Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Regional Centre, Varanasi.

A Report on three days Dhrupad Mahotsava jointly organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, Varanasi and Cultural Committee for Centennial Celebration Committee, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. (17.10.2016 to 19.10.2016)

A three day Dhrupad Mahotsava was jointly organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, Varanasi and Cultural Committee for Centennial Celebration Committee, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The function was inaugurated by Prof. G. C. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. In his inaugural speech, Prof. Tripathi said that Music is not a matter of entertainment. It gives a proper direction to our mind, wisdom and soul. This Dhrupad Mahotsava will offer a new direction towards preservation and promotion of Indian Musical tradition.

The first performance of the day was presented by the students of the faculty of Performing Arts, BHU, in which 'Dhrupad Vrindagan', 'Pada kunjana men rachyodas' in Raga 'Bhimapalasi' and 'Sur ko gaye dhyaye surtal men' in Raga 'Kirwani' were presented. Musical direction of this presentation was given by senior vocalist and Prof. Ritwik Sanyal of the faculty of Performing Arts.

The second performance of the day was presented by Dr. (Smt.) Ranjita Mukharji, guest faculty of Ravindra Bharati University of Kolkata. She performed Dhrupad in Raga Multani; the accompanist was Mr. Ankit Parikh.

The third performance of the day was presented by Bhai Baldip Singh from New Delhi. His performance was in two parts i. e. Instrumental and Vocal. In the instrumental section he played 'Chautal' on ‘Pakhavaja’ according to old tradition and custom of shri Darbara Sahib of Swarna Mandir, Amritsar. Further he presented the old compositions of Punjab in ‘Duguna’, ‘Tiguna’, ‘Viyada’ and ‘Kuada’ etc. with different rhythms through ‘Parana’ and special words of Drums.

In the vocal part of his performance he enchanted the audience by presenting ‘Mangala Charana’, ‘Alapa’ and a composition of Shri Guru Nanakdeva, “Ai vatan cikkado eh mana meedako..” in raga ‘shri’. Pt. Ashutosh Upadyaya acompanied him on Pakhavaj.

The fourth and the last performance of the day was presented by Pt. Prem Kumar Malik from Allahabad. After ‘Alaap’ he presented several compositions in ‘Chartaal’ like ‘Tero hi dhyana gyana...’ etc. in raga ‘Sarasvati’. Pt. Santosh Mishra and Shri Ankit Parikh accompanied him on ‘Sarangi’and ‘Pakhavaj’ respectively.

On this occasion many dignitaries like Prof. Chitaranjan Jyotishi, member of the executive council of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Prof. Revaprasad Dwivedi, Prof.

P. C. Upadhyaya, Shri K. Chandramauli, Padmashri Prof. S. Chudamani Gopal, teachers and students of Faculty of Performing Arts, BHU and lovers of Music were present.

Prof. Kamalesha Datta Tripathi, a well known exponent of theatre and Advisor, Regional Centre, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, made his remark and said that the tradition of Dhrupad Mahotsava, which started today, will give a new pace to the cultural and musical stream of Kashi.

On the second day of Dhrupad celebration, tremendous performances were presented by the artists. Audiences experienced the magic accompany of 'Pakhavaj' with Dhrupad singing.

First performance of second day was of Dr. Madhu Bhatt Tailang, from Jaipur. She began with a stuti composed by Vallabhacharya- 'Ajnanatimirandhasya...' and further she performed a Bandish "Ab haun kaso bair karon" in raga 'Hansa Kinkidi'. After 'Alap' and 'Jod' she presented a composition "Jogi Mahadeva ki" in 'Raga Dhani' too. Next performance of her was in 'Raga Mala' of Kalyana category. Bandish was "Guni jan gavata...". She was accompanied on pakhavaj and sarangi by Mr. Pravin Bhai and Pt. Santosh Mishra respectively.

The second performance of the day was the solo presentation of 'pakhavaj' by Pt. Dalachanda Sharma from Delhi. He performed 'Chautal', 'Shivaparan', 'Panchadeva Stuti paran' and 'Jhala' in 'Teen Taal' on pakhavaja. Shri Anish Mishra, from Varanasi, accompanied him on 'Sarangi'.

The third and the last performance of the day was of Pt. Udaya Bhuvalkar from Pune. He presented ' Alap' and two compositions, "Eri hara gudao phoolan ke ..." and "Prathama nada samudra aparmpara...", in Raga "Bhoop". Shri Pratap Awad accompanied him on pakhavaj, who also hails from Pune.

Valedictory function of three day Dhrupada celebration was organised on 19.10.2016. Prof. Sacchidananda Joshi, honourable Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, delivered valedictory address. In his speech he said that Dhrupad was the original tradition in classical singing from where singing started. Later on, people were forgetting singing of Dhrupad. Due to that another kind of popular singing of 'Khayal' and many other form of singing came into existence. Now a day’s status of 'Khayal' singing is also not so good.

He further elaborated that we are forgetting our original art forms in the pressure of mechanization or globalization. This is why we thought to organise a 'Dhrupad Mahotsav' in this city, because the city is the cultural capital of India. Besides 'Dhrupad' there are many art forms which are endangered like 'zardoji, Banarasi Sari, Wooden toys etc... We must think about preserving and developing them too. He further stated that we should not draw a line between folk and classical arts. This is the time to see them together.

The valedictory function was presided over by the Vice-chancellor, Prof. Giris Chandra Tripathi, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. In his presidential remark Prof Tripathi emphasized on the importance of 'Shastras'. He elaborated that as we know 'Dhrupad' was the base of classical singing. 'Khayal' came later. 'Khayal' will be adorned or 'Loka' will be adorned only when it is supported by 'Shastras'.

On the final day of three day Dhrupad celebration, there were three performances- The first performance was by Ms Sombala Kumar from Khairagarha. She mesmerised her audience by playing 'Alap' in Raga "Multani". She presented a composition "Vanshidhar Pinakadhar Giridhar Gangadhar Jatadhar Mukutdhar Ho Ho Shridhar...” in 'Chautal'. Shri Prithvi Rajkumar, who hails from Khairagarha too, accompanied her on 'pakhavaj'.

The second performance of the day was by Ustad Md Bahauddin Dagar, an unmatched artist of Dhrupad, from Mumbai. He performed 'Alap', 'Joda' and 'Jhala' in Raga "Khamaj" on his famous 'Rudraveena'. Shri Pratap Awad accompanied him on 'pakhavaj'.

The last performance of the day and of the celebration as well, was performed by Prof. Ritwik Sanyal, a well known artist of Dhrupad in this region. He presented a short 'Alap' and a composition namely "lachakat ave ho gori...” composed in ‘Dhamar’ in raga "Chhayanut".

The celebration was concluded with the vote of thanks extended by Dr. Vishwanath Pandey, the officer on special duty of Cultural Committee for Centennial Celebration, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. On this occasion many dignitaries like Pt. Sajan Mishra, a well known classical singer of Banaras Gharana, Prof. Chitaranjan Jyotishi, Prof Kamalesh Datta Tripathi, Dr. N. D. Sharm, Head, Kalakosha Division, IGNCA, New Delhi, Dr. Vijaya Shankar Shukla, Nodal Officer, IGNCA, RC, Varanasi, Prof. Mithilesh Chaturvedi, New Delhi, Prof Molly Kaushal, HoD, Janapathsampada and many other distinguished guests from the University and the city as well, were present.