

# Remembering Sharda Sinha: The Melodious Voice of Folk Music

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## A Glorious Career in Folk Music

[Sharda Sinha](#), an iconic figure in the realm of folk music, has made significant contributions to the preservation and popularization of Maithili and Bhojpuri genres. Her musical journey commenced in a culturally rich environment where she was exposed to traditional songs and storytelling, laying the foundation for her illustrious career. Sinha's rise to fame was marked by a passion for her roots and a desire to bring the beauty of folk music to a wider audience.

Throughout her career, Sinha has released an extensive discography that showcases her exceptional vocal talents and deep understanding of folk traditions. With innumerable albums and singles, she has captivated listeners with her melodious

voice, infusing each performance with authentic emotion. Notable among her works are songs celebrating significant cultural events, with a particular emphasis on Chhath Puja, which holds immense importance in the Maithili and Bhojpuri communities. Her renditions during this festival remain cherished, turning them into anthems that enhance the spiritual atmosphere of the occasion.

Over the years, Sharda Sinha's influence has extended beyond her recordings. She has participated in numerous cultural festivals and events, where her performances have played an instrumental role in fostering appreciation for folk music. These events serve as platforms not only for entertainment but also for cultural education, as Sinha shares the stories and meanings behind each song. Her dedication to training emerging artists has also contributed to the sustainability of these musical traditions, ensuring their relevance for future generations. Key milestones in her career include numerous awards and recognition from various cultural organizations, which have acknowledged her as a torchbearer of folk heritage.

Sharda Sinha's enduring legacy in the folk music scene is a testament to her passion and commitment. Her unique ability to blend traditional themes with contemporary sensibilities continues to resonate, solidifying her status as a beloved figure in the world of Indian folk music.

## **Health Struggles and Final Days**

Sharda Sinha, widely regarded for her exceptional contributions to folk music, faced significant health challenges in her later years. In 2017, she received a diagnosis of multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer that arises from plasma cells. This diagnosis marked the beginning of a difficult chapter in her life, where her passion for music was repeatedly challenged by her deteriorating health. Multiple myeloma is known for causing severe complications,

including bone pain, fatigue, and an increased risk of infections, all of which Sinha experienced.

Throughout her treatment journey, Sharda Sinha exhibited remarkable resilience. She underwent various treatment modalities, including chemotherapy and targeted therapies, which aimed to manage her symptoms and prolong her life. Despite the rigorous nature of these treatments, her unwavering spirit and love for music remained evident. Sinha continued to engage with her fans and the folk music community, often sharing her experiences and highlighting the importance of hope and positivity in the face of adversity.

The culmination of her health struggles occurred during her time at AIIMS Delhi, where she received specialized care for her condition. As her health continued to decline, she faced a series of medical complications, which ultimately led to her passing. Her final days were marked by both struggle and grace, as she remained surrounded by family, friends, and supporters who celebrated her life and contributions to the cultural landscape of India. The news of her demise was met with an outpouring of grief, reflecting how deeply Sinha's music had touched the hearts of many.

Sharda Sinha's battle with multiple myeloma serves as a reminder of the fragility of life and the profound impact that music can have in navigating personal hardship. Her legacy continues to inspire countless individuals, both through her iconic songs and her unyielding strength in the face of challenges.

## **Legacy and Impact on Indian Music**

Sharda Sinha, a renowned figure in the world of Indian music, has left an indelible mark through her enchanting folk melodies and impactful contributions as a playback singer. Her work exemplifies the rich cultural heritage of India, particularly within the folk genre, where she has become a

leading voice. Sinha's commitment to preserving and promoting traditional folk music has garnered her immense admiration, ensuring that the essence of these age-old tunes resonates with contemporary audiences.

Her role as a playback singer in Bollywood amplified her reach, allowing her to channel the spirit of folk music into mainstream cinema. Notably, her songs associated with the Chhath festival, such as **"Kaha jaibu ae raja,"** have become anthems, deeply embedding themselves in the cultural zeitgeist. These compositions not only celebrate devotion but also highlight the communal aspect of the festival, echoing the sentiments of love and gratitude. Through her mellifluous voice, Sinha has not only entertained but also educated younger generations about the significance of folk traditions.

The impact of Sharda Sinha's music is reflected in the tributes paid by notable personalities across various sectors. Political figures and fellow artists alike have acknowledged her pivotal role in celebrating and preserving India's musical lineage. Testimonials from her peers convey a sense of respect and admiration, highlighting how her passion for music has inspired countless aspiring musicians to explore and embrace folk genres. Sinha's artistic journey is a testament to her dedication, as she navigated the challenges of the music industry while staying true to her roots, thus ensuring a lasting legacy that will influence future artists.

## **Awards and Recognition**

Sharda Sinha's illustrious career in the realm of Indian folk music is punctuated by numerous notable accolades that reflect her profound impact on the genre and Indian cultural heritage. Among her most prestigious honors are the **Padma Bhushan** and **Padma Shri** awards, which are among the highest civilian awards conferred by the Government of India. The Padma Shri award, bestowed upon her in 1988, recognized her exceptional talent

and contribution to Indian music, while the Padma Bhushan award followed in 2009, signifying her enduring legacy and influence in the industry.

The significance of these accolades cannot be overstated, as they not only celebrate her artistry but also her role in popularizing folk music on national and international platforms. Through her melodious voice and unwavering dedication, Sharda Sinha has woven traditional folk narratives into contemporary cultural discourse, earning her recognition among audiences of all generations.

In addition to the Padma awards, Sharda Sinha has received several other noteworthy recognitions throughout her career, including the **Bihar Rajya Gaurav Samman** and the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**. Each of these honors signifies a milestone in her journey and underscores her commitment to preserving and promoting the rich tapestry of Indian folk traditions. Her contributions have been celebrated not only in India but also in international music festivals, where her performances have garnered acclaim and admiration.

Sharda Sinha's extensive discography, thriving career, and various accolades highlight her unwavering dedication to folk music and her significant role in enriching the cultural landscape of India. These honors serve as testaments to her artistic accomplishments and the indelible mark she has left on the hearts of music lovers worldwide.