

Guru Gopinath National Natya Puraskar

***Instituted by Guru Gopinath Natanagramam
on behalf of culture department, Government of Kerala
to honour lifetime achievements of eminent exponents
dedicated to Indian Dance***

Preamble

Guru Gopinath Natanagramam started functioning in 1994 at Vattiyoorkavu, within the city limits of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, being registered under the Travancore – Cochin Charitable Societies act – 1955 vide G.O (M.S) No. 38/94/CAD dated 26.11.1994 of the government of Kerala. As per article 3 sub section XII of the bye-law Guru Gopinath Natanagramam have to institute awards in honour of acclaimed dance maestros. Accordingly Guru Gopinath Natya Puraskaram is conferred to Nritha – Natya artists / scholars since 2012. Five veteran artists were already honored with the award in previous five years. The prize money of the award was Rs. 25,000 (Twenty five thousand only) until 2016 which was raised to Rs. 50,000 (Rs. Fifty thousand only) in 2017.

After Completing 25 years of service in the cultural scenario of the state of Kerala Guru Gopinath Natanagramam has now reached a remarkably progressive stage of action. The investiture of the premier National Dance Museum in Public Sector in the country in the campus, a joint venture of Central and State governments was widely received acceptance all over. Eminent artists and experts having national and inter – national galore have visited the museum, recorded active enthusiasm and directed to expand the activities of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam befitting to national level.

World famous poet laureate Sri. Rabindranath Tagore, national leaders and reformers like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and E.M.S. Namboodiripad have acknowledge appreciation of the artistic ventures of Dr. Guru Gopinath one of the most acclaimed dance maestro of our nation in whose name the Natanagramam is established. In consideration of the National acceptance received by the legendry artist the Governing Body of the Guru Gopinath Natanagramam have decided to upgrade the award as Guru Gopinath National Dance Puraskar from 2018 onwards.

Exercising the powers contained in clause 6 of the bye-law of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam the governing body have formulated rules and regulations which will guide the procedures of the award, Guru Gopinath National Dance Puraskar.

II. AIM

1. Major aim is to identify and approve life-time achievements of eminent dancers and theatre artists who have contributed to preservation, promotion performance, choreography and training in Indian Dances.
2. To recognize and approve innovative and significant feets of dancers who remind Gurugopinath in presenting classical and specially designed creative dance.
3. To honor the dedication shown by masters of classical – traditional – folk dances which nurture and propagate humanitarian culture and secular, democratic values nation wide with special initiatives made to protect and promote the cultural diversity flourishing in all parts of our nation.
4. To express unity with artists who have shown Independent brevity and as a result being suppressed or out casted from the mainstream.
5. Dance experts dedicated to propagate Indian dance abroad while residing in foreign countries will be considered for the award as a respect from the mother land.

6. To honor dedication shown by versatile scholars in activities related to academic learning, research studies, art history. Founders of art centre's extending valuable contributions for Indian dance will also be considered for the award of Guru Gopinath National Natya Puraskar.

III. VALUE

1. The award carries a purse money of three lakhs, a momento and thampra pathru.
2. Enhancement in prize money will be decided by the Guru Gopinath Natanagramam governing body in future.
3. In the event of the award to be bestowed to more than one person in one year the governing body will take decision one equally dividing the prize money.
4. Only one Puraskaram will be distributed in an year.

IV. CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY

1. Guru Gopinath Natya Puraskaram will be presented to eminent dancers having Indian citizen ship.
2. At present the following classical/creative dance forms will only be considered for Puraskaram.
 - a. Kathakali
 - b. Kerala Natanam
 - c. Mohiniattam
 - d. Bharatha Natyam
 - e. Kuchipudi
 - f. Kathak
 - g. Odissi
 - h. Mampuri
 - i. Sathriya

3. A dance form once selected for the puraskaram will be considered only after a time – span of three years.
4. There shall be no discrimination as men or women in the selection of awardees.
5. Artist who are living at present will only be considered for the endowment puraskar. But in exceptional cases, if recommended by the puraskaram committee the governing body of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam will be free to take a decision to alter this.
6. A person honored with the Guru Gopinath National Natya Puraskar will not be considered agains.

V. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Two bodies are constituted to select the person to be bestowed with Guru Gopinath National Natya Puraskar.

- 1) National expert committee
- 2) Puraskar committee

A. National expert committee

- i. Chairman/Chair person – An eminent artist nominated by the chairman Guru Gopinath Natana gramam governing body / Hon. Minister for Culture, Government of Kerala.
- 2) Members.
 - a. One representative of central Sangeet Natak Akademi
 - b. One representative of South Zone Culture Centre, Tanjore
 - c. The Dean / Head of the Department of dance from one of the Universities in Kerala
 - d. One representative of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi
 - e. One representative of Kerala Kalamandalam

f. Two veteran artists nominated by the governing body of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam.

g. Secretary, Gurugopinath Natanagramam (Member Secretary)

B. Puraskar Committee:

1. Chairman/Chairperson – A dance expert nominated by the Chairman Gurugopinath Natanagramam governing body / Hon. Minister for culture government of Kerala.

Members

2. Secretary, Culture Department, Government of Kerala.

3. One person nominated by Guru Gopinath Natanagramam governing body representing central/state cultural Institutions.

4. Vice – Chairman, Guru Gopinath Natanagramam

5. One eminent art historian/research scholar.

VI. GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

1. A citizen of India can submit application directly.

2. Application shall be submitted in person and through on – line

3. Application shall follow with Bio-data, details of works related to the field of art, testimonial certificates.

4. A citizen of India, registered organizations in arts and culture, central/ state governments, self – governed institutions, aided institutions entitled to grant – in – aids central /state governments, can submit application recommending one person from among dance experts.

5. An individual / organization shall propose the name of only one person for the award.

6. The proposal shall include an evaluator research statement not below 400 words about the eminent artist proposed.

VII. SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. The National Expert Committee shall examine all nominations and short list a maximum 10 names for onward submission to the puraskar committee.
2. The Puraskar committee shall confirm selection of one person for the award from this list.
3. The Name of the awardees as approved by the governing body of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam will be made public by the chairman, Hon. Minister for Culture, Government of Kerala.

VIII. DECLARATION OF AWARD.

1. Complete responsibility to observe guidelines detailed above before the declaration of Guru Gopinath National Natya Puraskar is vested with the governing body of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam.
2. The governing body of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam shall decide the date of declaration and venue for distribution of the award.
3. All disputes, suits, cases and appeals shall be examined and settled according to the decision of the governing body of Guru Gopinath Natanagramam.
4. Settlement of legal procedures, lawsuits related to the puraskar will be within the jurisdiction of the District Court, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
5. In the event of death or immovability disorder of an awardees, before conferment of the award, it shall be given to his/her spouse or legal heir.
6. The Gurugopinath Natanagramam governing body shall hold complete authority to set aside or partially change the guidelines and rules contained in the clauses and sub clauses detailed above.