

## Alumna Artiste – Author – Director Shobha Deepak Singh ' I am an avid collector of antique fabrics and textiles'



alpix 0825

### Shobha Deepak Singh

Director Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra  
BA Eco Hons Miranda House 1963

Q What is the main concept you worked with when you designed costumes for Mayurbhanj Chhau ?

A The main concept that I had in my mind while designing costumes was the ability to use legs. Mayurbhanj Chhau needs the ability to use one or two legs almost at an angle of 180 degrees. The costumes are therefore designed in such a way which makes it easy for the dancers to execute performances with the ornaments.

Q What is your approach to collecting age – old textiles ?

A I am an avid collector of antiques . However, in the last two-and-half decades, there has been a penetration of synthetic zari, especially in personal wear. There has been a growing and popular usage of synthetic fabric and zari. This makes the personal wear and costumes look unaesthetic. Personally I have collected **fabrics and textiles which are older than 100 years** and tried to use those techniques in designing my costumes also. Infact, I have been inspired by the fabrics and designs by painters like **Raja Ravi Verma**.

Q Could you tell us about the top features of the Ramayan organized by Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra ?

A The Kendra's Ramayan's USP is that it is **the only Ramayan which has been running for over six decades**. To educate the audience , the Kendra has a valuable power point presentation which enables the spectators to understand the moral values of the Ramayan.

Q You have multiple interests like photography, costume designing, theatre. How do you manage these with your daily job ?

A My interests span from photography to costume designing, to collection of antique textiles. They are all managed because of proper time management of my work.

The Sunday Guardian 14.10.2018 *adapted*

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