

I present to you, Madam, Sri Kedar Nath Sahoo.

✓ Born in 1921 in Seraikela, an erstwhile princely state, Sri Kedar Nath Sahoo was initiated into the art of Chhau dancing from his early childhood. He studied Chhau with Rajkumar Vijay Pratap Singh Deo. The Seraikela style of Chhau dance reached its peak in the third decade of this century under the inspiring patronage of the royal nobilities. During this period Sri Sahoo was considered as one of the best dancers excelling especially in portraying female characters. He was one of the performers in the troupe which visited England in 1936. He is also a very gifted teacher and has trained many students in this style of dance. He is presently Director of the Government Chhau Dance Centre, Seraikela, and a Fellow of Bihar Academy of Music, Dance & Drama. Invited by some universities of America, he visited United States in 1980 and conducted a number of workshops and also imparted training in Seraikela style of Chhau dance. The Sangit Pith of Bombay has conferred on him the title of 'Nritya Vilas'. ✓

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Sri Kedarnath Sahoo received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Seraikela Chhau Dance for 1981.