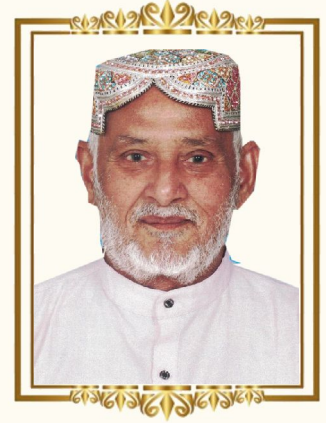




SHRI MIR HAJI KASAM



Shri Mir Haji Kasam, popularly known as Haji Ramakdu, is a legendary folk musician from Junagadh, Gujarat, celebrated for his lifelong devotion to Gujarati traditional music and mastery of the dholak. With an artistic journey spanning more than six decades, he has emerged as one of the most respected custodians of India's folk heritage. His performances—both in India and abroad—have played a defining role in keeping regional musical traditions vibrant, relevant and accessible to new generations.

2. Born on 27th January 1951, Shri Kasam began his musical pursuit at the tender age of ten. Despite having no formal education, his innate talent and dedication transformed him into an internationally recognised folk artist. Over the years, he collaborated with multiple generations of performers, Gujarati film personalities, and radio platforms, ensuring that folk rhythms continued to resonate among the masses. His distinctive style—where he becomes one with his instrument—earned him the affectionate name “Ramakdu.”

3. Shri Kasam has been instrumental in carrying Gujarati folk music to global audiences, performing across countries such as the USA, UK, South Africa, Canada, UAE, Oman and several others. Through thousands of stage performances and cultural programmes, he has projected India's intangible cultural heritage on international platforms. Equally notable is his mentorship of young musicians—many of whom now perform professionally—thereby institutionalising the oral traditions of folk learning and transmission. He is revered for his humanitarian commitment. He has conducted more than 35,000 charity programmes for cow shelters and organised musical events for social causes, including supporting the marriages of underprivileged families in Junagadh. Even in his seventies, he continues to teach folk music to children and aspiring artists free of cost, embodying the spirit of selfless service through art.

4. Shri Kasam has received numerous prestigious state-level honours, including the Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, Gujarat Rajya Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Gujarat Lok Kala Rashtriya Puraskar, Mukhyamantri Sanman Patra and several cultural awards conferred by leading institutions and the Government of Gujarat. These accolades, spanning more than two decades, reflect sustained excellence rather than episodic achievement.