

Theatre Evening at the 23rd Natsamrat Theatre Festival: “Dayashankar Ki Diary” and “Gadhe Ki Baraat”



New Delhi witnessed an engaging evening of theatre on 8 March at **LTG Auditorium, Mandi House**, where two remarkable plays – *Dayashankar Ki Diary* and *Gadhe Ki Baraat* – were staged as part of the **23rd Natsamrat Theatre Festival**. The productions were directed by **Vishwadeepak Trikha** and presented by **Cultural Saptak Society, Rohtak**. The entire festival was dedicated to eminent theatre personality **Daya Prakash Sinha**, celebrating his immense contribution to Indian theatre.

The play *Dayashankar Ki Diary* presents a sensitive and realistic narrative of a young man from a small town in Bihar

who arrives in the “city of dreams” hoping to achieve success. However, life takes a different turn when his ambitions collapse under the pressure of harsh realities. Eventually, he settles into a modest clerk’s job. The play explores his emotional turmoil, shattered dreams, and the quiet struggle of an ordinary individual trying to find meaning in life. **Surender Sharma** delivered a compelling performance on stage, portraying the character with depth and sincerity. The technical aspects of the production were handled effectively by **Jagdeep Jugnu** (lights and sound), while **Vikas Rohilla** enriched the narrative through music. The production was managed by **Manish Khare**. The play is written by renowned theatre personality **Nadira Zaheer Babbar**.

The second play, *Gadhe Ki Baraat*, offered a satirical and entertaining take on social inequalities. Based on a mythological premise, the play cleverly reflects on contemporary social realities, highlighting the growing divide between the rich and the poor. Through humour, lively situations, and witty dialogue, the play not only entertained the audience but also encouraged them to reflect on the inequalities embedded in society.

The cast included **Tarun Pushp Trikha**, **Surender Sharma** (as Raja), **Avinash Saini** (as Gangu), **Parul Ahuja** (as Gangu’s wife), **Sonika Panwar Savera**, **Pratishtha** (classical dancer), **Shakti Sarovar Trikha**, **Amit Sharma**, **Sameer Sharma**, and **Shivangi** (as Bua). A notable highlight of the performance was the live playing of the traditional percussion instrument *Nagara* by **Subhash Nagara**, which added a vibrant theatrical energy and enhanced the dramatic atmosphere of the play.

Musical accompaniment, including vocals and harmonium, was provided by **Vikas Rohilla**, while lighting design was managed by **Jagdeep Jugnu**. **Anil Sharma** handled makeup, and the production team included **Manish Khare** and **Abhishek**. The play is written by **Haribhai Wadgaonkar**.

At the end of the evening, the entire cast and crew were honoured with mementos and certificates in recognition of their contribution. The felicitation was presented by **Devendra Popli**, manager of the LTG Auditorium and a noted patron of the arts, along with **Shyam Kumar**, director of the Natsamrat organisation and the theatre festival.

The evening celebrated the spirit of theatre with engaging storytelling, strong performances, and enthusiastic appreciation from the audience, reflecting the vibrant cultural energy of the Natsamrat Theatre Festival.