

Shri Shyam Sharma

Padma Shri Awardee | Print Artist, Author & Poet

Recommendation for PADMA SHRI

Date: 22.07.2026

To,

The Member Secretary,

Padma Awards Committee,

Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block,

New Delhi - 110001.

Subject: Recommendation for Conferment of the Padma Shri upon Shri Suman Kumar in the Field of Art - Theatre (Folk Theatre Preservation, Social Reform, and Cultural Education).

Respected Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

As a fellow practitioner in the arts, I write to strongly support the Padma Shri nomination of Suman Kumar. Since 1962, he has worked as the connecting thread between Bihar's rural folk traditions and modern theatre, a role few artists have sustained for even half the time he has.

His body of work is substantial by any measure: 150+ plays directed, 1,200+ acting performances, 500+ radio broadcasts, and 1,000+ street plays across six decades. He has trained artists for 30+ years and received over 34 national and state honours. What sets him apart, though, is not the volume but what he chose to do with it. When Magahi, Bhojpuri, and Maithili theatre was losing ground, he absorbed those traditions into his productions rather than abandoning them. His sustained revival of Bhikhari Thakur's Naach form kept something genuinely irreplaceable on living stages rather than letting it become a footnote in academic literature. He designed and directed state cultural tableaux at Gandhi Maidan, specifically highlighting the agrarian and cultural success of Sudha.

His work also crossed into national film and television, with roles in Richard Attenborough's Gandhi, Prakash Jha's Damul, Shyam Benegal's Discovery of India, Gulzar's Mirza Ghalib, and Basu Chatterjee's Bheem Bhawani. As co-founder of Kala Sangam and Kala Jagran in Patna, he helped build the institutional environment that made sustained cultural work possible for many artists after him. A pillar of Bihar's cultural landscape, he has served as Technical Director for the state's national cultural showcase since 1998 and is a frequent judge for major events, including festivals at IIT Patna.

He has received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award, Bihar's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Bhikhari Thakur Samman, Odisha's Natya Bhushan, the Patliputra Samman, the Natraj Kala Samman, and recognition from Bihar Art Theatre (UNESCO Bihar Center) and Pandarak Rang Samman, among others. His contribution to India's cultural heritage is well documented and long overdue for national recognition.

Sincerely,


22.07.2026

Shri Shyam Sharma

Padma Shri Awardee | Print Artist, Author & Poet

Address.

2A/135 New Patliputra Colony.

PATNA - 800013

E. mail Id. - ssharmaptn@gmail.com.

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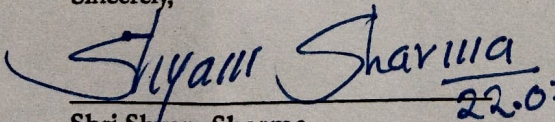
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