

अंजनी कुमार सिंह, मा०प्र०से० (से०नि०)

महानिदेशक

बिहार संग्रहालय, पटना

Anjani Kumar Singh, I.A.S. (Retd.)

Director General

Bihar Museum, Patna



TO WHOSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

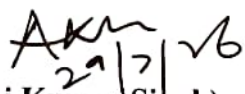
I would like to recommend Shri Suman Kumar for the Padma Shri in the field of Art and Theatre. Shri Suman Kumar has worked for more than sixty years to preserve and promote Bihar's folk theatre. His work has protected traditional theatre, built cultural institutions and trained young artists. His contribution to the preservation of India's cultural heritage has been significant.

Shri Suman Kumar played an important role in preserving Bikhari Thakur's *Naach* tradition. Through performances, workshops and training, he has kept the tradition alive for new generations. He has adapted traditional plays for modern audiences while preserving their language and cultural identity. He has directed more than 150 productions, led over 1,000 street plays, and performed across Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

He has also built lasting cultural institutions. He founded Kala Sangam and Kala Jagran in Patna, taught at the Bihar Institute of Drama, served as Technical Director for Bihar Day cultural presentations since 1998, and contributed to theatre festivals and cultural programmes across the state.

His commitment extends beyond theatre. During the 1975-77 Patna floods, he swam to the AIR Fatuha transmission centre and broadcast emergency information for 48 hours without food. Earlier, his casting of women from respected Bihari families in *Amrapali* helped change the composition of mainstream theatre in Bihar.

His contributions have been recognised through the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2023) and Bihar's Life Time Achievement Award (2025). I believe his work has made a lasting impact on theatre and cultural preservation, and I recommend him for the Padma Shri Award.


(Anjani Kumar Singh)