



## Ananta Charan Sai

I present to you, Sir, Shri Ananta Charan Sai.

Shri Ananta Charan Sai was born in 1915 in Mayurbhanj, in Orissa, in a family of Chhau dancers. He received training in Chhau from his father, Shri Radhamohan Sai and from other outstanding masters of the time, like Shri Dibakar Bhanj Deo and Shri Mohammad Rejak Khan. Shri Ananta Charan Sai began his professional career as a dancer under the patronage of the Late Maharaja Pratap Chandra Bhanj Deo, of Mayurbhanj.

Shri Ananta Charan Sai has played a leading role in the promotion of Chhau dance in the period after Indian Independence. He has trained numerous dancers and also composed and added fresh items to the traditional Chhau repertoire.

For over a decade now, Shri Ananta Charan Sai is Head Ustad at the Mayurbhanj Chhau Nrutya Pratisthan, the leading institution for imparting training in the art.

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri Ananta Charan Sai receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Mayurbhanj Chhau Dance.