

22nd Natsamrat Theatre Festival: A Captivating Blend of Humor, Satire, and Human Emotions



The prestigious Delhi-based theatre group *Natsamrat* mesmerized audiences with a diverse range of plays at the **22nd Natsamrat Theatre Festival**. Held on March 15 and 16, the festival showcased four plays, each offering a unique theatrical experience. From comedy and satire to deep human emotions, the performances left a lasting impression on theatre enthusiasts.

The festival opened with **"The Proposal"**, a play by Anton Chekhov that brilliantly captured his signature satirical style. The story revolved around a young man proposing marriage to his neighbor's unmarried daughter, but instead of a romantic conversation, a hilarious argument over land and a pet dog ensued. The humor was not just in the dialogues but also in the absurdity of the situation and the characters' temperaments, keeping the audience thoroughly entertained.

Next came **“Kallu Nai MBBS”**, a play that delivered a blend of humor and social commentary. The story followed a drunken barber who regularly abused his wife, only to be outwitted by her cleverness. Meanwhile, two servants searching for a doctor to treat their master’s mute daughter were tricked into believing that the barber was a doctor—but only after receiving a sound beating. The fast-paced narrative, physical comedy, and sharp dialogues made this play a crowd favorite.

On March 16, **“Chekhov Ka Sansar”** brought two of Anton Chekhov’s most celebrated stories to life. This performance not only delivered humor but also highlighted the depth of Chekhov’s storytelling, capturing the irony and struggles of human existence. The interplay of light-hearted comedy with underlying social commentary made this an engaging production.

The final play, **“Kambakht Ishq”**, struck a chord with the audience by portraying the loneliness of two elderly individuals who find solace in each other’s company. The play beautifully explored the importance of companionship in old age, making it a deeply emotional experience. The actors’ nuanced performances and heartfelt dialogues ensured that the message resonated with the audience.

Directed by **Shyam Kumar**, all four productions were masterfully staged, bringing out the essence of each story while maintaining their distinct theatrical styles. The performances by **Vishwajeet, Munmun, Shivangi, Aman Kumar, Vansh Rathore, Raman Kumar, Dhananjay, Kaushal Chauhan, Ansh and Rajan K. Bhatheja** were outstanding. Stage management was efficiently handled by **Sunil Rathore and Suraj Singh**, with **Himanshu and Nisha** assisting. **Payal and Raj Rani** managed makeup, while **Rohit Prasad, Rekha Devi, and Manu Kumar Singh** worked on costumes. **Vansh Rathore’s** contribution to music operation, played a significant role in enhancing the theatrical experience. The Natya Utsav was held at LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi.

Overall, the **22nd Natsamrat Theatre Festival** was a resounding success, offering a delightful mix of humor, satire, and emotional depth. Each play had a unique appeal, ensuring that the audience left with unforgettable memories of this vibrant theatrical celebration.

Dr. Kumkum Dhar and Dr. Harekrishna Meher Honored with Sanskar Bharti's Bharatmuni Samman 2024

New Delhi, February 22, 2025: Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, stated today that India is undergoing a cultural renaissance, and as we move forward in this direction, it is essential for everyone to remain vigilant and aware.



Shri Shekhawat was addressing dedicated artists and literary figures at the “Bharatmuni Samman – 2024” event organized by Sanskar Bharati. On this occasion, he honored renowned Kathak dancer Dr. Kumkum Dhar, who trained at the Lucknow Kathak Kendra, and esteemed modern Sanskrit poet and lyricist Dr. Harekrishna Meher with the “**Bharatmuni Samman – 2024.**” The award included a commemorative memento, a certificate of honor, and a cash prize of ₹1.51 lakh.

Shri Shekhawat emphasized that there could be no greater recognition in the field of arts and culture than the **Bharatmuni Samman**. He praised the awardees for their dedication to preserving and revitalizing India’s ancient art and culture, reiterating that the nation is experiencing a **cultural resurgence** and urging caution and awareness as it progresses.

Expressing her gratitude, **Dr. Kumkum Dhar** stated that receiving an award named after **Maharishi Bharatmuni**, the author of the *Natya Shastra*—revered as the *Fifth Veda*—was deeply moving. She thanked the selection committee and

emphasized that art purifies the human mind and instills discipline in life. She added that those devoted to artistic pursuits uphold values and patriotism.

Renowned Sanskrit scholar and lyricist **Dr. Harekrishna Meher**, another recipient of the **Bharatmuni Samman – 2024**, described Sanskar Bharati's recognition of the literary world as a matter of great pride. He expressed his deep gratitude for the honor, considering it a privilege for himself as well as a moment of pride for his home state, Odisha.



Suresh Soni, a senior member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) national executive, captivated the audience with his insightful address. He highlighted Maharishi Bharatmuni's lifelong dedication and stated that success comes through

intense perseverance. He commended the two honorees for their lifelong commitment to their respective art forms.

Soni elaborated on the unique worlds of **words and melodies, colors and lines, and emotions and expressions**, underscoring that Bharatmuni's *Natya Shastra* brought them all together in a unified form. Amidst resounding applause, he further remarked, "Mathematics and music together define the world. For global welfare, it is essential for humanity to be cultured. Without values and ethics, a nation cannot progress, and it is Sanskar Bharati's mission to instill cultural values throughout India. In this endeavor, art remains the most powerful medium."

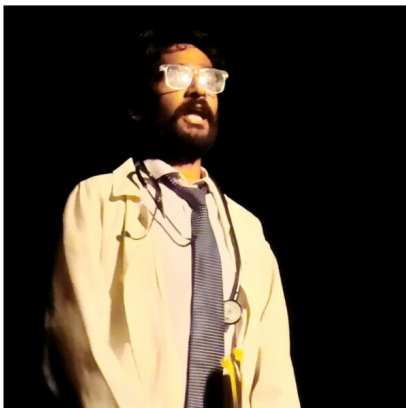
The event was also attended by **Dr. Mysore Manjunath**, National President of Sanskar Bharati, and **Shri Ashwin Dalvi**, its All-India General Secretary. They expressed their pride in honoring distinguished artists and literary figures in the name of **Maharishi Bharatmuni**.

The prestigious **Bharatmuni Samman** was introduced last year by RSS chief **Mohan Bhagwat** during the *Kala Sadhak Sangam* in Bengaluru. The inaugural awards were conferred upon **Mumbai-based painter Shri Vijay Dasharath Acharekar** and **Sindhudurg's folk artist Shri Ganpat Sakharam Masge**.

This annual honor is awarded in two categories each year, with recipients selected by a jury based on nominations from institutions, art universities, and individual recommendations.

Natsamrat's Theatrical Saga:

A Celebration of Drama, Depth, and Delight



Delhi's esteemed theatre group *Natsamrat* recently staged a grand theatrical festival at LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi. Held on January 18, January 25-26, and February 1, 2025, the festival featured nine performances of seven different plays. This remarkable achievement showcased the group's commitment to presenting diverse themes and its ability to offer audiences a rich and varied theatrical experience.

The festival opened on January 18 with plays infused with humor and satire. Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal* brought laughter with its witty depiction of a marriage proposal entangled in disputes over land and dogs. *Kallu Nai MBBS*, a satirical take on domestic violence, used humor to highlight a serious social issue while engaging the audience with its sharp writing and compelling performances.

On January 25 and 26, the festival continued with a variety of plays exploring different themes. *Meri Biwi Ki Shaadi* depicted a man's paranoia about his own death and his wife's uncertain future, blending comedy with emotional depth. *Kambakht Ishq* sensitively portrayed loneliness and old age with a humorous touch. The following day saw a repeat performance of *The Proposal*, which once again delighted audiences. *Chekhov Ka Sansar* offered an insightful look into two of Chekhov's stories, capturing his signature satire and deep understanding of human nature. The evening concluded with another staging of *Kallu Nai MBBS*, reinforcing its impact with a fresh yet equally engaging performance.

The festival culminated on February 1 with *Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahein*, a play that explored the complexities of relationships, made even more compelling by the stellar performances of Munmun and Vishwajeet. *Kallu Nai MBBS* was staged for the third time, proving its popularity and ability to captivate audiences with every rendition.

Each play was brought to life by an ensemble cast, including

Vishwajit, Munmun, Shivangi, Aman Kumar, Vansh Rathore, Raman Kumar, Shammi, and Archana. Under the skilled direction of Shyam Kumar, the performances struck a fine balance between humor and depth, making each scene memorable. The sharp, thought-provoking dialogues kept the audience engaged, while the well-crafted set design and costumes added to the immersive experience.

Natsamrat's theatre festival was not just a celebration of performance arts but also a reflection of the richness of Indian theatre. The event demonstrated the power of humor as a vehicle for social messaging and reinforced the boundless potential of the stage. Staging nine performances of seven different plays is a significant accomplishment, and *Natsamrat* executed it flawlessly. The festival left the audience with a deeper appreciation for theatre, making it an unforgettable experience.

The Intersection of Art and Constitution: A Republic Day Symposium at Kala Sankul



New Delhi, January 26: A special monthly symposium was organized at Sanskar Bharati's central office, 'Kala Sankul,' on the eve of Republic Day. The theme of the symposium was "The Artist's Vision of the Soul of the Indian Constitution," with Shri Lakshmi Narayan Bhala Ji, a senior pracharak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and an expert on the Indian Constitution, as the keynote speaker.

The event began with floral tributes to the portrait of Bharat Mata and a ceremonial worship. During the session, Shri Bhala Ji shed light on the historical and cultural significance of the illustrations created by Nandalal Bose in the original manuscript of the Indian Constitution. He emphasized that these illustrations are not merely decorative but serve as a vivid reflection of Indian civilization, culture, and the soul of the Constitution. Through these artworks, the traditions, glorious history, and values of India's freedom struggle have been effectively conveyed.

Shri Bhala Ji elaborated on the role of these illustrations in each chapter of the Constitution. He highlighted that great artists like Nandalal Bose dedicated their artistic expertise to give each page of the Constitution a unique identity. These

illustrations incorporate significant elements from the Mahabharata, Ramayana, Buddhism, and key events of India's freedom struggle, portraying the Indian Constitution as a living and inspiring document.

The symposium witnessed participation from a large number of art enthusiasts and thinkers, who regarded it as an inspiring opportunity to understand Indian art traditions. The officials of Sanskar Bharati expressed gratitude to everyone involved and resolved to continue organizing such motivational events in the future.

All India Organization Minister Shri Abhijit Gokhale and Area Organization Minister Shri Vijay Kumar were specially present on the occasion. The symposium was skillfully conducted by Garima Rani, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Kuldeep Sharma, the convenor of the drama symposium. The success of the event was supported by significant contributions from Shri Vishwadeep, Pradeep Pathak, Ms. Anchal, Sushank, Shivam Mrityunjay, Saurabh, Harshit, Raman, and Kala Sankul's administration head, Shri Digvijay Pandey.

This symposium was a commendable effort to unveil the depth of the Indian Constitution, and the unique aspects of Indian culture embedded within it. The illustrations by Nandalal Bose not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the Constitution but also symbolize India's soul and its rich historical heritage. Such events provide an opportunity to connect with Indian traditions and culture while deepening respect for the Constitution.

Natsamrat's 6th Mumbai Theatre Festival Won the Hearts of the Audience



The "6th Mumbai Theatre Festival" organized by Natsamrat at the Creative Adda Auditorium in Versova, Mumbai staged many wonderful plays on 3rd, 11th & 12th January. These plays not only entertained the audience but also presented deep social and emotional issues effectively.

3rd January: **'Nithalla'** and **'Napunsak'** staged

On the first day of the festival, the play 'Nithalla' based on the story of Harishankar Parsai was staged. It was adapted by Kuldeep Kunal and directed and solo acted by Nagendra Kumar Sharma. This play was the story of an ideal 'Nithalla' who selflessly devotes his life for the betterment of the society. The play deeply impressed the audience by highlighting the conflict between selfishness and selflessness.

Nipunsak was then staged, written and directed by Manjul Bhardwaj. This play presents the life struggle and agony of eunuchs. The director brought this complex subject to life with his acting and sensitive presentation. Shivani's music made the presentation more effective.

January 11: Presentation of **'Darogaji Chori Ho Gayi'**

On January 11, the play 'Darogaji Chori Ho Gayi' written by Jaivardhan and directed by Chandra Shekhar Sharma was staged. Presented by Mask Players Art Group, this play exposed the corruption prevailing in the government system and the deviant tendencies of the youth through humor and satire.

In this play, Nikhil Jha (Daroga and Detective), Ashish Sharma (Babu), Shipra Jain (Deepak), and Eva Dandona (Pooja) made the audience laugh with their impressive acting. The play tried to show how the youth running after a glamorous life take the path of crime. This presentation gave a social message along with humor.

12 January: **'The Proposal'** and **'Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahen'** staged

On the last day of the festival, Anton Chekhov's famous play 'The Proposal' was staged. This comedy-satire play was based on family relations and property disputes. Vishwajeet, Munmun, Aman Kumar, and Raman Kumar made the audience laugh a lot with their excellent acting. The story showed funny arguments

during a marriage proposal by a young man, which the audience applauded.

The second play 'Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahen' presented an emotional story. Vishwajeet and Munmun played the roles of Dr. Anand and Mansi in this play directed by Shyam Kumar. The play beautifully presented the themes of life's struggle, human emotions and inspiration. The chemistry of both the actors moved the audience.

The contribution of the technical team in all the plays was commendable. Stage manager Sunil Rathore, music coordinator Aman, makeup experts Payal and Chhobi Saha, and Shyam Kumar in lighting design played an important role in bringing the plays closer to reality.

The audience appreciated all the plays. Nithalla and Napunsak touched upon sensitive issues deeply, while Darogaji Chori Ho Gayi gave a social message with humour. The Proposal and Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahen presented complex topics of life in a light-hearted manner.

The festival proved that theatre is not only a medium of entertainment, but it is also an effective medium to show the mirror to the society and inspire it to think deeply.

Celebrating Art and Culture: Highlights from the Monthly Art Symposium at 'Kala

Sankul'



The monthly art symposium organized by Sanskar Bharati at its central office, 'Kala Sankul,' on Sunday, December 29, 2024, was a resounding success. This cultural gathering celebrated the diverse aspects of Indian art and culture, making it a perfect blend of education.

The symposium's highlight was the keynote address by the esteemed art critic and cultural activist, Shri Arvind Ojha Ji. His insightful discourse on "*Indian Artistic Traditions and Contemporary Art Trends*" captivated the audience. Shri Ojha eloquently explained how all art forms are interconnected and serve as powerful carriers of knowledge. He emphasized that art enhances the quality of life, restores balance during times of disruption, and brings a sense of purpose and justification to human existence. He also pointed out that conveying knowledge through art has always been an effective method of reaching society. Shri Ojha's remark that beauty and morality have always been closely aligned in our traditions struck a deep chord with the attendees.

Adding to the charm of the event were mesmerizing stage

performances. Yajyata Gaba Ji's group delivered a soul-stirring sitar recital, while Niharika Safaya and her troupe presented a vibrant dance ballet. Both performances were met with overwhelming appreciation from the assembled art connoisseurs, leaving an indelible impression.

The event attracted several prominent artists, art teachers, and a large number of art enthusiasts from across Delhi-NCR. The program was seamlessly hosted by Garima Rani, and a heartfelt vote of thanks was delivered by Vishwadeep, acknowledging the efforts of all contributors.

The success of the event was made possible by the collective efforts of numerous dedicated individuals, including Raj Upadhyay, Shyam Kumar, Pradeep Pathak, Raman Kumar, Anchal Kumari, Tarushi, Anjali Kumari, Sakshi Sharma, Saurabh Kumar, Harshit Kumar, Raman Kumar, Brajesh Vishwakarma, and Satyam Kumar. Special recognition was given to the 'Kala Sankul' management team, led by Digvijay Pandey, Mrityunjay Kumar, and Sushank, for their impeccable organization and coordination.

This symposium was not only a celebration of artistic excellence but also an inspiration for artists and cultural enthusiasts alike. By fostering greater awareness and appreciation for the arts, the event reinforced the enduring relevance of India's artistic heritage in contemporary times.

“Kavi Saptak: A Celebration of Poetry and Creativity at

Vanmali Srujan Kendra, Bhopal”



Bhopal. Vanmali Srujan Kendra, Bhopal unit organized a special poetry recitation series called ‘Kavi Saptak’ in the Muktdhara Auditorium of Rabindranath Tagore University on 23 December 2024. In which talented poets of Rabindranath Tagore University and Scope Global Skill University mesmerized the audience with their creations.

In this program, Shashwat Verma, Ashi Dixit, Vikrant Bhatt, Vishakha Rajurkar Raj, Mudit Srivastava and Mausami Parihar recited their poems, which immersed the auditorium in literary essence. Shashwat was seen communicating with his inner self in his poems, while the freshness of language was seen in Ashi’s poems. Vikrant presented his curiosities in poetry. Vishakha scattered the rainbow colors of love in her poems. Mudit worked to bind the events of life and the fine lines of nature in language. Mausami expressed her tender restlessness through poems.

The program was presided over by Dr. Veena Sinha ji, President of Vanmali Srujan Kendra, Bhopal unit. Who congratulated the poets and shared her views on their poems. Shri Vinay Upadhyay ji also praised the poets and the new experiments done in their creations. At the end of the program, Dr. Savitri Singh Parihar, Coordinator of Sanskrit Oriental Language and Indian

Knowledge Tradition Center, expressed her gratitude to everyone. Student Pushpendra, Chairman of Virasat Samiti, conducted the program efficiently, and on this occasion teachers of the Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts and students of Natya Vidyalaya were also present as spectators. Due to which the program got a wide and enthusiastic audience. 'Kavi Saptak' not only provided a platform to poetry lovers but also promoted literary dialogue and creativity.

An Unforgettable Evening of Theatre by “Mask Players Art Group”



The “Mask Players Art Group” theatre group organised two plays on 21 December 2024 at the Blank Canvas Theatre of LTG, Delhi. The first presentation was “Dedh Inch Upar” which was invited and was performed by the theatre group Banjara of Haryana. In the play, a middle-aged hero is struggling with his memories in a bar against the backdrop of the Second World War. He loved his dead wife immensely but he himself hid from her that she was a part of a secret campaign against Nazism. This solo performance, entangled in many questions and answers like the untimely death of his wife, the helplessness of not being able to save her, the reasons for her death and betrayal, presents many truths of life before the audience. Senior artist Vijay Bhatotia brought this story of Nirmal Verma to life on stage with his direction and acting and kept the audience captivated till the end.

The second play “Daroga ji Chori Ho Gayi” was performed by the organizing team which was written by Jaivardhan and directed by Chandra Shekhar Sharma. The good acting of the actors in the play made the audience laugh a lot. People were rolling with laughter at the witty dialogues. On one hand, the play draws attention to the corruption of government officials, on the other hand, it shows the increasing tendency of the youth to do things like theft and robbery along with studies to live a dazzling life. They do not even think about how much hardship their parents go through for them. The message of the play was meaningful. In the play, the role of Babu was played by Ashish Sharma, the role of Deepak was played by Shipra Jain, the role of Fattelal and the role of the inspector was played by Nikhil Jha and Mamta Rani as a female constable received applause from the audience. In the backstage, Jatin Shaurya did the lighting, Manoj did the music direction and makeup, Sarita Rana did the costumes and Rakesh Sharma and Sangeeta Suyal did the set and props.

An Enriching Discussion on Indian Folk Theatre Tradition at Sanskar Bharati's Monthly Symposium



The monthly seminar organized at Sanskar Bharti's central office 'Kala Sankul' in New Delhi proved to be a memorable occasion for art and culture lovers. In this year's event, renowned theatre artist and Sangeet Natak Academy Award winner Shri Lokendra Trivedi presented his views on the topic "Our rich theatre-music tradition woven in folk theatre and its use in the present times".

The programme began with lighting of lamps and the motto song of Sanskar Bharti. On this occasion, along with the team of Sanskar Bharti, many senior litterateurs, theatre artists and artists of the city were present. Prominent guests included former Secretary of Hindi Academy, Delhi, Hari Suman Bisht, senior theatre artist J.P. Singh, Nisha Trivedi, renowned Chhau Guru Sapan Acharya, Suresh Shetty, Vashisht Upadhyay, Bhupesh Joshi and many other eminent names.

Lokendra Trivedi's lecture organized in the monthly seminar of Sanskar Bharati was an excellent effort to highlight the depth of Indian folk theatre tradition and its rich cultural heritage. Trivedi discussed his topic "Our rich theatre-music tradition woven in folk theatre and its use in present times" in a very simple, effective and factual manner.

His lecture style not only brought forth the features of folk theatre like Nautanki, Yakshagana, Bhavai, Tamasha, but also explained the relevance of these genres in the perspective of the new age. He stressed the need to preserve these ancient genres in the technological age and explained how connecting the new generation to them is the need of the hour.

The most notable part of the programme was that he raised the issue of making the collection of folk theatre available to the general public at the government and non-government level. This suggestion can be an important step towards preserving the Indian cultural heritage and taking it to new heights.

The Q&A session in the seminar made the dialogue between the audience and the lecturer more effective. The management, conduct and participation of the program show that Sanskar Bharti is not only a pioneer in the promotion of Indian art and culture, but is also active in connecting it with the new generation.

The seminar was conducted very effectively by Garima Rani. The contribution of "Kala Sankul" arrangements in-charge Mr. Digvijay Pandey, coordinator of the dance music seminar Shruti Sinha, co-convenor Vishwadeep, guide senior theatre artist Shyam Kumar and Raj Upadhyay was especially commendable in the success of the program. Apart from this, Harshit, Brajesh, Vijendra, Satyam and Shivam also played an important role in making the event successful.

In the end, the theatre seminar coordinator Mr. Kuldeep Sharma presented the vote of thanks. This event proved to be inspirational and informative for Indian folk art and theatre lovers. Such initiatives will definitely help in preserving and enriching our cultural heritage.

Natsamrat Delights Delhi Audiences with Laughter-Filled Performances



Play Scene

Delhi based Natsamrat again came up with its plays which were full of laughter and four plays which were loved by the audience.

Two plays were staged on 16th November. At 3:00 PM Anton Chekhov's famous story "The Proposal" was staged. The Proposal is the story of a young man who proposes marriage to his neighbour's unmarried daughter. The story turns worse when the three of them start arguing over whose property it is and whose dog is better. At 4:15 PM the same evening, the play "Kallu Barber MBBS" written by Moliere was staged in which a barber is always drunk and beats his wife. The barber's wife promises herself that she will teach her husband a lesson. During this time she meets two servants who are looking for a doctor to cure their master's daughter's muteness. The barber's wife tells him that there is such a doctor here, but

he does not consider himself a doctor until he is beaten up properly. Both the servants beat up the barber and force him to become a doctor and take him to their master. Later on, the play takes a very interesting turn.

On 17th November, two plays were staged. At 3 pm, the play "Haye Mera Dil" written by Ranbir Singh, which is the story of a delusional patient who believes that he is going to die and is worried about what will happen to his wife after him, she is very innocent, she will not be able to take care of herself, so he wants to get his wife married again. And later on, the play takes a different turn. At 4:15 pm the same evening, the play "Kambakht Ishq" written by Satya Prakash, which is the story of two old people who have fallen ill due to loneliness and when they meet each other, they understand that they need a support, so that they can share their loneliness.

All the four plays were directed by Shyam Kumar. Among the actors Vishwajeet, Munmun, Shivangi, Arvind Shandilya, Aman Kumar, Vansh Rathore, Raman Kumar and Shammi played their roles brilliantly. Stage managers Sunil Rathore and Suraj Singh, stage manager assistants Himanshu and Nisha, makeup Payal, costume assistants Rohit Prasad and Rekha Devi, music director Vansh Rathore. The play was staged at LTG auditorium Mandi House New Delhi.