Beyond Boundaries: The Artistic Splendor of Nritya Shikhar Mahotsav 2025

The “Nritya Shikhar Mahotsav 2025,” held at Triveni Kala Sangam in New Delhi, emerged as a grand celebration of the dignity and tradition of Indian classical dance. Organized by the Urvashi Dance Music Art & Culture Society, the festival introduced art enthusiasts to various classical dance styles while elevating Indian cultural heritage to new heights.

On this occasion, Shri Prabhat Kumar, President of Sanskar Bharti Delhi, graced the event as the chief guest. The festival also honored esteemed personalities from the arts world. Pandit Vijay Shankar Mishra, Shri Ashok Jamanani, and Shri Ashok Jain were presented with the *Urvashi Kala Samman*. Distinguished guests such as Shri Ashok Tiwari (Secretary, Sanskar Bharti), Padma Shri awardee and renowned Odissi dancer Smt. Madhavi Mudgal, and Shri Pradeep Kumar Pathak (Secretary, Kala Chaitanya) added further prestige to the event with their presence.

The festival featured mesmerizing performances in various classical dance styles like Kathak, Odissi, and Chhau. Among

them, a standout performance was delivered by the dynamic young Kathak dancer Vishwadeep from the Jaipur Gharana.

Vishwadeep’s performance was among the most powerful and talked-about presentations of the event. Trained in the Jaipur Gharana tradition, this young artist brought to life the strength, emotion, and rhythmic excellence of Kathak. He began with *Chaturbhuj*, depicting the four-armed form of Lord Vishnu through expressive dance. His dynamic gestures, balanced movements, and fluid expressions made the performance truly memorable.

Following that, he presented a dance drama titled *Ravan*, which portrayed the complexities of Ravan’s personality and his inner psychological turmoil. This unique choreography blended traditional Kathak elements with deep emotional storytelling. Directed and choreographed by the acclaimed Kathak guru Shama Bhate, the piece preserved the purity of the dance form while offering a fresh perspective.

Vishwadeep’s performance was not limited to technical brilliance; through his expressions and body language, he powerfully conveyed the varied emotions within Ravan—pride, power, wisdom, and self-reflection. Especially gripping was his portrayal of Ravan’s internal struggle, which left the audience spellboun.

His mastery over footwork, rhythmic patterns (*chakradhars* and *parans*), and emotional depth made the performance unforgettable. The audience greatly appreciated his energy, technical finesse, and expressive storytelling. His presentation was not just a classical dance recital, but a dramatic narrative that showcased Kathak as a potent medium for storytelling. When he embodied Ravan on stage, it felt as though the entire auditorium was witnessing a pivotal moment from an epic, with Ravan in deep introspection. Vishwadeep performed with such natural ease that it didn’t feel like a traditional dance performance—it felt like a living, breathing theatrical experience.

The hall erupted in applause after his performance. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Vishwadeep’s presentation made “Nritya Shikhar Mahotsav 2025” a cultural milestone that will be remembered for years to come.

Other notable performances included Pune’s Ameera Patankar and Delhi’s Shobha Bisht. Shobha’s Odissi performance beautifully blended devotion, grace, and feminine dignity. The Chhau performance, directed by Guru Ajay Bhatt, was packed with energy and heroic expression (*veer rasa*).

The Kathak duet by Gaurav and Himani demonstrated the power of dialogue and harmony in dance. Their performance showcased a unique balance of creativity, technique, and synchronization.

Smt. Rekha Mehra, President of the Urvashi Dance Music Art & Culture Foundation, played a pivotal role in making the event a resounding success. Her dedication to dance and commitment

to culture imbued the festival with both dignity and artistic excellence.

“Nritya Shikhar Mahotsav 2025” was more than just a cultural event—it was a living celebration of tradition, showcasing the continuity and creativity of Indian classical dance. For both performers and audiences, it was an inspiring experience that will be cherished for a long time.