

I present to you, Madam, Sri Kongbrailatpam Ibomcha Sharma.

Born in 1897, Sri Sharma received his training from guru Thokchom Angou Singh of Sagolband Mayaikoibi, a renowned artist of Nata Sankirtana. Sri Sharma became known as Abhiramshaba Sharma, at a very early age, for his outstanding performance in the role of 'Abhiram' in "Gouralila". He has received many titles and awards, among them 'Sangeeta Ratna' from Manipur Sahitya Parishad in 1970, the Manipur State Kala Akademy Award in 1975, Sri Govindaji Jaypatra from Sri Govindaji Temple Board, Manipur in 1975.

He has been performing and propagating Nata Sankirtana for the last 65 years. He taught the art in Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy under the leadership of Guru Amubi Singh.

For his eminence in the field of Nata Sankirtana and his contribution to its enrichment Sri Kongbrailatpam Ibomcha Sharma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Manipuri Nata Sankirtana for 1981.