



K. ONGBI LEIPAKLOTPI DEVI
Akademi Award : Manipuri

Born in 1932 in Lairikyengbam Leikai, Manipur, Shrimati Khulem Ongbi Leipaklotpi Devi received her training in the Ras dance of Manipur from several illustrious gurus including Maisnam Amubi Singh, Haobam Atomba Singh and Sorokhaibam Paka Singh. She then specialized as a Ras Sutra artist under the guidance of Lourembam Tombi Devi and Kshetrimayium Tombi Devi, and acquired proficiency in other performing arts of Manipur such as Natasankirtana, Lalsa, Basok and Khubak Esei.

Having completed her training, Shrimati Leipaklotpi Devi won recognition as a Ras artist representing the tradition of her gurus. This led to her appointment as Sutradhari of Basanta Ras at the Shree Shree Govindaji temple and the Vijaya Govindaji temple of Imphal. At the same time, she became a respected teacher of the Ras dance, and has imparted training for many years at the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, the Haobam Guru Atomba Dance and Music Institution, and the Govindaji Nartanalaya at Imphal.

Shrimati Leipaklotpi Devi was awarded the Manipur State Kala Akademi's Guru Amubi Fellowship for 1978–80. In 1990, she was honoured with the State Kala Akademi Award for Ras Sutra.

Shrimati K. Ongbi Leipaklotpi Devi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Manipuri dance.