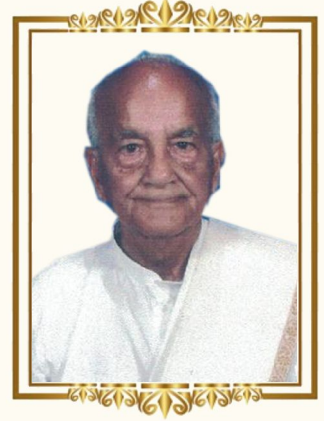




SHRI HARICHARAN SAIKIA



Shri Haricharan Saikia is an eminent cultural figure from Assam, who is widely recognized for his exceptional contributions to Sattriya dance and music, one of the classical art form of India. He is a master of Sattriya dance and music, excelling in both performance and teaching. He dedicated his life to preserving and promoting this classical art form and made it accessible to modern audiences while keeping its traditional essence intact. His work played a significant role in bringing the Sattriya dance and music to national and international audiences, showcasing India's rich cultural heritage.

2. Born on 3rd February, 1930, in Gosaipukhuri village, Lakhimpur district, Assam, Shri Saikia was sent to "old Kamalabari Sattrra", Majuli, a historic centre of Vaishnavite culture and classical arts at the age of eight, where he began learning Sattriya dance, music and other aspects of Sattriya culture from esteemed Gurus.

3. Shri Saikia performed Sattriya Dance before India's Independence, notably in welcome ceremonies for British officers visiting Majuli's Sattras. He performed Sattriya dance before India's first Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharalal Nehru and Second President, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He performed "Bargeet" with Maniram Gayan Moktar at All India Radio in 1948. From 1938-1962, he was at Kamalabari Sattrra. During this period, he extensively travelled across Assam and other Indian States, performing Sattriya dance at various occasions and festivals under the banner of Kamalabari Sattrra.

4. After leaving Kamalabari Sattrra, Shri Saikia trained numerous students in Sattriya dance and music, passing on his knowledge and passion to the next generation. He founded multiple Sattriya Sangeet Vidyalayas across Assam and encouraged women participation in Sattriya dance. He was instrumental in organizing cultural events, workshops and performances to showcase Sattriya dance, music and drama. Even at the age of 97, he's still going strong, spreading awareness about Assam's rich cultural heritage. He serves as the principal of "Bihpuria Sattriya Sangeet Vidyalaya", where he continues to mentor younger generations.

5. In recognition of his artistic mastery and service to Indian classical dance, Shri Saikia was honoured as "State Artist" by Government of Assam in 1991. He was awarded "Bayan" title by Kamalabari Sattrra's Sattradhikar Chandrahash Goswami. He was awarded a gold medal for Sattriya dance, in a dance festival organized by "Assam Sangeet Natak Academy" in Nagaon (1954). The then Governor of Assam, in 1957, issued a highly commendable Performance certificate to him. He was conferred "Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Puruskar" in 2011. He is the recipient of "Rasheswar Saikia Borbayan Award" in 2018 from Sangeet Sattrra, Guwahati and "Gunanidhi Award" in 2025.