



**व्याख्या केन्द्र**

**INTERPRETATION CENTRE**

श्री हरिश्चन्द्र बालिका इण्टर कालेज, मैदागिन, वाराणसी



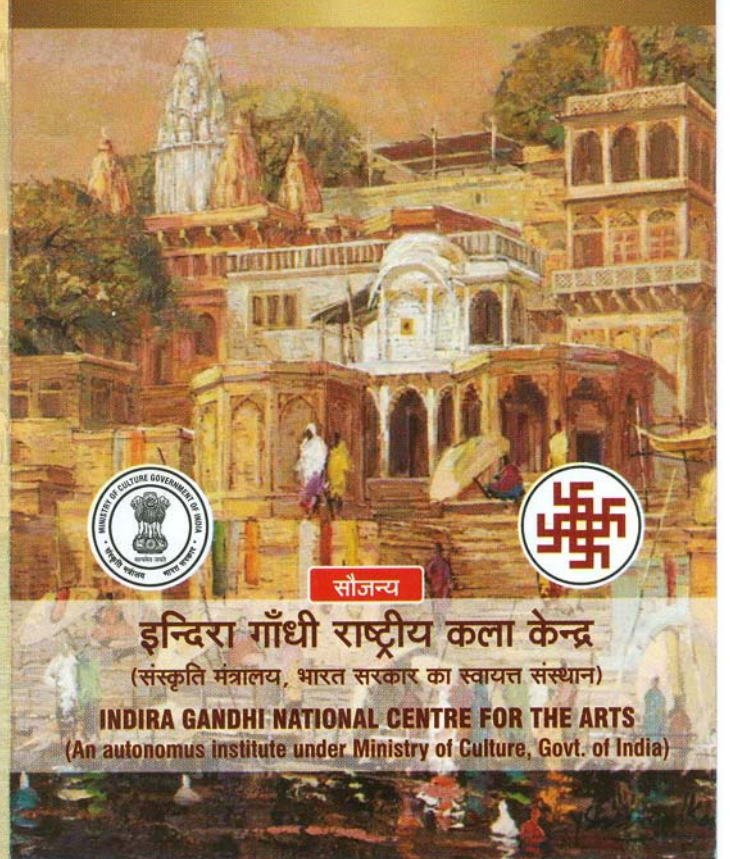
**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**  
(An autonomus institute under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

**Head Office**

11, Maan Singh Road, New Delhi-110001  
Website: [www.ignca.gov.in](http://www.ignca.gov.in)

**Eastern Regional Centre**

Parshwanth Vidyapeeth Campus  
I.T.I. Road, Karaundi, Varanasi-221005  
Phone: 2570169, 2570238  
Email: [igncavaranasi@gmail.com](mailto:igncavaranasi@gmail.com)



**सौजन्य**

**इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र**

(संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का स्वायत्त संस्थान)

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**  
(An autonomus institute under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)



## **Smt. Siddheshwari Devi** **Hindustani Vocalist (1908-1977)**



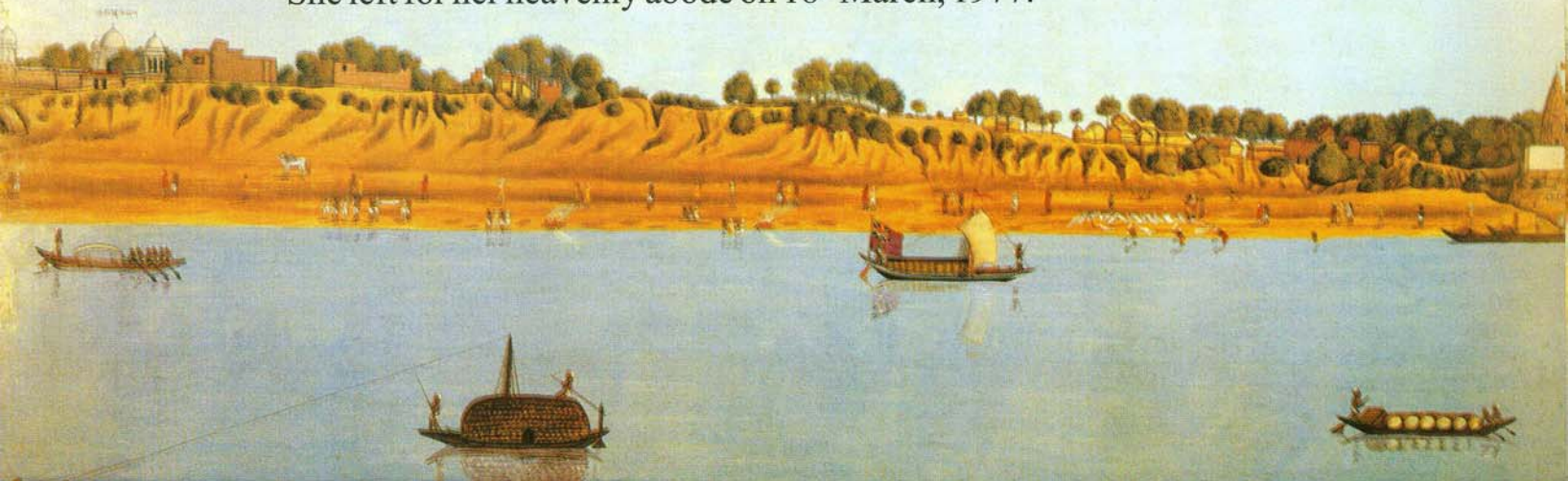
Smt. Siddheshwari Devi was one of the foremost exponents of the Banaras gharana of Hindustani vocal music. She was born on 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 1908 in an eminent musician's family. Her mother Chandabai was the younger daughter of famous vocalist Mainabai and Shyamji was her father.

Smt. Siddheshwari Devi was a child prodigy in the field of music. Braving a string of adversities in the formative stages of her life, she relentlessly worshipped music and attained fruition when she was initiated into music by the famous Sarangi maestro Pt. Siyaji Mishra. Later she trained under celebrated teachers such as Ustad Rajab Ali Khan of Dewas, Ustad Inayat Khan of Lahore and Pt. Bade Ramdas Mishra of Kashi, and established herself as a prominent exponent of different genres of Indian vocal music like Dhrupad, Khayal, Tappa, Thumri, Hori, Caiti, Kajari, Nirgun and Bhajan etc. She was a vocalist par excellence. She also acted in some films but the glamour of cinema failed to allure her and she came back to music. She was married to Pandit Iqbal Narayan of Gujranwala and had two kids from him—Shanta Devi and Savita Devi. Death of her husband in 1964 left her shattered and she relocated herself in Delhi, where her status grew manifold as a national artist.

Smt. Siddheshwari Devi, the gifted vocalist, received the Padma Shri award (civilian honour) by the Government of India in 1967. She was also conferred the distinguished award of the Sangeet Natak Akademi in the same year. She was awarded Honorary D.Litt Degree in 1972 by Rabindra Bharati University; The same year she was also awarded the Asit Chandra Bagchi Memorial Medal by Suresh Sangeet Samsad of Calcutta; Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademy award in 1974; Sahitya Kala Parishad award in 1975 and Sharang Dev Fellowship in 1977.

She travelled widely to Kabul, Dhaka, Europe, London, Rome and Denmark, etc. and everywhere, she left a deep imprint of her music on her audience.

She left for her heavenly abode on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1977.





# Activities of Interpretation Centre Based on Siddheshwari Devi

## Academic activities:

- Talent-hunt amongst students: Competition based on the theme on half yearly/annual basis and award of cash prize to students as encouragement.
- Organization of thematic lectures on half yearly/annual basis.
- Declamation contest for personality development of students.
- Organization of Annual painting competition.
- Taking students out on academic excursions to bring out their hidden talents and alleviate there inherent inhibitions.
- To train and to provide platform to interested students in the music traditions of Banaras Gharana with special reference to Smt. Siddheshwari Devi.
- To prepare suitable candidates for CCRT scholarship.

## Cultural activities:

- Preparing cultural information board.
- To organize cultural programs by eminent performers from the musical tradition of Smt. Siddheshwari Devi, in order to create awareness and interest in the students.
- To set-up an exhibition comprising :
  - i. Theme related books.
  - ii. Audio/Video collections.
  - iii. Multimedia Kiosk etc. for facilitating the A/V.
  - iv. To provide open and free exhaustive information at one place regarding musical tradition of Smt. Siddheshwari Devi to tourists/students.

## Non academic activities:

- To encourage students for creating a green and clean school campus.
- To organize such programs by which the students are initiated into character building, skill development and social responsibility.

