

SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI
ANNUAL REPORT 1985-86

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Sangeet Natak Akademi
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New Delhi-110 001



Introduction

Sangeet Natak Akademi—the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama—was founded in 1953 for the furtherance of the performing arts of India, a task in which it cooperates with counterparts in the States and voluntary organizations all over the country. Through sponsorship, research and dissemination it seeks an enhanced public appreciation of music, dance and drama, together with a quickened exchange of ideas and techniques for the common gain of Indian performing arts. The objects of the Akademi are more specifically stated in its Memorandum of Association (excerpts: Appendix 2).

A number of schemes have been formulated and implemented over the years with these objects in view. Lately, special emphasis has been placed on schemes aiming at the preservation of folk/traditional performing-art forms in imminent danger of extinction. A few of these schemes are Preservation and Promotion of Rare Forms of Traditional Performing Arts, Studies in Tribal Culture, Promotion and Preservation of Puppetry. A fair measure of success can be claimed for these schemes which have provided timely succour for several out-of-vogue performing-art forms by way of newly created performance and training opportunities.

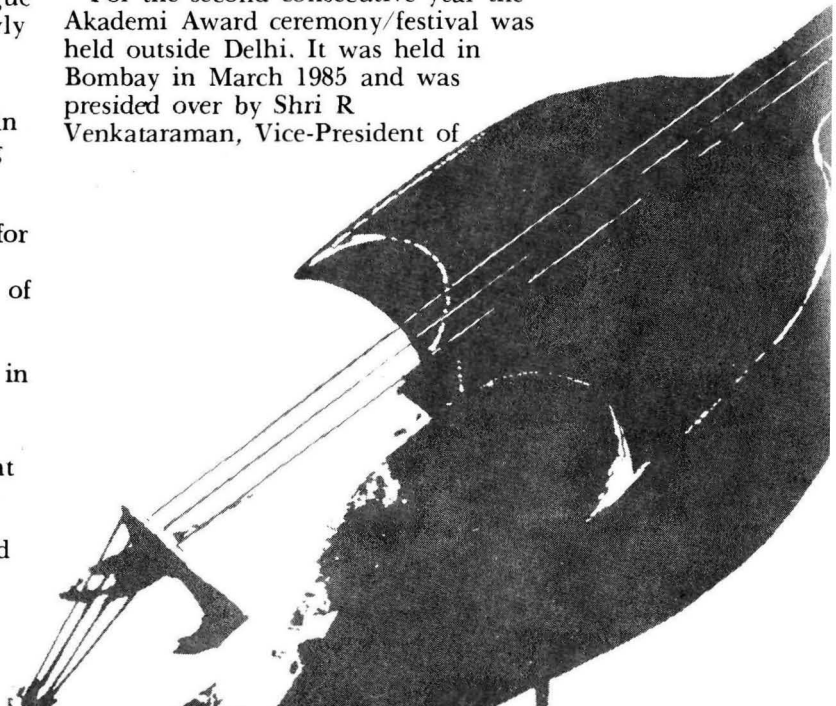
Other schemes to receive a fillip in recent years are Assistance to Young Theatre Workers; Sponsorship of Music and Dance Festivals; Documentation of Performing Arts for Archival Collection and Dissemination; Inter-State Exchange of Cultural Troupes. Specific programmes issuing from these schemes are reported in some detail in the main body of the report.

Among presentations of the year generating wide public interest might be mentioned Lok-Utsav '85—a five-day festival of folk/traditional performing arts. This was the second Lok-Utsav in Delhi, an annual

exposition devised as much for the sustenance of rural arts as the entertainment of urban audiences. The festival was colourful and various, as in the past year, offering some thirty performances of diverse provenance. Lok-Utsavs on smaller scale were also presented in Calcutta and Chandigarh in collaboration with local organizers.

The Yuva-Utsav sequence of festivals featuring young dancers and musicians was a new initiative marking 1985, the International Year of Youth. Three Yuva Utsavs were held in the period reported—in Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar and Shimla—the series conceived to scout new talent, provide it a platform and a new audience. It was in audience interest that non-metropolitan centres were chosen for these festivals, an interest increasingly reflected in Akademi presentations of late years. All three Yuva-Utsavs were presented in collaboration with local bodies, again a feature of increasing prominence in Akademi functioning. (For a listing of Akademi events in the period reported, please turn to Appendix 1.)

For the second consecutive year the Akademi Award ceremony/festival was held outside Delhi. It was held in Bombay in March 1985 and was presided over by Shri R Venkataraman, Vice-President of



India. The ceremony will be held in Bhubaneswar next year, in collaboration with the Government of Orissa and Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi.

The documentation effort of the Akademi has burgeoned in late years, the archival collection now totalling some one lakh feet of 16-mm film, 50,000 photographs/transparencies, 5000 hours of audio/video recording. Akademi presentations apart, special recordings of music, dance and drama are a regular feature. The emphases here are equally on the work of masters at their prime and young performers of promise; quite as prominent a documentary facet are demonstrations/interviews of artistes past their prime, for the retrieval of

performance features which might otherwise be lost. Performances recorded this year are detailed in the relevant section of the report.

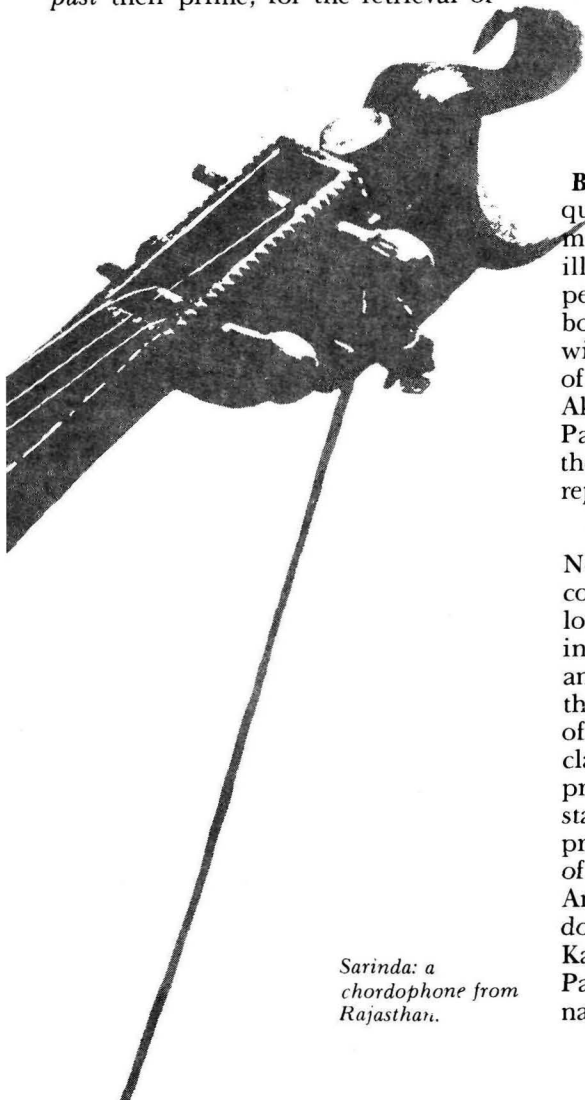
The Akademi's Museum of Musical Instruments, housing the largest collection of Indian folk instruments anywhere, received a special impetus this year by way of classification and display. The collection grew substantially in both folk and classical categories. Chiefly on the strength of this collection, the Akademi has plans for two major exhibitions of Indian instruments and masks some time next year.

New publications this year are a biography of **Ustad Fayyaz Khan** by Dipali Nag and an illustrated monograph on **Tolu Bommalata:**

Shadow Puppets of Andhra Pradesh by M Nagabhushana Sarma. **Sangeet Natak**, the quarterly journal of the Akademi, is now in its

twenty-first year. The **SNA News Bulletin**, reporting Akademi activities quarterly, reappeared this year in a more attractive format—and with illustrations. By way of promotion of performing-arts publishing, several books and periodicals were helped with grants. Among these are journals of long repute, published with Akademi assistance for many years. Particulars of new publications and those aided this year are separately reported.

Kathak Kendra and Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy—constituents of the Akademi—have long established themselves as leading institutions for the teaching of Kathak and Manipuri dance. Additionally, they have evolved as important centres of new choreographic work in classical idioms, with many successful productions to their credit. Dancers on staff of both institutions were prominently featured in the Festivals of India in France and USA this year. And nearer home Birju Maharaj—doyen of Kathak dancers, chief of the Kathak Kendra repertory—received the Padma Vibhushan as a mark of national esteem.



Sarinda: a chordophone from Rajasthan.

Organizational Set-up

Sangeet Natak Akademi was established by the Government of India. Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, it functions as an autonomous body, and is funded by the Department of Culture.

The management of the Akademi vests in its General Council. The superintendence, direction and control of the affairs of the Akademi vests in its Executive Board, which is assisted by the Finance, Grants and Publication Committees.

The principal executive officer of the Akademi is the Secretary who is assisted by a Finance and Accounts Officer, seven Assistant Secretaries including the Directors of Kathak Kendra and Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Akademi, a Special Officer (Documentation) and a Technical Officer (Filming). The registered office of the Akademi is Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.

The Akademi manages and runs two training institutions—Kathak Kendra, New Delhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal—the management of which vests in its Executive Board, assisted by the Advisory Committees of the two constituent units. Reports on the activities of these institutions are given separately.

A list of members of the General Council in 1986 appears in Appendix 3. The composition of the Executive Board follows: Dr VK Narayana Menon, Chairman; Shri P V Krishnamoorthy, Vice-Chairman; Shri K S Kothari, Secretary; Shri S P Tuli, Financial Adviser; members: Pandit Ravi Shankar, Miss P S Shakuntala, Shri Komal Kothari, Miss Usha Bhagat, Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Smt Vijaya Farrokh Mehta, Shri Kavalam Narayana Panikkar, Dr (Miss) Padma Subrahmaniam, Shri T N Krishnan, Dr Ashok D Ranade, Shri Ratan Thiyam, Smt Dipali Nag, Shri Narendra Sharma, Dr Nagabhushana Sarma.

In the period reported, the General Council met once—on 15 November 1985 in New Delhi. The Executive Board met thrice: on 3 July and 14 November 1985 in New Delhi; on 2 March 1986 in Bombay. The Grants Committee met twice in New Delhi; on 27 June and 5 December. The Publication and Finance Committees met on 26 June and 28 October 1985, both in New Delhi.

Officers of the Akademi: Dr VK Narayana Menon, Chairman; Shri P V Krishnamoorthy, Vice-Chairman; Shri K S Kothari, Secretary; Shri S P Tuli, Financial Adviser; Shri Charan Das, Finance & Accounts Officer; Assistant Secretaries: Shri BR Bhargava (Drama), Miss Sharbari Mukherjee (Music), Shri Jayant Kastuar (Dance), Smt Bandana Srinivasan (General), Shri Abhijit Chatterjee (Publication), Shri Jiwan Pani (Director, Kathak Kendra), Shri Prakash Singh (Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy); Shri SC Bansal, Special Officer (Documentation); Shri RS Malhotra, Technical Officer (Filming).

Akademi Awards 1985



The annual Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards to distinguished artistes are the highest national honour in the performing arts. The Awards carry a purse of Rs 10,000 and a Tamrapatra. The General Council of the Akademi, which considers nominations from all over the country, is entrusted with the election of Awardees. Awardees this year are:

Music

Smt Kishori Amonkar: Hindustani Vocal; Shri Nasir Aminuddin Dagar: Hindustani Vocal; Shri Ali Hussain Khan: Hindustani Instrumental (Shehnai); Shri Voleti Venkateswarlu: Carnatic Vocal; Shri Valangaiman A Shanmugasundaram Pillai: Carnatic Instrumental (Thavil); Shri NP Rama Poduval: Sopana Sangeet; Smt

Suchitra Mitra: Rabindrasangeet; Shri Suleman Juma Jumani: Folk Music (Nobat Vadan); Smt Tseshu Lhamo: Ladakhi Folk Music.

Dance

Shri Khaidem Lokeshwar Singh: Manipuri; Shri T K Mahalingam Pillai: Bharatanatyam; Shri Mayadhar Raut: Odissi; Shri Vedantam Prahlada Sarma: Kuchipudi; Shri Mankompu Sivasankara Pillai: Kathakali.

Theatre

Shri Heisnam Kanhailal: Direction; Shri Manoj Mitra: Playwriting; Shri Fida Hussain: Acting; Smt B Jayamma: Acting; Shri Goverdhan Panchal: Scenic Design; Shri Mohan Chandra Barman: Folk Theatre (Bhaona).

The Award ceremony was held in Bombay on 1 March 1986. Shri R Venkataraman, Vice-President of India,



Smt Kishori
Amonkar



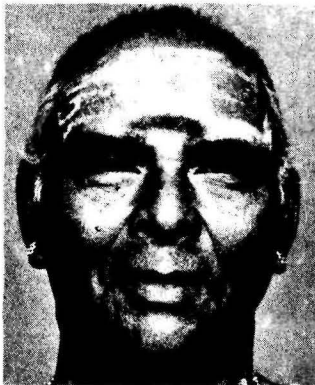
Shri Nasir
Aminuddin Dagar



Shri Ali Hussain
Khan



Shri Voleti
Venkateswarlu



Shri Valangaiman A
Shanmugasundaram
Pillai



Shri N P Rama
Poduval

gave away the Awards. The ceremony was attended by, among others, Smt Sushila Rohatgi, Union Minister of State for Education and Culture; Shri Jawaharlal Darda, Minister for Culture, Maharashtra; senior officials of the Department of Culture, Government of India, and Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Maharashtra; members of the SNA General Council; Akademi Fellows and Awardees of past years.

Following the Award ceremony, a

week-long festival of music, dance and drama featuring some of the Awardees was presented 1-7 March 1986 at Ravindra Natya Mandir. The ceremony and programme were organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Maharashtra. The festival schedule follows:

1 March

Award ceremony, followed by a vocal recital by Smt Kishori Amonkar.



*Smt Suchitra Mitra
Shri Suleman Juma
Jumari*



*Smt Tseshu Lhamo
Shri Khaidem
Lokeshwar Singh
Shri Mayadhar
Raut*



*Shri T K
Mahalingam Pillai
Shri Vedantam
Prahlada Sarma*

3 March

Shri Vedantam Prahlada Sarma and pupils: Kuchipudi; Shri Ali Hussain Khan: Shehnai; Shri Nasir Aminuddin Dagar: Hindustani Vocal.

4 March

Shri Voleti Venkateswarlu: Carnatic Vocal; pupils of Shri T K Mahalingam Pillai: Bharatanatyam; Shri N P Rama Poduval: Sopana Sangeet; Shri Valangaiman A Shanmugasundaram Pillai: Thavil.

5 March

Smt Tseshu Lhamo: folk music of Ladakh;

Shri Mayadhar Raut and pupils: Odissi; Shri Lakeshwar Singh: Raas; Smt Suchitra Mitra: Rabindrasangeet.

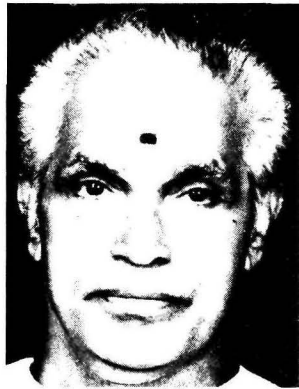
6 March

Laigee Machasinga: Manipuri play written and directed by Shri Heisnam Kanhailal.

7 March

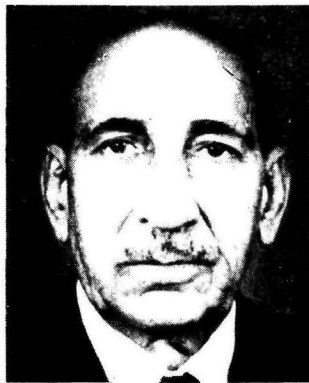
Sajano Bagan: Bengali play written and directed by Shri Manoj Mitra.

A display of photographs of Akademi activities during the year was mounted at the venue on the occasion. The festival was comprehensively documented for Akademi archives.



*Shri Mankompu
Sivasankara Pillai*

*Shri Heisnam
Kanhailal*



Shri Manoj Mitra

Shri Fida Hussain

Smt B Jayamma



*Shri Goverdhan
Panchal*

*Shri Mohan
Chandra Barman*

Festivals/Programmes/Workshops

Homage to Balasaraswati: Delhi

Smt T Balasaraswati, who dominated the Bharatanatyam scene for several decades, passed away in February 1984. To pay homage to her memory, the Akademi presented a dance programme on 13 May 1985, her birth anniversary; a special issue of *Sangeet Natak* devoted to her life and work was released on the occasion. An exhibition of photographs and documents on Balasaraswati was mounted as well; also on display were sketches of Bala by MF Hussain.

Natak Mela: Chandigarh

This festival of plays was presented 4-11 April 1985 by the Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi and Punjab Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with SNA. The Mela featured plays by prominent Punjabi directors; it also included programmes of Punjabi folk songs and dances.

Children's Theatre Workshop: Lucknow

The workshop was organized 22-29 April 1985 by the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi, in association with SNA, to train young directors engaged in children's theatre.

Workshop on Puppet Training & Production: Bombay

The workshop was inaugurated on 15 June 1985; it was organized with the Akademi's assistance by Awishkar, a theatre group. The workshop, conducted under the supervision of noted experts in puppetry, continued till 15 July, culminating in the presentation of a puppet play by the trainees.

Lok-Utsav: Chandigarh

This festival of Punjab folk performing arts was presented at Chandigarh 7-8 September 1985 in collaboration with the Directorate of

Culture, Punjab. The festival was inaugurated at Tagore Theatre. It featured Shri Puran Chand Vadali, Smt Gurmeet Bawa, Dhadis, folk dances of Punjab, the martial art Gatka, Naqqals, etc. A play in a rare folk style, Saal, was presented for the purpose of documentation. The festival was extensively documented for Akademi archives.

Yuva-Utsavs: Jamshedpur/Bhubaneswar/Shimla

The Jamshedpur Yuva-Utsav was presented 17-20 July 1985 in collaboration with the New Artistes Forum. The programme follows:

17 July

Vijaya Jadhav: Hindustani Vocal; Nandita Patnaik & Aruna Mohanti: Odissi; Kajal Mishra: Kathak; Irshad Khan: Sitar.

18 July

Prem Kumar Mallik & Ram Kumar Mallik: Dhrupad; Purnima Chaudhuri: Hindustani Vocal; Arjun Mishra: Kathak.

19 July

Sangeeta: Violin (Hindustani); Rashid Hussain Khan: Hindustani Vocal; Alok Kanungo: Odissi; Purna Shrimali: Kathak.

20 July

Joydeep Ghosh: Sarod; Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy troupe: Manipuri Dances; Shashikala: Kuchipudi; Jayant Kastuar: Kathak.

The Yuva-Utsav at Bhubaneswar was presented 22-25 March 1986 in collaboration with the Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi. This four-day festival brought together a large number of young musicians representing both the Hindustani and Carnatic systems. The programme follows:

22 March

Mohinimohan Patnaik: Flute



(Hindustani); Gurudev Singh: Sarod;
Ramakant & Umakant Gundecha:
Dhrupad; Bhajanlal Sopori: Santoor.

23 March

T R Thiagarajan: Flute (Carnatic);
Viji Krishnan: Violin (Carnatic); T S
Satyavati: Carnatic Vocal; B
Venkataraman: Veena (Carnatic).

24 March

Ramhari Das: Odissi Music; Tal
Vadya Kacheri; Tarun Bhattacharya:
Santoor; Johar Ali: Violin
(Hindustani).

25 March

Gopal Misra: Vichitra Veena
(Hindustani); Arti Anklikar:
Hindustani Vocal; Bundu Khan:
Hindustani Vocal; Shujaat Khan:
Sitar.

The Yuva-Utsav in Shimla was held
27-30 March 1986. Organised in
collaboration with the Department of
Language & Culture, Himachal
Pradesh, this four-day dance festival
featured all the major classical styles

as well as a modern dance recital.
The programme follows:

27 March

Sutapa Duttgupta: Odissi; Bharat
Sharma: Modern Dance; Vatsala
Kamath: Bharatanatyam; Ram Mohan:
Kathak.

28 March

Sharmila Das: Odissi; Kumkum Dhar:
Kathak; Srinidhi Rangarajan:
Bharatanatyam.

29 March

Priti Patel & Sruti Bannerjee:
Manipuri; Sushila Duraiswamy:
Bharatanatyam; Kala Krishna:
Kuchipudi; Shubha Desai & Darshini
Desai: Kathak.

30 March (morning)

Sharmila Das: Odissi; Priti Patel &
Sruti Bannerjee: Manipuri; Srinidhi
Rangarajan: Bharatanatyam; Daksha
Sheth: Chhau; Kumar Singh: Pung
Cholom; Shubha Desai & Darshini
Desai: Kathak; Kala Krishna:
Kuchipudi.

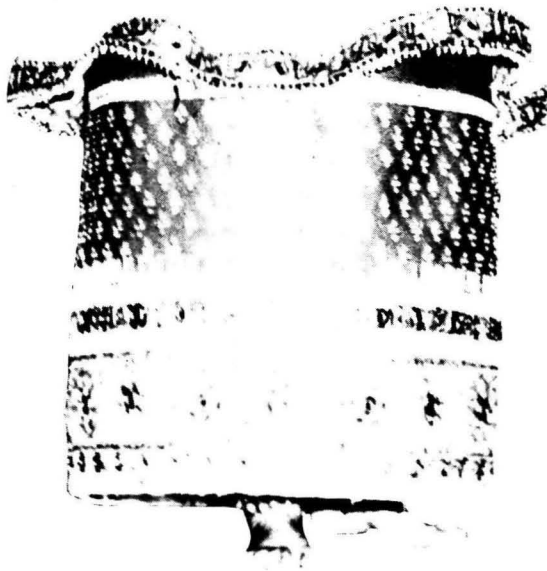
Pung Cholom:
Yuva-Utsav,
Jamshedpur.

30 March (evening)

Sujata Misra: Odissi; Deepti Omchery: Mohiniattam; Daksha Sheth: Chhau; Padmini Dorairajan: Bharatanatyam; Kalyani Chakraborty: Kathak.

**Folk Music of Rajasthan:
Chandigarh**

On 3 September a group of six Manganiar musicians led by Siddique Manganiar, Akademi Awardee, performed at Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh. The programme was organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Culture, Punjab.



Lok-Utsav: Delhi

This annual festival of folk/traditional performing arts was first presented in 1984 and formed the backdrop to selections for the Festival of India in Paris in June 1985. The second Lok-Utsav was presented 2-6 November 1985 in Delhi and put on view some 34 folk forms from all over country, many of them seldom seen by an urban audience.

The Festival was opened by the well-known folk singer of Punjab, Smt Gurmeet Bawa. It featured, among other forms, Khyal of Rajasthan, Nautanki of Uttar Pradesh, Krishna Parijat of Karnataka, Bhavai of Gujarat, Mando of Goa. The programme follows.

2 November

Dalsukh Raval/Chaman Lal Nayak: Bhavai, Rajasthan; Phulwa Kanjar & Party: Kanjar dances, Rajasthan; Madivalippa M Karadi: Karadi Majalu, Karnataka; Pukhraj Khiladi & Party: Khyal, Rajasthan; Gurmeet Bawa & Party: folk songs of Punjab; Mangelal Bahurupia, Rajasthan.

3 November

Cleta H Lobo & Party: Mando, Goa; Mohammad Shareef & Party: Dhadi songs; Baul songs, West Bengal; SR Kalyani & Party: Karagam, Tamil Nadu; Rustom Sayed Chand: jugglery and acrobatics; Gulab Bai & Party: Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh.

Manipuri: Yuva-Utsav, Shimla.

4 November

Shankha Vadan: Orissa; Ramsahai Pande & Party: Rai dance, Madhya Pradesh; Dooda Ram & Party: Bhaka songs, Jammu; Shah Anwar Shah Fakir, West Bengal; Vijay Karan Verma & Party: Gujar dances; Danda, Nata, Orissa; Haji Manganiar & Party: songs of Manganiars, Rajasthan; Charkula: Uttar Pradesh.

5 November

Dhanbai Kara & Party: folk songs of Kutch; Ghanta Patua, Orissa; Chinta Venkateswaralu Rao & Party: Veeranatyam, Andhra Pradesh; Shahir Anand Rao Suryavanshi &

Party: Shabadbhed, Maharashtra; Mrudanga Vadan, Orissa.

6 November

Kumar Singh: Dhol Cholom, Manipur; P. Kanthimathi & Party: Villisai, Tamil Nadu; Guru Mohanan Kunju Panikkar & Party: Velakali, Kerala; Gulabi Bai & Party: dances of Kalbelias, Rajasthan; Bhagwan Nath Jogi: Bhaironji Ke Bhope, Rajasthan; Kameshwari Devi & Party: Poorbi folk songs, Uttar Pradesh; Sharanayya Hiramath & Party: Krishna Parijat, Karnataka; Laxman Bharati: jugglery and acrobatics.

*Rajasthani folk
singer: Lok-Utsav,
Delhi.*



Nritya-Natika: Delhi

This festival of dance-drama was presented in Delhi 14-19 November 1985 and featured performances by eleven leading groups in the country.

It was designed as an exposition of current work in the genre of dance-drama. The festival brought together choreographers employing idioms of classical dance as also those favouring free movement. Among choreographers whose productions featured are Birju Maharaj, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Prabhat Ganguli, Kumudini Lakhia, Singhajit Singh, Amala Shankar and Narendra Sharma. The festival programme follows:

14 November

Seeta Swayamvara directed by Amala Shankar: Uday Shankar India Culture Centre, Calcutta; *Ganga* directed by Mrinalini Sarabhai: Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, Ahmedabad.

15 November

Nayika Vilas directed by Birju

Maharaj: Kathak Kendra, New Delhi; *Aparajeya* directed by Prabhat Ganguli: Ranga-Sri Little Ballet Troupe, Bhopal.

16 November

Antim Adhyay directed by Narendra Sharma: Bhoomika, New Delhi; *Keibul Lamjao* directed by Chaotombi Singh: Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal.

17 November

Masks directed by Bhushan Lakhandari: Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, New Delhi; *Rain* directed by Sachin Shankar: Ballet Unit, Bombay.

18 November

Angika directed by Chandralekha: Cultural Centre, Madras.

19 November

Savitri directed by Singhajit Singh: Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi; *The Peg* directed by Kumudini Lakhia: Kadamb School of Dance, Ahmedabad.

The Peg: Nritya-Natika, Delhi.



A two-day seminar on 'Dance-Drama: Traditional Usage and Contemporary Challenge' was held 17-18 November concurrently with the festival. Dancers, choreographers, scholars and critics, music composers and stage designers participated in the seminar.



Stockhausen Concert: Delhi

The eminent German composer Karlheinz Stockhausen gave a concert on 22 November 1985 under the joint auspices of Sangeet Natak Akademi and Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The programme was presented at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Auditorium, New Delhi.

Workshop on Choreography: Bombay

The workshop was organized 1-10 November 1985 by the National Centre for the Performing Arts and Max Mueller Bhavan, Bombay, in collaboration with SNA. It was the fifth event in the East-West Dance Encounter series. Among dancers who participated are Kumudini Lakhia, Chandralekha, Ileana Citaristi, Astad Deboo and Chitrasundaram. On behalf of the Akademi, critic KS Srinivasan attended the workshop.

Lokotsav '86: Calcutta

This festival of folk performing arts was presented by Padatik 8-10 January 1986 in collaboration with SNA. The forms featured include Bhavai of Gujarat, Chhakri of Jammu & Kashmir, Pandavani of Madhya Pradesh, folk songs of Punjab. A troupe from Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal, presented Thang-ta, Dhol Cholom, Lai Haroba, etc. Also to perform was SNA Awardee Shri Siddique Manganiar of Rajasthan. The festival programmes were held concurrently at Mukta Manch, Kala Mandir and University Institute Hall.

Fest '86

The Akademi, among other organizations, subsidized Fest '86, SPIC-MACAY's annual countrywide festival of classical music and dance held 20 January-20 February 1986 in 42 cities and towns. Concurrently, programmes were also held in many schools and colleges.

Ganga: Nritya-Natika, Delhi.

Educational Puppetry Workshop/ Seminar & Festival: Hyderabad

The Akademi financially assisted the festival, held 1-8 March 1986, and the concurrent Workshop-Seminar on Educational Puppetry; both festival and workshop-seminar were organized by the Association for Promotion of Puppetry. Puppet groups from Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Delhi, Udaipur, Madras, Bangalore and Anantpur participated in the festival. To take part in the seminar were Smt Meher Contractor, Shri Suresh Dutta, Shri Dadi Pudumji, Shri G Venu, Shri Nanjunda Rao, Shri Ajay Paul and other notable puppeteers.

Folk Festival '86: Jhargram

The Akademi subsidized this festival of Chhau and tribal dance, held 2 March 1986, organized by Lokayata Sanskriti Parishad (Institute of Folk Culture and Social Welfare), Jhargram, West Bengal.

Symposium on Presentation of Performing Arts: Madras

The Akademi collaborated with Max Mueller Bhavan, Madras, in this three-day symposium held 21-23 March 1986. The symposium brought together a number of professionals engaged in performing, teaching, and promoting the performing arts. There were panel discussions and audio-visual presentations. A theatre model designed by Shahriar Dehghan and Ludwig Pesch as a pilot project was presented in the course of the symposium.

Festival of India in France and USA

The Chairman and Secretary of the Akademi were closely associated in advisory capacity with both Festivals. The Akademi identified performing artistes/groups, both folk and classical, for the two Festivals and assisted in the planning of the various programmes.

France:

The Secretary visited France during the inaugural ceremony in June 1985 and was Artistic Coordinator of performances presented at the Mela in Paris marking the start of Festival programmes. The Mela was opened by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Francois Mitterand. Nearly 200 folk artistes—practitioners of varied forms of dance and music—performed at the Mela, attended by unprecedented audiences. The selection of artistes was the Akademi's. Some of these artistes were later presented in other cities of France and in neighbouring European countries. Other folk music and dance ensembles selected by the Akademi also toured France and neighbouring countries during the year-long festival; their performances were sponsored by the Maison Des Culture Du Monde.

The Autumn Festival in Paris—held September-October 1985—was one of classical music and dance. The programmes were chalked up and artistes identified in consultation with the Akademi.

USA:

Artistes for various Festival programmes in the USA—including the inaugural function in Washington in July 1986—were selected in consultation with the Akademi. Dr Narayana Menon, Chairman, attended the inaugural function at Kennedy Center. Shri KS Kothari, Secretary, was Artistic Director of the week-long festival at Lincoln Center, New York. The artistes later performed at Washington.

During the 18-month Festival in the United States, classical and folk artistes participated in various other programmes. Of these, the programmes organized by the University Circuit—planned in association with the American Institute and funded by the Ford Foundation—were conspicuously successful; most of the forms presented were seen for the first time in the USA.

Assistance to Young Theatre Workers

The scheme was initiated in its present form in 1984 with the broad objective of supporting the efforts of young directors in quest of an indigenous theatre idiom, inspired by the traditional/folk theatre of the country (scheme excerpts: Appendix 4) The Akademi offers subsidies for productions staged at its four annual Zonal Theatre Festivals, and further assistance for plays chosen for the National Theatre Festival (Natya Samaroh) in Delhi. Applications for participation are screened by an Expert Committee on which figure eminent directors, theatre workers and critics from all over the country. Only new productions are considered.

The Expert Committee has the following members: Habib Tanvir, Rajinder Nath, Bhisham Sahni, Mohan Maharishi, Suresh Awasthi, Kavalam Narayana Panikkar, G Sankara Pillai, Prof. S Ramanujam, M Nagabhushana Sarma, Manoranjan Das, Anant Mahapatra, H Kanhailal, Vijaya Mehta, NC Jain, Damu Kenkre, Goverdhan Panchal, Kailash Pandya, Chandrasekhar Kambar, BV Karanth, Samik Banerjee, Tarun Roy, Dulal Ray, Shyamanand Jalan, ML Kemmu.

The State Sangeet Natak Akademi collaborate with SNA in organizing the Zonal Theatre Festivals. Programmes of the four Zonal Festivals and National Theatre Festival (Natya Samaroh) presented in this period follow:

North Zone Theatre Festival

Chandigarh, 22-27 September 1985
(in collaboration with Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi, Chandigarh)

Hayavadan (Hindi), directed by Harish Bhatia: Abhinet, Chandigarh; *Teen Ki Talwar* (Hindi), directed by Ramesh Manchanda: Theatre Circle, Delhi; *Kaun Nachaye Nach* (Hindi), directed by Balwant Thakur: Natrang, Jammu; *Ram Lila* (Hindi), directed by SM Kulshreshtha: Meghdoot, Lucknow; *Poster* (Hindi), directed by

Ravi Sharma: Darpan, Kanpur.

West Zone Theatre Festival

Udaipur, 11-16 October 1985
(in collaboration with Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, Jodhpur)

Sonycha Shahmurgacha Vag (Marathi), directed by Jaya Dev Hattangadi: Awishkar, Bombay; *Aakhyan* (Marathi), directed by Shivdas Ghodake: Indian Peoples' Theatre Association, Bombay; *Veena Vasavadutta* (Malwi), directed by Hafeez Khan: Ankur, Ujjain; *Tatvamasi* (Rajasthani), directed by Arjun Dev Charan: Rammat, Jodhpur; *Mukta Dhara* (Gujarati), directed by Bharat Dave: Saptasindhu, Ahmedabad.

East Zone Theatre Festival

Calcutta, 23-28 November 1985
(in collaboration with West Bengal State Akademi of Dance, Drama, Music and Fine Arts, Calcutta)

Nongda Apam Thoiba (Manipuri), directed by Y Rajendra Singh: Panthoibi Natya Mandir, Imphal; *Gorbhoboti Jononi* (Bengali), directed by Nabarun Bhattacharya: Nabanna, Calcutta; *Luit Kanya* (Assamese), directed by Karuna Deka: Assam Repertory Theatre, Gauhati; *Muktipath* (Oriya), directed by Narayan Pati: Anwesana, Bhubaneswar; *Pank* (Bengali), directed by Pradip Bhattacharya: Prantik, Murshidabad.

South Zone Theatre Festival

Cochin, 9-14 December 1985
(in collaboration with Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi, Trichur)

Velliyazhcha (Malayalam), directed by R Narendra Prasad: Natyagriham, Trivandrum; *Lakshpathi Rajane Kathe* (Kannada), directed by B Jayashree: Spandana, Bangalore; *Gograhamam* (Telugu), directed by T Sundaram: Sri Murali Kalanilayam, Hyderabad; *Kattiyakkaran* (Tamil), directed by KS Rajendra: Koothu-pattarai, Madras; *Ekalavya* (Kannada), directed by R Nagesh: Jana Natya Mandali, Bangalore.

**National Theatre Festival
(Natya Samaroh '85)**

Delhi: 9-15 January 1986

Nongda Apam Thoiba (Manipuri), directed by Y Rajendra Singh: Panthoibi Natya Mandir, Imphal;
Ram Lila (Hindi), directed by S M Kulshreshtha: Meghdoot, Lucknow;
Muktipath (Oriya), directed by Narayan Pati: Anwesana, Bhubaneswar;
Velliyazhcha (Malayalam), directed by R Narendra Prasad: Natyagriham, Trivandrum; *Aakhyan* (Marathi), directed by Shivdas Ghodake: Indian Peoples' Theatre Association, Bombay;
Lakshapati Rajane Kathe (Kannada), directed by B Jayashree: Spandana, Bangalore; *Mukta Dhara* (Gujarati), directed by Bharat Dave: Saptasindhu, Ahmedabad.



Ram Lila: Natya Samaroh '85, Delhi.



Documentation

The Akademi has, from its inception, accorded high priority to the recording and filming of our traditional performing-art forms. Begun in a small way in 1953, the programme has expanded considerably, covering the gamut of Indian performing arts, folk and classical. This has been made possible by the setting up in the 60s of a fully equipped recording studio. The documentation programme has, over the years, resulted in archival holdings of over one lakh feet of 16-mm film, 50,000 photographs/transparencies, 5000 hours of audio/video recordings. A list of new audio/video recordings this year follows:

Hindustani vocal music by Kishori Amonkar; folk music and dance of Kumaon (recordings from festival organized at Naini Tal by SNA); preview programme of folk groups visiting France to participate in Festival of India; Hindustani vocal (light classical) by Smt Kameshwari Devi; Kathputli & Bahurupia of Rajasthan; Ustad Sabir Hussain Khan of Rampur Gharana (interviewed by Naina Devi); demonstration of Mayurbhanj Chhau by Hari Naik; folk songs of Rajasthan by Haji Khan Manganiar; Vaishnav songs by Smt Nand Rani and Baul songs by Chandi Charan Baul; Bhaka songs of Jammu by Dooda Ram & Party; folk songs of Kutch (Gujarat) by Smt Dhanbai Kara; Alah of Uttar Pradesh by Laloo Bajpai & Party; songs of Bhopas of Rajasthan by Bhagwan Nath Jogi; Krishna Parijat of Karnataka by Sharanayya S Hiramath Kannur & Party; Sarangi by Shanwala Mishra; recordings of Lok-Utsav, New Delhi; seminar on 'Dance-Drama—Traditional Usage & Contemporary Challenge'; folk songs of Bundelkhand by Ram Sahai Pandey & Party; the music of Karlheinz Stockhausen; Ottan Thullal of Kerala by PS Marar; folk dances of Lakshadweep; Mayurbhanj Chhau by Srihari Nayak; Arjunrityam Kurichy PS Kumaran; folk dance & music of

Sikkim; the festival of Chhotanagpur, Jamshedpur; Bhavai of Gujarat by Dalsukh Raval & Party; Nautanki by Gulab Bai; Kargam of Tamil Nadu by SR Kalyani & Party; Veeranatyam of Andhra Pradesh by Chinta Venkateswarlu Rao & Party; Khyal of Rajasthan by Pukhraj Khiladi & Party; folk dances of Karnataka, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar; folk songs of Uttar Pradesh by Smt Zarina; Maach songs of Madhya Pradesh by OP Sharma; folk songs of Maharashtra; Adivasi Kala Mahotsava, Anandvan, Maharashtra: seminar and performances; folk songs of Uttar Pradesh: Chintamani, Fatima, Zebunissa & Shah Jehan Begum; folk songs of Rajasthan: Langas & Manganiars; Mohiniattam by Bharati Shivaji; SNA Awards Festival 1985, Bombay; interview of Fida Hussain by Balbir Pathak; Shehnai by Ali Hussain Khan; interview of B Jayamma by MN Ramanarasaiah; Thavil by VS Pillai; Carnatic vocal by Voleti Venkateswarlu; interview of Satyabhama Pandharpurkar by Durga Dixit; Khandobacha & Jagaran by Manikbai Bhagwanrao Renke; Lavani by Satyabhama Pandharpurkar.

A video-copy of a performance of *Shakuntala*, in German, directed by Smt Vijaya Mehta, has been acquired for Akademi archives. Audio recordings of Smt Mylapore Gouri Amma and Smt T Balasaraswati have also been acquired. The Akademi offers at nominal cost copies of all photographic material and audio/video listening/viewing facilities.

Publications

The publication programme of the Akademi takes in books and monographs on the performing arts besides the quarterly journal **Sangeet Natak**, begun in 1965. The **Sangeet Natak Akademi News Bulletin**, reporting current Akademi activities, also appears quarterly. Apart from its own publications, the Akademi provides financial assistance to

authors/institutions to publish books and journals on the performing arts.

The Publication Committee, set up by the Executive Board, guides the publication programme. It consists of the following members: Shri P V Krishnamoorthy, Chairman; members: Shri KS Kothari, Shri Komal Kothari, Dr M Nagabhushana Sarma, Dr (Mrs)



Kumud Mehta, Shri Rahul Barpute, Shri Samik Banerjee. The Committee met on 26 June 1985.

Two books were published by the Akademi during the year: **Ustad Fayyaz Khan** by Dipali Nag; **Tolu Bommalata—Shadow Puppets of Andhra Pradesh** by M Nagabhushana Sarma. Available Akademi publications are listed in Appendix 5.

Five issues (Nos. 72-78) **Sangeet Natak** appeared in the course of the year. Two of these were special numbers on 'Kavya and Nritya' and 'Traditional Idiom in Contemporary Theatre.' The journal has a sizeable readership at home and abroad.

The **Sangeet Natak Akademi News Bulletin** reappeared in a new format with the January-March 1986 issue. Distributed free to institutions and individuals interested in the arts, the bulletin is designed to disseminate information about Akademi's activities.

During the current year, the following grants were sanctioned for outside publications—books and journals: Rs 5000 for the **Journal of the Music Academy**, Madras; Rs 5000 for **Plucked Strings of North India**, a book to be published by Ms Sharmistha Sen; Rs 2000 for the **Journal of the Kala Vikash Kendra**, Cuttack; Rs 5000 for **Kirtana Malai Vol. V** by the late Sri Papanasam Sivam; Rs 3000 for the **Journal of the Indian Musicological Society**, Baroda; Rs 1500 for a special issue of **Indian and World Arts and Crafts**, New Delhi, on Mohiniattam; Rs 2000 for **Biswa-Beena**, Calcutta; Rs 7500 for **Raganidhi Vol. IV**, a publication of the Music Academy, Madras; Rs 2000 for **Indian Music Journal**, Melkote.

Copies of the following books were bought by way of subsidy: **Mudras in Kathakali** by G Venu; **Manipuri Nritya Mandapam** by Thelliyoor Gopalakrishnan; **Guide to Stage Lighting** by G N Dasgupta; **Panchamasar Samhita and Sangeet Damodar** published by Manipuri Nartanalaya, Calcutta.

Indo-Foreign Cultural Exchange Programme

Certain provisions of the Cultural Exchange Agreements entered into by the Government of India with other countries are implemented by the Akademi. The record for the year under review follows:

Indo-Afghanistan CEP 1985-87

The following material was sent to Indian Embassy, Kabul, for presentation to institutions: five issues of **Sangeet Natak**; three LP Records; articles on Indian folk theatre and folklore.

Indo-Czechoslovak CEP 1984-86

The Akademi received publications on theatre & puppet-plays as also photographs from different puppet theatres in Slovakia.

Indo-Mexican CEP 1985-87

The Akademi received 19 LP discs from the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History. In turn the Akademi sent the Mexican Institute an equal number of Indian classical music discs, a folk music cassette and a set of 24 picture postcards on performing-art forms.

Indo-Cuban CEP 1984-86

The Akademi received from the Cuban Government some publications on Cuban culture, information literature on Cuba, musical scores, and a traditional Cuban music disc.

Indo-GDR CEP 1985-87

Three GDR Theatre experts teaching at the National School of Drama, Delhi, were invited to attend the Akademi's North Zone Theatre Festival in Chandigarh 23-28 September 1985.

Inter-State Cultural Exchange Programme

Handled by the Akademi from 1980 but operative since 1957, the programme promotes exchange of performing troupes and individual artistes between the different States of the country. The object is an integrative awareness, nationwide, of the great variety of our performing arts. Implementation of the programme rests on State Governments, the Akademi playing a pivotal role—advising, subsidizing, co-ordinating the sponsored exchanges.

The exchange programme is chalked out every year in consultation with representatives of States/Union Territories. The meeting this year was convened by the Akademi on 25 May 1985; it was attended by representatives from Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Also to participate were officers of the Department of Culture, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Executive Board members and officers of the Akademi. Apart from planning the programme for the year, it was decided at this meeting to restructure the scheme by including solo performers for the purpose of exchange and making better financial provisions.

The following exchanges took place this year: A troupe from Maharashtra toured Sikkim 3-14 October 1985; a troupe from Tamil Nadu toured Karnataka 4-7 October 1985; a troupe from West Bengal toured Tripura 11-18 October 1985; a troupe from Tripura toured Tamil Nadu 17 October-2 November 1985; the Rang Mandal Theatre Group, Bhopal, toured Maharashtra 31 October-11 November 1985 and Goa 25 November-3 December 1985; a troupe from Chandigarh toured Tamil Nadu

3-11 December 1985; a troupe from Chandigarh toured Pondicherry 12-20 December 1985; a troupe from Maharashtra led by SNA Awardee Shri Sahir Sable toured Chandigarh and Delhi 4-12 January 1986; the Darpan Theatre Group of Kanpur toured Rajasthan 11-17 January 1986; a troupe from Himachal Pradesh toured Gujarat 16-26 January 1986; a troupe from Nagaland toured Haryana 23 January-2 February 1986; a Kathak group from Delhi led by SNA Awardee Shri Durga Lal toured Maharashtra 3-13 February 1986; the Darpan Theatre Group, Kanpur, toured Gujarat 7-17 February 1986; Kathak dancers from Delhi performed in Haryana in February 1986; a troupe from Himachal Pradesh toured West Bengal 22-28 February 1986; a troupe from Rajasthan toured Maharashtra 24 February-5 March 1986; a troupe from Gujarat toured West Bengal 2-10 March 1986; a troupe from Mizoram toured Himachal Pradesh 5-13 March 1986; a Kerala Kala Mandiram troupe from Trichur led by Smt Kshemavathy toured Goa, Daman & Diu 10-18 March 1986; a troupe from Sikkim toured Chandigarh 20-27 March 1986; a troupe from Punjab toured Dadra & Nagar Haveli 24-31 March 1986.

Promotion and Preservation of Rare Forms of Traditional Performing Arts

Through this scheme the Akademi seeks to provide sustenance for forms of traditional performing arts no longer in vogue. Over the years various rare forms have been identified; practitioners of nearly thirty forms have received support by way of training and performance opportunities.

The Rare Forms Fellowship Scheme encourages advanced training in certain forms of music, dance and

theatre. Details of the training given are reported regularly and the progress made by trainees assessed at the end of the year. Three training programmes were undertaken this year. Ustad Hafizullah Khan imparted Sarangi training to two young disciples. Advanced training in Pakhawaj was given by Raja Chhatrapati Singh of Bijna. Guru Purushottam Das continued to impart training in Pakhawaj.

Guru Purushottam Das and student.



Museum of Musical Instruments

The Akademi has been collecting performing-art objects from its inception, though methodical collection of museum material began only in 1968. Tribal, folk and classical instruments are on view in the Museum, acquired from different parts of the country. Part of the folk and tribal instrument, costume and jewellery collection has been received as gift from visiting troupes of musicians and Government agencies. Some instruments and objects have also been acquired from foreign visitors.

The existing collection divides into two broad categories: folk, tribal and classical musical instruments; masks,

puppets, headgears, costumes, ornaments and other performing-art artefacts. The Museum has some 450 instruments of all types, and about 1400 objects of the other category. Thirty-one instruments and artefacts were acquired this year.

Some of the noteworthy foreign delegations to visit the Museum this year include members of the Chinese Opera Institute; a group of academicians sponsored by Unesco; experts from the Victoria and Albert Museum, UK; Keeper of the Museum of Asian, African and American Culture, Prague; members of the Institute for Musicology, Budapest.

*Museum of Musical
Instruments*



Library & Listening Room

The Akademi library has, over the years, acquired a specialist collection of books on the performing arts. Over fifty periodicals are available in the library, which caters chiefly to students and researchers in the performing arts.

An adjunct to the library, the listening room has a representative collection of discs and cassettes of classical and folk music, chiefly Indian. It offers simultaneous facilities for eight listeners.

Financial Assistance to Cultural Institutions

The Akademi continued to render financial assistance to institutions working in the fields of music, dance and drama. In addition to Rs 4,37,500 committed to 74 identified institutions in 1982-83, the Grants Committee recommended enhanced grants amounting to Rs 83,500 for the year 1985-86 to these institutions (Appendix 7). Rs 5,54,750 was recommended as grant-in-aid to 141 cultural institutions during the year (Appendix 6). Rs 10,000 was sanctioned and disbursed out of the discretionary grants placed at the disposal of the Chairman/Vice-Chairman (Appendix 8). Grants sanctioned during the year totalled Rs 10,85,750.

The Grants Committee, which considers requests for financial assistance from performing-arts institutions, met on 27 June and 5 December 1985. The Committee comprises the following: Shri P V Krishnamoorthy, Chairman; Shri K S Kothari, Secretary; members: Shri Komal Kothari, Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Dr Ashok D Ranade, Shri T R Sukumaran Nair, Shri L Damodar Singh.

Budget and Accounts

The Akademi receives a grant-in-aid from the Department of Culture, Government of India, for meeting expenditure on Non-Plan and Plan activities. The budget of the Akademi in respect of Non Plan and Plan expenditure was as follows:

	<i>Budget Estimates 1985-86</i>	<i>Revised Estimates 1985-86</i>
Non Plan	Rs 55,00,000	Rs 58,81,000
Plan	Rs 70,00,000	Rs 74,50,000

The consolidated statement of annual certified audited accounts comprising the Receipts & Payments Accounts, Income & Expenditure Account, and the Balance Sheet for 1985-86 relating to Sangeet Natak Akademi and its constituent units—Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Akademi, Imphal, and Kathak Kendra, New Delhi—are at Appendices 9, 10, 11A and 11B.

The Finance Committee met on 28 October 1985. The composition of the Finance Committee follows: Shri SP Tuli, Chairman; members: Shri K S Kothari, Shri Pran Kishore, Miss P S Shakuntala, Shri Hafeez Ahmed Khan, Miss Usha Bhagat.

In Memoriam

Several luminaries in the world of performing arts passed away during the year. Among them were the following Akademi Awardees:

Ustad Sharafat Hussain Khan, who expired on 6 July 1985 after a prolonged illness; he had won the Akademi Award for Hindustani vocal music in 1984.

Shri Mohan Rao Kallianpurkar, an eminent Kathak guru, who passed away on 1 December 1985; he received the Akademi Award for Kathak in 1962.

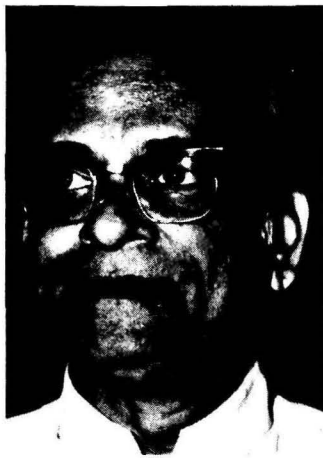
Shri Nikhil Bannerjee, the well-

known sitar player, who died on 27 January 1986. He was the recipient of the Akademi Award in 1974.

Smt Nayana Jhaveri, recipient of the Akademi Award for Manipuri dance in 1977, who passed away on 7 February 1986.

Smt Rukmini Devi Arundale, a leading figure in the world of Bharatanatyam, who died on 24 February 1986; she had received the Akademi Award in 1957 and was elected Fellow of the Akademi in 1967.

The Akademi pays its homage to their memory.



*Ustad Sharafat
Hussain Khan*

*Shri Mohan Rao
Kallianpurkar*

*Shri Nikhil
Bannerjee*



*Smt Nayana
Jhaveri*

*Smt Rukmini Devi
Arundale*

Kathak Kendra: Delhi

A constituent unit of Sangeet Natak Akademi, Kathak Kendra is one of the leading dance-teaching institutions in the country. Set up in 1964, it offers several comprehensive courses in Kathak and allied subjects like vocal music and Pakhawaj. The courses are designed to prepare artistes of professional standard. The Kathak Kendra also maintains a Production Unit, comprising highly trained artistic personnel, with a view to enriching the repertoire and technique

of Kathak through experimental work. The Kendra has on staff teachers of eminence in the various disciplines in which training is imparted. The Kendra's contribution over the years is mainly to be seen in terms of students trained in the past and the number professionally engaged in dance and music.

Production Unit

The Production Unit of the Kendra, headed by Guru Birju Maharaj, has a

Nayika Vilas: a
Kathak Kendra
production



permanent repertoire of dance-dramas and other choreographic works in Kathak. A small group of six dancers and nine musicians are members of the repertoire, which accepts professional engagements and often travels within and outside the country. Participation by Apprentice Fellows and students in the work of the unit is encouraged with a view to giving them experience in ensemble work and choreography. During the year Gurus, Prashikshaks and members of the repertoire choreographed eight short numbers which were presented in the Maharaj Kalka-Bindadin Kathak Mahotsava held in Delhi 14-17 February 1986. The unit toured Madras, Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack on professional engagements.

The following dancers are members of the unit: Km Saswati Sen, Smt Kalyani Chakraborty, Km Durga Arya, Shri Krishna Mohan Misra, Shri Ram Mohan Misra, Shri Bipul Chandra Das, Shri Jaikishan Misra.

Sponsored Programmes

The Kendra was sponsored for 22 performances by outside agencies. Three of these were presented on the following occasions: the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries on Namibia, on 19 April 1985; the second World Congress on Engineering and Environment, on 10 November 1985; the Asian Meet on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, on 11 December 1985. The Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi sponsored five shows at Jaipur, Ajmer, Bhilwara, Udaipur and Banswara in November 1985. Under the auspices of the National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay, the Kendra presented a dance programme on 24 May 1985.

Monthly Programmes

During the year, five programmes were presented by senior students of the Kendra. Twenty-two Diploma (Hons)/Specialization Course students participated in the programmes.

Festivals

The second Saraccandrika Festival was presented 28-30 October 1985 in New Delhi. Twenty dancers from all over the country participated in the festival.

The annual Maharaj Kalka-Bindadin Kathak Mahotsava was presented 14-17 February 1986 in New Delhi. The Production Unit and Gurus presented some new short numbers in the festival: *Nrityanjali*, *Alokmukti* and *Yati-Darshan* choreographed by Birju Maharaj; *Tridhara* choreographed by Durga Lal; *Raganvita* choreographed by Mannu Lal Shukla; *Sancharita* choreographed by Reba Vidyarthi; *Ashtashrayi* choreographed by Bharati Gupta; *Ritu-Raj* choreographed by Rajendra Gangani and Purna Shrimali; *Taal Samvad* choreographed by Prem Vallabh and Manika Prasad Misra. Apart from these, Kadamb of Ahmedabad, Nritya-Bharati of Pune, Padatik of Calcutta and Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra of Delhi also presented their new work in the Mahotsava.

Courses/Students/Scholarships

This year the Kendra had 150 students enrolled for its seven courses: a five-year Foundation Course; three-year Diploma (Pass) and Honours Courses; Specialization Courses in dance, vocal music and Pakhawaj; and a Refresher Course in Kathak. Scholarships are offered for all courses; amounts of some were enhanced this year. Apprentice Fellowships were awarded to four students who had completed their Specialization Course in Kathak.

The Dikshantotsava programme was presented 9-14 May 1986. The programme marks the end of the Kendra session and features final-year Kathak students who perform before examiners and an invited audience.

Teaching Faculty

The faculty comprises Birju Maharaj, Pradhyapak; Durga Lal, Sahachari Pradhyapak; Mannu Lal Shukla,

Kathak Guru; Bharati Gupta, Varishtha Kathak Prashikshika; Geetanjali Lal, Kathak Prashikshika; Rajinder Kumar Gangani, Kathak Prashikshak; Manika Prasad Misra, Tabla Prashikshak; Irene Roy Choudhury, Gayan Prashikshika; Ela Kamal, Yoga Prashikshika; Reba Vidyarthi, Kathak Guru.

Kathak Abroad

Three members of Kendra staff took on temporary teaching assignments abroad this year: Shri Pradeep Shankar, a dancer in the Production Unit, joined Kala Bharati (Academy of Indian Arts), Trinidad, as Artistic Director on a year's assignment in June 1985; Shri Tirath Ajmani, also a dancer in the Production Unit, joined the Indian Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana, as a Kathak

teacher for a three-year term in September 1985; Shri Mannu Lal Shukla, a Kathak Guru, Shri Subhash Nirvan, a Tabla player, and Shri Abdul Sami Khan, a sarod player, taught at the Yakshini Kathak Kendra, Tokyo, May-October 1985. Also that year Guru Birju Maharaj along with Kendra staff and students performed in the Festival of India in France and USA.

The Advisory Committee of Kathak Kendra comprises Shri P V Krishnamoorthy, Chairman; members: Shri Jiwan Pani (Director, Kathak Kendra), Shri K S Kothari (Secretary, SNA), Prof. SK Saxena, Shri Birju Maharaj, Smt Rohini Bhate, Smt Damayanti Joshi, Smt Kumudini Lakhia, Smt Maya Natarajan. The Advisory Committee met on 29 June 1985 at Pune and on 29 December 1985 in Madras.

Guru Birju Maharaj and students.



Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy: Imphal

A constituent unit of Sangeet Natak Akademi, JNMDA is the leading institution in the country for the teaching of Manipuri dance. Set up in 1954, it offers several comprehensive courses in Manipuri dance and allied subjects like Thang-ta and Lai Haroba. The courses are designed to prepare artistes of professional standard. The institution has on staff teachers of eminence. It also has a Production Unit with a large repertoire of dance-dramas.

The management of JNMDA vests in the Executive Board of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, which is assisted by a

local Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee comprises General K V Krishna Rao, Chairman; Shri N Khelchandra Singh, Vice-Chairman; members: Shri KS Kothari (Secretary, SNA), Shri AH Choudhury, Th. Babu Singh (Principal, JNMDA), Prof. Mangthoi Thaimai, Shri S Thanil Singh (Teachers' Representative), Shri Prakash Singh (Director, JNMDA).

Performances

A 27-member troupe from the Academy took part in the inaugural Mela of the Festival of India in

*Guru Leibakmacha
Singh and students.*



France, held in Paris 7-8 June 1985. This was followed by a performance tour of France and Italy. A 13-member troupe participated in Yuva-Utsav, a festival of young artistes presented by Sangeet Natak Akademi 17-20 July 1985 at Jamshedpur.

In November 1985 *Keibul Lamjao*, a dance-drama on the theme of wildlife preservation, was staged in Delhi by the Production Unit of the Academy; this was part of Nritya-Natika, a festival of dance-drama presented by Sangeet Natak Akademi. Artistes of the Academy also participated in Lok-Utsav '86, presented 8-10 January 1986 by Padatik in Calcutta in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Production Unit

A new dance-drama, *Ramayana*, was

choreographed this year by the Production Unit of the Academy; the premiere was inaugurated by General KV Krishna Rao, Governor of Manipur, on 25 March 1986.

The unit presents composite programmes of dance and music at Imphal on important occasions or in honour of dignitaries visiting the State. These programmes are sponsored by various departments of the State Government as well as other agencies. During the current year 14 programmes of the kind were presented, including a programme on 5 October 1985 in honour of the President of India.

Students/Examinations

The Academy had 261 students on roll this year. The annual Certificate and Diploma Course examinations were held 16-26 August 1985.

*Keibul Lamjao:
a JNMDA
production*



1985

4-11 April: Natak Mela, Chandigarh, a festival of Punjabi plays presented by Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi and Punjab Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with SNA.

22-29 April: Children's Theatre Workshop for Young Directors, Lucknow, organized by Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi in collaboration with SNA.

13 May: Homage to Balasaraswati, Delhi, a dance programme in memory of Bala.

25 May: Annual Meeting of State Representatives, Delhi: Inter-State Cultural Exchange Programme.

15 June-15 July: Workshop on Puppet Training & Production, Bombay, organized by Awishkar in collaboration with SNA.

26 June: Publication Committee Meeting, Delhi.

27 June: Grants Committee Meeting, Delhi.

3 July: Executive Board Meeting, Delhi.

17-20 July: Yuva-Utsav, Jamshedpur, a festival of young dancers and musicians, presented in collaboration with New Artistes Forum.

3 September: A programme of Rajasthani folk music, Chandigarh, presented by Directorate of Culture, Punjab, in collaboration with SNA.

7-8 September: Lok-Utsav, Chandigarh, a festival of Punjab folk performing arts, presented in collaboration with Directorate of Culture, Punjab.

11-16 September: West Zone Theatre Festival, Udaipur, presented in collaboration with Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Adakemi.

22-27 September: North Zone Theatre Festival, Chandigarh, presented in collaboration with Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi.

28 October: Finance Committee meeting, Delhi.

1-10 November: Workshop on Choreography, Bombay, organized by National Centre for the Performing Arts and Max Mueller Bhavan in collaboration with SNA.

2-6 November: Lok-Utsav '85, Delhi, a festival of folk/traditional performing arts.

14 November: Executive Board meeting, Delhi.

14-19 November: Nritya-Natika, Delhi, a festival of dance-drama, and a concurrent Seminar on 'Dance-Drama: Traditional Usage and Contemporary Challenge.'

15 November: General Council meeting, Delhi.

22 November: A concert by Karlheinz Stockhausen, Delhi, presented in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

23-28 November: East Zone Theatre Festival,

Calcutta, presented in collaboration with West Bengal State Akademi of Dance, Drama, Music and Fine Arts.

5 December: Grants Committee meeting, Delhi.

9-14 December: South Zone Theatre Festival, Cochin, presented in collaboration with Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi.

1986

8-10 January: Lokotsav '86, Calcutta, presented by Padatik in collaboration with SNA.

9-15 January: Natya Samaroh '85 (National Theatre Festival), Delhi.

20 January-20 February: Fest '86, a countrywide festival of music and dance presented by SPIC-MACAY in collaboration with SNA.

1-7 March: Award ceremony and festival, Bombay.

1-8 March: Educational Puppetry Workshop/Seminar & Festival, Hyderabad, organized by Association for Promotion of Puppetry in collaboration with SNA.

2 March: Folk Festival '86, Jhargram, a programme of Chhau and tribal dance, presented by Lokayata Sanskriti Parishad with assistance from SNA.

2 March: Executive Board meeting, Bombay.

21-23 March: Symposium on Presentation of Performing Arts, Madras, organized by Max Mueller Bhavan in collaboration with SNA.

22-25 March: Yuva-Utsav, Bhubaneswar, a festival of young musicians, presented in collaboration with Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi.

27-30 March: Yuva-Utsav, Shimla, a festival of young dancers, presented in collaboration with the Department of Languages and Culture, Himachal Pradesh.

Memorandum of Association (excerpts)

APPENDIX 2

The objects for which the Society is set up are:

(i) to co-ordinate the activities of regional or State Academies of music, dance and drama;

(ii) to promote research in the fields of Indian music, dance and drama and for this purpose to establish a library and museum, etc.;

(iii) to cooperate with such similar Academies as there may be and other institutions and associations for the furtherance of its objects and for the enrichment of Indian culture as a whole;

(iv) to encourage the exchange of ideas and enrichment of techniques between the different regions in regard to the arts of music, dance and drama;

(v) to encourage the establishment of theatre centres, on the basis of regional languages, and cooperation among different theatre centres;

(vi) to encourage the setting up of institutions providing training in the art of theatre, including instruction in actor's training, study of stagecraft, and production of plays;

(vii) to encourage and assist production of new plays by awarding prizes and distinctions;

(viii) to publish literature on Indian music, dance and drama including reference works such as an illustrated dictionary or handbook of technical terms;

(ix) to give recognition to and otherwise assist meritorious theatrical organisations;

(x) to encourage the development of amateur dramatic activity—children's theatre, open-air theatre, rural theatre—in its various forms;

(xi) to revive and preserve folk music, folk dance and folk drama in different regions of the country and to encourage the development of community music, martial music and other types of music;

(xii) to sponsor music, dance and drama festivals, seminars and conferences on an all-India basis and to encourage such regional festivals;

(xiii) to award prizes and distinctions and to give recognition to individual artistes for outstanding achievement in the fields of music, dance and drama;

(xiv) to take suitable steps for the maintenance of proper and adequate standards of education in music, dance and drama and with that object to organise research in the teaching of the said subjects;

(xv) to foster cultural contacts between the different regions of the country and also with other countries in the fields of music, dance and drama.