



# Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

New Delhi, India



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), established in the memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi, in 1987, is an autonomous institution encompassing the study and experience of all the arts – each form with its own integrity, yet within a dimension of mutual inter-dependence, inter-relatedness with nature, the social structure and cosmology.

The view of the arts, integrated with and essential to the large matrix of human culture, is predicated upon Smt. Gandhi's recognition of the role of the arts as essential to the 'integral quality of a person, at home with himself and society.' It partakes of the holistic world-view so forcefully articulated throughout the Indian tradition and emphasized by modern Indian leaders, especially Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.

The IGNCA's view of the arts encompasses a wide area of studies, such as creative and critical literature, written and oral; the visual arts, ranging from architecture, sculpture, painting and graphics to general material culture; photography and film; the performing arts of music, dance and theatre in their broadest connotation; and all else in festivals, fairs and in lifestyles that has an artistic dimension. It is in the Centre's agenda to explore, study and revive the dialogue between India and her neighbours, especially in the South and South East Asia, in areas pertaining to the arts.

Today, the centre is one of the important institutions that hold archival material; books, slides, microfilms, microfiche and video documentations. Besides, it has published over 150 books. Under the Regional studies programme (Ksetra Sampada), two projects were conceptualized, one on Vraja and another on Tanjavur. Project on Tanjavur is focused on areas in and around Tanjavur; a strong hold of Tamil culture and Brihadisvara which served as a centre for many socio-political-cultural and spiritual movements over a period of many centuries.