

## Component-I (A) – Personal details:

 **Pathshala**  
पाठशाला  
A Gateway to all Post Graduate Courses

 **MHRD**  
Govt. of India

An MHRD Project under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT)

Subject: **Indian Culture**



Production of Courseware  
e- Content for Post Graduate Courses

Paper : **Indian Aesthetics and Fine Arts**

Module : **Instrumentalists and Scholars of North India-1**

 ज्ञान-विज्ञान दिमुक्तये

 **Pathshala**  
पाठशाला

 **MHRD**  
Govt. of India

### Development Team

<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Prof. P. Bhaskar Reddy Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.
<b>Paper Coordinator</b>	Prof. R. Thiagarajan Presidency College, Chennai.
<b>Content Writer</b>	Prof. Suneera Kasliwal Vyas Delhi University, New Delhi.
<b>Content Reviewer</b>	Prof. Anjali Mittal Delhi University, New Delhi.

**Component-I (B) – Description of module:**

Subject Name	Indian Culture
Paper Name	Indian Aesthetics and Fine Arts
Module Name/Title	Instrumentalists and Scholars of North India-1
Module Id	I C / IAFA / 30
Pre requisites	An interest to know about the famous musicians who were expert instrumentalists and scholars of North Indian Classical Music.
Objectives	To draw a short biographical sketch and achievements of some eminent instrumentalists of North Indian Classical Music who were monumental in bringing the glory of hindustani classical music art to the world through their performances.
Keywords	Allauddin Khan, Ahmed Jan Thirakwa, Pannalal Ghosh, Bismillah Khan, .Uma Shankar Mishra, Radhika Mohan Maitra, . Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan, V.G.Jog, . Kishan Maharaj, Dr. Lalmani Misra, . Ram Narayan, Annapurna Devi, Anant Lal, Vilayat Khan, Sharan Rani Backliwal, Zia Mohiuddin Dagar.

**E-text (Quadrant-I) :****Introduction**

In this module, let us get familiar with some of the greatest instrumentalists and who lived in the past years. The biographical details, tutelage and achievements of some the instrumentalists have been provided. This list is not exhaustive and is presented in a chronological manner.

**Allauddin Khan (1881 - 1972) - Sarod**

Allauddin Khan was one of the eminent musicians of the 20th century. He was born in 1881 in Tripura. At the age of eleven, he ran away from home and reached Calcutta where he met Gopal Chandra Chakravorty, a talented vocalist and became his disciple. Afterwards he received training from several other celebrated musicians like Amritlal Datta, a well known vocalist, flute and violin player, Ahmed Ali Khan, a famous Sarod player, ultimately he became the disciple of Muhammad Wazir Khan (Beenkar), a fine musician of Rampur and one of the last descendants of the legendary Tansen. Through him, Allauddin Khan was given access to the Senia gharana. Later he became the court musician of Brijnath Singh, the Maharaja of Maihar Estate in the Central Province. Though famous mainly as a Sarod and Surbahar expert, Allauddin Khan was a multi-instrumentalist and among the greatest musicians India ever had. He taught Sarod to his son, Ali Akbar Khan, Surbahar to his daughter, Annapurna Devi and sitar to his son-in-law, Ravi Shankar.

During his lifetime, Allauddin Khan laid the foundation of the modern Maihar gharana. He was fond of complex (sankeerna) ragas and created many of his own, including Hemant, Arjun, Bhagabati, Bhim, Jaunpuri Todi, Kedar Manjh, Komal Bhimpalasi, Komal Marwa, Madan Manjari, Malaya, Manjh Khamaj, Meghbahar,, Nat-Khamaj are to name a few. He visited several countries with the Nritya Mandali+of Uday Shankar. He started Maihar band which is still active in Maihar.

In 1952, Allauddin Khan was presented the Sangeet Natak Academy award, and was later affiliated with Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1954. He established the Maihar College of Music in 1955. Allauddin Khan received the Padma Bhushan award in 1958 and the Padma Vibhushan award in 1971. He was the guru of Ali Akbar Khan, Annapurna Devi, Ravi Shankar, Nikhil Banerjee, Vasant Rai, Pannalal Ghosh, Bahadur Khan, Sharan Rani, Jyotin Bhattacharya and other influential musicians. Allauddin Khan retired from an active public life and stage in 1961. He lived in Maihar from 1918 till his demise in 1972.

### **Ahmed Jan Thirakwa (1892 - 1976) - Tabla**

Born to a family of musicians in 1892, Moradabad, U.P, Ahmed Jan Thirakwa was a famous tabla player. He started his early training in vocal music and sarangi. His interest in tabla was aroused when he heard the famous Munir Khan and thereafter he became his disciple.

Ahmed Jan Thirakwa was known for his mastery over most of the different tabla gharanas and was one of the first tabla players to elevate the art of playing solo tabla. He was Professor and Head of the faculty of tabla in Bhatkhande College of Music, Lucknow. Ahmed Jan Thirakwa was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and the Padma Bhushan. Lalji Gokhale, famous vocalist of Agra gharana, Jagannath Buwa Purohit, Narayanrao Joshi, Bhai Gaitonde, Babu Patwardhan, Shri Anand Shidhaye and Rashid Mustafa are some of his well known disciples. He passed away in 1976.

### **Abdul Aziz Khan - Vichitra Veena**

Abdul Aziz Khan was a known vichitra veena player. The credit of giving this instrument its present shape and developing its modern style of playing goes to him. Before taking up the vichitra veena, he was a popularly known as a sarangi player. He also had a sound knowledge of dhrupad, dhamar and khayal styles. Abdul Aziz Khan was the disciple of renowned beenkar of Jaipur, Jamaluddin Khan, a court musician in Baroda.

He developed his own style of veena playing and taught it to many of his students. He never restricted his veena playing to the dhrupad, dhamar style but also used to play on it the bandishes and nuances of khayal and thumri. His art of veena playing was highly influenced by sarangi techniques. Some of his known disciples are Ahmed Raza Khan of Moradabad, Mohammed Sharif Khan Poonchwale and Rashid Khan.

### **Pannalal Ghosh (1911 - 1960) - Bansuri**

Born in 1911, Barisal now in Bangladesh, Pannalal Ghosh (Amal Jyoti Ghosh) was a flute (bansuri) player of Hindustani Classical Music. He came from a family of musicians and got his early training from his father. Later he learnt from Khushi Mohammad Khan, Girija Shankar Chakraborty and the legendary Allauddin Khan.

He was the first to transform a tiny folk instrument to a novel bamboo flute (32 inches long with 7 holes) suitable for playing traditional hindustani classical music, and also to uplift its stature, bringing it at par with other classical music instruments like sitar, sarod, sarangi etc. He is also accredited with the creation of a special bass flute, and introduction of the 6-stringed Tanpura, high-pitched Tanpuri and Surpeti into hindustani music. Pannalal Ghosh, as the music director of the dance troupe of the princely kingdom of Seraikela state, visited and performed in Europe in the year late 1930's, and was one of the first classical musicians to have crossed the boundaries of India. After joining All India Radio, Delhi, as the Conductor of the National Orchestra in 1956, he composed several path-breaking orchestral pieces including Kalinga Vijay, Rituraj, Hariyali and Jyotirmoy Amitabha. His contribution in semi-classical as well as film music was equally important, and his name is permanently linked to many famous movies such as Anjan, Basant, Duhai, Police, Andolan, Nandkishore, Basant Bahar, Mughal-e-Azam and many more. He left his musical legacy in the capable hands of his principal disciples like the late Haripada Choudary, the late Devendra Murdeshwar, V.G. Karnad and Nityanand Haldipur. Pannalal Ghosh passed away in 1960.

### **Bismillah Khan (1913 - 2006) - Shehnai**

Bismillah Khan was born in Bihar, in 1913 into a family of musicians. For a long time, shehnai held importance as a folk instrument played mainly during traditional ceremonies, Bismillah Khan is credited with popularising and elevating its status and bringing it to the concert stage. His forefathers were musicians in the courts of the princely states of that time like Bhojpur, Bihar and his father was a shehnai player in the court of Maharaja Keshav Prasad Singh, Dumraon, Bihar. He received training in music under the supervision of his uncle Ali Baksh, who was a famous shehnai player and used to play for Varanasi's Vishwanath Temple.

With his concert in All India Music Conference in 1937 (at Calcutta), Bismillah Khan brought shehnai at the forefront of Indian classical music. In 1947, on the occasion of India's celebration of its first independence day, he was invited by the first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to come and perform live at the Red Fort in Delhi. This performance became one of his most celebrated ones. He again performed in 1950 on the occasion of India's first Republic Day at Red Fort in Delhi. Bismillah Khan did not just perform for the Indian audience but on many occasions performed for the global audience as well. He took part in Cannes Art Festival, Osaka Trade Fair and World Exposition in Montreal. He had a deep association with the world of cinema as well, his shehnai from the film 'Goonj Uthi Shehnai' is immortal.

Bismillah Khan earned many accolades like Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, honorary doctorates from Banaras Hindu University and Visva Bharati University, etc. Khan did not generally take students under him and the only people that he associated with in that capacity were S. Ballesh and his own sons Nazim Hussain and Nayyar Hussain. He died in 2006 and was buried in a national ceremony along with his shehnai at Fatemain burial ground, Varanasi.

### **Radhika Mohan Maitra (1917 - 1981) - Sarod**

Born in 1917 in Rajshahi which is now in Bangladesh, Radhika Mohan Maitra was a famous sarod player belonging to the Shahjahanpur gharana. He came from a bengali zamindar family who were also great patrons of music and art. Radhika Mohan Maitra got his early training from the renowned sarod player Mohammad Amir Khan. Later, he studied dhrupad and the Been (veena) and Sursringar baaj from the famous beenkar, Dabir Khan of the Senia gharana and sitar from Inayat Khan. After independence, Radhika Mohan Maitra rose to prominence as a musician. Apart from radio recitals, he performed in countries such as Afghanistan, Australia, China, New Zealand, U.S and the Philippines. As he entered the mid years of his life, he shifted focus from being a performer to a teacher, ensuring that the legacy of the Shahjahanpur gharana continued. During his lifetime, he collected several instruments which are preserved and kept by his disciple Somjit Dasgupta in Kolkata. Radhika Mohan Maitra composed some new ragas, the most notable being Chandra Malhar, Dipa Kalyan and Alakananda. He also invented three new musical instruments - the Mohan Veena, Dil Bahar and Naba Deepa.

Radhika Mohan Maitra was awarded the Sangeet Natak Academy Award. He was considered an influential figure in 20th century sarod playing and received the title 'Sangeet Acharya'. Some of his disciples who play the sarod are Buddhadev Dasgupta, Anil Roy Chowdhury, Samarendra Sikdar, Rajani Kanta Chaturvedi, Pranab Naha, Dr. Kalyan Mukherjee. He had several students from overseas such as John Barlow, Michael Robbins, James Sadler Hamilton, to name a few. He taught a number of sitar students such as Rajani Kanta Chaturvedi, Himadri Bagchi and Rabi Sen and Nikhil Banerjee. He passed away in 1981.

### **Ravi Shankar (1920 - 2012) - Sitar**

Robindro Shaunkor Chowdhury or Ravi Shankar was one of the best-known exponents of sitar in the second half of the 20th century. He was born in 1920 in Banaras, Uttar Pradesh. At an early age of 13 or 14 he joined his brother, Uday Shankar's Nrityamandali as a dancer. Here he came in contact with Allaudin Khan and later became his disciple.

Ravi Shankar created many new ragas. In 1945, he was appointed as music director of the Nrityamandali and also of the National Theatre. He joined the All India Radio in 1949 where he composed several pieces of orchestra music. It was Ravi Shankar who introduced the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakram. He also directed music for several films. Ravi Shankar was the first Indian musician to be invited by a foreign film company to direct music. In 1956, he left AIR and went abroad to propagate Indian music. There he was greatly assisted by Yehudi Menuhin, a great violinist of America. Ravi Shankar became famous overnight in the western world particularly in America. After George Harrison, the great Beatle musician became his disciple, people started looking upon him as a deity.

Ravi Shankar founded the Kinnar School of Indian Music in USA. His book My Music My Life and Raag-Anuraag are notable works. He had numerous gramophone records to his credit, both solo and duet. He had been honoured with several awards and titles including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan and the Bharat Ratna to name a few. He was also awarded 14 honorary degrees, two Grammy Awards and a membership to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has a long list of disciples from all over the world. Ravi Shankar has two daughters who are also musicians, sitar player Anoushka Shankar and Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Norah Jones. Ravi Shankar passed away in 2012.

### **Ramshankar Das (Pagal Das) (1920 ) - Pakhawaj**

Born in 1920, U.P, Ramshankar Das was amongst the great masters of Pakhawaj in the 20th century. He traced his musical lineage to the Kudau Singh and Awadhi gharana of Pakhawaj. He received his training from Nepal Singh of Patna, Ramkrishna Das, Bhagwan Das, Baba Thakur Das, Rammohinisharan Mridanga Acharya And Santsharan (Mast). He learnt tabla also for sometime.

Ramshankar Das authored books like Mridang Tabla Prabhakar (two parts) and Tabla Kaumudi. He received several awards and honours like the Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Taal Vilas Samman, Pakhawaj Ratna, Mridang Mani to name a few.

Some of disciples are Dr. Raj Khushiram (Lucknow), Ram Kishor Das (Delhi), Santosh Das (Haridwar), Bhakt Raj Bhonsle (Ayodhya) and many more.

### **Ali Akbar Khan (1922 - 2009) - Sarod**

Ali Akbar Khan, son of Allaudin Khan was born in Bengal in 1922. He was a Hindustani Classical musician of the Maihar gharana, known for his virtuosity in playing the sarod. Ali Akbar Khan was instrumental in popularising hindustani classical music in the West, both as a performer and as a teacher. He began his musical training at the age of three under his father, the legendary Allaudin Khan. He also began to learn percussion under his uncle Fakir Aftabuddin. He studied vocal music and a number of instruments before settling on the sarod. He was an eminent Sursingar player too.

In 1936, Ali Akbar Khan accompanied his father to the Allahabad Music Conference where he became famous due to his brilliant Sarod recital. He joined Uday Shankar's Nritya Mandali and travelled abroad. In 1955, he was invited to America by the great Violinist, Yehudi Menuhin. There he established himself in a short time. He founded the Ali Akbar College of Music in Calcutta which soon flourished and spread to other parts of the country. In the 1960s he established a branch in Marin County in California. Ali Akbar Khan also regularly taught in Switzerland. He was a distinguished Adjunct Professor of Music at the

University of California in Santa Cruz. He was a tireless educator and taught several Indian and foreign students. He was a music director of several bengali and hindi films. He had many gramophone records to his credit, both solo and duet.

He also received numerous awards, titles, and honorary degrees. Notable among them are honorary doctorates from, New England Conservatory of Music, Viswa Bharati University, California Institute of the Arts, University of Delhi, University of Dacca, Rabindra Bharati University. He also had numerous Grammy nominations. Khan was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1989, among other awards. He received a MacArthur Fellowship in 1991. In 1997, Khan received the National Endowment for the Arts' prestigious National Heritage Fellowship, the United States' highest honour in the traditional arts.

Four of Ali Akbar Khan's children and one grandson are musicians -Aashish Khan (Sarode), Dhyanesha Khan (sarode), Pranesh Khan (tabla), and Alam Khan (sarode) and his grandson, Shiraz Ali Khan (Sarode). Ali Akbar Khan passed away in 2009 at the age of 87.

### **V.G. Jog (1922 - 2004) - Violin**

Vishnu Govinda (V.G.) Jog, a well known violinist was born in 1922 in a musical family in Maharashtra. V.G.Jog received his early training from Shankarrao Athawale, V.Shastri, Ganpatrao Purohit and S.N.Ratanjankar. Later he also received training from Allaadin Khan. He was thus groomed in the Gwalior, Agra and Bakhale gharanas.

V.G.Jog was lecturer at the Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyapith, Lucknow. He wrote a book on music titled 'Behala Shiksha'. He worked at the All India Radio for a very long time and retired as Deputy Chief Producer from there. V.G.Jog visited many countries as a National artiste. He went to South Africa with Hirabai Barodekar and to U.S.A. with Ali Akbar Khan. He received many honors from various cultural institutions, including the Sangeet Natak Academy award and the Padma Bhushan. V.G Jog worked tirelessly in transforming a western musical instrument, the violin, into a major and independent instrument in hindustani classical music. He was the 'Violin Samrat' for all time to come. He passed away in 2004.

### **Kishan Maharaj (1923 - 2008) - Tabla**

Born in 1923 in Banaras, Kishan Maharaj was a tabla player and belonged to Banaras gharana. Kishan Maharaj was initially trained by his father, Hari Maharaj and later by his uncle, Kanthe Maharaj.

Kishan Maharaj had the ability to play cross-rhythms and produce complex calculations, particularly in tihai patterns. Known as an excellent accompanist, he was extremely versatile and capable of playing with any accompaniment, be it with the Sitar, Sarod, Dhrupad, Dhamar or even dance. Kishan Maharaj had performed his tabla solo performance many times in many regions of India. He accompanied several great artists like Faiyaz Khan, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Birju Maharaj, Sitara Devi etc. He participated in prominent occasions all over the world. Some of his great events were Edinburgh festival, Commonwealth Arts festival, UK, Nagari Natak Mandali, Banaras Utsav to name a few.

Kishan Maharaj was honored with the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Samrat from the Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Sangeet Natak Akademi award, Hafiz Ali Khan Award, Inayat Khan Memorial award to name a few. He passed away in 2008.

### **Dr. Lalmani Misra ( 1924 - 1979) - Vichitra Veena**

Born in 1924, Kanpur, Dr. Lalmani Misra was a master of vichitra veena in hindustani classical music. He learnt Dhrupad, Dhamar from Shankar Bhatt and Munshi Bhrigunath Lal, Khayal singing from Mehndi Hussain Khan, a disciple of Mohd.Wazir Khan of Rampur Senia Gharana, Dhrupad, Bhajan and Tabla from Swami Pramodanand, sitar from Shri Sukhdev Roy and under the tutelage of Amir Ali Khan he perfected several other musical instruments. But he gained popularity as a famous vichitra veena player.

Dr. Lalmani Misra opened several branches of %Bal Sangeet Vidyalaya+and established reputed institutions like %Bhartiya Sangeet Parishad+and %Gandhi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya+. He travelled abroad with the troupe of . Uday Shankar, composing scores for the innovative dance presentations and ballets on mythological and contemporary themes. He carried out research on history and development of Indian musical instruments under the title %Bharatiya Sangeet Vadya+. He also wrote books like %Tantri Naad+, %Shruti Veena+ etc. Dr. Lalmani Misra created several ragas like Sameshwari, Jog Todi, Madhukali, Madhu-Bhairav, Baleshwari etc. Dr.Lalmani Misra made it possible to distinctly hear the twenty two Shrutis on a single Veena.

Dr.Lalmani Misra was the Dean & Head, Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He was visiting Professor to Music faculty at Penn University, Philadelphia. His son, Gopal Shankar Mishra earned fame as a vichitra veena and sitar player. He passed away in 1979 at the age of 55.

### **Ram Narayan (1927) - Sarangi**

Born in 1927 near Udaipur, .Ram Narayan is a well known sarangi player in hindustani music. He received his early training in sarangi from his father, Nathuji Biyavat. Later he learnt from Udai Lal of Udaipur and Madhav Prasad of Lucknow.

Ram Narayan accompanied many classical singers like .Omkarnath Thakur, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Amir Khan etc. He soon established himself as a solo sarangi performer. .Ram Narayan played and composed songs for films Ganga Jamuna, Mughal-e-Azam, Noor Jahan etc. He taught and gave concerts in India as well as abroad. . Ram Narayan received Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Kalidas Samman from the Government of Madhya Pradesh , Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar, the Shiromani Award, the Rajasthan Welfare Association Award and the Rajasthan Ratna. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Honour . Classical at the 4th Gionne Star Global Indian Music Academy (GiMA) Awards 2014. . Ram Narayan taught at the American Society for Eastern Arts and the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Mumbai. He also privately trained sarangi players, including his daughter Aruna Narayan Kalle, his grandson Harsh Narayan, and Vasanti Shrikhande. He also taught sarod players,including his son Brij Narayan. He is presently based in Mumbai.

### **Annapurna Devi (1927) - Surbahar**

Born in Maihar, India (1927), Annapurna Devi is an accomplished Surbahar player of Maihar gharana of hindustani classical music. She got trained by her father, Allaudin Khan who was the founder of Maihar gharana. She was married to sitar maestro, Ravi Shankar. Later in life she stopped all public performances and shifted to Mumbai where she became a recluse and started teaching.

Though she refrained from taking music as her profession, Annapurna Devi is highly respected as a hindustani classical music artist . She received many prestigious awards like the Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Desikottam, an honorary doctorate degree by Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati University. In 2004, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Government of India's highest organisation for promoting music and other fine arts, appointed her a "Ratna" or jewel fellow (a lifetime honour). She has not recorded any music albums. Some of her performances are reported to have been secretly taped. In spite of Annapurna Devi's avoidance of media-limelight, she continues to be thought of as a classical instrumentalist of the highest calibre in India.

Some of her notable disciples are Nikhil Banerjee,Hariprasad Chaurasia,, Amit Bhattacharya, Pradeep Barot and Saswati Saha (Sitar).

### **Anant Lal (1927 - 2011) - Shehnai**

Born in 1927, Banaras, Uttar Pradesh, Anant Lal was a shehnai player in hindustani classical music.He came from a musical family. Anant Lal received his early training from his

father, Mithai Lal, as well as his uncles. Later, he became a student of Mahadev Prasad Mishra of Varanasi from whom he learnt thumri (form of vocal music). In addition to the shehnai, Anant Lal played bamboo flute or bansuri.

Anant Lal accompanied leading figures of hindustani classical music like Alla Rakha, Lakshmi Shankar, Shivkumar Sharma, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Sultan Khan, L. Subramaniam, . Ravi Shankar and .Debu Chaudhuri. He was an artist at the AIR. Anant Lal's own recordings include Splendour in Shehnai, issued in 1990 on the T-Series record label. He gained recognition in India and abroad for his outstanding performances. He had been honored twice with the Sangeet Natak Award given by the President of India. His students included modern shehnai player Daya Shankar(son) and grandsons, Sanjeev Shankar & Ashwani Shankar who present duet shehnai . His grandson, Anand Shankar, also trained under him, before dedicating himself to the tabla. His other musician sons include shehnai player Ashok Kumar and flautist Vijay Kumar. He passed away in 2011.

#### **Vilayat Khan (1928 - 2004) - Sitar**

Born into a musical family in 1928, Gauripur (now in Bangladesh) Vilayat Khan stands out as a well known sitar maestro. He got his early training from his father, Inayat Hussain Khan. Later he learned from his uncle Wahid Khan (sitar and surbahar maestro),maternal uncle - Bande Hassan Khan, and his mother, Bashiran Begum and Zinda Hussain Khan. It was during this period that he developed the "Gayaki Ang" which became his trademark. In this style, the sitar imitates the vocal forms such as khayal.

Vilayat Khan's professional career was extensive. He made several international tours, had numerous recordings, scored music for several films. He worked closely with instrument makers, especially the famous sitar-makers Kanailal & Hiren Roy, to further develop the instrument. He turned down honours like Padma Vibhushan and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. For a while, he also boycotted All-India Radio. The only titles he acceded were the special decorations of "Bharat Sitar Samrat" by the Artistes Association of India and "Aftab-e-Sitar" (Sun of the Sitar) from President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. His disciples included his daughter Zila Khan (sitar & vocal), sons Shujaat Khan (sitar), and Hidayat Khan (sitar), as well as Kashinath Mukherjee and . Arvind Parikh. Even Vilayat Khan's younger brother, Imrat Khan (sitar and surbahar) was taught by him in his younger days. His nephew Rais Khan is also a famous sitarist. He passed away in 2004.

#### **Sharan Rani Backliwal (1929 - 2008) - Sarod**

Born in 1929 in Delhi, Sharan Rani was the first woman to take up the Sarod. A disciple of great music maestros Allaudin Khan and Ali Akbar Khan, she belonged to the Maihar Senia gharana.

Sharan Rani authored the book *The Divine Sarod: its Origin, Antiquity and Development in India since BC 2nd century+*. She was an avid collector of rare musical instruments and set up the Sharan Rani Backliwal Gallery in the National Museum in Delhi, displaying nearly 450 classical instruments. A set of four postage stamps, featuring four instruments (Sarod, Veena, Flute, Pakhawaj) from her gallery, were also released in 1998. She performed on stage from an early age and had toured countries like the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union. Sharan Rani was one of the earliest artists of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

For her achievement in music, Sharan Rani was awarded the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Sahitya Kala Parishad Award in Delhi, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Hindustani Instrumental Music, Rajiv Gandhi National Excellence award are to name a few. Sarod has become synonymous with her name and she is popularly called *Sarod Rani* (Queen of Sarod) in India and abroad. Many of her Indian and foreign students have gained repute in India and abroad. few names like Dr. Akashdeep, Dharmendra Katha, Prabhat Kumar and Rohit Anand etc. She passed away in 2008.



### **Zia Mohiuddin Dagar (1929 - 1990) - Rudra Veena**

Born in 1929 in Rajasthan, Zia Mohiuddin Dagar was a rudra veena player. He belonged to the known Dagar family of musicians (dhrupad). He was trained both in vocals and in rudra veena by his father, Ziauddin Khan Dagar.

Zia Mohiuddin Dagar played a major role in reviving the rudra veena as a solo concert instrument. Along with the instrument house, Kanailal & Brother, he experimented with the structure of the rudra veena in order to make it equip for solo performances. He was associated with the American Society for Eastern Arts in Berkeley, California and with Wesleyan University, Rotterdam Music Conservatory, and the University of Washington, Seattle, where he was a visiting professor.

He was awarded the Kalidas Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and the Maharana Kumbha Award, to name a few. His legacy is carried forward by his son, Baha'ud'din Mohiuddin Dagar, who is a vina player.

