

Angurbala Devi



The late Smt. Angurbala Devi was born in 1899 and was named Prabhavati. Later when she attained fame on account of her extraordinary voice, she came to be known as Angurbala. Smt. Angurbala Devi received her training from a number of noted musicians of her time like Shri Jit Prasad, Ustad Rama Prasad Mishra and Ustad Zamiruddin Khan. It was her singing of the compositions of Kazi Nazrul Islam and training under the famous poet and composer that brought her fame. Smt. Angurbala Devi was the first to sing from the Calcutta Station of the All India Radio, performing at the inaugural function of the station. She played leading roles in Bengali and the Parsee Theatre and became one of the most popular stage actresses of her time.

She was barely sixteen years old when she cut her first record which was an instant success and from then onwards recorded nearly four hundred songs in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu. In 1976 she was felicitated by the leading gramophone company of India with a gold disc, for her pioneering contribution to recorded music. Her death in January 1984 marks the end of a significant chapter in the history of Bengal's Music.

For her eminence in the field of music and her contribution to its enrichment, Smt. Angurbala Devi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Music for 1983.