

Seminar on Music : Moscow

On the occasion of the Festival of India in the USSR (July 1987-July 1988) the Akademi planned and helped organize a series of three seminars on music, dance, and theatre in the Soviet Union. The first of these, on music, was held in Moscow 16-20 October 1987. Dr Prem Lata Sharma, Dr Prabha Atre, Dr R Satyanarayana and Shri Bhaskar Chandavarkar were the Indian participants; Dr Prem Lata Sharma was leader of the delegation and coordinator. The Soviet coordinator was Prof. G K Mikhailov, head of the department of Asian and African Music, Moscow State Conservatoire. Five papers by the Indian participants and 16 papers by Soviet scholars—all on Indian music—were presented at the seminar. The inaugural session of the seminar was at the Glinka State Central Museum, also the venue for the exhibition of Indian musical instruments mounted by the Akademi. The three other sessions were held at the Moscow State Conservatoire.

The seminar ended with the recommendation that contacts should be maintained in future between Soviet scholars and Indian musicians and musicologists. The Indian participants visited the Moscow State Conservatoire and had the opportunity of exchanging ideas with musicians and teachers on the faculty. They also visited the Union of Composers of Music and other important institutions connected with the teaching and learning of music.

Lok Utsav '87 : Delhi

Presented 27-31 October 1987, this festival of traditional performing arts was the fourth annual event of a series begun in 1984. It featured some 30 different forms of traditional music, dance and drama from all parts of the country.

An attraction on the inaugural day was a Tala Vadya Kacheri combining the Thavil, Ghatam and Kanjira. Hazagiri dance by Reang tribal women of Tripura was again a performance presented first outside its provenance. Other notable performances include a Pandavani recital by Shri Jhaduram Devangan, Kathakalakshepam

by D. Uma Maheswari, a rendering of Oggukatha—a popular Andhra ballad—by Chukka Satyya. In addition there was a large number of group dances from various regions. The programme in full follows :

27 October 1987

Mizhavu, Kerala : Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan, Margi Nagarajan; Karma Dance, Uttar Pradesh : Katwaroo & Group; Tejaji Ki Katha, Madhya Pradesh : Ramesh Chauhan; Tala Vadya Kacheri, Tamil Nadu : Haridwaramangalam A K Palanivel, G Harishankar, T H Vinayakram; Ras, Gujarat : Sarvodaya Ras Mandal; Paraiattam, Tamil Nadu : Arangam Group; Chhakari, Jammu & Kashmir : Abdul Rashid Hafiz & Group; Purulia Chhau, West Bengal : Indian Chhau Dance Party Youth Association.

28 October 1987

Usha Kothi, Orissa : Nabaghana Parida & Group; Rasuda, Gujarat : Julianbai & Group; Pandavani, Madhya Pradesh :

*Pratima Pande Barua,
Assamese folk singer:
Lok Utsav '87, Delhi*





Kathi Nritya, Madhya Pradesh : Rainswaroop Malviya and group, Lok Utsav '87, Delhi



Chhau, Purulia : Indian Chhau Dance Party Youth Association, Lok Utsav '87, Delhi



Pandavani narrator Jhaduram Devangan : Lok Utsav '87, Delhi

Jhaduram Devangan; Ras, Gujarat : Sarvodaya Ras Mandal; Pena Isei, Manipur : W Thombalngou Singh & Group; Folk Songs of Assam : Pratima Pande Barua; Purulia Chhau, West Bengal : Indian Chhau Dance Party Youth Association.

29 October 1987

Kathi Nritya, Madhya Pradesh : Ramswaroop Malviya & Group; Villupattu, Tamil Nadu : P Chinnappa & Group; Holi Pala, Manipur : S Tombi Singh & Group; Chhakari, Jammu & Kashmir : Ali Mohammad Shaikh & Group; Singh Baja, Orissa : Mulia Behera & Group; Yellamma Songs, Maharashtra : Tangenwa Hegde & Group; Arati Nritya, Gujarat : Ushabehn Dave; Khabal Nati, Himachal Pradesh : Baburam & Group;

30 October 1987

Arjuna Nrityam, Kerala : Kuruchi P S Kumaran; Dhol Nritya, Rajasthan : Munna Ram & Group; Kathakalakshepam, Andhra Pradesh : D Uma Maheshwari; Folk Songs, Himachal Pradesh : Roshni Devi & Group; Hazagiri Dance, Tripura : Reang Women's Group; Bharud, Maharashtra : Chandatai Jagdish Tiwari & Group; Vasanta Ras, Manipur : Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy.

31 October 1987

Oggukatha, Andhra Pradesh : Chukka Satyya & Group; Bihu, Assam; Matka, Rajasthan : Sugala Ram; Kakbarak Songs, Tripura : Pathika Deb Barma; Pugadi Dance, Karnataka : Huchappa Masthara & Group; Shukar Nritya, Rajasthan : Binjaram & Group; Maharas, Manipur : Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy.

Seminar on Indian Theatre : Tashkent

Second in the series of Indo-Soviet Seminars organized by the Akademi during the Festival of India in the USSR, the theatre seminar was held in Tashkent 11—12 December 1987. It was inaugurated by Mr U Umarbekov, Soviet Minister for Culture, and presided over by Shri N C Jain who led the Indian participants.

Six papers were read, chiefly by the Soviet participants, on 11 December : 'The Problems of Modern Soviet Theatrical Life' by Prof V Diomin, Head of the Theatre Department, Soviet Ministry of Culture; 'Soviet-Indian Theatrical Relations' by Prof Kotovskaya; 'Indian-Uzbek Cultural Relations' by Prof Rehmanov; 'The Contemporary Indian Theatre : A View from Outside' by Anna Suvarova, Institute of Oriental Studies, USSR Academy of Science; 'Indian Classics Nowadays' by Ms Salaganie, Member of the Writer's Union of USSR; 'The Experience of *Ramayana* Production on the Soviet Stage' by G M Pachnikov, Director of the Theatre for Children, Moscow; 'Rural/Traditional Actors and Contemporary Indian Theatre' by Shri Habib Tanvir, Director, Naya Theatre, New Delhi. The participants were invited to a play, *The Revolt of a Daughter-in-Law*, by the Theatre for Youth. A discussion with the actors was arranged after the performance.

Six papers were presented on 12 December. The morning session was presided over by Shrimati Vijaya Mehta and the afternoon session by Shri Samik Banerjee. The following papers were presented : 'Continuity and Change in Indian Theatre' by Shri N C Jain; 'The Post-Independence Challenge : Assimilating/Transforming/Re-creating the Western Traditions' by Shri Samik Banerjee; 'Ritual to Theatre : Problem of Transformation' by Prof G Sankara Pillai; 'Search for Identity through Theatre : Notes of a Contemporary Director' by Shrimati Vijaya Mehta; 'Exploring New Space in Theatre' by Shrimati Kavita Nagpal; 'Search for a New Idiom in Contemporary Indian Theatre' by Shri N C Jain.

After the papers, video recordings of traditional and contemporary Indian theatre were played for participants. The Akademi presented to the Soviet hosts 50 books on various aspects of Indian theatre. Several Soviet organizations invited the Indian delegates for discussions on Indian theatre. A useful meeting was with the editor of *Soviet Theatre*, Mr Sergei Nikolayvich, in Moscow.

Yuva-Utsav/Nritya Pratibha : Jaipur/Delhi

Presented 14-17 March 1988 in association with the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, Yuva-Utsav, a festival of young dancers, was inaugurated by the Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Sukhdev Prasad. Guru Purushottom Das, a renowned Pakhawaj player, was a special invitee at the festival. Yuva-Utsav featured practitioners of the major classical styles from all over the country—a total of 18 recitals over four days. The programme follows :

14 March

Bharatanatyam : Anandi Ramachandran, Bombay.

Pung Cholom : Manipuri Jagoi Marup, Imphal.

Mohiniattam : Sunanda Nair, Bombay.

Kathak : Maulik Shah and Ishira Parikha, Ahmedabad.

15 March

Odissi : Rajashri Chintak, Bhubaneswar.

Dhol Cholom : Manipuri Jagoi Marup, Imphal.

Bharatanatyam : Vidya Subramanyam, Madras.

Kathak : Preeti Soni, Kathak Kendra, Jaipur.

Kuchipudi : Kalpalatika and Kamala, Madras.

16 March

Kathak—*Swarchhanda* : Disciples of Pandit Durga Lal, Kathak Kendra, New Delhi.

Kathakali : Margi Vijayakumar, Trivandrum.

Thang-ta : Huyel Lallong Thang-ta Cultural Association, Manipur.

Odissi : Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Kathak—*Tarana* : Disciples of Pandit Durga Lal, Kathak Kendra, New Delhi.

17 March

Bharatanatyam : Ananda Shankar/Sugandha Shankar, Secunderabad

Chhau, Mayurbhanj : Sadasiva Pradhan & Group, Bhubaneswar.

*Margi Vijayakumar in
Kathakali : Yuva Utsav,
Jaipur*



Raag-o-Roopantar : Dancers' Guild, Calcutta.

The Yuva-Utsav festivals featuring young dancers and musicians were launched in 1985, the International Year of Youth, with the object of scouting young talent, creating performance opportunities for the young, exposing new audiences to classical dance and music. With the festival in Jaipur the Akademi has presented nine Yuva-Utsavs—in Pune, Trivandrum, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, Shimla, Delhi, Madras and Kanpur.

Concurrently with Yuva-Utsav in Jaipur was presented Nritya Pratibha in Delhi, also a festival of young dance talents. Nritya Pratibha featured a selection of dancers from the Jaipur festival as well as others invited from different parts of the country. The programme follows :

16 March

Bharatanatyam : Anandi Ramachandran, Bombay.

Odissi : Rajashri Chintak/ Sangeeta Dash, Bhubaneswar.

Kuchipudi : Kamala Reddy/Kalpalatika, Madras.



Kathak : Neelima Azim, New Delhi.

17 March

Bharatanatyam : Mithra Prabhu, Delhi.

Odissi : Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Kathakali : Margi Vijayakumar, Trivandrum.

Bharatanatyam : Vidya Subramanyam, Madras.

Kathak : Urmila Sharma, Allahabad.

18 March

Bharatanatyam : Ananda Shankar, Secunderabad.

Kathak : Nirupama Kaul, Delhi.

Chhau, Mayurbhanj : Sadasiva Pradhan/Santosh Mohanta/Subrata Patnaik, Bhubaneswar.

Odissi : Ambika Paniker, Delhi.

Bharatanatyam : Priyadarshini Gopalan, Madras.

Sunanda Nair in Mohiniattam : Yuva Utsav, Jaipur

Priyadarshini Gopalan in Bharatanatyam : Nritya Pratibha, Delhi



Western Music Concert : Delhi

Max Mueller Bhavan, India International Centre and Delhi Music Society in association with the Akademi presented an evening of Western music by the Biswas Trio at India International Centre on 16 January 1988.

The trio comprises the young India-born cellist Anup Biswas, violinist Kristen Hellier, and pianist Nigel Clayton. The programme was of chamber pieces by Bheethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn.

Reception to Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister

On the occasion of the visit of Mr V I. Kozenin, Soviet Deputy Minister for Culture to India, the Akademi hosted a reception in his honour on 25 January 1988 at the India International Centre. A *dhrupad* recital by Ramakant and Umakant Gundecha of Bhopal was presented on the occasion.

One Ordinary Day : Delhi

This mime-and-mask play directed by Christina Fabiani was presented by the Akademi in association with Alliance Francaise, Delhi, at Triveni Chamber Theatre on 3 March 1988. Ms Fabiani directed the play—a vignette on Bombay street life—for Praxis, a Bombay-based amateur group experimenting with mime-and-mask productions.

Rajasthan Folk Instrument Workshop : Borunda

This Akademi-funded workshop under the auspices of Rupayan Sansthan, Borunda, which commenced operation in April 1986, was wound up in March 1988 after a productive span of two years. In this period the workshop produced instruments of five chordophonic varieties : Sindhi Sarangi, Gujratan Sarangi, Surinda, Kamaicha and Ravaj. A master craftsman, Ridmal Langa, ran the workshop with the help of two young apprentices who were initiated in instrument-making over the past two years.

The first effort to resuscitate folk-instrument-making in Rajasthan, the

workshop was established to check the sharp decline in the quality of instruments produced over the last few years. Unfit for use by musicians, these instruments were often sold as tourist curios. The decline in instrument-making was inevitably reflected in musical practice and preference.

The workshop's produce was sold to musicians, replacing unusable pieces. The Akademi's Museum of Musical Instruments also gained by acquiring a set of the instruments produced. Rupayan Sansthan acquired a set as well for its own museum.

National/Regional Festivals of Music and Dance

Some major festivals of dance and music in different parts of the country were held with financial support from the Akademi. Financial assistance was given to Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy to hold Somnathapura Festival, to the Seagull Foundation for the Arts, Calcutta, for a programme of Sufi music—Mehfil-e-Khas—to Spic-Macay for their annual Fest-88, and to Padatik, Calcutta, for an International Seminar, Festival and Workshop on Theatre, Dance and the Martial Arts.

Assistance to Young Theatre Workers

The scheme, given its present form in 1984, supports experimental work by directors looking for an indigenous theatre idiom (scheme excerpts : Appendix VI). 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 in the Zonal Festivals are screened by an Expert Committee of directors, theatre workers and critics from all over the country. Only new productions are considered.

The Expert Committee (1987-88) had the following members : Shri N C Jain,

Shrimati Sheila Bhatia, Shri J N Kaushal, Shri Manohar Singh, Shri Pran Kishore, Shri Damu Kendré, Shri Satish Alekar, Shri Kavalam Narayana Panikkar, Shri Chandra Sekhar Kambar, Dr Nagabhushana Sarma, Shri Chatla Sriramulu, Shri Naa Muthuswamy, Shri Indira Parthasarathy, Shri Samik Banerjee, Shri Habib Tanvir, Shri Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi, the late Laxmi Narain Lal, Shri B M Shah, Shri K V Subanna, Shri Kumar Roy, Shri Ratan Thiyam, Shri Dulal Roy, Shri Manoranjan Das and Shrimati Vijaya Mehta.

The Zonal Theatre Festivals are presented in collaboration with the State Sangeet Natak Akademis and Departments of Culture. Brief reports on the Zonal and National Theatre Festivals in 1987-88 follow :

North Zone Theatre Festival : Jammu

The first of the Zonal Festivals in 1987, the North Zone Theatre Festival was held 18-23 Aug. in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. The festival featured six new productions in Kashmiri, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi :

18 August

Rani Didda (Kashmiri) : dir Nisaar Naseem, Manasbal Dramatics, Safapur.

19 August

Samudra Manthan (Hindi) : dir Akhilesh Khanna, Sambhav Art Group, New Delhi.

20 August

Shahar-e-Matam (Urdu) : dir Laique Hussain, Delhi Natya Sangh, Delhi.

21 August

Kaal Khand (Hindi) : dir Narendra Chauhan, Kala Mandir, Shimla

22 August

Kuntha (Hindi) : dir Sachin Tiwari, Campus Theatre, Shimla.

23 August

Raja Bharathari (Punjabi) : dir Neelam Mansingh Choudhary, The Company, Chandigarh.

All through the festival, mornings were given over to discussions initiated by invited experts on plays staged the previous evening. Among those present were theatre critic Shri N C Jain, Shri J N Kaushal of the National School of Drama, Dr Satyendra Taneja, Shri Kavi Rattan Sharma and Shri M L Kemmu.

West Zone Theatre Festival : Bhopal

The West Zone Festival was held 5-10 October 1987 in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad and Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal. The following plays were presented :

5 October

Vishwa Vijeta (Hindi) : dir Dharendra Kumar, Shipra Samaskriti Sansthan, Ujjain.

6 October

Ekalavya (Marathi) : dir Tulsidas Harishchandra Behere, Swami Samarth Krida Mandal, Bombay.

7 October

Gangour (Rajasthani) : dir Iqbal Hussain, Ayam Sansthan, Bikaner.

8 October

Mhaka Zap Zai (Konkani) : dir Caetan Pereira, Lis Goa Dramatic, Goa.

9 October

Kem Makanji Kyanchalya (Gujarati) : dir Nimesh Desai, Chorus Theatre Group, Ahmedabad.

10 October

Zulva (Marathi) : dir Waman Kendre, Sanmitra, Bombay.

East Zone Theatre Festival : Patna

The East Zone Festival was held 2-7 November 1987 in collaboration with the

Department of Youth Affairs, Sports and Culture, Bihar. The following plays were presented :

2 November

Maila Aanchal (Bhojpuri) : dir Satish Anand, Kala Sangam, Patna.

3 November

Nganbiton (Manipuri) : dir Yuman Khogen Singh, The Panthoibi Natya Mandir, Imphal.

4 November

Gotia Bulakukurara Janma Brutanta (Oriya) : dir Jay Dev Dash, Silpi, Dhenkanal.

5 November

Pashanir Chokher Jal (Bengali) : dir Sushil Chandra, Uttar Banga Lokosanskriti Sanstha, Jalapaiguri.

6 November

Bandi Masor Gaidya (Assamese) : dir Badal Chowdhry, Rhittik Sangskritik Goshthi, Barpeta, Assam.

7 November

Ima Keithel (Manipuri) : dir N Prem Chand, The Aryan Theatre, Imphal.

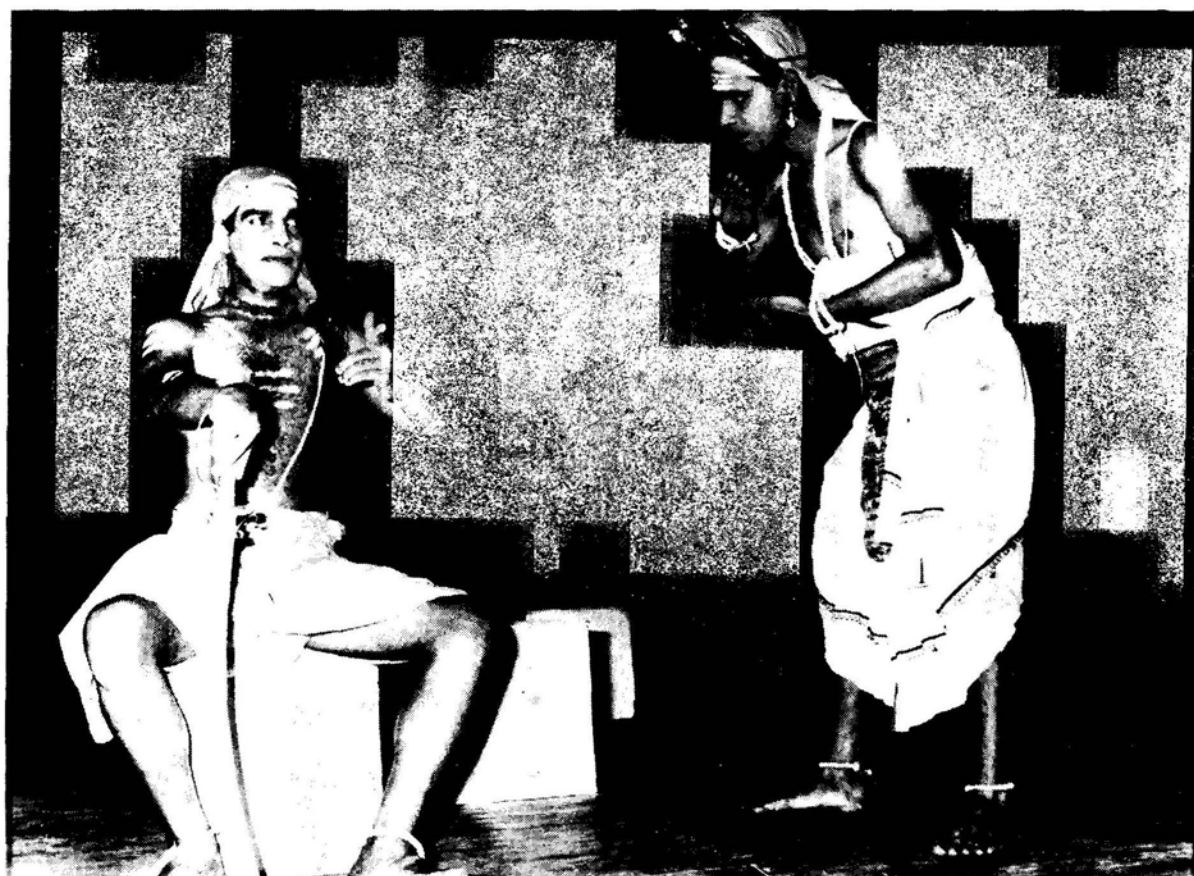
South Zone Theatre Festival : Madras

The South Zone Theatre Festival was presented 23—27 November 1987 in association with Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, Madras. It featured five new productions in Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada :

23 November

Sabam ! Vimochanam ? (Tamil) : dir M Ramaswamy, Nija Nataka Iyakkam, Madurai.

Mudrarakshasam, directed by Jos Chiramel : Natya Samaroh '87, Delhi



24 November

Bepputhakkadi Boleshankara (Kannada) :
dir C R Jambe, Ninasam, Heggodu.

25 November

Mudrarakshasam (Malayalam) :
dir Jos Chiramel, The Root, Trichur.

26 November

Moodurina Prasanga (Kannada) :
dir S Malathi, Geleyara Balaga, Talavata.

27 November

Kalanetheeni (Malayalam) :
dir K Kaladharan, Rasika Arts & Cultural
Society, Trivandrum.

Natya Samaroh '87 (National Theatre Festival) : Delhi

Presented 14-17 January 1988, Natya
Samaroh—the National Theatre Festival—

featured a selection of four plays out of 24
presented in the Zonal Theatre Festivals
in 1987. The schedule of plays follows :

14 January

Raja Bharathari (Punjabi) : dir Neelam
Mansingh Choudhry, The Company,
Chandigarh.

15 January

Zulva (Marathi) : dir Waman Kendre,
Sanmitra, Bombay.

16 January

Mudrarakshasam (Malayalam) : dir Jos
Chiramel, The Root,
Trichur.

17 January

Ima Keithel (Manipuri) : dir N
Premchand, The Aryan Theatre,
Imphal.

*Zulva, directed by Waman
Kendre : Natya Samaroh
'87, Delhi*



Promotion and Preservation of Rare Forms of Traditional Performing Arts

The Rare Forms Fellowship Scheme supports advanced training in forms of music, dance and theatre which are now passing out of vogue. Fees to reputed teachers and stipends to students are paid by the Akademi by way of incentive, the effort being to sustain these arts through the traditional teaching/learning process. Details of training are regularly reported and the progress of students assessed annually by the Akademi. The current training courses are by Ustad Hafizullah Khan in Sarangi, Guru Purushottam Das and Guru Chhatrapati Singh, separately, in Pakhawaj. The recently concluded folk-instrument workshop in Borunda, Rajasthan (reported in an earlier section), was also supported through this scheme; two young apprentices learnt the art of instrument-making from a master craftsman, fees and stipends paid by the Akademi.

Inter-State Cultural Exchange Programme

The programme promotes exchange of performing troupes and individual artistes between all States and Union Territories of the country. The object is an integrative awareness, nationwide, of our performing-arts heritage. Implementation of the programme rests on State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the Akademi playing a pivotal role in advising the governments concerned, subsidizing and coordinating the tours sponsored.

The exchange programme is chalked out annually at a meeting with representatives of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The meeting this year was held 26-27 April 1987 at Guwahati. The hosts were the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam. Exchanges approved for the coming year showed a growing interest in the scheme among all participant States and Union Territories.

Inter-State tours in the period reported follow :

- i. A 30-member music/dance troupe from Sikkim toured Manipur and Mizoram 5-24 October 1987. The group performed at Imphal and Moirang in Manipur, Aizwal and Thingsulthaiah in Mizoram.
- ii. A 31-member music/dance troupe from Kerala toured Nagaland 27 October—10 November 1987. It gave performances at Kohima, Wokha, Mokokchung, Tuensang and Dimapur.
- iii. A 22-member troupe of folk musicians and dancers from Rajasthan toured Arunachal Pradesh 4-19 November 1987. It performed at Khonsa, Changlang, Tezu and Miao.
- iv. A 16-member troupe from Delhi toured Sikkim 10-17 November 1987. It gave performances at Gangtok, Namchi and Jorathang.
- v. A 26-member troupe from Mizoram toured Kerala 28 November—15 December 1987. The troupe gave performances at Palghat, Kozhikode, Trichur, Ernakulam, Palai and Trivandrum.
- vi. A 30-member music/dance troupe from Manipur toured Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh 29 December 1987—19 January 1988. It performed at Burali, Khuda Alisher, Budheri and Chandigarh under the auspices of Chandigarh Administration and at Una, Hamirpur, Mandi, Bilaspur and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.
- vii. A 21-member Kathak Kendra (Lucknow) troupe toured Goa and Karnataka 3-20 January 1988. The performances were at Vasco, Margao, Mapusa, Curchorem, Ponda and Panaji in Goa and Sirsi,

- Dharwad, Hubli and Bangalore in Karnataka.
- viii. A music/dance troupe from Bihar toured Goa 22 January—2 February 1988. The troupe gave performances at Bicholim, Paigunim, Curtorim, Valpoi, Sanguen, Mandrem, Panaji.
 - ix. A 30-member troupe of musicians, folk dancers and theatre artistes from Chandigarh toured Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh 27 Jan—16 February 1987. The troupe gave performances at Suryapet, Rajahmundry, Kuchipudi, Srisailem, Anantpur and Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Bombay, Pune, Karad, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad and Nanded in Maharashtra.
 - x. A 31-member troupe from Himachal Pradesh toured Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan 2-22 February 1988. It gave performances at Kanpur, Rai Bareilly, Sultanpur, Faizabad, Lucknow and Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh and Jaipur, Mukundgarh, Dungargarh, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Barmer in Rajasthan.
 - xi. A 30-member troupe from Goa toured Bihar 6-19 February and Tamil Nadu 26 March-6 April 1988. The performances were at Patna, Begusarai, Munger, Dumka and Bhagalpur in Bihar, Cuddalore, Pudukottai, Dindigul, Tuticorin and Madras in Tamil Nadu.
 - xii. A 30-member troupe from Punjab toured West Bengal 10-25 February 1988. The performances were at Calcutta, Krishnanagar, Behrampur, Siliguri and Durgapur.
 - xiii. A 33-member troupe from Assam toured Haryana and Chandigarh 16-28 February 1988. It performed at Mani Majra, Behlana, Dhanas and Chandigarh under the auspices of Chandigarh Administration and Rohtak, Bhiwani, Hissar, Sirsa, Karnal, Kurukshetra and Ambala in Haryana.
 - xiv. A 30-member troupe from Haryana toured Mizoram 26 February-2 March 1988. It performed at Aizawl and Saitual village.
 - xv. A 30-member troupe from Tamil Nadu toured Himachal Pradesh and Punjab 1-20 March 1988. The performances were at Nahan, Solan, Shimla, Sundernagar and Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh, Mohali, Jalandhar, Faridkot, Ludhiana and Ropar in Punjab.
 - xvi. A troupe from Gujarat toured Bihar earlier this year.

Cultural Exchange Programme Between India and Other Countries

The Akademi as a specialist performing-arts body is responsible for some of the tasks envisaged in the Cultural Exchange Programme agreements between India and other countries. Here the Akademi acts mainly as a clearing house for material and information on the performing arts of India, exchanging books, tapes and other published or archival material with institutions in various countries.

Besides exchange of material, the programme supports Indian representation at seminars and festivals abroad. Other specific assignments emanating from cultural exchange agreements are also handled by the Akademi at the instance of the Government of India.

In the period reported the Akademi sent video-cassettes, photographs and publications on Indian performing arts to Afghanistan, Cuba, France, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of Korea and the USSR. Besides, the following visits were sponsored through the scheme :

Assitej Congress : Adelaide

Shri B R Bhargava, Assistant Secretary (Drama) in the Akademi, was the Indian delegate sponsored to the Ninth World Congress of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) held 7-17 April 1987; ASSITEJ

is an associate body of the Unesco-sponsored International Theatre Institute. More Than 300 theatre workers from all over the world participated in the Congress, coinciding with the National Youth Festival featuring professional companies from all over Australia. India was represented for the first time, its delegate sponsored in accordance with the Indo-Australian Cultural Exchange Programme.

Festival of India : USSR

Smt Bandana Srinivasan, Assistant Secretary (General) in the Akademi visited Moscow and Leningrad 27 June-26 July 1987 to coordinate presentations in the Festival of India in the USSR. Among musicians and dancers who performed in the Festival during this period are M S Subbulakshmi, Lalgudi Jayaraman, Bismillah Khan, Sudharani Raghupathy, Padma Subrahmanyam and Kedarnath Sahu.

Avignon Festival : France

Shri K S Kothari, Secretary of the Akademi, visited France to attend the Avignon Festival 9-17 July, 1987. He was invited by the French Government under provisions of the Indo-French Cultural Exchange Programme.

Cultural Exchange : Japan

Shri K S Kothari visited Tokyo and Osaka 14-28 August 1987 at the invitation of the Japan Foundation. Sponsored under the Short Term Visitors' Programme of the Foundation, the visit was towards the promotion of meaningful exchanges between India and Japan.

Indian Music & Dance Workshop : Oslo

This workshop was organized 24 August-4 September 1987 in collaboration with the Institute of Musicology, University of Oslo, in accordance with the Indo-Norwegian Cultural Exchange Programme. The Indian participants were Santoor player Shri Bhajanlal Sopori, Kathak/Chhau dancer

Shrimati Daksha Sheth, and Tabla-player Govinda Prasad Chakraborty. Apart from individual instruction and demonstrations in the workshop, the Indian artistes interacted with students and faculties of the State Music Academy, the State Academy of Dance, and Oslo Teachers' College. Records of Indian music, photographs and publications were gifted to the University of Oslo.

Babylon International Festival : Iraq

The Chairman of the Akademi, Dr V K Narayana Menon and Shri K S Kothari, Secretary, visited Baghdad and Babylon 20-27 September 1987 to attend the Festival at the invitation of the Government of Iraq. The Babylon Festival is an important international event, presented on the site of the ancient city. The principal features this year were choral/choreographic productions presented by state-sponsored troupes of Iraq.

SAARC Workshop : Islamabad

Shri Komal Kothari, Director, Rupayan Sansthan, Borunda and Dr Ashok D Ranade, Assistant Director (Research & Ethnomusicology), National Centre for the Performing Arts, Bombay, were the Indian delegates sponsored to the SAARC Workshop on Preservation of Oral Tradition held in Islamabad 6-20 October 1987. On this occasion the Akademi also sent the following gifts to Lok Virsa, Islamabad, the folk-arts institution which organized the workshop : a set of three cassettes of instrumental music brought out by the Akademi; a special issue of the *Journal of the NCPA* on Sarangi; a Festival of India album of Indian Classical Music.

Publications

The publication programme of the Akademi, initiated soon after its inception in 1953, takes in books and monographs on the performing arts, the quarterly journal *Sangeet Natak*, and the *Sangeet Natak Akademi News Bulletin*, also issued quarterly. Besides, to promote publication on music, dance and drama, the Akademi helps authors with grants and purchases books for free distribution by way of subsidy to authors and publishers. Publications in English and Hindi have chiefly been issued under Akademi imprint, though a small list of books in Meitei, Sanskrit and Tamil has also been published (Appendix V).

The quarterly journal *Sangeet Natak* commenced publication in 1965; it incorporates the *Akademi Bulletin* (not the present *SNA News Bulletin*) which was earlier the organ of the Akademi. Eighty-seven numbers of the journal have been issued to date, a fair number of these being special issues on subjects in music, dance and theatre. The journal—one of the few on the performing arts published continuously for over twenty years—has attracted a wide range of contributions.

The *SNA News Bulletin*, begun in 1965, is a record of Akademi activities and programmes. An unpriced periodical, the *Bulletin* is mailed to practising artistes and



institutions of music, dance and drama. The object is to inform, interact, establish contact with institutions/individuals of common pursuit.

The publication grants of the Akademi are offered for books and journals on the performing arts in all Indian languages. A large number and a wide variety of books have come to be on the strength of the Akademi's assistance. These include manuals of music and dance, biographies, histories, anthologies and critical works. The periodicals assisted with annual grants include some of those best known in the performing arts.

Aspects of Indian Music, a collection of essays edited by Dr Sumati Mutarkar, was a new title published in 1987. Four issues of *Sangeet Natak* (Nos. 83-86) appeared in this period, besides the *SNA News Bulletin*.

The following grants were sanctioned for publication of books and journals : Rs 10,000 to Ms Swarupa Nadig for publication of *Dance as depicted in Hoysala Sculpture*; Rs 10,000 to Shri H V Sharma for publication of *The Theatre of the Buddhists*; Rs 6,000 for a special number of the *Journal of the Indian Musicological Society* on 'Music and Mythology'; Rs 10,000 for publication of the theatre journal *Natarang*; Rs 8,000 to Dr Sobhana Nayar for publication of *Bhatkhande's Contribution to Music—An Historical Perspective*; Rs 5,000 for publication of the *Journal of the Music Academy*, Madras; Rs 3,000 to the Music Academy, Madras, for publication of *Rare Compositions of Patnam Subramanya Iyer* by C Venkatarama Iyer and B Ramachandran; Rs 5,000 to Bohurupee, Calcutta, for publication of their journal, *Bohurupee*. Besides, 25 annual gift subscriptions worth Rs 500 were issued for the quarterly journal *Chhayanat* published by the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi. Similarly, 25 three-year gift subscriptions worth Rs 4,950 were issued for the classical music/dance magazine *Sruti*.

Copies of the following books were bought by way of subsidy : 5 copies of *The Art of Mohiniattam* by Bharati Shivaji; 10 copies of *Sajan Piya* by N Jayavanth Rao.

Documentation/ Dissemination

Over the past 35 years Sangeet Natak Akademi has built up a large archive of audio-tapes, photographs and films on the performing arts; from 1981, it has added to its holdings video-tapes as well. The collection now includes approximately 4700 hours of audio recordings (tape and wire), 500 hours of video recordings, 35000 black & white photographs, 10000 colour photographs, 18000 slides, 1,35,000 feet of 16-mm film. The photographs and recordings are largely the work of the Akademi's documentation unit, augmented by copies from diverse sources. By way of dissemination of the material collected, the Akademi offers at nominal cost copies of all photographic material, audio/video listening/viewing facilities, music-dubbing and film projection facilities. Material from Akademi archives has been extensively used in publications, films, television, as well as research on the performing arts of India. New audio/video recordings in 1987-88 are listed in Appendix IV.

Ghatam-player TH
Vinayakram, recorded for
Akademi archives





*Master Fida Hussain
(right) in Turki Hoor,
video-filmed for
Akademi archives*



*Tabla-players Zakir Hussain
and Alla Rakha (first and
third from left), recorded in
the Akademi studio*

Financial Assistance to Cultural Institutions

The Akademi from its inception, has rendered financial assistance to music, dance and theatre institutions. The Grants Committee, which considers applications from institutions all over the country, recommended grants amounting to Rs 11,22,000 to 155 cultural institutions in the financial year 1987-88 (Appendix VII). Rs 25,000 was sanctioned and disbursed from the Discretionary grants at the disposal of the Chairman (Appendix VIII). Grants sanctioned during the year totalled Rs 11,47,000.

Library and Listening Room

The Akademi library has, over the years, acquired a specialist collection of books on the performing arts, many of them rare and out of print. Acquisitions in the period reported stood at 330, the total collection at 17,767. Catering chiefly to students and researchers in the performing arts, the library receives over 50 periodicals, Indian and other. A new aid for researchers using the library are files of current clippings on eminent artistes and various classified subjects. Regularly updated, these files include reports, reviews, interviews and comments from the press.

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. The Listening Room collection in the period reviewed stood at 9594 discs and 609 cassettes, new acquisitions numbering 4 and 95 respectively.

Budget and Accounts

The Akademi receives a grant-in-aid from Department of Culture, Government of India, to meet expenses on all its activities. The budget of the Akademi for Non-Plan and Plan expenditure in the financial year 1987-88 was as follows :

	<i>Budget Estimates 1987-88</i>	<i>Revised Estimates 1987-88</i>
Non Plan	Rs 68,93,000	Rs 68,53,500
Plan	Rs 1,01,97,000	Rs 99,31,000

The consolidated statement of annual accounts comprising the Receipts and Payments Account, Income and Expenditure Account, and the 1987-88 Balance Sheet of Sangeet Natak Akademi and its constituent units—Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal and Kathak Kendra, New Delhi—are at appendices IX—XIII B.

Museum of Musical Instruments

Instruments, masks and headgears, puppets and other performing-art objects have been collected at the Akademi from its inception. Methodical collection, however, began only in the late 60s, supplemented by gifts from musicians and visiting troupes, Indian and other. The Museum now houses 2000 objects, of which 230 are on view : folk, tribal, classical musical instruments of India. The Museum is possibly the largest repository of Indian folk instruments, though its holdings of masks, puppets, costumes and ornaments are also substantial. Several exhibitions of musical instruments, masks, puppets and other artefacts from the Museum's collection have been held over the years. In the period reviewed there were two major exhibitions in Italy and Moscow, the last in the course of the Festival of India, reported in detail elsewhere.

Smaller displays of museum objects are often put up on the occasion of programmes and festivals presented by the Akademi. In the period reported, such displays were mounted on the occasion of

Rabindra Natyotsav (Delhi : 8-16 May 1987), Lok Utsav '87 (Delhi : 27-31 October 1987), Natya Samaroh (Delhi 14-17 January 1988) the '87 Akademi Awards (Calcutta : 31 January-7 February 1988), Yuva Utsav (Jaipur : 14-17 March 1988) and Nritya Pratibha (Delhi : 16-18 March 1988).

In the course of the year the Museum acquired 19 musical instruments in addition to 44 instruments specially acquired (to supplement the Akademi's collection) for the exhibition of Indian musical instruments in Moscow. These instruments come from Manipur, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir.

Among visitors to the Museum was a group of musicians from the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, Indian Foreign Service probationers, musicians and musicologists from Japan, senior students of the Department of Musicology, University of Calcutta and a large number of scholars from the United States, Finland, Poland and Switzerland.

