

**A Brief account of the Opening Celebration of IGNCA, ERC, Varanasi  
at  
Parshvanath Vidyapeeth Campus on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2014**

Last month, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Eastern Regional Centre, Varanasi has been shifted to the premises of Parshvanath Vidyapeeth, Karaundi, Varanasi.

New office was inaugurated with a small *Ganesh Pujana* on 30.10.14. In order to celebrate this occasion a grand musical concert under the name 'Sangita-sandhya' was organized by the Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. The main artist was Smt. Sucharita Gupta. The programme was chaired by Smt. Veena Joshi, Jt. Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi. The guests assembled in the audience were as follows:

1. Prof. Reva Prasad Dwivedi
2. Prof. J.S.L. Tripathi
3. Prof. P.K. Mukhopadhyay
4. Prof. Y.K. Mishra
5. Prof. Bettina Baumer
6. Prof. K.D. Tripathi
7. Prof. K.K. Sharma
8. Prof. Ritwik Sanyal
9. Prof. H.R. Sharma
10. Prof. Phool Chand Jain
11. Prof. K.K. Jain
12. Prof. Kaushalendra Pandey
13. Prof. Rajaram Shukla
14. Dr. Sukumar Chattopadhyay
15. Dr. S.P. Pandey
16. Dr. Sudhir Kumar Lall (IGNCA, New Delhi)
17. Sri Indrabhuti Berar
18. Dr. S.P. Pandey
19. Dr. Om Prakash Singh
20. Dr. Srinetra Pandey
21. Dr. N.D. Tiwari
22. Dr. Rama Dubey
23. Dr. R.K. Tripathi
24. Dr. Trilochan Pradhan
25. Miss Smrita Mishra
26. Sri S. Singh
27. Sri G.K. Chatterjee
28. Sri P.K. Chatterjee
29. Dr. Pranati Ghosal, and all the members of IGNCA, ERC.

The programme started with Vedic chanting in chorus rendered by the students of Pattabhirama Shastri Veda Mimamsa Anusandhana Kendra. Next benediction was presented by Dr (Smt.) Svaravandana Sharma. After the completion of formal rituals of lamp-lighting and felicitation of guests, Prof. K.D. Tripathi delivered welcome address to the learned gathering.

The main attraction of the day was musical presentation rendered by Smt. Sucharita gupta, a versatile artist of Banaras Gharana. Smt. Gupta, daughter of late pt. Sri Mrinal Kanti Dutta was born in an eminent musical family of Assam. She was initiated in Music by her father himself and next she was trained by Smt. Savita Devi, d/o Smt. Siddheshvari Devi, the

Princess of Banaras Vocal dynasty. Smt. Gupta completed her graduation in 1980 from Dibrugarh University, Assam and then proceeded for her degrees of Music like Sangita Visharada, Sangita Prabhakara, Sangita Praveena and Sangita Bhaskara. Smt. Sucharita has a benign presence of *sur* and *svara* in her voice which can cast spell over the audience. She is a solo performer. Her enchanting voice has the quality to create a musical confluence.

Smt. Sucharita is known for her innovative and refined style specially in Thumri, Dadra, Hori, Chaiti, Kajri, etc. On above mentioned occasion, Smt. Gupta started with a Thumri rendered in Sanskrit "*Kasmin pathe asi Shyama*" based on Khambaj raga. It was indeed a unique endeavour. Besides Thumri in Sanskrit, she presented Dadra, Tappa, Hori, Thumri etc. and created an entire musical ambience by presenting "*more mare najariya sanwaria re*", "*bindiya le gayee machariya re*" etc.

As a versatile artist, Smt. Sucharita has received various awards and honours like *Kalasadhika*, *Yasah-kirti* etc. from different organizations of the country. In the year 2012 she has been awarded with the honour of **Woman of the Year** from the platform of Mahila Mandali, Kashi. Smt. Gupta regularly broadcasts over All India Radio and Door Darshan Kendra, Uttar Pradesh and as an A-grade performer she has captivated the audiences all over the country with her exquisite command over the *laya*, *ragadari* and melodious stream of notes.

As the chairperson of the programme, Smt. Veena Joshi, Jt. Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi, expressed her satisfaction on the occasion. She lauded the artist's unique endeavour of rendering Thumri in Sanskrit.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks rendered by Prof. K.D. Tripathi, Advisor, IGNCA, ERC, Varanasi. Entire programme was conducted by P. Ghosal.

(Pranati Ghosal)  
Asst. Professor (Gr. I)