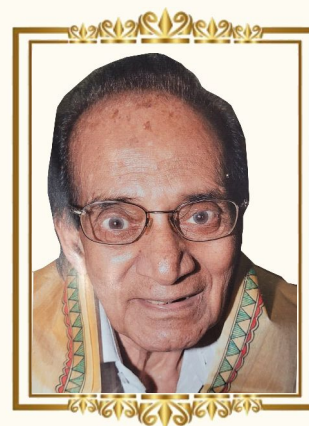




SHRI BISHWA BANDHU (POSTHUMOUS)



Shri Bishwa Bandhu was a pioneering exponent of Folk Dance and one of the most distinguished cultural icons of Bihar. A visionary dancer, choreographer, guru and institution-builder, he devoted his entire life to the preservation, revitalization and creative reinterpretation of Indian dance traditions. Through his lifelong commitment to dance education and cultural leadership, he played a seminal role in shaping Bihar's modern dance movement and in establishing Folk dance as a powerful medium of artistic expression and social awakening.

2. Born on 23rd November, 1930, trained in the rich confluence of Indian classical, folk and creative dance traditions, Shri Bishwa Bandhu evolved a distinctive artistic language inspired by the ideals of the Uday Shankar Dance Style. His work seamlessly blended classical discipline, folk vitality and contemporary sensibility, making dance accessible to wider audiences while retaining its spiritual and aesthetic depth. As a performer and choreographer, he presented innovative dance productions rooted in Indian philosophy, mythology and social themes, thereby expanding the expressive scope of Indian dance.

3. Shri Bishwa Bandhu was the Founder of Surangan, one of Bihar's most respected cultural institutions, which has remained continuously active for over six decades. Under his visionary guidance, Surangan emerged as a major centre for dance training, choreography, research and performance. Through this institution, he nurtured generations of dancers, many of whom later became accomplished performers, teachers and cultural leaders in India and abroad. Committed to the democratization of art, he always imparted dance training free of cost, a tradition that continues at Surangan even today. Over the course of his illustrious career, he gave dance performances on more than 6,000 stages, leaving an indelible mark on India's cultural landscape. His role as a guru was defined by discipline, compassion and an unwavering sense of cultural responsibility.

4. Beyond performance and pedagogy, Shri Bishwa Bandhu made an enduring contribution to cultural institution-building and public engagement with the arts. He worked tirelessly to integrate dance with education, social awareness and cultural identity, especially in Bihar. His initiatives helped bring dance into mainstream cultural life, inspiring young artists and strengthening the cultural fabric of the region. His leadership and vision significantly elevated Bihar's presence on the national cultural map.

5. Shri Bishwa Bandhu was honoured with several prestigious awards at the state, national and international levels for his outstanding contribution to folk dance and cultural service. His honours include the Nagarjun Shikhar Samman, Bihar Kalakar Samman, Life time achievement award awarded by Government of Bihar, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi National Tagore Award for his distinguished contribution to Indian performing arts. Widely revered as a cultural icon of Bihar, his legacy continues to inspire generations of dancers and cultural practitioners.

6. Shri Bishwa Bandhu passed away on 30th March, 2025.