

# DR. VINDHUJA MENON

An accomplished multifaceted artist who dons many hats, excels in every role and constantly contributes to the growth of quintessential 'Bharatheeya' heritage through arts and culture. Armed with immense global exposure, she helps Central Government and related authorities to propagate and propel the soft power of the country to the center stage of the globe.

## Kalathilakam

- ❖ Dr. Vindhuja was destined to start her artistic journey on the 28th day of her existence depicting the role of baby Swathi Thirunal Maharaja of Travancore.
- ❖ Won the coveted 'Kalathilakam' title for the best performer in the Kerala State School Youth Festival from among thousands of schools and contestants.

## Classical Dancer

- ❖ From her very first performance as a toddler, she lit up many prestigious stages both nationally and internationally.
- ❖ She is a well-trained performer and exponent of Mohiniyattam, Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi.



## Movie Actress

- ❖ Starting as a child artist, she has so far completed 30 movies.
- ❖ Debutant role in Malayalam movie under leading production house with 'Padmabhushan' Mohanlal.
- ❖ Her debut role in the commercially super hit movie Pavithram is still fondly remembered for her deft portrayal of the pivotal character.

## Classical Musician

- ❖ She is a rare combination of a classical dancer aligned to music, acting and writing.
- ❖ She is a play back singer and B high grade singer with All India Radio.
- ❖ She still anchors many musical and reality shows in various parts of the globe and TV channels.



## Ph.D Scholar

- ❖ Vindhuja did her Masters in Classical Music achieving the UGC lectureship eligibility.
- ❖ Her Doctoral Degree was from the prestigious Kamaraj University, Madurai on the duo topic – dance and music. 'Abhinayapradhana compositions of Irayimman Thampi'.
- ❖ The unique thesis work was a compilation of expression - oriented compositions of the great musician in various Indian traditional dance styles like Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kuchipudi and how it can be used for other dance forms.



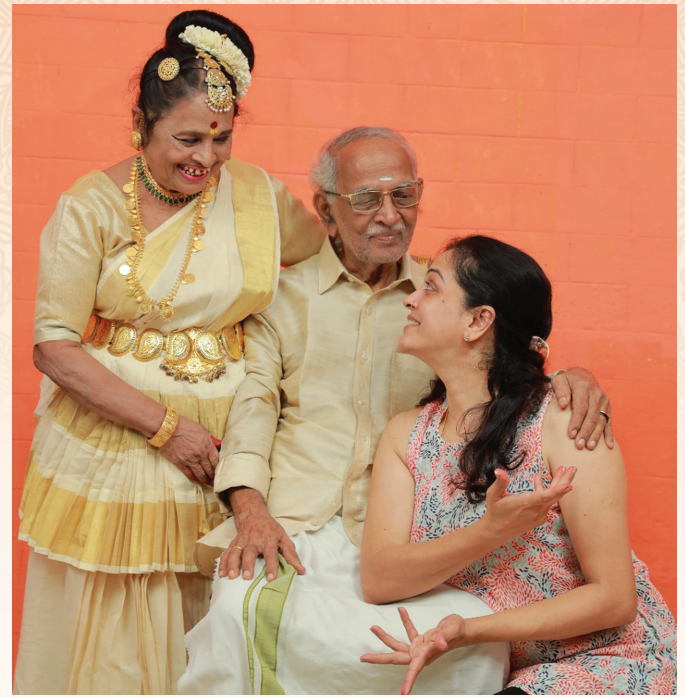
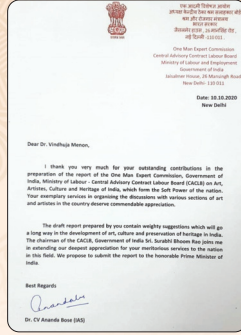
## Guru

- ❖ As a young teacher from the age of 6, she is fondly remembered by her senior - most dancers as a strict, passionate teacher correcting and detailing every single move.
- ❖ Her ardent devotion to the traditional dance forms gradually evolved her to become a Guru - mentoring, guiding and molding future artists both in dance and music globally.



## Active role in Commission Report

- ❖ Empathizing with the pathetic condition of the vast majority of artists who had lost their livelihood due to the pandemic situations, Vindhuja's mother Smt Kalamandalam Vimala Menon requested Dr. C.V.Ananda Bose (IAS) for a quick remedial action to alleviate the suffering of the artists.
- ❖ Dr. Bose took the issue on a war footing with top priority and initiated a One Man Expert Commission for the Govt. of India to study and prepare a report on the condition of artists across India.
- ❖ Vindhuja was unanimously chosen by the art fraternity of India to be their representative to highlight the issues faced by the artist. As Honorary Secretary of the commission she contributed significantly in the preparation of report by arranging meetings, researching etc.



## Artrepreneur

- ❖ Kerala Natya Academy is an institution founded by her mother and Guru 'Kalaratna' Kalamandalam Vimala Menon to promote and encourage students to learn varied traditional art forms of India.
- ❖ As the Director and Creative Artistic Director at Kerala Natya Academy, the institution has been extended and branched out to Malaysia and Singapore for promoting and propagating Indian art forms, culture and heritage internationally.

## Passing the legacy

Vindhuja with mother Kalamandalam Vimala Menon and daughter Neha Rajesh Nambiar.



## Choreographer

- ❖ A performer who is true to art delights in creating a mark.
- ❖ Since 1997, Vindhuja started to write lyrics, compose music, Choreograph and coordinate shows and events for her academy, government and for others.



## Mother-Daughter Duo

- ❖ Her greatest blessing was to be born as the daughter – disciple of renowned Guru Smt Kalamandalam Vimala Menon and Sri. K. P. Viswanatha Menon hailing from the family of the great poet Vallathol Narayana Menon.
- ❖ It's from her mother she learned all the nuances of Classical dance at a very young age.

## Anchor / Judge

- ❖ Vindhuja is a prominent figure in the small screen industry, enacting various roles in the daily operas, anchoring and judging Dance and Music reality shows.
- ❖ She had taken lead roles in many telefilms and serials which had been telecasted for many years in various channels.



- ❖ 'Saregama' is a popular music reality show hosted by Vindhuja telecasted on Asianet, the first Mega Serial in Malayalam 'Sthree' and 'Jwalayayi' in Doordharsan ran successfully for three years becoming household favorites.



Service to humanity is the best work of life. Vindhuja spends fun-filled time with differently abled children

## Azadi Ka Amrith Mahotsav

She conducted many programs both in India and abroad with the specific objective of promoting 'Azadi Ki Amrith Mahotsav' celebrating 75 years of Indian Independence through dance and music.



## The Writer

- ❖ As a natural progression in the art and culture, Dr. Vindhuja's articles, thoughts and visions were published in leading newspapers and magazines.
- ❖ She co-authored the book "Bharatanatyam – Sastravum Charithravum" together with her mother.

## Publications

District Institute of Education & Training, Thoughts on Poet Vallathol, Kalolsavam Ormakal, Knowing traditions through dance, Why to learn Indian Classical dance.



## Webinar

- ❖ Vindhuja actively participated in the Vallathol Memorial web series initiated by the family during the peak COVID 19 lockdown days. She even sang the signature song of the series.

## Performances

### National

- 2000 - Rashtrapathi Bhawan New Delhi
- 2006 - World Guinness Record
- 2015 - Onakootu - Kerala Tourism
- 2016 - Trippadilasyamritham
- 2017 - Nritya Sanrachna, Sangeeth Nataka Academy, Tripura
- 2018 - Myriad Mohiniyattam Manifestations, New Delhi
- 2019 - Lakshdeepam Dance Music - Kollam and many others



### International

- 1993 - Various Stages in UAE
- 1995 - World Malayalee USA
- 2001 - Singapore
- 2004 - Malaysia
- 2013 - Special appreciation from PM of Malaysia and performances in Germany, Australia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Switzerland, Brazil

### Few of the numerous prestigious awards received

- 2021 : Vayalar Award
- 2021 : Prem Nazir Award
- 2018 : World Malayalee Federation Award, Malaysia
- 2017 : Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Award, Indian Cultural Centre, Malaysia
- 2016 : PravasiBharathiya 'Chalachithra Retna Award', Kerala, India.
- 2013 : SMCA 'Bharath Murali Award – Best Actress Award – Kerala.
- 1997 : Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi's Best Actress Award
- 1995 : World Malayalee Convention's Award, New Jersey, USA
- 1992 : Indian TV channel Doordarshan's NANA award



## Endorsements

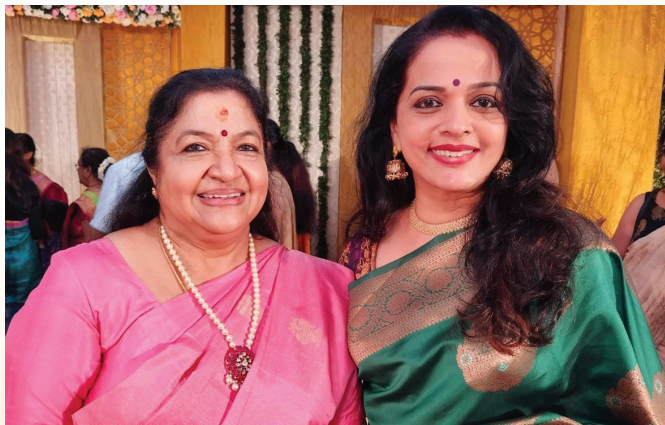


Dr. Vindhuja Menon, eminent danseuse, actor, singer, connoisseur and practitioner of performing arts has created a niche for herself in the world of culture in India.

Her outstanding contributions as Honorary Secretary of the One - man Commission of the Government of India which prepared the 'Kalakranti' report for the promotion of India's soft power, has been widely recognised with deep appreciation.

I have had the opportunity of working in close coordination with her in the preparation of the Kalakranti report. I am deeply impressed by her sense of commitment and dedication.

**Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose (IAS)**  
Governor of West Bengal



I have known Vindhuja since childhood and am proudly glimpsing her natural blossoming as an individual and an artist. I felt more satisfied to see her ability to stand up and voice for fellow artists who were suffering during the pandemic crisis. Lots of love and blessings to all your future endeavors.

'Padmabhushan' **K.S. Chitra**, Playback Singer

### Vindhuja Menon

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## Current Activities

- ❖ 2020 to date: Hon. Secretary to One Man Expert Commission, Govt. of India.
- ❖ 2021 to date: Brand Ambassador, Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, Swasthi Charitable Foundation.
- ❖ 2017 to date: Director, PureSoftware, IT company based in KL, Malaysia.
- ❖ 1998 to date: Director, Kerala Natya Academy, India & Malaysia
- ❖ 1985 to date: Performing and organizing dance and music shows.
- ❖ Work in Progress: writing books titled 'Art during Covidan era' and 'Importance of Art and Artistes in India', Why and how to learn Mohiniyattam.

