# Grace and Glory: Padma Shri Nalini-Kamalini Illuminate Kala Sankul Symposium

The monthly cultural symposium held at Sanskar Bharati's central office, *Kala Sankul*, has blossomed into a vibrant celebration of Indian art and heritage, where the essence of tradition comes alive in its most graceful form. This month's gathering was made truly special by the **presence of the Chief Guest, Padma Shri Smt. Nalini-Kamalini**, the renowned Kathak duo, whose distinguished contribution to Indian classical dance brought gravitas and inspiration to the evening.

The program began with the **auspicious lighting of the ceremonial lamp**, symbolizing the light of knowledge and culture. The ceremony was conducted by **Padma Shri Shrimati Nalini-Kamalini**, **Sh. Vijay Kumar** (Regional Organizational Secretary, Sanskar Bharati), **Sh. Ashok Tiwari** (President, Kala

Sankul), **Smt. Shruti Sinha**, and **Sh. Raj Upadhyay** (Coordinator, Performing Arts, Delhi Region).

The cultural performances commenced with a mesmerizing Kathak recital by **Ms. Anjali Munjal**, who beautifully portrayed the depth of classical dance through an elegant blend of *laya*, *taal*, and expressive *bhaav*. She was followed by **Ms. Damini Bisht**, whose powerful Kathak performance, enriched with emotive expressions and rhythmic finesse, captivated the audience.

The evening reached a deeper resonance when the **Chief Guest, Padma Shri Shrimati Nalini-Kamalini**, took to the stage to address the gathering. Kamalini ji shared,

> *"Art is not merely an expression—it is the beauty of the soul, shaped by years of devotion and discipline. It refines the individual and uplifts society."*

She emphasized the value of consistency, purity, and dedication in artistic practice, highlighting art's transformative power as a tool for national development.

> *"In today's world," she said, "art awakens inner consciousness, fosters social unity, and becomes a powerful medium for cultural resurgence."*

The symposium was gracefully anchored by **Garima Rani** and **Shri Vishwadeep**, who maintained a seamless flow and upheld the dignity of the evening. The event was enriched by the presence of many eminent personalities from the cultural sphere, including **Sh. Pradeep Mohanty** (Registrar, National School of Drama), **Kathak Guru Subhash Ji**, **Chhau exponent Sapan Acharya Ji**, renowned Kathak artist **Anu Sinha**, **Deepali Sinha**, and the duo **Vikash-Aparna**, among others.

The success of the event was the result of sincere efforts by a committed team of volunteers: **Shraboni Saha, Sneha**

**Mukherjee, Sakshi Sharma, Bharti Dang, Priyanka, Nandini, Aanchal, Ayushi, Sakshi, Tarushi**, Senior Theatre Artist **Shyam Kumar**, **Kuldeep Sharma**, **O.P.Sagar**, **Saurabh Tripathi, Raman, Harshit, Digvijay Pandey, Brijesh, Shivam, Satyam**, and **Mrityunjay**—whose dedication brought vitality to the entire celebration.

**Toward the end, Smt. Shruti Sinha delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks**, expressing gratitude to all artists, dignitaries, and organizers. The symposium concluded with the **collective chanting of the Shanti Mantra**, a sacred moment that left an everlasting impression of the divinity and elegance of Indian art and culture in the hearts of all present.