

**Sangeet Natak Akademi
New Delhi**

PRESS RELEASE

24 September 2010

**PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO CONFER SANGEET AKADEMI FELLOWSHIPS AND
AKADEMI AWARDS 2009 ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2010**

The President of India, SMT. PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL will confer the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Akademi Awards for 2009 at a special ceremony on 28 September 2010 at 1730 hours at Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi. This year six eminent personalities will be conferred Akademi Fellowships and thirty three artists will receive the Akademi Awards. In the ceremony, Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State (PMO) will represent the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister for Culture.

The Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) and Akademi Award (Akademi Puraskar) are recognized as the highest national honours conferred on performing artists, gurus and scholars of the performing arts and have come to stay as the most coveted honour which the artistes aspire to. These honours are decided by Akademi's General Council, the apex body consisting of eminent artistes, scholars and nominees of Government of India and of different States and Union Territories of the country.

The highest honour of Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) will be conferred on maestros Lalgudi Jayaraman, Shreeram Lagoo, Yamini Krishnamurti, Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi, Pandit Jasraj and Kishori Amonkar. They will receive purse money of Rupees three lakhs, besides an angavastram and a tamrapatra. The Fellowship of the Akademi is the most rare honour, which is restricted to a limited number at a given time. Presently there are only 32 living Fellows of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

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The eminent representatives of Music, Dance and Theatre to be honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2009 will receive purse money of Rupees one lakh, angavastram and tamrapatra.

In the field of Music, eight artists namely Abdul Rashid Khan and Vasundhara Komkali for Hindustani Vocal Music, Lachman Singh Seen (Tabla) and Ali Ahmad Hussain (Shehnai) for Hindustani Instrumental Music, Parassala B Ponnammal for Carnatic Vocal, U. Shrinivas (Mandolin) and Dandamudi Sumathi Rama Mohan Rao (Mridangam) for Carnatic Instrumental Music, and L. Ibohalmacha Singh (Nata Sankirtana) for Other Major Traditions of Music will receive the Award.

In the field of Dance, eight practitioners namely Ananda Shankar Jayant (Bharatanatyam), Prerana Shrimali (Kathak), Kalamandalam Rajan (Kathakali), L. Bino Devi (Manipuri), Geeta Mahalik (Odissi), Vyjayanthi Kashi (Kuchipudi), Daksha Sheth (Creative & Experimental) and Kala Krishna (Other Major Traditions of Dance – Andhranatyam) will receive the Award.

In the field of Theatre also eight persons have been selected. They include playwrights Shankar Narayan Navre (Marathi) and Vayala Vasudevan Pillai (Malayalam), actors Sudha Shivpuri and Neeta Mohindra, and directors Joy Michael and Dinesh Thakur. Kamal Arora (Make-up) and Kuldeep Singh Vig (Music for Theatre) will receive the Award in the category of Allied Theatre Arts.

For their contribution to Other Traditional/Folk/ Tribal Music/ Dance/ Theatre, Musafir Ram Bhardwaj (Folk Dance-Himachal Pradesh), Vilayat Khan Ragi (Dhadhi Folk Music-Punjab), U K Kunjirama Panicker (Theyyam-Kerala), Jaganath Behera (Pala-Orissa), Shanti Jain (Folk Music-Bihar), Vithal Gangaram Umap (Folk Theatre-Maharashtra) and Bhikhudan Govindbhai Gadhvi (Folk Music-Gujarat) have been selected for the Akademi Award. Moinul Haque from Assam will receive the Award for his contribution to Mime.

Leela Venkataraman will be honoured with the Award for her overall contribution to the Performing Arts.

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The Sangeet Natak Akademi, established by the Government of India on 31 May 1952, is the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama. It was created as the apex body in the country for the task of preservation and promotion of the performing art tradition of India. One of the important activities of the Akademi has been to give recognition and honours to artistes for setting standards in performing arts and restoring the art and artists to their rightful place in independent India.



JAYANT KASTUAR
Secretary
Sangeet Natak Akademi