

## **Telugu Shikharam Award**

**Dasari Narayana Rao** born 4 May 1942, Palakollu, West Godavari is an Indian film director known for his works predominantly in Telugu cinema, and few Bollywood films. He has directed about 151 films, produced 53 films and worked in more than 250 films as a dialogue writer, and lyricist. Most of his films emphasise social injustice, corruption and gender discrimination. He has received two National Film Awards, nine state Nandi Awards, and four Filmfare Awards South. Besides graduating with a BA degree, he used to take part in scores of drama competitions. During his career he has also acted in Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada languages.

He holds Limca World Record for directing the most number of films. He directed films like Tandra Paparayudu, (1986), Surigaadu (1992), screened at International Film Festival of India in the panorama section, and Kante Koothurne Kanu (2000) which received the National Film Award Special Mention Feature Film. In 1983, he directed Meghasandesam which received critical acclaim at the Indian panorama, Chicago, 1983 Cannes Film Festival and Moscow film festivals. The film has also received the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu.<sup>[5][6]</sup> He achieved national fame when he directed Rajesh Khanna in two different roles in Asha Jyoti and Aaj Ka M.L.A. Ram Avtar in 1984. He has introduced actors and directors such as Mohan Babu, R. Narayana Murthy, Raviraja Pinisetty, Muthyala Subbaiah to Telugu film industry.

He launched a popular daily newspaper named Udayam to counter the effect of Ramoji Rao's newspaper Eenadu.

### **Political career**

Dasari was elected to the Rajya Sabha. He became the Minister of state in Ministry of Coal.<sup>[10]</sup> Said to be a confidante of Congress President Sonia Gandhi, Dasari once again became active in politics after Congress Party came back to power in 2004.<sup>[11]</sup>

On 11 June 2013 Central Bureau of Investigation booked Dasari Narayana Rao for receiving Rs. 2.25 crores from Naveen Jindal in connection with Coalgate scam, and filed FIR against both.

### **Awards**

Dasari (left) with Trivikram Srinivas and chief minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy

## **National Film Awards**

- Special Jury Award / Special Mention (Feature Film) – Kante Kuthurne Kanu – 1998
- National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu – Meghasandesam – 1982

## **Filmfare Awards**

- Best Director – Gorintaku (1979)
- Best Director – Premabhishekam (1981)
- Best Film – Meghasandesam (1982)
- Lifetime Achievement (2001)

## **Nandi Awards**

- NTR National Award
- Best Actor – Mestri (2009)
- Best Actor – Mamagaru (1991)
- Best Feature Film – Kante Kuthurne Kanu (1998)
- Best Feature Film – Bangaru Kutumbam (1994)
- Best Feature Film – Meghasandesam (1982)
- Best Feature Film – Swargam Narakam (1975)
- Best Feature Film – Samsaram Sagaram (1973)
- Best Feature Film – Tata Manavadu (1972)
- Special Jury – Premabhishekam (1981)

## **CineMAA Awards**

- Lifetime Contribution – 2003

## **Other honours**

- Vamsee Berkeley, Kalasagar, Siromani, Madras Film Fans Awards and Cine Herald Awards
- Jyothi Chitra Super Director Award – six times
- Ancient Andhra Patrika Best Director Award – six times
- Sobhan Babu first memorial award in 2009
- Bollimunta Sivaramakrishna Sahithi Kala Award-2016
- Doctorate "Kalaprapoorna" from Andhra University for his contribution to Telugu Culture and Telugu Cinema in 19