



Rasika Ranjani Sabha®

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30/1 SUNDARESWARAR STREET, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600004

CITATION

KALA SEVA RATNA AWARD – 2023

to

Dr.V.R.Devika

Dr.V.R.Devika is the founder and managing trustee of The Aseema Trust – a nonprofit organization for linking traditional performing arts and education and also Mahatma Gandhi and education. Her PhD thesis is on "Gandhian communication for transformation: Philosophical issues and dimensions" at the Department of Philosophy, University of Madras. She spins on the box Charkha.

She was a consultant for J.Krishnamurti Foundation's Pathashaala at Vallipuram, has taught at SS Jain College and VIT Chennai on culture, and was Director for Education and Culture of the Madras Craft Foundation and its Project Dakshinachitra heritage center (1985-96) where she headed a folk performing arts in education project that had schools in Tamilnadu engage seriously with folk artists. She has been a freelance compere, interviewer and production assistant at All India Radio since 1974 and has done several television programmes. She is the mentor of Rukminidevi Natyakashetra. She has been on the folk and tribal arts and puppetry advisory committee of Sangeet Natak Academy – Government of India and has guest edited the journal "Sangeet Natak: Celebrating folk and tribal forms. She was a school teacher (P.S. Senior Secondary School, Chennai 1977-85) and is on the advisory council of Avvai Home. She is on the academic council of TNJJ Music and Fine arts University. She has trained in Bharathanatyam under The Dhananjayans, and has researched folk forms.

A well-known storyteller, she has authored the monograph "Muthulakshmi Reddy A trail blazer in Surgery and Women's rights" published by Niyogi books (Tamil translation of which has been published by Kizhaku Pathippagam) and a coffee table book "Ward 10 – Remembering Rangabashyam". She is an author for "Weavers" an English language text book series published by Indiannica formerly Encyclopedia Britannica India Ltd. She has contributed to several national and international journals on art and philosophy. A freelance contributor to many publications including The Hindu, Sruti Magazine, The WEEK, The Indian Express and wrote a fortnightly column called "The View from the Wings" for Madras Musings.

The Awards received her are as follows; Kalasevabharathi honour from Bharat Kalachar for contributions to arts and education, the Gnanasamudhra award from Samudra Magazine, Satya Vimarshaka Sundaram from Natyanjali, British Council's Charles Wallace Award for Arts in Education in UK, Goethe Institute's cultural multiplier fellowship to Germany, certificate of honorary citizenship from the Governor of Maryland during participation in the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership programme, Women's day honours from Women's Indian Association (WIA), Brew Magazine and Jaycees, a lifetime achievement award from the Amir Khusro music academy, a best lecture demonstration award from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha and vocational excellence awards from Rotary Clubs, Rajyothsava award from Kannanda Sanghas of Chennai, ManitaneyaPanpaalar from Lioness' Club and commemorative award from Bharatakalaanjali of The Dhananjayans and Sree Sakthi award from Ladies Special Magazine.

She has also extensively travelled for conferences and lectures in Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, UK & USA.

The Award Committee of Rasika Ranjani Sabha takes great pleasure in conferring the

KALA SEVA RATNA AWARD – 2023

for in the field of DANCE AND FOLK ARTS to Dr.V.R.DEVIKA

on this 18th day of August 2023.

A.R.Santhanakrishnan
President

**R.Nagarajan &
R.Vaithyanathan**
Secretaries