

# SPIC MACAY

## Teejan Bai



**TEEJAN BAI** • First female exponent of Pandavani • First heard her maternal grandfather, Brijlal Pardhi, recite the Mahabharata written by Chattisgarhi writer, Sabal Singh Chauhan in Chattisgarhi Hindi and instantly took a liking to it; soon memorised most of it, and later trained informally under Umed Singh Deshmukh • Being a woman, she was not allowed to perform and was ostracised by the community for practicing Pandavani but she continued to perform • Performed before Prime Minister Indira Gandhi • Participated in several festivals in India and abroad • Offered a job by Bhilai Steel Plant after her appearance in festivals abroad • Has progressed rapidly upwards despite being an illiterate Pardhi tribal • Showered with honours including the Ahilya Devi Samman & the prestigious Padma Bhushan in 2003, Padma Shri in 1988, Shreshtha Kala Acharya in 1994 & the Central Sangeet Natak Academy award in 1996

**PANDAVANI** • Pandavani is Indian folk music in ballad form, performed predominantly in Chhattisgarh • It depicts the story of the Pandavas, the leading characters in the epic Mahabharata with gusto, in the unique Pandavani style of singing and enacts ballads of the Pandavas • Pandavani is narrated in a very lively form, almost constructing the scenes in the minds of the audience • The artists in the Pandavani narration consist of a lead artist, supporting singers and musicians • Pandavani is accompanied by musical instruments such as the harmonium, tabla, dholak & manjira • There are two styles of narration in Pandavani - Vedamati and Kapalik