

23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav: Prem Parinde – A Light- hearted Comedy on Modern Love



On 7 March, at LTG Auditorium, the sixth play of the third day of the **23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav**, titled “**Prem Parinde**,” was staged. The festival is dedicated to the eminent theatre personality *Late Sh. Daya Prakash Sinha*. The play is written,

conceived, and directed by Chandrashekhar Sharma.

“Prem Parinde” presents a contemporary love story of two young individuals, **Rajan** and **Nisha**, in a humorous and entertaining manner. Set against the backdrop of modern lifestyle influences such as films, social media, and the changing dynamics of relationships, the play explores how attraction and emotions often lead to amusing and unexpected situations. Through its comic narrative, the production reflects on the complexities of modern relationships while keeping the audience engaged with continuous moments of laughter.

The performances of **Shipra Jain** as Nisha and **Nikhil Jha** as Rajan stood out for their excellent comic timing and natural stage presence. Their chemistry on stage added charm to the narrative, and their dialogue delivery created several delightful moments that kept the audience thoroughly entertained.

The backstage team also contributed significantly to the overall presentation. **Pushkar Sagar** handled the music, **Jatin** designed the lights, and **Mamata** was responsible for the costumes. The production was managed by **Amit Kumar** and **Raghuveer Pal**, while **Manoj** took charge of makeup, all of which enhanced the visual and aesthetic appeal of the performance.

Overall, “**Prem Parinde**” emerged as an engaging comedy that cleverly portrays the humor and ironies of contemporary love, leaving the audience both amused and reflective.

“Laajo” – A Moving Reflection

on Partition and the Dignity of Women



On 7 March, the fifth play of the third day of the **23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav** was staged at LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi. The play "**Laajo**", directed by **Chander Shekhar Sharma**, offered a poignant theatrical exploration of

the trauma of the India–Pakistan Partition and the complex questions surrounding women’s dignity and social acceptance. The entire festival is dedicated to the eminent theatre personality Daya Prakash Sinha.

The play is based on the celebrated short story *Lajwanti* by renowned writer Rajendra Singh Bedi. Set against the turbulent backdrop of the Partition, the narrative reflects on the violence, displacement, and social upheaval that affected countless lives, particularly women who became victims of abduction and exploitation during that time.

At the heart of the story is **Laajo**, who is abducted during the riots and taken across the border to Pakistan. Her husband **Sunder Lal**, left behind and haunted by the memory of his missing wife, begins a social campaign encouraging society to accept abducted women with dignity when they return. He travels among people, urging them to recognise that these women are victims of circumstances and deserve respect rather than stigma.

The emotional conflict intensifies when Laajo finally returns home. Initially fearful and hesitant, she finds joy in being reunited with her husband. She wishes to share the painful experiences of her separation, hoping for understanding and compassion. However, Sunder Lal, who publicly advocates for the acceptance of such women, finds himself unable to confront the reality of her suffering. Instead of reacting as he once did, he begins to treat her almost like a goddess—placing her on a pedestal rather than truly listening to her story. This subtle yet powerful moment exposes the deep irony of societal attitudes: while women may be symbolically revered, their truth and trauma often remain unheard.

The performances added depth and authenticity to the narrative. **Sarita Sharma**, portraying Laajo, delivered a sensitive and emotionally layered performance, effectively expressing the vulnerability and resilience of her character.

Chander Shekhar Sharma, as Sunder Lal, convincingly depicted the internal conflict of a man torn between social ideals and personal discomfort. **Ravinder Singh**, in the role of Jamal, contributed with a natural and grounded presence on stage.

Behind the scenes, the technical team played a crucial role in shaping the atmosphere of the production. **Nikhil Jha's** music complemented the emotional tone of the play, while **Jatin's** lighting design enhanced the dramatic intensity of key moments. The costumes designed by **Mamta Rani**, makeup by **Manoj**, and the production support by **Ashish Sharma** and **Mala Negi** helped create a cohesive and effective stage presentation.

Overall, "**Laajo**" emerged as a thoughtful and moving theatrical experience. Through its sensitive storytelling and compelling performances, the play not only revisits the painful memories of Partition but also raises profound questions about gender, dignity, and society's willingness to confront uncomfortable truths. It stood out as one of the notable presentations of the festival.

Sharp Satire and Lively Performances Mark Kallu Nai M.B.B.S. at 23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav



On March 4, at the **LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi**, the fourth play of the second day of the **23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav** dedicated to eminent theatre personality **Daya Prakash Sinha**, was stage – *Kallu Nai M.B.B.S.*, based on a work by the renowned French playwright **Molière** and directed by **Shyam Kumar**. The play was presented twice during the festival day and received an enthusiastic response from the audience for its lively humor and satirical tone.

The play revolves around the story of a drunken barber who often mistreats his wife. Determined to put an end to his behavior, the wife decides to teach him a lesson. At the same time, two servants arrive in search of a doctor who can cure their master's mute daughter. The barber's wife cleverly convinces them that her husband is an accomplished doctor, but with an unusual condition – he only agrees to become a doctor after being beaten.

What follows is a chain of comic situations and misunderstandings that create a humorous yet insightful theatrical experience. Through its witty narrative and exaggerated situations, the play also hints at the absurdities and contradictions present in social behavior, making the satire both entertaining and thought-provoking.

The performances were energetic and engaging. **Munmun, Rajan K. Batheja, Shivangi, Akshay, Vansh Rathore, and Shammi** delivered compelling portrayals, bringing their characters to life with strong stage presence and effective comic timing. Their expressive performances and lively interactions kept the audience engaged throughout the production.

The backstage team also played an important role in the successful presentation of the play. **Sunil Rathore, Suraj Singh, Amit, Nisha, Payal, Poonam, and Rohit Prasad** contributed significantly behind the scenes. **Vansh Rathore**, who also handled **music and lighting**, added depth to the overall theatrical atmosphere.

Overall, both performances of *Kallu Nai M.B.B.S.* stood out as an engaging presentation in the festival, offering an enjoyable blend of humor, satire, and dynamic stage performances that resonated well with the audience.

A Delightful Presentation of Chekhov's "The Proposal" at the 23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav



New Delhi, 4 March – On the second day of the **23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav** dedicated to eminent theatre personality **Daya Prakash Sinha**, held at **LTG Auditorium, Mandi House**, audiences were treated to two lively performances of the famous one-act play "*The Proposal*" by the celebrated Russian playwright **Anton Chekhov**. The play was directed by **Shyam Kumar**.

The play revolves around a young man who visits his neighbor's house to propose marriage to their daughter. However, what begins as a sincere matrimonial proposal soon turns into a series of comical arguments. Instead of discussing love and marriage, the characters become entangled in heated disputes

over trivial matters such as the ownership of a piece of land and the superiority of their respective pet dogs. Chekhov's sharp wit and keen observation of human behavior transform these petty disagreements into an engaging and humorous dramatic conflict.

One of the most striking aspects of the production was its **excellent comic timing and fast-paced dialogue delivery**, which kept the audience thoroughly entertained throughout the performance. The actors brought remarkable energy and authenticity to their roles, making Chekhov's text come alive on stage.

The cast featured **Munmun, Rajan K. Batheja, Naveen Kumar and Shivangi**, who impressed the audience with their expressive performances and lively stage presence.

Behind the scenes, the technical team played an important role in shaping the production. **Sunil Rathor, Suraj Singh, Amit, Nisha, Payal, Poonam, and Rohit Prasad** contributed significantly to the smooth execution of the performance. **Vansh Rathore** handled the **music and lighting**, enhancing the overall theatrical atmosphere.

Overall, *The Proposal* proved to be an engaging and entertaining presentation. With its sharp humor, lively performances, and crisp direction, the play offered audiences a memorable theatrical experience.