Chuhedani Staged at the 23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav



As part of the second phase of the Natsamrat Natya Utsav (23rd edition), the Hindi comedy play *Chuhedani* was staged on 28 February at LTG Auditorium. Inspired by Murray Schisgal's celebrated play The Typist, the production was adapted and directed by Ishwar Shunya. With a minimal cast and a restrained stage design, the performance stood out for its sharp writing and emotionally grounded execution.

The narrative centers on two clerks working in a modest office environment. Years of stagnant employment, limited salaries, job insecurity, and increasing personal responsibilities define their daily existence. Economic pressure and social expectations confine them within a repetitive routine, leaving little room for aspiration. The title *Chuhedani* – serves as a compelling metaphor for the socio-economic structure that ensnares individuals in cycles of monotony and compromise.

Ishwar Shunya’s script skillfully blends satire with realism. The dialogues are crisp, humorous, and accessible, yet beneath the comic surface lies a subtle critique of middle-class anxieties. The direction maintains a steady pace, using silence and pauses effectively to heighten emotional impact. The sparse set – comprising a desk, chairs, files, and a printer – reinforces the monotony of clerical life while symbolizing the passage of time and the characters’ emotional stagnation.

On stage, Abhishek Maurya and Kamal Bisht delivered compelling performances marked by strong chemistry and precise timing. Abhishek Maurya portrayed the inner conflict of a man balancing frustration with hope, while Kamal Bisht brought vitality and wit to his role, enriching the play’s comic rhythm. Their interaction sustained audience engagement and elevated the emotional depth of the narrative.

The backstage team – Ajay Yadav, Bharat Dubey, and Payal Sarkar – ensured technical finesse. The lighting subtly underscored mood transitions, and the sound design complemented the performance without overpowering it. The understated technical approach enhanced the intimacy of the storytelling.

The evening concluded with a felicitation ceremony. Director Ishwar Shunya was presented with a memento by senior writer Rajesh Singh and Natsamrat director Shyam Kumar. Senior theatre practitioner Arvind Gaur awarded certificates to the performers, acknowledging their contribution.

Overall, *Chuhedani* emerged as a thoughtful and engaging production that used humor to explore the layered realities of middle-class life, making it a noteworthy presentation at the 23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav.