 1959, at the A.I.F.A.C.S. Hall, New Delhi. It was one of the plays entered in the annual Drama Festival organised by the Delhi Natya Sangh. Harry Chukerbawti directed the play and enacted the role of the nerve-wracked husband. Other players were Preminda Prem Chand in the role of the harassed and absent-minded mother of four problem daughters, Tony Griffiths as the



A Scene from "*Kumar Sambhav*"

shifty butler, Anne Crabb as the vigorous-minded, intimidating nurse, and Eric Simeon as doctor-cum-suitor.

Dance Jubilee by American Artists

"Dance Jubilee", a talented group of dancers and musicians from the United States of America, which arrived in India in November 1959 for its India-wide tour, presented performance in a few big cities of the country, namely, Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Bangalore. The Indian trip of "Dance Jubilee" is a part of its good will tour of Asian and Near East countries, in co-operation with President Eisenhower's Cultural Exchange Programme. The tour is administered by the American National Theatre and Academy. Consisting of sixteen dancers, musicians and singers, "Dance Jubilee" is produced and directed by Rod Alexander, a leading American Dancer on stage, screen and television. The company included Gemzo De Lappe, who had danced her way to triumphs in Europe and Australia as well as in her native land America, and Carmen Gutierrez, a Mexican girl, who had been acclaimed as one of America's finest dancers. The programme offered in "Dance Jubilee" was "a cavalcade of American music and dancing for the past sixty years."

German Folk Dance and Music Ensemble

After completing their tour through Indonesia the German Folk Dance and Music Ensemble gave performances at Madras, Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, Hyderabad and other places. The Ensemble consisted of two couples of dancers, instrumental quintet (including three accordions), a vocal quartet, two singers and a pianist. The Director is Paul Rahner, who is a famous conductor-composer. The items were preceded by commentaries in English and Hindustani. The delegation was led by Mr. Kleeberg.

"Ramlila" Ballet at Calcutta

After performing at Delhi and Lucknow the students of Bharatiya Kala Kendra, New Delhi, gave a series of performances of their ballet Ram Lila at Calcutta. The shows were organised by Sangit Kala Mandir at Calcutta in aid of the Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund. The ballet was in Kathakali technique and was directed by Guru Gopinath. The first show at Delhi was inaugurated by President Rajendra Prasad and the Calcutta show by Chief Minister Dr B.C. Roy.

All-India Puppet Festival

The all-India Festival of Puppets and Dummy Dancers was organised by the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal at Udaipur in November, 1959. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, and was presided over by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Sukhadia. The festival was represented by various forms of puppetry and dummy dancing, e.g., the leather puppets of Andhra, the puppets of Kumbakonam, South India, the Dummy dances of Bangalore, Madras and Tanjore, the Kachi Godies of Rajasthan, the puppets of Rajasthan made of wood, cotton and cloth, the puppet groups of Bharatiya, Kala Kendra, Delhi, the puppet group of all-India Radio, Delhi, the puppet group of Goswami, Calcutta, the puppet groups of Gulzarilal, Bombay, and the puppet groups of Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal.

"Shakuntala" Ballet Staged

Choreographed by Narendra Sharma, Hindusthan Theatres produced Kalidas's "Shakuntala" for a number of days at A.I.F. A.C.S. Hall in the month of November, 1959. Archana Mohan played the role of Shakuntala, and the role of Dushyanta was enacted by Ashok Sarin, whereas Uma Sharma and Shankar T. Yadav appeared as Priyamvada and the fisherman respectively. Jyotirindra Moitra supplied the musical scores, the script and the lyrics were from the pen of Niaz Haider and M.S. Sathyu was responsible for decor and costumes.

Kalidas Jayanti Celebrations

The Second All-India Kalidas Jayanti Celebrations were held at Ujjain in November, 1959. Prime Minister Nehru inaugurated the Jayanti. The week-long programme included dramas and ballets based on the works of poet Kalidas. Troupes from Bombay, Calcutta, and Adyar (Madras), besides the troupes from Indore, Ujjain and Gwalior staged dramas in the specially erected *pandal* in the Madhav College ground.

Donations for 'Chow' Dance

A donation of Rs. 15,000 has been received from the Prime Minister's Discretionary Fund for the promotion of 'Chow' dance of Seraikella (Singhbhum district). The Government of Bihar have also donated Rs. 5,000 to this end. The

donations are proposed to be spent on the construction of a hall to be utilised as a "Chow" dancing centre at Seraikella.

Indian Dancing Troupe at Stockholm

An Indian dancing troupe led by Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai was given a reception by the city of Stockholm at the Town Hall early in November, 1959. Guests included prominent Swedish artists, art critics and India's Ambassador to Sweden, Shri Kewal Singh. The Indian dancing troupe presented fifteen performances in Stockholm.

Music Festival in Bombay

The Bombay Madrigal Singer's Organisation organised the first ever international music festival in India at Bombay in November 1959. The festival featured musical celebrities who had proved a draw the world over. The opening concert was given by Julian Olevsky on the violin with Wolfgang Rosa at the piano. The major works that he played were the Brahms Sonata and Farini's "Devil's Trill". The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, one of Europe's premier symphony orchestras, gave three concerts. The soloist was piano virtuoso Jan Paneuka. Maestro Kral Ancerl and Ladislav Slovak were the conductors. The orchestra performed Tchaikowsky's fantasy overture, "Romeo and Juliet" and "Symphony No. 4". The remaining two concerts featured the Hungarian pianist Lili Kraus. She played among others, the music of Beethoven, Schubert, Haydn and Mozart.

Gangubai's Vocal Music Recital

Gangubai Hangal, the veteran vocalist, gave a spirited performance at the monthly concert of Bharat Sangeet Sabha at Birla Hall on the night of Nov. 6, 1959. She chose some of her favourite Ragas for the recital which opened with a *kheyal* in *Raag Puriya* followed by one in *Maru Bihag*. After the interval, she sang *kheyal* in *Jai Jayanti*, a brief *drut kheyal* in *Adana* and concluded with a plain *Bhairavi*. Gangubai's daughter provided vocal accompaniment, Ram Narain followed her on Sarangi and Madhavrao accompanied on Tabla.

"Jugal-Bandi" Recital

Sarojini Devi Hall in Hyderabad was the venue of a magnificent musical concert—"Jugal-Bandi" by Pandit Ravi Shanker on Sitar, Ali Akbar on Sarod and Kanai Dutt on Tabla. The trio, great exponents in instrumental music, took the audience to ecstasy on the night of

Nov. 2, 1959. The hall was packed and the music lovers of the city had their money's worth. The proceeds were contributed for the service activities of the Lions Club of Hyderabad. The State's Chief Minister, Shri Nilam Sanjiva Reddy, was the guest of honour and he garlanded the artists and congratulated the sponsors for the wonderful performance they had brought up. Among those who attended the concert included State's Finance Minister, Shri Brahmananda Reddy, State's Labour Minister, Shri D. Sanjivaiah, Shri Roshan Ali Khan, Mayor of Hyderabad and the elite of the city.

Popular Cine Actor Dead

The death occurred on Nov. 1, 1959 at the Government General Hospital, of Shri M.K. Thiagaraja Bhagavathar, musician and screen and stage actor, after a short illness at the age of 50. The late Shri Thiagaraja Bhagavathar was a popular idol of the screen for over a decade, and dominated the Tamil film industry in its early growth "*Haridas*" the Tamil film, in which he acted as hero, ran for two years in Madras city, an unbeaten record. "*Ambikapathi* and *Chintamani*", two other pictures in which he acted, ran for over a year. He earned a name and fame in the music world for his melodious voice and charming personality. Some of the popular films in which he acted were "*Siva Kavi*", "*Thiruneelakantar*" and *Ashok Kumar*. "*Siva Kavi*" was the last film in which he acted.

Born on March 1, 1910 in Tanjore, Shri Thiagaraja Bhagavathar took to the stage at an early age. One of his earliest plays was "*Harischandra*" in which he acted as Lohidas. He was a successful musician, and was a regular singer on the All-India Radio and at concerts. In 1934 Shri Thiagaraja Bhagavathar made his debut on the screen and took the leading role in Shri K. Subramaniam's Tamil film, "*Pavalakodi*".

December

Karnatic Vocal Music Recital

Mayavaram S. Rajam gave a four hour concert of Karnatic Vocal Music under the auspices of the Karnataka Sangeetha Sabha on December 13, 1959 at Reading Road, New Delhi. The concert stood out for four *Raga* expositions—*Purvi Kalyan*, *Sankarabharanam*, *Vrindavani Sarang* and *Todi*.

V. K. Venkataramaniyam accompanied him on the violin and Mylattoer Ramachandran on the *Mridangam*.

Violin Recital

Dwaram Venkataswami Naidu, who gave a full-length violin recital at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on December 12, 1959, under the auspices of the Fine Arts Club, was accompanied on the violin by his daughter, Mangayataru, and son, Suryanarayana, T. V. Gopala Krishnan played on the *Mridangam*. Opening his recital with a rendering of *Nattakurinji Varnam*, Dwaram played *Vatapi Ganapathim* in *Hamsadhwani*, followed by *Aparadhamu* in *Latangi*. Thereafter he took up *Hindolam* and *Sankarabharanam*.

Czech Cultural Show at Kanpur

The Czechoslovak Culture Festival, organised by the Czech Embassy in India was held at Kanpur on December 12, 1959, under the auspices of the International Centre. Shri Syed Ali Zaheer, U.P. Minister for Finance and Forest, inaugurating the function, said that Czechoslovakia was one of the few countries which readily accepted "Panch Sheel" as one of the doctrines for maintaining peace in the world. An exhibition of Czech art was also opened.

Natya Sangh's Annual Convention

The annual convention of the Natya Sangh was held in Delhi in December, 1959, in which the delegates from all over the country discussed problems facing the theatre movement, in particular relation to the activities of the Bharatiya Natya Sangh. Its president Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, in her address, said that the Natya Sanghs should not take over the functions of theatre groups by venturing into productions, they should only help to coordinate the activities of various groups. Smt. Chattopadhyaya having resolutely declined the delegates' persistent request to continue as president of the Natya Sangh for another year, the convention elected Smt. Bharatidevi Sarabhai in her place.

Eisenhower Entertained

India greeted the U. S. president Eisenhower at the Rashtrapati Bhawan through her traditional and folk dances and music, under the auspices of All India Radio. The programme included Kamala Laxman's *Alarippu*

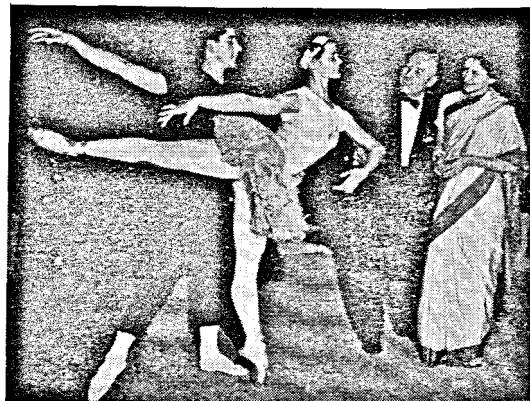
and *Varnam* through *Bharata Natyam* style, Indrani Rehman's *Odissi* dance and Vyjayanti-mala's *Kurathi* (Tamilnad) dances. India's north-eastern part was represented by the performances of *Manipur* and *Maibi* dances. Nirmalendu Chowdhuri sang a few *Bhatioli* folk songs of Bengal.

Yugoslav Dance Ensemble

Kolo—a dance and song ensemble from Yugoslavia—comprising fifty well known artists, led by Mrs. Olga Skovaru, staged four performances in the capital. Proceeds from the performances were donated to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Indian Dancer's Success in Australia

According to a report of Commonwealth of Australia News and Information Service, released by the Australian High Commission, Australian critics highly praised the talented Indian dancer, Smt. Indrani Rehman, when she presented a short season of classical dance in Sydney, Brisbane, Ipswich, Southport and other places of Australia. Her programme consisted of *Odissi* and *Bharata Natyam* dances. The tour was arranged by the Arts Council of Australia, which presents outstanding Australian and overseas artists. She was accompanied by four reputed musicians, Lokiah (singer and cymbal player), Krishna Pillai (drummer), Srinivasa Murthy (flutist) and Deva Prasad Das (*Tambura* and *Mardal* player). Before returning to India Indrani visited Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand



Indrani Rehman watches two of the principal dancers of the Borovansky Ballet rehearse the *Sleeping Princess* at the Empire Theatre Sydney. The Ballet director, Mr. Edouard Borovansky is with her.

and gave performances there. She had previously danced in Ceylon and China, and last year toured round Europe and the United Kingdom, where she received rich encomiums.

Veteran Musician Honoured

The citizens of Bangalore presented the title of "Gayaka Sikhamani" and a gold medal to Shri Sangeetarama M. R. Ramakrishna Bhagavathar, Organiser of Shri Purandara Thyagaraja Pathshala, Mysore, on Dec. 11 at Vidyamandir Hall of Shri Siddarudha Swamy, Rangaswamy Temple Street, Bangalore.

Indian Dancers From Ceylon

The Karnataka Sangeetha Sabha held on Dec. 12, 1959, a "*Dali Varundhu*" in which the Hindu Woman's Society of Ceylon gave dance and musical items at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It was interesting to see *Bharata Natyam* danced by young Ceylonese Tamil girls—an art that has only recently been introduced among the Indian population of the island. This cultural contact with the island is praiseworthy, and it is hoped that in future solid dance instruction will be available to the daughters of Ceylonese Indians. The musical items, performed by a ladies' orchestra consisting of violins, *vinas*, a flute and *Jaltarang*, included light music and an admixture of different *ragas*.

I.P.T.A. Conference

The Third Bihar State Conference and Festival of the Indian People's Theatre Association will be held at Sonepur in the district of Saran in the first week of April next. Guru Gopinath, the eminent dance exponent of the *Kathakali* style, is likely to inaugurate the conference. Troupes from Manipur, Bengal Uttar Pradesh and Bombay will participate in the cultural festival.

National Theatre for Every State

The Government of India would set up a national theatre in each state capital in connection with the centenary celebration of Rabindranath Tagore in 1961, Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, announced at Calcutta, while presiding over the twelfth anniversary celebration of an amateur dramatic organisation, "*Sree Mancha*" on Dec. 24, 1959. Shri Kabir said that in the fourteen State capitals and two centrally administered States,

national theatres were being set up with a view to encouraging the amateurs and professional dramatic groups, who would be allowed to stage dramas only at a nominal rate.

Conch Music Recital

There was a *Shankhavadyam* (conch music) performance by Tiruvarur Mahalingam, at a meeting of the Experts Committee of the Madras Music Academy held on Dec. 29, 1959, Vidwan Madurai Mani Ayyar presided. Accompanied by Ramamurthi of Madras on the violin and Tiruvarur Krishnamurthi on the Mridangam, Mahalingam rendered a *Thiruppugazh* piece in *Mayamalavagowla*. He played *Nadatamumanish Sarasasamadhana Paratpara* and *Manasa-Sancharare*. He demonstrated the scope for *raga alapana* on the conch by rendering a *ragamalika*. There was a metal mouth-piece attached to the conch, but no reed was employed. The Committee then listened to a recital of the compositions of Rajaganesa Dikshitar of Chidambaram. T. V. Seetarama Ayyar and his son T. S. Vasudevan, later, gave a recital of songs from the *Krishna leela tarangini* of Narayana Tirtha.

Music in Railway Trains

Passengers travelling long-distance by air conditioned express trains between New Delhi and Howrah and New Delhi and Madras will be able to keep themselves posted with the latest national and international events while travelling. Arrangements are being made by the Northern Railway to relay the A.I.R. news bulletins at 8 a. m. and 9 a. m. daily. The corresponding news broadcasts in different languages will also be relayed in those of the regions through which the trains would pass. Selected instrumental and orchestral tape-recorded music will also be played in trains for entertainment of passengers.

Charity Show in Aid of Child Institute

The Little Theatre Group gave a Charity performance on Dec. 13, 1959, at Minerva Theatre, Calcutta, in aid of Primary Schoolcum-Clinic, where apart from general education curriculum, scientific investigations are undertaken to help children develop normal and healthy psychology. Intelligence quotients are measured and play techniques and drama techniques etc. are applied for by enhancing students' mental faculties. These are done by the Institute under the guidance of a

group of competent child psychologists. Expenses of the Institute are met by generous contributions of the public and by the batch of social workers who are helping this institute to grow up.

Theatre Properties Exhibition

In the premises of the Delhi Art Theatre (Shankar Market) the Bharatiya Natya Sangh held an exhibition of traditional Indian Theatre costumes and masks, collected on a research tour by Shri Inder Razdan. He gave a talk on the subject, illustrated with coloured slides taken in Manipur, Seraikella and Ganjam District (Orissa).

Piano Recital by Lili Kraus

Lili Kraus gave a piano recital on Dec. 11, 1959, at New Empire, Calcutta. She began with Bach's *Capriccio on the Departure of a Beloved Brother*, which was followed by Mozart's *Ten Variations on a Theme by Gluck*, *Adagio in B minor*, Schubert's *Improptu in E flat major*, Brahms' *Intermezzo in B flat minor* and ended the first half of the concert with his *Rhapsody in E flat major*. Bartok's *Peasant Songs and Dances* opened the second half. The concert ended with Beethoven's Piano Sonata *Waldstein in C major*. To the continued calls for encore Lili Kraus played some *Valses Nobles* by Schubert and Mozart's *Turkish March*.

Village Show by Vietnamese

The Song and Dance Ensemble from the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, which came to India on a fortnight's visit, gave a show to the villagers of Delhi in a field near Mehrauli. The *Butterfly* dance by the girls was followed by the *Bell* dance by a group of men. Then the men and women dancers appeared together in the *Harvest* dance, the programme also included *Bamboo* dance, *Chande Mama Door Ke* and an Indian film tune. The party apart from giving a few shows at Delhi performed at several cities of India.

Visit of Czech Orchestra

On the invitation of the Government of India the world renowned Czech Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague made their first visit of this land in December 1959 and had been to a few cities of the country including New Delhi and Calcutta. The concert was conducted by the European conductor Van Karcel Ancerl and included two great symphonies—one by Brahms

and the other by Dvorak. At New Delhi the Orchestra gave its recital at Vigyan Bhawan. There Prime Minister Nehru, Vice-President Radhakrishnan, Ministers of the Central Government and diplomats were among the distinguished audience. At Calcutta the performance was held at New Empire Theatre before the Governor of West Bengal, Smt. Padmaja Naidu, and Chief Minister Dr. B.C. Roy. The recitals were in aid of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, and the visit was organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Music Festival at Hyderabad

A Music Festival was organised by the South Indian Cultural Association at Hyderabad in connection with its second anniversary. The programme included a clarinet recital by Tiruchi A.K.C. Natarajan. The festival was inaugurated by Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, Chief Minister.

Variety Entertainment by S. S. Sabha

Sree Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha presented on Dec. 6, 1959 a programme of variety entertainment on the occasion of its annual day celebrations at the Constitution Hall. The highlight of the programme was a Tamil skit, written and produced by Poornam Vishwanathan for the South Indian Theatres. The programme included an item of Bhangra dances by Sujata Puri, Rupa Puri and party. Mr. Justice Venkatarama Iyer gave away the prizes and certificates to the Sabha school students.

Reception to Uday Shankar Troupe

To meet Uday Shankar, his wife Amala Shankar and their troupe, the Bharatiya Natya Sangh and thirteen art and culture associations of the capital gave a reception at the Chelmsford Club on Dec. 6, 1959. Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, President of the Bharatiya Natya Sangh, welcomed the guests.

Tamil Drama Festival

A seven-day drama and dance festival organised by the Bombay Tamil Sangham, was inaugurated by Shri J.C. Jain, President of the Natya Sangh, in Bombay on Dec. 5, 1959. The Seva Stage, a dramatic troupe headed by Shri S.V. Sahasranamam, presented a series of six plays in Tamil. The first play staged on the occasion was *Theretti Magan*.

Degree Course in Kathakali

A College of Kathakali should be started in Kerala is a recommendation submitted to the syndicate by the Kerala University Fine Arts Faculty. The Faculty has also suggested to the syndicate for the institution of a degree course in Kathakali, Bharat Natyam and Dramaturgy.

January

English Drama Staged

The Little Theatre Group staged on Jan. 2 *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, a play of Eugene O'Neill, at the I.E.N.S. Building Hall, New Delhi. The play was produced by Inder Dass. The participants, especially the following acquitted themselves well: Clyde Lee, Sarv Kathpalia, Ravi Kathpalia, Shailendra, Shankar and Gaynor Franklin.

Double Bill by Unity Theatre

The Unity Theatre of New Delhi celebrated New Year's Day with a double bill by John Mortimer at the Constantia Hall. The first play *The Dock Brief* was all about an aged barrister appearing on behalf of a criminal. Mr. Alfred Hall as the criminal, and Mr. Walter Gardener-Stanbridge as the barrister, made the play a success.

The other drama, *What Shall We Tell Caroline*, was enacted by Tony Griffiths, Jane Major, Aruna Chatterji and Sandy Sundaram. The first named play was directed by Michael Stephens and the second one by Veronica Hilton-Brown.

Bharata Natyam Recital

Karnata Sangeetha Sabha, presented a programme of dance and songs at the Vigyan Bhavan in January 1960. The programme organised to collect funds for the music school of the Sabha, was called *Kalai Virundhu* and was produced by Salva Mangalyar Kazhagam of Ceylon. The programme consisted of orchestral pieces, Karnatic music and Bharat Natyam numbers.

Variety Entertainment in Aid of Children

A special programme featuring, classical songs, light tunes, *Ghazals*, *Qawalis* and dances, was presented at Sapru House on January 3. The concert was held under the auspices of the Society for the Protection and Rehabilita-

tion of Women and Children of India. The programme included Rasoolan Bai's *Tappa*, Farhat Jahan Biboo's *Kheyals* in *Bihag*, Mushtar Jindwali's *Basant (Kheyal)*, Shamshir Bai's *Ghazal*, *Qawali* group singing by Mushtar Jindwali, Anno, Shanta, Panna and Mushtar Rohtakwali, *Tarana*, by Panna Bai, *Ghazal* of Shakeel Badayuni by Zarina Bai, *Qawali* duet by Hamida and Mahmuda and a Rajasthani *Sahnai* recital by Chand Khan and party.

Indian Play Staged in Tashkent

The Spoilt Child, a play in Gujerati, by Mr. Pragjee Dossa, an Indian playwright, had its premiere at the Gorky Drama Theatre at Tashkent, in Uzbekistan, on January 3, according to a *Tass* report received in Delhi. Mr. Vasily Kozlov directed the play and Mr. Alexander Ginsburg was the translator and the producer.

Russian Theatre Inaugurated

The House of Culture and Rest, the Russian Theatre in the Diplomatic Enclave, was inaugurated on Jan. 7 with a pleasant programme presented by the Bashkir Folk Dance. The audience appreciated the dance items of *Naughty Girls*, *Bridegroom*, and Indian Santhal dance and the song, beginning with the line *Sare Jehan Se Achha*.

Students Stage Humorous Drama

A group of Modern School old students, all of them below twenty, and, none of whom has been on stage before, presented Moliere's boisterous farce, *L'Avare* on Jan. 9 at New Delhi in an adaptation in Urdu by Awara. Among the artists special mention should be made of K. Anand, Mohanlal Verma, Syeda Saiydain and Geeta Kapur. The play was produced by Ved Vyas.

Hungarian Musician Marries Student

Zoltan Kodaly, seventy seven year old "grand old man" of Hungarian music has married Sari Pecell, a seventyone year-old music student, the bride's mother revealed at Budapest. According to Mr. Lazzlo Pecell, the wife of a professor at Pecs, South Hungary, Sari and Kodaly were married in the Town Hall at Pecs. Kodaly's first wife died last April. Kodaly is his country's most distinguished living composer, music teacher and folk lorist.

Bombay State Drama Festival Awards

The results of the final competition for Marathi dramas held at Ahmednagar as part of the sixth Bombay State Natya Mahotsava were announced by the Government of Bombay on January 5. The Goa Hindu Association, Bombay, gets the first prize of 2,000/- for the drama *Sharda*. The second prize of Rs. 1,000/- goes to Indian National Theatre, Bombay, for its drama *Kanchechi Kheini*. The following institutions have been awarded consolation prizes of Rs. 101/- each: (1) Karvir Natya Mandal, Kolhapur, for its drama, *Manus Nawache Bet*, (2) Ahmednagar Wachnalaya, Ahmednagar, for its drama *Vedyache Ghar Unhat* and (3) Lokhitwadi Mandal, Nasik, for its drama *Sunder Mee Honar*.

Prizes for good direction have been given to Shri Raghunath Kshirsagar, Ahmednagar, (first prize Rs. 500/-); (2) Shri Gopinath Sawkar, Bombay, (second prize Rs 250/-); (3) Shri Jayshankar Danwe, Kolhapur, (third prize Rs. 150/-); and (4) Shri Bhiku Pai Angle, Nasik, (fourth prize Rs. 100/-).

Author's first prize of Rs. 150/- has been awarded to the successor of the late Shri G.D. Dewal for *Sharda*.

The following artists have been awarded individual prizes of Rs. 101 and a Silver Medal each : (1) Shri Arvind Deshpande, Bombay, for playing the role of 'Raja' in *Kanchechi Kheini*; (2) Shri Raghuvir Narwekar, Bombay, for playing the role of 'Bhujanganath' in *Sharda*; (3) Shri Bharat Pange, Thana, for playing the role of 'Digu' in *Duritanche Timeer Jawa*; (4) Shri Madhukar Toradmal, Ahmednagar, for playing the role of 'Dadasaheb' in *Vedyache Ghar Unhat*; (5) Kumari Ashalata Naik, Bombay, for playing the role of 'Sharda' in *Sharda*; (6) Kumari Kanhopatra, Kolhapur, for playing the role of 'Mahi' in *Manus Nawache Bet*; (7) Kumari Rajni Joshi Latur for playing the role of 'Rambha' in *Rambha* and (8) Kumari Sulbha Kamerkar, Bombay, for playing the role of 'Malan' in *Kanchechi Kheini*.

Shri Ramdas Kamath has been awarded the prize of Rs. 101/- for music in *Sharda*.

Violin Recital by French Lady

Sponsored by the Little Theatre Group and organised under the patronage of the French Ambassador to India, Madame Brigitte

H. de Beaufond gave a delightful violin recital at Sapru House, New Delhi, on January 5. Accompanied skilfully on the piano by Madame Edila Gaitonde, Beaufond was well in Beethoven and Weber Sonatas. She played a pugnani prelude *Malaguena* by Albeniz, *Danse de Negrillion*, *Tambourin Chinoise*, a Disney world of exotics and Emanuel Falla's "*Danse de al vie Breve*".

Bharatiya Sanskriti Sammelan's Music Conference

The Udayan Club, Beliaghata, Calcutta, organised a music conference under the title Bharatiya Sanskriti Sammelan. The programme included Bismillah Khan's *Sehnai*, Tarapada Chakravarty's *Kheyal* vocal, Alla Rakha's *Tabla Lahara*, Sandhya Mukerjee's *Kheyals*, *Thumri* and *Bhajan*, Vilayat Khan's *Sitar* recital, Anil Mallick's *Sarod* recital and Bade Ghulam Ali's *Kheyals*.

Justice in Name of Music

An accused in New Delhi on January 11, appealed to the magistrate's sense of justice in the "name of music".

Khadak Bahadur, a 35 year-old Nepali was arrested on January 10 for "creating nuisance" with his Pahari flute in South Avenue. The police said he acted like a "Pied Piper", attracting a large number of people as he walked along the "Silence Zone" playing on the flute.

Mr. A.C. Aggrawal, a magistrate, reprimanded and released him with the warning that he should not repeat the performance.

With both hands menaced the young Nepali told the magistrate that if "music is a crime" he would undergo any punishment. He requested the magistrate to hear him play just once before punishing him.

Manipuri Dance Recital

Miss Joan Klick, an American girl, and Mr. Bihari Sharma gave a recital of Manipuri dancing at the Constantia, New Delhi, on the evening of Jan. 9, under the auspices of the Triveni Kala Sangam and the U. S. Educational Foundation in India. They performed a duet number, entitled *Khamba Thoibi*. Bihari Sharma's solo item was *Pung Chalom*, whereas Miss Klick's solo recital was the dance of the Maibi Priestess. They exhibited *Raslila* dance also.

Tagore Centenary Celebrations

In aid of the Tagore Centenary Celebrations a music concert by Mr. Pankaj Mullick and a dance performance by Smt. Priti Ghosh-Chakraborti were given on January 8 at the Children's Theatre. The function was inaugurated by Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, who paid a tribute to Tagore's greatness. Mr. Mullick gave a number of pieces from Tagore and some popular songs. Smt. Priti Ghosh-Chakraborti's dancing comprised items in both the *Manipuri* and *Kathak* Styles.

Folk Dance Performance

Jogira dance performance was held on January 4 at village Lodipur near Dinapore, Bihar State. The *Jogira* folk dance is an old dance dating back from the time of Kabir. The performers belong to the backward community, but they have kept alive the old dance tradition. The dances were followed by folk songs of a devotional nature.

Sharafat Hussein's Vocal Recital

Sharafat Hussein, one of the prominent representatives of the Agra School, made his appearance in the city of New Delhi, when on January 10 he sang under the auspices of the Suburban Music Circle at Santa Cruz. He demonstrated *Raag Gouri*, in *Vilambit Kheyal*, *Shuddha Kalyan*, in *Kheyal* and *Kafi* in *Thumri*.

Nastanir's Music Festival

Nastanir of 14, Hemchandra Street, Calcutta, organised a two-day music festival at Kidderpore on January 7 and 8.

The two-days' programme included songs by Hemanta Mukherji, Sandhya Mukherji, *Tabla* by Ranen Ghosal, *Sarod* by Kamal Mullick, *Tabla* by Karamatullah Khan, *Tabla* by Alla Rakha, vocal by Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, *Sitar* by Abdul Halim Jaffar Khan, vocal by Bhimsen Joshi, and *Shehnai* by Bismillah Khan and party.

Calcutta All-India Music Conference

The All-India Music Conference of Calcutta was held this year in the month of January. Among the noted participants in it were; Pt. Ravi Shankar (*Sitar*), Chatur Lal (*Tabla*), Shiam Ganguli (*Sarod*), Karamatullah Khan (*Tabla*), Pt. Vishnu Govind Jog (Violin), and Chidanand Nagarkar, Principal, Bharatiya Sangeet Siksha Pith of the Bharatiya

Sangeet Bhavan, Bombay, (Vocal), (an artist from Bangalore). The other items were vocal by Kesarbai Keskar, *Sarod* by Sharan Rani Mathur, *Kathak* dance by Purnima Ghosh, vocal by Chitrita Halder. *Kathak* dance by Padma Kumari of Banaras, *Bharata Natyam* dance by A. Kanan and *Sitar* by Ustad Vilayat Hussein Khan.

Demonstration of Tagore Music

Under the auspices of the All-India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, Shri Shantidev Ghosh of Shantiniketan rendered some songs of Rabindranath Tagore at the Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi, on January 18. A few items were presented by the members of the Geeta Bitan of New Delhi also.

Violin and Vocal Recitals

At a music concert organised by Saraswati Samaj at the premises of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi, on the evening of January 18, violinist D. K. Datar of Bombay and vocalist Dinkar Kaikini of Delhi gave delightful performances. Datar played *Raga Bhimpalasi* followed by a *Thumri*. Dinkar sang *Raag Hemant*.

Theatre Workshop's Drama

Theatre Workshop of New Delhi produced the Anonilh play, *The Waltz of the Toreadors* for several days from January 8, directed by Chris Rosenfeld. The play was staged at Fine Arts Theatre. The play is a commentary on life. Special mention should be made of the following artists; Chris Merillat, Jim Tytler, K. Maharaj Singh and Chris Rosenfeld. The sets were designed, decorated and lighted by Michael Overman, Monique de Buzon and Martha Keehu. Costumers were under the charge of Denise Lequiller.

Variety Entertainment by Bengali Artists

The dances and songs presented by the West Bengal Entertainment Section at the Rangmanch Theatre, New Delhi, on January 19, were in the nature of a variety programme. There were choruses, seasonal songs based on Tagore and a symphony of Indian dramas. The attractive items were *Santhal* dance and *Dan Leela* based on the *Padabali Kirtans* of Bengal.

Dance-Drama in Bengali Staged

Mahua, a dance-drama in Bengali,

produced by Pankaj Mullick, was staged for the Press by the West Bengal Government Entertainment Section of the Rangmanch Theatre, in the World Agriculture Fair, New Delhi, on January 18 and the days following. Pankaj Mullick was the director of the production as well. *Mahua* is a tale from Mymensingh and deals mainly with a tribal clan known as "Bede".

U. S. Folk Singers in India

Four U. S. artists, Marilyn Child, Cisco Houston, Sohny Terry and Brownie McGhee, all folk singers, toured India in the month of January. Their tour programme was sponsored by President Eisenhower's special programme for cultural presentations. Their itinerary included Aurangabad, Nagpur, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Poona, Bombay, Chandigarh, New Delhi and Calcutta.

Dover Lane Music Conference

The Dover Lane Music Conference started from January 15, at Singhi Park, 48, Gariahat Road, Ballygunj, Calcutta. The programme included dance by Km. Sumita Bhattacharjee, vocal by Ostad Nazakat and Salamat, *Sitar* by Nikhil Banerji, *Tabla* by Ostad Alla Rakha and *Sarangi* by Janab Sagiruddin.

S. R. C. A. Ministry's Scholarship Awards

The following persons have been selected by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs for the award of scholarships under the "Scheme of Scholarships to young Artists in different Cultural Fields" during the year 1959-60.

Bharat Natyam: Miss K. A. Krishna Kumari (Madras) and Miss R. Jeevarathuamala (Madras).

Kuchipudi: Korada Narasimha Rao (Andhra Pradesh), Miss Vasundhara Mothey (Andhra Pradesh) and Miss V. Sumathy (Andhra Pradesh).

Kathakali: V. P. Dhananjayan (Kerala).

Kathak: Tirath Ram Ajmani (New Delhi) and Miss Bharati Gupta (Uttar Pradesh).

Folk Dance: Narayan Paramayya Hasyagar (Mysore).

Drama: Sunil Kumar Banerjee (West

Bengal), M. Nilamani Singh (Manipur) and Veeresh Kumar Modhukar (Uttar Pradesh).

Hindusthani Music (Vocal): Miss Sulochana Kalelkar (Uttar Pradesh), Miss Shibani Chatterjee (West Bengal), Ghulam Sadiq Khan (Uttar Pradesh) and Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar (Rajasthan).

Hindusthani Music (Instrumental): D. Dingoskar (Bombay) and Kiran Sadashivarao (Madhya Pradesh).

Karnatic Music (Vocal): Mrs. Rajalakshmi Jaganarayanan (Madras), Miss M. Balasarawathi (Madras), Miss Tripurasundari (Madras) and Miss C. Lalitha (Kerala).

Karnatic Music (Instrumental): Miss Dwaram Aliverju Mangathayar (Andhra Pradesh) and Miss V. A. Mangalam (Madras).

Under the scheme the Union Government awarded scholarships to talented young persons of outstanding promise in varied fields of cultural activity. The total scheme may not exceed 100 at any time. The value of each scholarship is Rs. 250/- a month and is normally tenable for two years.

Manipuri Dance by Jhaveri Sisters

The Jhaveri sisters of Bombay gave a Manipuri dance performance at the Rangmanch Theatre of the World Agriculture Exhibition, New Delhi, on January 15 and several days following. With their Guru, Bipin Sinha, three of the four sisters gave samples of their dancing. The programme included *Khandita* by Ranjana Jhaveri, *Dashavatar Swarnamala* and *Kalingmatham* by Suverna Jhaveri, and *Anganad* by Vir Mangal Singh.

Odissi Dance Performance

The Kala Vikas Kendra of Cuttack presented a programme of *Odissi* dances for several days from Jan. 23 at the Rangmanch Theatre of the World Agriculture Fair. Two students of the Kendra, Krishnapriya Nanda and Shantilata Roy, rendered four *Odissi* numbers. The programme included *Batu Nritya*, an *Abhinaya* piece from *Gita Govinda*, a solo dance based on a piece from *Krishna Gatha*, a *Nayiki Bheda* and a dance drama.

Two Plays by Bombay Theatre Unit

Theatre Unit, a well-known drama group of Bombay, staged two plays of New Delhi

during the latter part of January under the sponsorship of the Delhi Art Theatre. The plays were Christopher Fry's *A Phoenix too Frequent* and Strindberg's *Lady Julie*. Mr. Alkazi was the director of the plays. The performances were accompanied by an exhibition of stage design. The exhibition included fifteen scale models of stage sets, and photographs of the Unit's productions.

Song and Drama Seminars

The Song and Drama Divisional Seminars were conducted at Eluru, Kovvur and Narasapur, among the College and High School students in the district to make them Plan-minded and to make the best use of the unexploited histrionic talents hidden in them and also for enlisting public cooperation for the successful implementation of the plans.

In Eluru thirteen schools participated. Sir C.R. Reddy College of Eluru, which enacted the drama *Natakamu Lo Natakamu*, was adjudged as the best for the Division.

In Kovvur Division five schools participated and the Multi-Purpose High School, Tunuku, was adjudged as the best one. It enacted *Pranalika Vijayam*. In Narasapur Division four schools participated, among which M.M.K.N. Municipal Higher Secondary School, Palacole, which enacted *Purogamanam* was adjudged the best for that Division.

Exposition of Thyagaraja's Compositions

Karnatic music lovers in New Delhi had an opportunity in the third week of January to listen to an authentic exposition on the life and works of Shri Thyagaraja, a saint-composer of the South. The exponent Mannargudi Sambasivam gave the musical discourse under the auspices of the Delhi Bhajan Samaj at Karolbagh. Among Thyagaraja's *Kritis* he rendered *Etayuna* in *Yadukula Kambodhi* and *Karuna Samudra* in *Devagandhari*.

'Kagajer Phul' Staged

A social drama, *Kagajer Phul* written by Manotosh Kumar Dev, was staged on January 8 in the local Town Hall, Chandpur (Tippera). The drama was produced by Mr. Dilip Saha and Nannu Bhai and directed by Mr. Himangshu Choudhury. Among the players who featured most prominently were Himangshu Choudhury, A.S. Ghosh, Tarun Dey, Dinesh

Saha, Himangshu Das, Monotosh, Anwarul Huq, Ashraf Hussain, Shyama Prasad, Tulai and Mubarak. Background music was provided by Manu Ghosh, and the direction in songs and dances was done by Amal Choudhuri and Miss Babli.

Indian Cultural Troupe at Nepal

The Government of India sent a party of two writers and three musicians to Nepal for participation in the Indian Republic Day Celebrations which the Indian Embassy organised in Kathmandu on January 26, 1960.

The cultural group was composed of Smt. Amrita Pritam and Shri Prabodh Sanyal (writers) and Smt. Sharan Rani, Shri Chaturlal and Shri Mani Prasad (musicians).

The troupe had been sent to Nepal as part of the Cultural Activities Programme of the Union Government.

Dance Recital by Ritha Devi

The two-day session of the Middle Class People's Convention came to an end with Ritha Devi's dance recital on Jan. 24, at the Padar College Hall, Matunga, Bombay. It was a balanced programme of *Bharata Natyam*, *Manipuri* and *Kathakali* items which Ritha presented. She presented *Ananda Natana Prakasem*, picturing the Nataraja's dance, the *Padam*, *Sarigakongu*, depicting the fun and frolic of Bal Krishna, the "butter-thief" and *Putana Moksham* (in *Kathakali* technique).

Bharat Natyam Dance Recital

Kumari Sudha Doraiswamy gave a solo *Bharat Natyam* dance recital for the benefit of the Bharat Education Society at Kurla, New Delhi, on Jan. 24. She is the pupil of Shri Raja Rajeswari Bharata Natya Kala Mandir, Matunga, Bombay. She exhibited *Alarippu*, *Yethiswaram*, *Sabdam*, *Varnam*, *Yethai Kandunee* and *Nathar Mudimel*. Her Gurus, Shri Govindraj Pillai and Mahalingam Pillai, led the orchestra.

Drama Festival at Varanasi

There was a three-day drama festival at Varanasi in the last week of January under the auspices of the Nagari Natak Mandali. There were altogether four plays. Three of these

were one-act plays, while the fourth *Jwar Bhata* by Mr. Raj Kumar was a full-length drama. The three one-act plays staged were *Abhineta* (actor), by Mr. Bedhab Banarsi, *Bachav* by Mr. Shivaji Arora and *Patthar ya Insan* by Mr. Vijai Rai

Indrani's Performance in Pakistan

Karachi saw performances by an Indian dancing team which was sent to Pakistan for the opening of the new Indian Chancery Building on Republic Day. The team comprised Indrani Rehman (dancer), Ishtiaq Ahmed (*Sarod* player) and Gajanan Rao Joshi (Vocalist). Three performances were given.

February

Dance Performance by Vaijayantimala

Vaijayantimala gave a Bharat Natyam dance recital on February 6, during the annual festival of the Sri Shanmukhananda Fine Arts and Sangeetha Sabha at New Delhi. Her programme included *Varnam*, *Pogadiralo* in *Shankarabharanam*, *Dashavatar* and *Varuttam* in *Saveri*.

Variety Entertainment by Children

Screams of delight reverberated through the Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi, on Feb. 6 when the children's Little Theatre organised its sixth annual festival. The cast of dancers and musicians consisted exclusively of youngsters, between three and fourteen. The performance opened with an orchestral piece by the students of the I.A.F. School, under the direction of a ten-year-old conductor. The programme included Scottish dance by girls. *A Doll's Marriage* by Lady Irwin School, *The Prodigal's Son* by St. Thomas School, *Vasundhara* by Children's Little Theatre, *Fantasia* by Bluebell's School, *Vasant* by Children's Little Theatre, Punjabi Folk Dance by Happy School, *The Mischievous Monkeys* by Lady Irwin School (Defence Colony) and *Golden Goose* by Delhi Public School.

Presentation of Dances from Andhra

Dances of Andhra were presented at Rangmanch on February 10 by Geetha Nritya Kala Mandir of Vizianagaram. The programme opened with *Okka Deepam* and was followed by *Mathurai*, a folk dance of Adilabad by Gopal Raj Bhat and party. Then came the

fisherman's dance by Sampath Kumar. The next number was the ferocious *Bonar* dance. The programme also included *Temptation of the Buddha* and a few more representative dance numbers.

Theatre Workshop's English Play

Theatre Workshop presented *The Diary of Anne Frank*, narrating the story of a Jewish girl, who lived in hiding from the Nazis from the age of thirteen to fifteen. The play was staged at the All-India Fine Arts Society Hall, New Delhi, on Feb. 12. Mr. Michael Overman produced the play, and among the artists special mention should be made of Miss Esme Sen, Mr. J. Tytler, Mrs. Anne Sharma, Mrs. Jan Joglekar and Mr. Eric Simeon.

Music Festival at Pilani

The Birla Education Trust, Pilani, organised a three day music festival in connection with the inauguration of the Saraswati Temple during the first week of February.

Well-known artists like Hirabai Barodkar, A. Kanan, Daggarr Brothers, Rais Khan, Karamat Khan, Ram Narain Mishra and Imrat Khan participated. Some of the members of the Bharatiya Kala Kendra also took part in the festival.

All-Assam Music Conference

The Seventh Session of the All-Assam Music Conference was held at Gauhati in the first week of February. Of the local artists who took part in the demonstration were: Moniram Gayan and his party presenting *Chalinaeh*, Kamini Das (Violin), Kumari Nami Agarwala (*Manipuri* dance) and Kumari Nilima Das (*Kathak* dance).

Among the invited artists were: Ostad Ali Akbar Khan (*Sarod*), Shri Nikhil Banerjee (*Sitar*), Shri Nikhil Ghose (*Tabla*), Shri Ashfaque Hussain (*Tabla*), Smt. Gangubai Hangal (Vocal), Shri Chinmoy Lahiri (Vocal) and Smt. Kamla Laxman and her sister Smt. Radha (*Bharat Natyam*).

Uttar Kalikata Sangeet Sammelan

The Uttar Kalikata Sangeet Sammelan was held during the third week of February at Upper Circular Road, Calcutta. Ostad Nazakat and Salamat Ali Khans, Pakistani singers of Samchurasi Gharana of Multan, gave vocal

demonstrations of *Eman Kalyan Kheyal* in *Vilambit* and *Druta Laya*, (*Jhumra*, *Jhaptal* and *Trital*), and also a *Tarana* followed by a *Pahari Thumri*. *Ostad Alladitta Khan* played *Tabla Lahara* in *Trital* with *Sarengi* by *Shri Bachha Lal Misra*.

Dance-Drama 'Moomal' Staged

The dance-drama *Moomal* was presented by *Udaipur Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal* on February 20 at the *A.I.F.A.C.S.*, New Delhi, sponsored by the *Little Theatre Group*. The dance drama was directed by *Devi Lal Samar*.

Tansen Festival at Gwalior

The National Festival of Hindustani music in memory of *Tansen*, renowned musician of *Emperor Akbar's Court*, was held at *Gwalior* in the third week of February. *Dr. B.V. Keskar*, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the function.

The three-day festival included five sittings of musical recitals by the side of *Tansen's Samadhi* at *Gwalior*, and one sitting at *Behat*, a village about twentyeight miles from *Gwalior*, where *Tansen* was born.

Delhi University to Start Music Courses

Delhi University has finalised details to start music courses under its newly created *Faculty of Music and Fine Arts*.

A three-year honours course in *Hindustani* music will be started at the beginning of the next academic year. A two-year diploma (*Sangeet Shiromani*) course in *Hindustani* and *Karnatak* music will be started at the same time.

The honours course in *Karnatak* music is likely to be started in a year or two.

Facilities will also be provided from the beginning of the new academic year to students to offer music as one of the subjects in the *B. A. (Pass) Course*.

Winners of Sanskrit Drama Festival

The *Sanskrit Samvardhakam Mandal* of *Thana* has been awarded the first prize of *Rs. 500* in *Bombay State Sanskrit Natya Mahotsava*, held in *Bombay*, on February 11, 12 and 13. The *Mandal* had enacted *Act III* of *Venisamharam*.

The panel of judges decided to award the second prize of *Rs. 300* to the *Bhousala Vedshastra Mahavidyalaya Dramatic Society* of *Nagpur* for staging *Acts IV and V* of *Swapnavasavadattam* and the third prize of *Rs. 200* to the *Sanskrit Sahitya Mandal*, *D.G. Rupard College*, *Bombay*, which enacted *Act II and IV* of *Malatimadhav*.

Ballet Show for Children

Richard Maitland and his *Children's International Dance Theatre* presented a ballet performance at the *Fine Arts Theatre*, *New Delhi*, on February 24, in the presence of a cosmopolitan audience, including the *Prime Minister*.

Mrs. Ellsworth Bunker, wife of the *U.S. Ambassador* in *New Delhi*, inaugurated the programme, which was in aid of flood victims of *West Bengal*.

The programme was essentially meant for children. Special mention should be made of the following artists : *Leelee Woodman*, *Manucia Albuquerque*, *Efipania Nanas*, *Birgit Larsen*, *Charlene Chitamber* and *Walter Gardner Stanbridge*.

The performance was sponsored by the *Bengali Association of New Delhi*.

Symposium on Theatre Architecture

A symposium on theatre architecture organised by the *Bharatiya Natya Sangh*, an affiliate of the *International Theatre Institute*, was held on February 28 and 29 at the *Vigyan Bhavan*, *New Delhi*.

The symposium was attended by some of the *Government architects* from all the States, playwrights, producers and directors of the stage, a few private architects, experts in acoustics, lighting and air-conditioning and observers from the *Union Ministries of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs* and *Community Development*, *National School of Drama* and *U.N. Organisations*.

The *Bharatiya Natya Sangh* also organised at the *All-India Fine Arts and Crafts Society*, *New Delhi*, in conjunction with the symposium, an exhibition on theatre architecture.

Bhimsen Joshi's Vocal Recital

Bhimsen Joshi gave a delightful vocal music recital on February 15 in the third annual gathering of the *Nagpur Sahitya Sabha* at *Dhanwatey Nagar Vidyalaya*, *Nagpur*. He

began with *Shuddha Kalyan* and followed it with a *Thumri*, "*Jadu Bhareli*". Then he sang the popular song *Ugich ka kanta*, which was followed by a song in *Malkauns* "*Pag Lagan De*", and the *pad* "*Chandrika Hi Janu*". He concluded with a *Thumri* in *Bhairavi*, "*Lagat kalejawa pe Teer*".

"Malati Madhav" Staged

Bhavabhooti's Sanskrit classic, *Malati Madhav*, adapted in Hindi, was staged at the Information Pavilion (World Agriculture Fair) on February 25. Col. H. V. Gupte produced the play. In the main roles appeared Lalita Chatterji as Malati and Gopal Kaul as Madhav.

Kumari Vasantha's Dance Recital

Kumari C. V. S. Vasantha gave a *Bharat Natyam* dance recital on February 28, at the Rangmanch Theatre of the World Agriculture Fair, New Delhi. In a programme of ten items she demonstrated *Swarajati*, *Bhavayani*, *Edathu Padam* and *Thillana*.

Uday Shankar's Equipments Guttled

A *pandal* in South-east Calcutta erected in connection with the three-day jubilee celebrations of Tarunbrinda (Young Men's Organisation) was gutted on February 27 in a devastating fire.

Valuable electrical, musical and other instruments belonging to Uday Shankar's troupe, which was to have given a dance performance at the *pandal* were destroyed in the fire.

Karnatic Music Seminar

The Andhra Pradesh Sangeeta Nataka Akademi held a Karnatic Music Seminar from February 25 to February 28 at the Sarojini Devi Hall, Ramkote, Hyderabad. The programme included *Mangala Vadyam* by D. Picha Hari and party, violin by Padmasri Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu, vocal music by Chitoor Subrahmanya Pillai, flute by Vinjamuri Srinivasachari, *Veena* by Emani Shankara Sastry and music concerts by M. Balamurali Krishna, Koka Satyavati, Malathi Padmanabha Rao and M. S. Subramanya Sarma.

March

Maya Rao's Kathak Recital

Bharatiya Kala Kendra of New Delhi gave a two-day festival of dance and music at Sapru House on March 1 and 2, 1960. On the first day Rahmat Ali Khan and Amjad Ali Khan played on *Sarod*. Gauhar Ali Khan played on violin and Bade Ghulam Ali Khan sang a *Bageshwari*.

The second day featured mainly in dance items. Miss Maya Rao was the star dancer. She gave a series of dances one after the other, in Kathak style, most of them being her own



Kumari Maya Rao in a Kathak dance pose

innovations. She started with *Saraswati Vandana*, followed by *Rangamanch Puja*, and dealing with *Gat* depicting Holi and the pranks of Krishna with Radhika and Gopinis, and demonstrating *Tatkar*, culminated into a Shiva

Parvati *Chaturang*. Miss Rao's performance was followed by a ballet, *Kathak Through the Ages*, in *Kathak* technique, performed mainly by the students of the Kala Kendra. The ballet was directed by Shambhu Maharaj and the musical scores were rendered by Daggar Brothers. The night session was given over to *Qawwalis*.

Dance and Music Festival at Bombay

The three-day dance and music festival of the Bombay Sangeetha Samajam was held during the second week of March at the Podar College Hall, Matunga, Bombay. Among other items the programme included *Nadaswaram* by K. R. Subbiah and Party and *Bharat Natyam* dances by Kumaris Anuradha and Seetha. They exhibited *Alarippu*, *Jethi-swaram*, *Sabdam*, *Varnam*, *Thillana*, *Padams* and *Kanthal Kuravanji*.

Hindi Drama by Little Theatre

The Little Theatre Group presented *Shri Bhola Nath* based on an English play, *The Whole Town's Talking*, at the Y.W.C.A. Constantia Hall, New Delhi, on March 12. The play was produced by Inder Dass. Rama Khurana played the role of Veena, and Hari Krishna Ghei and Lakshmi Chandra Mathur those of Bhola Nath and Seth Chunni Lal respectively.

Marathi Play Staged

The Delhi Natya Kendra presented *Vedyancha Choukon*, a humorous-cum-satirical farce in Marathi; by Prof. Gangadhar Gadgil of Bombay, at Sapru House on March 15. The play was directed by Lt. Col. H.V. Gupte. Among the artists special mention should be made of Shrikant Mogha, Ram Dabadghav, Hem Gupte, Anjali Joshi and Shalan Patil.

A Feast of Jazz

Red Nichols and his—Five Pennies, Joe Rushton on the bass *Saxophone*, Pete Beilmann on the *Trombone*, Rollie Gulver on drums, Su Hon on the piano and Bill Wood, the youngest of the group, provided a feast of jazz to the jazz lovers on March 14, at the A.I.F.A.C. auditorium, New Delhi. The programme consisted of varied selections from the Dixieland Jazz repertoire.

Piano Recital

On March 14 the Delhi Music Society presented Miss Eileen Joyce, Australian-born concert pianist in her piano recital in aid of the Indian Cancer Society, at Sapru House, New Delhi. The programme comprised of Mendelssohn's *Prelude* and *Fugue* in E. minor, Beethoven's *Appassionata Sonata*, Chopin's *Fantasia* in F. minor and *Waltz* in E. minor, Debussy's *La Cathedrale Englottie*, *Fenx d'artifice* and Granados' *Allegro di Concierto*.

Rumanian Ballet and Opera

The Rumanian classical ballet and opera troupe, which, toured round India during the month of March, and exhibited their art in the important cities of the country, like New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, consisted of Valentine Massini, Livia Liscanu, Gelu Barbu, Traian Popescu and Alexander Smuski, the outstanding representatives of the Opera and Ballet Theatre, Bucharest, the State Opera House, Cluj, and the Rumanian Broadcasting and Television.

Their programme included well-known pieces from the works of famous composers, such as a duet from *Don Juan* by Mozart, *Moonlight* by Debussy, *Barber of Seville* by Rossini, excerpts from *The Rhapsody in Blue* by Gershwin, a duet from *Priculicui* by Vencea, an aria from *Ernani* by Verdi etc.

American Singer Dies on Stage

Mr. Leonard Warren (48), a leading Baritone of New York Metropolitan Opera House, fell down dead on the stage before an audience at New York on March 6.

Mr. Warren, who was considered one of America's foremost singers, made his debut with the company in 1939. He had sung in La Scala, Milan, in South America and in the Soviet Union.

Bengali Drama Included in Degree Course

A resolution exhorting the University of Calcutta to include Bengali Dramas in the University syllabus for Degree Course and M.A. Examinations was passed by the Banga Natya Sahitya Sammelan, sponsored by the Vishwaroopa Natya Unnayan Parikalpana Committee.

The details of the syllabus of the three year's Degree Course of the University of Calcutta has been announced and it has been declared that Bengali drama has been adopted by the Syndicate and the Senate.

Karnatic Music Recital

Mrs. Lakshmi Jagannathan and Mrs. Lakshmi Venketaraman gave a Karnatic Music recital on March 6 at Lucknow under the auspices of the Lucknow Tamil Sangam.

The recital, which began with a *Kriti* in the *Hamsadhvani raga*, set in *Aditala*, included a number of pieces of great composers like Thyagaraja, Dikshitar, Shyama Sastri and Subramanya Bharati.

The singers were assisted by C.S.P. Sastry on *Mridanga* and Gopalakrishna on *Kinjira*.

Veteran Musicians' Concert

The Bharatiya Kala Kendra of New Delhi presented on March 1 a fare of vocal and instrumental music at Sapru House. The artists presented were two veteran musicians, named Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan and Bismillah and party.

The programme began with a vocal recital by Irene Roy Choudhary, who sang a *Kheyal* in *Gorakh kalyan* and a *Thumri* in *Pilu*. Bismillah and party played *Purbi Dhun* on *Shehnai*. Thereafter Dev Shankar sang *Alap*, *Dhrupad* and *Bihag*. The programme terminated with Bade Ghulam Ali's *Kheyal* in *Bageshri*.

Inter-Ministry Drama Competitions

The Inter-Ministry Drama Competitions, organised by the Central Secretariat Dramatic Board, were held during the month of March at the Community Hall, New Delhi.

In all eighteen plays were presented in the competitions. The judges chose the following for mention. *Production: (1) Bharate Chai* (Lok Sabha Secretariat), (2) *Attache Case* (Armed Forces Head Quarters) and (3) *Hisab Barabar* (Cabinet Secretariat).

Direction: (1) Carbon Copy (Works, Housing and Supply), (2) *Casual Leave* (Food and Agriculture, and (3) *Safar ke Sathi* (Armed Forces Headquarters).

Actresses: (1) Ruth Scott in *Hisab Barabar*, (2) Asha Brown in *Carbon Copy*, (3) Chand Wig in *Casual Leave*, (4) Saroj Chopra in *Safar Ke Sathi* and (5) Surendra Bala Chaddha in *Kalpana*.

Actors: (1) Tirath Ram in *Ghunghat*, (2) S.C. Banerjee in *Bharate Chai*, (3) D.R. Mehta in *Afsar*, (4) B.B. Bhalla in *Carbon Copy* and (5) D.V. Nanda in *Hisab Barabar*.

Playwrights: (1) R.K. Sharma (*Attache Case*), (2) B.S. Puri (*Carbon Copy*), and (3) K.R. Bhatnagar (*Safar Ke Sathi*).

Sarat Chandra's Novel Staged

Chaturanga presented Sarat Chandra's *Bijoya*—a stage version of *Datta* by the same author—in Bengali, at the Fine Arts Theatre, New Delhi, on March 27. The play was directed by Phulkumar Sen, and special mention should be made of the following artists: Nilima Sanyal (Malhotra), Ranjan Roy, Sabyasachi, Debi Mukherji and Sanat Lahiri.

Opera Performance at Madras

The Madras Musical Association gave the first of three scheduled performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's well-known comic opera *The Mikado* on March 24 at the Rajah Annamalai Hall, Madras. The opera was produced by David Green and directed by Handel Manuel.

Czech Trio

The Czech Trio—Josef Palenicek (Piano), Alexander Piocek (Violin) and Alexander Vectomor (cello)—gave a fine recital at the New Empire Theatre, Calcutta on March 25. The programme included Mozart's Trio, Schubert's Trio Beethoven's Trio and Dvorak's Dumky Trio.

Music Recital on Pakistan Day

A recital of classical Indian music was held at the residence of the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi on March 24 in connection with Pakistan Day celebrations. Ustad Latafat Ali sang *Ilahia*. He was followed by Ustads Fateh Ali and Amanat Ali, who sang *Darbari*. Nazakat Ali and Salamat Ali came next and Ustad Allah Ditta Khan played on *Tabla*.

Silver Jubilee of "Sangeet" Magazine

On March 25, 26 and 27, 1960, the music publishers of North India, Sangeet Karyalaya, Hathras, Dist. Aligarh, celebrated the silver jubilee of "Sangeet," music monthly periodical.

On 25th March the function was inaugurated by Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting. Acharya Brihaspati presided and Padma Bhushan Ustad Mushtaq Hussain Khan was the chief guest of that day.

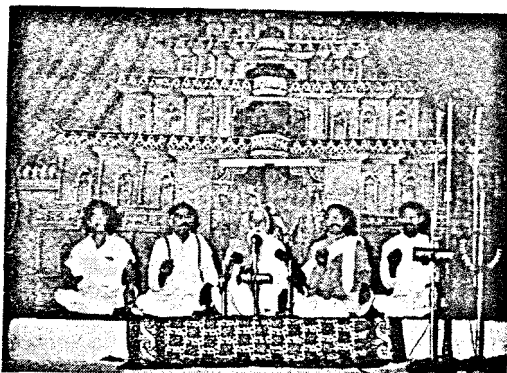
The renowned artists of India who participated in this three-day Jubilee Function were:—Pt. Ravi Shanker, Ustad Mushtaq Hussein Khan, Pt. Jairang Rishi, Swami D.R. Parvatikar, Balji Chowbey, Gulam Mustafa Khan, Jotin Bhattacharya, Ashutosh Bhattacharya, G. N. Goswami, Niranjana Prashad Kaushal, Banwari Lal Bharatendu, Ramshanker Pagaldas, Nand Kumar, Satya Narayan Vashishtha, Jumman Khan, Brajesh Ranjan Goswami, Harish Dube, Chetan Swarup, Shridhar Sharma, Sitaram, Ballokan, Purushottam Das Jalota, Nasir Ahmad Khan,



Shri P. L. Garg, director of "Sangeet," showing some rare manuscripts on Indian music to Shri Talat Mahmood.

Wahid Hussejn Khan, Padmashri Maharaj Sunder Prashad, Charan Girdhar, Tej Prakash, Aruna Sharma, Dinesh, C. H. Atma, Talat Mahmood, Urmil Kumari, Surjit Singh, Sitara, Shanti Mathur, Karuna Abrol, Chaubey-Maharaj and Nandlal and Party.

A music seminar and a music exhibition also took place on these dates.



"Sama Gaan" at the silver jubilee of "Sangeet"

International Youth Meet

Organised every year under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the Ministry of Education and of the Municipal Committee of Avignon, France, the International Youth Festival will be held for the sixth time in 1960, and will receive young boys and girls of between 18 and 25 years belonging to all nationalities and careers.

This International Meet will take place on the occasion of the XIVth Festival of Dramatic Art, which is organized at Avignon by the National Popular Theatre, the well-known dramatic institution directed by Jean Vilar.