

Assam Governor presents the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

Guwahati, November 27: Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi presented the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar- 2016 to 32 young artistes of the country who have made a mark as young talents in their respective fields of performing arts at a special award presentation ceremony at Srimanta Sankardeva International Auditorium today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor expressed his pleasure to be a part of the prestigious and special ceremony and said it is the universal spirit of the artist in all of us that have gathered us here to celebrate. Our award-winners represent the whole of INDIA. He also said that youth is a wondrous time when dreams are lofty and spirits are high, therefore efforts exerted in the right direction at this age will yield proper fruit, that is, success and recognition and all round development.

Citing examples from the Mahabharata , the Governor said that from the age of 16 years to 24 years are the most crucial years, the most important years in an individual's life where he or she crystallizes his or her plans for the future. If one knows one's goal well during these nine years, one can prepare a blueprint for one's success in the future.

Prof Mukhi also said , “Our country India, since time immemorial has been a home to creativity and the arts. We worship Saraswati – the goddess of learning and the Arts. Her sons are the four Vedas –Rig, Sam, Yajur and Atharva – all a treasure trove of wisdom. So, for us, arts- be it dance, music, theatre, folk, tribal - all are spiritual pursuits. It is something noble and is even seen as a doorway to liberation or moksha.”

“Almost 56% of India’s population is below the age of 35 and human resource is our greatest asset. It is the youth of India who represent her hopes, dreams and aspirations, said the Governor.

He also lauded the Great shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb, as an extraordinaire who single handedly brought the Shehnai on the world stage. Even after receiving the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian honour and achieving international fame he would reside in the city of Banaras for he believed in “think global, act local”. The Governor urged on the youth to look upto the great maestro and work accordingly.

The Governor congratulated the Sangeet Natak Akademi for its tireless efforts in promoting the arts across the country. The mission, vision and efforts to carry out projects and programmes at such a scale deserve our appreciation. He also congratulated the awardees, their parents, Gurus and families. He also requested the awardees to repay the debt to the Gurus by imparting the art to a new set of disciples to carry forward the tradition of arts of our great country.

It is to be mentioned that Sangeet Natak Academy is the national academy of music, dance and drama and the first national academy of the arts set up by the Republic of India after Independence.

In the field of music, eight recipients of Yuva Puraskar included Yashaswi Sirpotdar and Koushik Aithal in Hindustani Vocal Music; Yashwant Vaishnav in Hindustani Instrumental Music – Tabla; Abir Hossain in Hindustani Instrumental Music – Sarod; Srikrishna Mohan and Ramkumar Mohan (Trichur Brothers) (Joint award) in Carnatic Vocal Music; K Sai Giridhar in Carnatic Instrumental Music – Mridangam; Ashwin Anand in Carnatic Instrumental Music – Veena and B Shree Sunderkumar in Carnatic Instrumental Music – Kanjira.

In the field of dance, eight recipients of Yuva Puraskar are Jyotsna Jagannathan in Bharatnatyam; Sanjukta Sinha in Kathak; Sanjenbam Karuna Devi in Manipuri; Pasumarthi Mruthyumjaya in Kuchipudi; Shaswati Garai Ghosh in Odissi; Usharani Baishya in Sattriya; Kalamandalam Rachitha Ravi in

Mohiniattam and Kalamandalam Krishnendu in Other Major Traditions of Dance & Dance Theatre (Kutiyattam).

In the field of theatre, eight recipients are Manish Joshi in Playwriting; Kedar Thakur and Mohit Takalkar in Direction; Neeraj Gupta and Vikrant Sharma in Acting; Soma Das in Mime; Gagan Mishra in Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting, and Jayachandra Varma Rekandar in Other Major Traditions of Surabhi Theatre.

In the field of Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre & Puppetry, eight recipients are Sonia Shirsat in Traditional Music, Goa; Chainis Gill in Folk Music, Punjab; Gurumayum Bisheshwor Sharma in Thang-ta (Manipur); Ch Ravi Kumar in Traditional Theatre – Oggukatha, Telangana; P Thilagavathi in Traditional Theatre, Kattaikooththu, Tamil Nadu; Dushyant Kumar Dwivedi in Pandavani, Chhattisgarh; S Gopi and Rajeev Pulavar in Puppetry.

Chairman of Sangeet Natak Academy Shekhar Sen, commissioner of the state cultural affairs department Pritam Saikia, renowned actor Pranjal Saikia along with a host of other dignitaries were also present at the award presentation ceremony.

PRO, 27/11/17