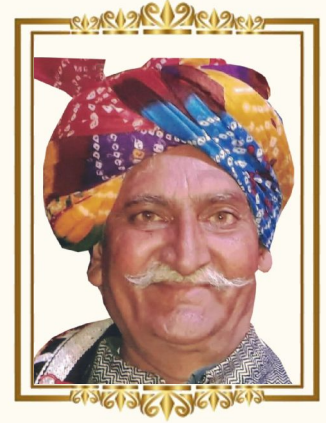




### SHRI GAFARUDDIN MEWATI JOGI



Shri Gafaruddin Mewati Jogi is a distinguished folk artist of India and a revered exponent of the Mewat-Braj region's oral and musical traditions. He is internationally recognized for his lifelong dedication to Bhapang playing and the preservation of rare oral narrative traditions such as Mahabharata (Pandun ke Kade - nearly 2500 couplets), Lok Ramayana, Bhagwan Shiva ka Byawale and Bhagwan Shri Krishna Leela (Ali Baksh parampara). Through his unwavering commitment to traditional performance practices, he has played a vital role in safeguarding India's intangible cultural heritage.

2. Born on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1962, in village Kaithwara, Tehsil Pahadi, District Deeg, Rajasthan, Shri Gafaruddin belongs to the traditional Mewati Jogi community. He received formal education up to the ninth standard. From early childhood, he was trained under the oral guru-shishya tradition of his family lineage, mastering Bhapang, Jogiya Sarangi, Dholak and Mewati-Braj devotional music. He devoted several decades to village-to-village performances, sustaining oral traditions through alms-based performances and continuous cultural practice.

3. Shri Gafaruddin has performed extensively on prestigious platforms organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and leading cultural institutions across the country. He is the founder of Brajrang Mewat Sahitya Lok Kala Sansthan, Bharatpur, established in 2007 and functioning continuously since then. His performances and collaborations include the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi; Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi; Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur; Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi; National School of Drama, New Delhi; West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur; Rajasthan Tourism Department; and Sanskar Bharati, Delhi.

4. Through his sustained artistic practice, Shri Gafaruddin has contributed significantly to the preservation of nearly twenty endangered folk musical instruments and oral narrative traditions. His work has supported academic research, including Ph.D. level studies in folk and oral traditions. He has actively nurtured the next generation of practitioners, including his son Shaharukh Khan Mewati Jogi, grandson Danish Jogi and numerous disciples, thereby ensuring the continuity and authenticity of these traditions on national and international stages.

5. Shri Gafaruddin has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and honours in recognition of his outstanding contribution to folk arts. These include the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, New Delhi (2022) conferred by the Government of India; Rajasthan State Honour, Jaipur (2016); Prabuddha Lok Kalakar Samman (2013); Castrol India Award, Mumbai (2013); Braj-Mewat Anchal Visheshank Vimochan Samman, Bharatpur (2011); Sur Samman, Jaipur (2009); Lok Kala Samman (2008); Lok Parampara Utkrisht Samman (1997); Flower Award (1996); Saksharta Jagrukta Samman (1996) and Yuva Puraskar (1993).