



**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**

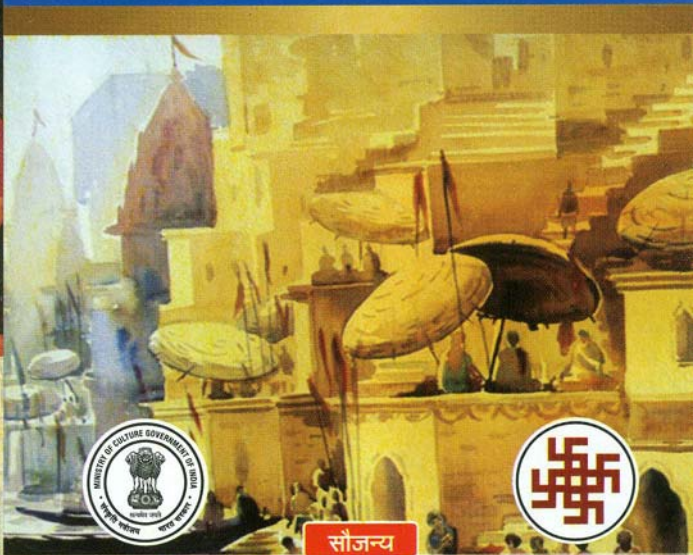
Parshwanth Vidyapeeth Campus  
I.T.I. Road, Karaundi, Varanasi-221005  
Phone: 2570169, 2570238  
Email: [igncavaranasi@gmail.com](mailto:igncavaranasi@gmail.com)



**व्याख्या केन्द्र**

**INTERPRETATION CENTRE**

प्रभुनारायण राजकीय इण्टर कालेज, रामनगर, वाराणसी



सौजन्य

**इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र**

(संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का स्वायत्त संस्थान)

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## Ramleela (Ramnagar, Varanasi)



The Ramleela of Ramnagar, Varanasi was instituted in its present form by the then king of Kashi Maharaja Udit Narayan Singh, in 1830 A.D. The *Ramcharitmanas* composed by Goswami Tulsidas in the 16<sup>th</sup> century serves as the basis for the enactment of this Ramleela. The staging of this open air theatre is done on different locations spread out in the periphery of about five kilometers approximately. All the participating actors are usually locals. This Ramleela is staged

for a period of 31 days under the guardianship of Kashi Naresha (ruler of Kashi).

Every evening the Ramleela begins in the presence of the King, albeit on different locations. For this purpose, open air theatres are there at those locations and sometimes, some temporary ones are created as per requirement. The locations are given specific thematic names such as Ashok Vatika, Lanka, Pancavati, etc. and are spread out. Different episodes from the Rama narrative are performed at these different locations, thereby lending a distinctive and distinguished place to this spectacular theatrical performance. This is a matchless, one of its kind theatre in the world, where the multitude of spectators, move along with the actors, from one location to another. On completion of every act, the Aarti (waving of lights) is performed and the chants of 'Har Har Mahadeva (glory to lord Siva)' and 'Bolo Raja Ramchandradi Jai (hail king Rama)' the whole atmosphere is filled with devotion. The Ramleela comes to a close with the death of demon king Ravan at the hands of Sri Rama.

Taking note of the significance of its powerful staging, UNESCO has inscribed Ramleela in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008.





# Activities of Interpretation Centre Based on Ramleela

## 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 their inherent inhibitions.
- To provide information to students about different Ramlila Tradition.
- To prepare suitable candidates for CCRT scholarship.

## Cultural activities:

- Preparing cultural information board.
- To keep rejuvenated the extremely popular Ramlila Tradition by way of training suitable students and by providing them with occasional opportunities for staging their learning.
- 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 glimpses of the complete documentation of Ramlila of Ramnagar spanning over 31 days for the sake of 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.

