

## Annual Day celebration of Kala Nidhi Division

4<sup>th</sup> February,2014

On the occasion of Vasant Panchami, Kala Nidhi Division celebrated its 25th Annual Day on 4<sup>th</sup> February. The programme started with lighting of the lamp and recitation of *slokas* on Goddess Saraswati. After a brief welcome address by Ms.Renu Bali, Library and Information Officer the annual report was presented by Dr. P.R.Goswami, Director,(Lib.& Inf.) A Lecture on the River Saraswati and the architectural sites was delivered by Chief Guest Prof. R. C. Aggarwal, Archaeologist. A brief outline of the lecture is given below:-

Saraswati is a Hindu goddess of learning. In Rigveda, Saraswati is a river as well as its personification. In post Vedic period she began to lose her status as river and became associated with literature, arts, music etc. Saraswati represents intelligence, consciousness, cosmic knowledge, music and art. In the historical period her image was conceived and made showing four hands holding lotus, scriptures and Veena. She rides on a white Swan. Saraswati became a prominent figure in Buddhist mythology and consort of Manjushri. Her birthday is celebrated on Basant Panchmi day and she is worshiped as a goddess of learning. The earliest cultural remains of India have been found on the banks of river Sindhu (Indus) and Saraswati (Ghaggar – Dristawati ). The partition of India in 1947 divided cultural remains , and India lost to Pakistan the Indus river civilisation and very less was left within the Indian territory. To re-coup this loss Indian Archaeologist explored very extensively Saraswati (Ghaggar) basin area and located more than what was lost in 1947. The sites of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat have yielded the earliest remains (Harappan remains) which are now dateable to 3500 B.C. The excavations conducted at Banawali, Kunal, Rakhigarhi (all in Haryana), Kalibanga (Rajasthan) Lothal, Rajdi, Dholavira, Junj-Kuran (all in Gujarat) have established that earliest civilisation developed and prospered on the bank of river Saraswati. Hence Saraswati is not only the Goddess of learning but the mother of all cultural values.

The lecture by Prof. R.C.Aggarwal cultural programme (song and dance) was followed by the artists from shri Birju Maharaj's Academy. Concluding remarks were given by Dr.kapila Vatsyayan, Founder Member of the IGNCA Trust. Programme ended by the vote of thanks given by Smt.Asha Gupta,Library and information Officer,IGNCA