

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President, addressing the gathering on the occasion of the presentation of the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards to distinguished artistes.

AKADEMI HONOURS FOR ARTISTES

AWARD WINNERS



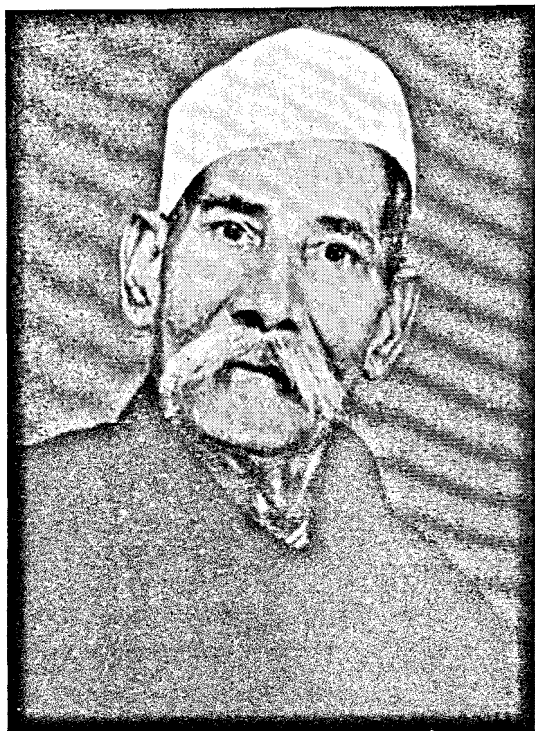
Smt. Anjani Bai Malpekar.

THE Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi annual awards for 1958 to ten distinguished artistes in the field of dance, drama, music and films at an impressive ceremony organised by the Akademi at the National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi on March 12.

Congratulating the winners of the Award, Dr. Radhakrishnan said that honouring them would be an incentive to others to work for high recognition. "We should aim at perfection. We should strive for it whether we achieve it or not", the Vice-President added.

The ceremony, which began with the honouring of Shrimati Anjani Bai Malpekar, an artiste of outstanding merit in the field of Hindustani vocal music, on her election as a Fellow of the Akademi, concluded with musical recitals and dances by the honoured artistes. Incidentally, Shrimati Anjani Bai is the first woman to receive this honour. She was presented with an *Angavastram* and a *sanad* in token of her Fellowship of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Miss Nirmala Joshi, Secretary of the Akademi, read the citations and requested the Vice-President to honour the artistes.



Shri Yusuf Ali.

Award Winners—Music

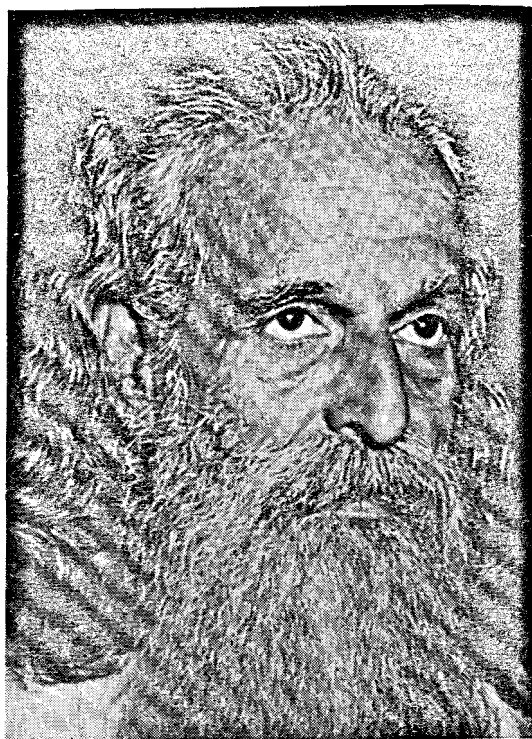
The following are the winners of the Akademi Awards :

A shawl, a gold *shrinkhal* and a *sanad* each were presented to the following artistes as a token of their recognition as eminent musicians :

Shri Yusuf Ali

A FOREMOST exponent of Hindustani instrumental music, born in 1877, Shri Yusuf Ali belongs to a traditional family of instrument-makers. His early training was under his father, Bahadur Ali, who was a pupil of Ustad Abdul Ghani and Murawwat Khan. His merits as a sitar player were noted at an early age.

Shri Yusuf Ali is a remarkable exponent of the *Masit Khani Baaj* and his rendering of the *Thumari Ang* is sweet, melodious and is noted for its exquisite innovations which are true to tradition.



Shri Ganesh Ramchandra Behere.

Shri Yusuf Ali was invited to perform at the coronation of King George V. He has trained up a whole generation of sitarists and even at this advanced age, he is devoted to teaching. He is at present on the staff of Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyalaya, Lucknow.

Shri Ganesh Ramchandra Behere

SHRI Ganesh Ramchandra Behere is a foremost exponent of Hindustani vocal music.

Born in 1890 at Kurghe, in Ratnagiri District, Shri Ganesh Ramchandra Behere became a pupil of Ganapathibua Bhilwadikar. The desire to learn music was a passion with him and he left home at a tender age to become the disciple of the Late Khan Sahib Abdul Karim Khan. He also had his training under Ustad Rajab Ali Khan of Dewas and Shri Bhaskar Rao Bakhle. In recognition of his merits as a musician, Ustad Abdul Karim Khan appointed him as a teacher in his Sangeet Vidyalaya in 1918. Possessing a deep and resonant voice, Shri Beherebua is noted for his clarity of expression. His *gayaki* is dignified, enchanting, full



Shri Budalur Krishnamurthy Sastri.

of depth and feeling which is a source of great emotional satisfaction.

Shri Budalur Krishnamurthy Sastri

SHRI Budalur Krishnamurthy Sastri is a foremost exponent of Karnatic instrumental music.

Born at Andanallur, near Kumbhakonam, in Tanjore District, in 1896, in an illustrious family of musicians, he learnt vocal music under his father, Shri Sethurama Sastrigal, a Harikatha performer. Later, he took training in vocal music from Konevirajapuram Shri Vaidyanatha Iyer and Shri Muthia Bhagwatar. Shri Muthia Bhagwatar sometimes used the Tanpura itself as a Gottuvadyam. This captivated the young Krishnamurthy and he began playing the Tanpura, using a cocoanut shell to glide over the strings. By constant practice and perseverance, he attained great mastery and was privileged to learn from the eminent Gottuvadyam player, Sakharam Rao.

Shri Krishnamurthy Sastri has been giving



Shri Chembai Vaidyanath Bhagwatar.

concerts continuously for the last 38 years. He has a passion for research and has developed an inimitable style of his own. His concerts have earned for him the admiration of Sangita Vidwans and Rasikas. He is at present lecturer at Kalakshetra, Adyar, and the Central College of Karnatic Music, Madras.

Shri Chembai Vaidyanath Bhagwatar

SHRI Chembai Vaidyanath Bhagwatar is a foremost exponent of Karnatic vocal music.

Born in 1896 at Chembai, near Palghat, in Kerala, Shri Vaidyanath Bhagwatar belongs to a musical family with a tradition of 500 years. He is the great grandson of Ghanachakra Tana Subbier. Gifted with a rich, ringing, melodious and lustrous voice, he learnt music from his father, Shri Anantha Bhagwatar.

He was honoured with the title of Gayana-gandharva at Tanjore in 1940 and Sangeet Kalanidhi by the Music Academy, Madras, in



Shri Thotton Karakkadan Chandu Panikkar.

1951. He has also been recognised and patronised by royal families and acclaimed by connoisseurs and laymen alike as a great singer of this generation.

His concerts are noted for the high



Shri Haobam Atomba Singh.

entertainment value combined with a scholarly approach. He is a master of rhythm and is able to render intricate *Pallavis* with extraordinary ease.

For Dance

A brocade *Angavastram*, a gold *mala* and a *sanad* were presented to the following artistes as a token of their recognition as eminent dancers:

Shri Thotton Karakkadan Chandu Panikkar

SHRI Thotton Karakkadan Chandu Panikkar is a foremost exponent of the Kathakali dance style.

Born in 1873, in Kerala, Shri Chandu Panikkar had his training under the famous Guru Easwara Menon and became the greatest exponent of Kalladikkadan tradition of Kathakali Dancing which lays particular stress on *Bhava*. He has a phenomenal repertoire of Kathakali dramas, which he knows by heart. He is specially famous for his portrayals of the characters of Bhima, Arjuna, Durvasa, Hanuman, Daksha, etc.

He was honoured by the Samuthiri Raja of Kozhikode with the title of Panikkar and presented *Veerashrinkhal* in 1903. The Raja of Cochin honoured him with two gold medals. He is also the recipient of *Veerashrinkhal* and *Kesabhara Kireedam* from the Association of Nambudiris at Thaliparambu in recognition of his services to the art of Kathakali. Besides being an eminent dancer, he has trained a number of pupils, who are recognised exponents of Kathakali in various parts of the country.

Shri Haobam Atomba Singh

SHRI Haobam Atomba Singh is a foremost exponent of the Manipuri style of dancing.

Born in a family of dancers and dance teachers, Shri Atomba Singh took to dancing at an early age. He had his training under all the great and eminent Gurus of Manipuri dancing and music and is a repository of the time-honoured tradition of the *Ras* dance.

He was selected by his Guru Jhoolan Singh to assist him in training dancers of a troupe

which the late Maharaja Shri Chura Chand Singh sent to Calcutta on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales. As a teacher and leading member of the troupe, Shri Atomba Singh toured various parts of Bengal and Assam. Rabindra Nath Tagore invited him to Santiniketan where he taught dancing for about three years.

Later, he taught dancing at various institutions in Calcutta, Shillong and other places. Shri Atomba Singh is at present on the staff of the Central College of Dance, Manipur.

For Drama

A brocade *Angavastram*, a lotus-embossed leaf in gold and a *sanad* were presented to the following artistes as a token of their recognition as eminent persons in the field of Drama:

Shri Bhargavram Vitthal Warerkar

SHR**I** B h a r g a v r a m Vitthal Warerkar is an eminent Marathi playwright. Born in 1883 at Chiplun, in Ratnagiri District, he is popularly known as Mama Warerkar and wrote his first play 'Kunjavihari' in 1908. A distinguished author and playwright, he directs his own plays and has been a pioneer in modernising the Marathi stage technique. A prolific writer, his published works include 47 plays, 29 novels, five volumes of short stories, five volumes of essays and lectures, covering social, political and cultural problems, besides numerous translations of eminent authors. In his chequered career, he has also been a journalist and a film director. Even at this age, he has been contributing to several Marathi and Hindi periodicals and dailies.

He is founder-member and President of many dramatic and literary organisations of the country. Mama Warerkar is a member of the General Council of the Sahitya and Sangeet Natak Akademies. He was nominated by the President to the Rajya Sabha in 1956.

Shri Ahindra Choudhari

SHR**I** Ahindra Choudhari is an eminent Bengali actor.

He first appeared on the stage at a college function and continued to take part in amateur dramatic performances. As an amateur, he took part in the formation of the Dramatic Society in Calcutta in 1918. In 1921, he organised a film company and produced a silent film "Soul of a Slave" in which he played the title role. He



Shri Bhargavram Vitthal Warerkar

joined the professional stage in 1923 and since then, with an unenviable zeal and devotion, has been playing an important part in shaping and developing the Bengal stage. A foremost character actor, he has appeared on the stage and screen in various roles and his portrayals of



Shri Ahindra Choudhari



Shrimati Durga Khote

different characters have won him wide popularity and distinction.

He is President of the Artistes' Association of Bengal and Dean of the Faculty of Drama of the Academy of Dance, Drama and Music, West Bengal.

For Films

A brocade *Angavastram*, a lotus-embossed leaf in gold and a *sanad* were presented to the following artistes as a token of their recognition as eminent persons in the field of films:

Shrimati Durga Khote

SHRIMATI Durga Khote is an eminent actress of the Indian screen and stage.

Born in 1905, Shrimati Durga Khote graduated from Bombay and is one of the first educated women to enter the films. A Radio star of repute, she has travelled widely in Europe, Asia and the Far-East. She was a member of the first Indian Film Delegation to

the U.S.S.R. and to the People's Republic of China on behalf of the Indian Women's Federation. She is keenly interested in producing documentary films and has directed films very successfully. She has worked in almost all the prominent film concerns and under eminent directors of the country. She is keenly interested in classical music.

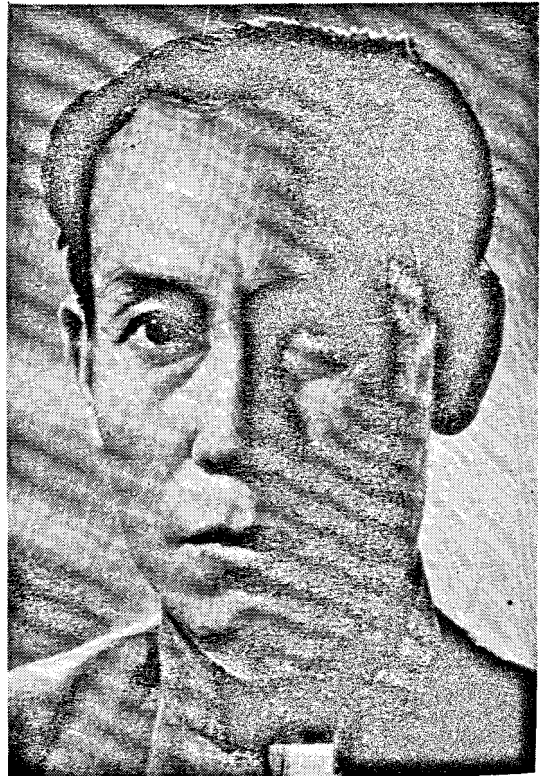
Shrimati Durga Khote has maintained a film career without break for over two decades, and is held in high esteem by the industry and public. She is generally referred to as the first lady of the Indian screen.

Shri Sachin Deb Burman

SHRI Sachin Deb Burman is an eminent music director in Indian films.

Born in 1906 at Comilla, Shri Sachin Deb Burman is the son of Maharaj Kumar Navadwip

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Shri Sachin Deb Burman

SHRI SACHIN DEB BURMAN

(Continued from page 78)

Chandra Deb Burman of Tripura. He is a graduate of the Calcutta University. His parents were desirous of sending him abroad, but Sachin Deb Burman was destined to explore new avenues in the field of art. An irresistible urge for music drew him out of the exclusive atmosphere of the palace and brought him nearer to the people. Though an eminent authority on folk music, Shri Burman had a thorough grounding in the classical tradition

from Shri K. C. Dey and such maestros as Ustad Allauddin Khan and Ustad Badal Khan. His close association with Rabindra Nath Tagore gave a fillip to the progressive urge in him for unorthodox experimentation in the field of music. His contribution to the development of film music is significant, inasmuch as he has brought to it all the richness and variety of folk as well as classical tradition, giving it a distinctive form.