



GURUKUL MAHILA ARTS AND COMMERCE COLLEGE PORBANDAR

**An International Seminar on
“The Life and Work of Pujya Dr. Savita N
Mehta (Didiji):
Transforming Hearts, Shaping
Generations through Education”**

30/08/2025



Table of Contents

01

Introduction

02

Bio-Note

03

Awards & Degrees

04

Organizing Committee

05

Our Founding Father & Trustees

06

Expert Speakers

07

About the College

Introduction

Dr. Savita N Mehta (Didiji) was a distinguished exponent of the Manipuri dance form in the 20th Century. For decades she persevered with patience and purity, ensuring that the domain of Performing Arts blossomed in the educational complex of Arya Kanya Gurukul. The range of her life and work incorporated her upbringing in Uganda, education in Baroda, and gaining worldwide recognition for Arya Kanya Gurukul at Porbandar. Rarely do we find in human history such noble souls who live and die for a cause. Dr. Savita N Mehta (Didiji) exemplified women empowerment, through her attire, approach, and attitude. She was far ahead of her times, with the indomitable will of Savitri, the courage of Joan of Arc, and the compassion of Mother Teresa. She was a sharp intellectual like Sarojini Naidu and a spiritual force like Mirra Alfassa (The Mother)

Bio-Note



Dr. Savitadidi N. Mehta, born in 1921 in Jinja, Uganda, to the esteemed Raj Ratna Nanji Kalidas Mehta and Santokba Mehta, was a distinguished figure in Indian education, culture, and the performing arts. Sent by her parents to study at Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya in Baroda for “exposure to Indian culture,” this experience profoundly shaped her worldview. At the young age of 19, she took on the role of Honorary Principal of Arya Kanya Gurukul, Porbandar, a pioneering institution her father had founded in 1936 to uplift women through education. Under her inspiring leadership, the Gurukul flourished as a center for intellectual and moral development.

In time, Dr. Mehta cultivated a deep and abiding passion for the performing arts, especially Manipuri dance. Determined to master this complex and culturally rich dance form, she and her sister, Smt. Nirmalaben Khatau, became the first non-Manipuri women to graduate from the Nehru Dance Academy in Imphal. Under the mentorship of celebrated Manipuri dance gurus Oja Amudon Sharma and Oja Ras Behari Sharma, she attained exceptional proficiency, pioneering solo Manipuri performances that set a new standard in classical dance. Dr. Mehta’s artistic excellence won her international acclaim, as she performed across Germany, Switzerland, Kenya, and beyond, thereby introducing global audiences to the subtleties and spiritual essence

of Manipuri dance.

Her contributions to dance and education earned her numerous distinguished honors. Dowager Maharani Dhanamanjuri conferred upon her the titles of Dwitiya Usha, Nrutyaratna, Jayapatra Award, and the esteemed Chandrababha title. Maharaja Bodhachandra Singh of Manipur granted her the unique honor of Meitei Jagoi Hanjabi (Master Manipuri Dance Guru), a title not awarded in over two centuries, recognizing her unmatched expertise and dedication to Manipuri tradition. Further, she became the first Indian to receive the Master of Nartanacharya degree from the Brahma Sabha of the Shri Govindji Temple in Manipur. Her contributions to Indian dance and cultural preservation were also celebrated by the Greater Maharashtra Mandal of New Delhi, which honored her for her pioneering achievements. Dr. Mehta’s achievements were recognized at the national level as well. She was awarded Gujarat’s prestigious Vishva Gurjari award, and Saurashtra University conferred upon her an honorary Doctor of Literature degree on the sacred grounds of Arya Kanya Gurukul. Her lifelong dedication to Indian culture and spirituality was further acknowledged by former President of India, Giani Zail Singh, who awarded her the title Yog Shiromani, affirming her status as a towering figure in both yogic and cultural accomplishments.

Dr. Savitadidi Mehta’s legacy endures as a beacon of inspiration for those committed to cultural heritage, education, and the empowerment of women.

Awards & Degrees

Dr Savita N Mehta

AWARDS

- Meitei Jagoi Hanjobi
- Dwitiya Usha
- Natanacharya
- Chandraprabha
- Jaipatra
- Tamrapatra
- Nritya-ratna
- Vishwa Gurjari
- Yoga Shiromani

DEGREES

- Diploma in Education
- Honorary Doctorate



*To us dancing is
a prayer to God...*

Organizing Committee

Dr Nayan Tank

Coordinator

Prof. Shobhana Vala

Co-Cordinator

Dr. Bhargav Bhatt

Co-Cordinator

Dr. Arfat Saiyad

Co-Cordinator

- * Prof. Rohiniba Jadeja – Head, Department of Home-Science**
- * Dr. Ketki Pandya – Head, Department of English**
- * Dr. Shanti Modhvia – Head, Department of Hindi**
- * Dr. Sharmistha Patel – Head, Department of Gujarati**
- * Dr. Ilu Gamit – Head, Department of Economics**
- * Dr. Bharatsinh Dodiya – Head, Department of Commerce**
- * Ms. Nimisha Pandit – Coordinator, English Medium Commerce**
- * Shri Amit Bhatt – Administrator, Arya Kanya Vidyalaya Trust**

Our Founding Father



Our Trustees



Shri Mahendra Mehta



Smt. Juhi Chawla Mehta



Shri Jay Mehta



Shri Hemnabh Khatau



Ms. Kamalakshi Mehta



Ms. Uma Mehta



Ms. Radha Mehta



Shri Suresh Kothari



Shri Yogesh Shah

Expert Speakers



Shri Ashok Sharma (IAS)



1008 Shri Niranjan Rajyaguru



Dr. Balvant Jani



Dr. Bhadrayu Vachrajani



Pri. Dilipsinh Ashar



Dr. Indira Nityanandan



Dr. Ranjana Harish



Dr. Kamal Mehta



Dr. Mustajeeb Khan



Smt. Pushpa Joshi



Kalashree Lata Surendra



Prof. Ravisinh Zala



Ms. Beverley Swan



Ms. Aruna Kanabar



Dr. Girish Trivedi



Dr. Prashant Mothe



Dr. Starpayal Iyer



Dr. Kamlesh Budhbhatti



Dr. Mihir Dave



Dr. Jigar Abhani

About the College

Rajratna Shreshthi Shri Nanjibhai Kalidas Mehta Arya Kanya Vidyalaya Trust managed Gurukul Mahila Arts and Commerce College, Porbandar is a Grant-in-Aid College affiliated to Bhakta Kavi Narsinh Mehta University, Junagadh. This Institute of Higher Education, which was established in 1966 is a non-profit establishment offering Undergraduate courses in the faculties of Arts (English, Hindi, Gujarati, Home-Science, Economics), Commerce (Accounts & Computer-Science) English & Gujarati Medium, Science (BCA) and post-graduate programmes in M.A.-English and M. Com (Accounts) English & Gujarati Medium. In addition, the College offers five NSQF Skill-development certificate courses (Data-Entry Operator, Beauty & Wellness, Sewing Machine Operator, Pedicure and Manicure & Organic Farming) and six distance learning courses (BCA, BBA, MSW, PGDCA, PGDBM AND PGDF) under the Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University Banner. The College is located in Jubilee, Bokhira vistaar, Porbandar and specifically caters to the students coming from the remote and rural sections of the society.

Contact Us

Ph.: (O) 0286-2245561 (Mo.) +91 9374129126
gurukulmahilacollege@gmail.com