

## **Sangeet Natak Akademi for two Punjabi artistes SAP Bureau**

Sangeet Natak Akademi, the national academy of music, dance and drama, the apex body of performing arts in the country has selected two Punjab artistes for Sangeet Natak Akademi 2011. They were chosen from amongst total 36 artistes from across the country. They include Punjabi folk singer Gurmeet Bawa in the category of folk music (Punjab) and Patiala-based theatre actor Neena Tiwana for acting.

Bawa is a renowned female voice from Punjab, who is known for her high pitch voice and Neena Tiwana is Patiala-based actor and wife of celebrated Punjabi playwright Harpal Tiwana, who passed away in a road accident in 2002. Neena is a graduate from National School of Drama, New Delhi.

The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952. These awards not only symbolise the highest standard of excellence and achievements on a national basis, but also recognise sustained individual work and contribution to the practice and appreciation of the arts through performance, teaching and scholarship. The honour of Akademi awards carry Rs 1 lakh, besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

### **Two Punjabi artistes get Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar**

The Sangeet Natak Akademi has selected 33 artistes for Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2010 and amongst them are two young artistes from Punjab. They are SAS Nagar-based theatre actor and director Anita Shabdeesh and Patiala-based Alankar Singh for traditional Gurbani music.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi started Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar in 2006 with the objective of giving national recognition to outstanding talents in diverse fields of performing arts. The award is given to the artistes up to the age of 40 years who have made a mark in their respective fields of performing arts.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar carries purse money of Rs 25,000. The Yuva Puraskar will be presented at a special ceremony, presided over by the chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi in the coming months.