

Jogiya Raag a Saga of Unwavering Faith and Silent Longing



On 26th April 2025, at the Sammukh Auditorium of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, the play "**Jogiya Raag**" was presented under the theatre festival "**Katharang**", organized by

the cultural organization Mailorang. Written by Vijay Pandit and directed by Prof. Devendra Raj Ankur, this production transformed a seemingly simple story into an extraordinary emotional experience on stage.

“Katharang” commenced on the same day with the stage being graced by the presence of senior theatre artist Mr. Amitabh Srivastava, who conducted the inaugural ceremony, and renowned literary figure Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi, who attended as the Chief Guest.

The story revolves around Savitri, a woman abandoned by her husband immediately after marriage as he renounces worldly life to become a hermit. Years pass as Savitri patiently waits for him, unwavering in her faith despite societal pressures. Eventually, in an act of poignant resignation, she accepts an unknown ascetic as her lost husband, surrendering herself to her destiny.

Nidhi Mishra, portraying the role of Savitri, delivered a truly exceptional performance. Her command over body movements, dialogue delivery, and the subtle expression of inner turmoil kept the audience deeply engrossed throughout the play. With remarkable ease and depth, she captured the complex emotions of hope, struggle, and despair dwelling within Savitri.

Mukti Das portrayed the character of Bal Mukund with great seriousness and authenticity. His restrained expression of internal conflict and the pain of renunciation, without falling into melodrama, added credibility and depth to his character. His dialogue delivery was composed and truthful, making his presence compelling on stage.

With only two actors on stage, multiple characters were seamlessly brought to life through masterful variations in posture, movement, and voice modulation. This technical challenge was executed with impressive smoothness, making the

character transitions natural and believable.

The innovative use of a simple prop – a saree – deserves special mention. Throughout the play, the saree symbolically transformed – representing femininity, sorrow, or the complex dynamics of shifting relationships, enhancing the thematic layers of the production.

Selection of the music that was played in the play by Sneha Kumar, deepening its mood and emotional texture. Nitin Bharadwaj's lighting design and its careful execution effectively elevated the story's atmosphere, aligning each scene with its emotional tone."

"Jogiya Raag" offered a profoundly moving theatrical experience. The balanced synergy of storytelling, direction, acting, and technical finesse elevated the performance to great artistic heights. The sensitive and sincere efforts of the team ensured that the audience remained deeply connected to the story from beginning to end.

This play is not merely the tale of Savitri's endless waiting and loyalty; it is also a beautiful exploration of human emotions, faith, and the silent resilience embedded in life's most difficult journeys.