Indian Perspective and Challenges in Modern Theater Writing: Seminar held at Kala Sankul



29 September, New Delhi – In order to promote art and literature, the monthly theatre seminar organised by Sanskar Bharti, Delhi was organised at 'Kala Sankul'. The main theme of this seminar was 'Indian perspective and challenges in modern theatre writing'. Director of National School of Drama (NSD) Chittaranjan Tripathi and senior theatre critic Anil Goyal were present as keynote speakers.

In his speech, Chittaranjan Tripathi expressed deep concern over the current state of Indian theatre institutions and writing. He said that in today's time there is a huge shortage of writing material, which does not present the society and Indian perspective in the right way. He stressed that the study of Indian epics like Mahabharata is very important to understand the art, culture and history of India. According to Tripathi, today's youth is interested in theatre, but it is very important to write keeping Indianness at the centre.

He also discussed the tradition of folk theatre and said, “When we understand the folk, we will be able to make theatre better too.” Explaining the importance of folk theatre, he said that it is a genre that is born and survives among the common people, which develops by keeping their life and behaviour at the centre.

Drama critic Anil Goyal also expressed his views on the Indian theatre tradition and criticised the wrong portrayal of history by some theatre writers of the past decades. He described the lack of young theatre writers as the biggest challenge of the present times. Goyal said, “The theatre world has always felt the lack of good writers. The film world may have got better writers, but this lack can be clearly seen in the theatre field.”

It was also discussed in the seminar that in the desire for political correctness, difficult and complex issues did not find a place in plays. Referring to the writings based on the wars of 1962 and 1971, he said that films were made on these historical events, but effective plays were not written.

The program was inaugurated by National Organization Minister of Sanskar Bharati Abhijit Gokhale, Director of National School of Drama (NSD) Chittaranjan Tripathi, Senior Critic Anil Goyal, Kuldeep Sharma. Ashok Tiwari, Digvijay Singh, Registrar of NSD P.K. Mohanty and Deputy Registrar O.P. Sagar were present.

The presence of many Senior Theatre Director’s like Mr. Ramdayal Sharma, Avtar Sahni, J.P. Singh, Rohit Tripathi, Chandrakanta Tripathi, Shyam Kumar, Raj Upadhyay, Bhupesh Joshi and Vashisht Upadhyay made the program special. The successful organization of the program was a proof of the dedication of all the members of Sanskar Bharati.

This seminar proved to be an important platform for Indian theatre, where serious discussions were held on the current

challenges of playwriting from the Indian perspective. Emphasizing the relevance of epics like Mahabharata, Tripathi told the need for playwrights to focus on Indian context. Anil Goyal, on the other hand, openly expressed his concerns on the lack of young writers and absence of serious subjects.

Overall, this symposium provides a great opportunity to rethink about the direction and challenges of writing in Indian theatre, which can provide inspiration and direction to upcoming writers.