

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

**Inauguration of Interpretation Centre on Smt. Sidheshwari Devi, at Maidagin,
Varanasi and a lecture delivered under Kashi Vyakhyanamala series
on October 25th, 2016.**

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, an autonomous trust under Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has established Interpretation Centre at Maidagin, Varanasi to promote “Thumari” of Banaras region. Its inaugural function was held on 25th October, 2016 at Shri Harishchandra Balika Inter College, Maidagin, Varanasi.

On this occasion, the chief guest of the inaugural function, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated the Centre. The chief guest observed while taking round the currently established centre that it will offer its valuable contribution in preservation and dissemination of ‘Thumari’ of Banaras region.

On this occasion, a lecture was also organised on “Sanskritik Rajdhani Kashi ki Sangeeta Parampara” under Kashi Vyakhyanamala series. The lecture was started with the lighting of the lamp (Jnana-deepa) by the guests on the dais followed by ‘Saraswati Vandana’ and recital of a ‘Bhajan’ of Sidheshwari Devi, by the students of the college.

On this occasion, the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and the president of the function were felicitated. The convener of the programme introduced and welcomed the dignitaries on the dais and the topic as well. A cultural programme was also organised in the form of ‘Kajari’ performed by the students of the college.

The learned speaker and chief guest of inaugural function, Prof Chitaranjana Jyotishi, former vice-chancellor, Raja Mana Singh Tomar Music and Art University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh and a well known classical singer of Gwalior Gharana, delivered his lecture on “Sanskritik Rajdhani Kashi ki Sangeeta Parampara”. While delivering his lecture he mentioned that the music tradition of Kashi did not get so much national recognition as it should get. Whatever region may be behind it but at present the artists have tried to compensate and will keep trying to compensate it.

Further he elaborated that the different quarters and places of Kashi were well known for its musical expertise.

Prof Kamalesh Datta Tripathi, advisor, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, Varanasi, stated while making his presidential remark, that the aim and objective behind establishing these interpretation centres are to make the young generation of India acquainted with Indian culture and make them inquisitive for divers aspects of Indian culture. Hence, underlining the importance of endangered Indian Classical Music and other folk arts form, to make understand the people of India and of the World as well, this important project has been started.

He, further, elaborated that the Kashi is the seat of learning from ancient time. There was a galaxy of scholars who were renowned for their knowledge of Sanskrit-vidya rather Veda-vidya. These scholars like mahamahopadhyaya Pt Pattabhirama Shastri, Pt. Mahadeva Mishra etc. were also known for their profound affection towards classical music beside the knowledge of Sanskrit-vidya.

The function was concluded with the vote of thanks extended by Dr. Shubhada Mishra, Principal, of the college. On this occasion many other distinguish guests, principals of other colleges of the city like Dr. Viswanath Dubey, principal, C. M. Anglo Bengali Inter College, Shri Bhagavati Sharan Dubey, Principal, Shri Ramkrishna Vidya Mandir Inter College, Dr. Radhakant Mishra, Principal, DAV Inter College, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey, principal, Navayuga Vidyamandir, Smt. Pratibha Yadava, Aryamahila Inter College, Dr. Alpana Rai, former principal, Harishchandra Balika Inter College and other music lovers of the city and staff of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, Varanasi, were present. The programme was convened by Smt. Kanchanbala, a teacher of the college.