

Summer Theatre Festival: Natsamrat's Celebration of Stagecraft



The LTG Auditorium at Mandi House, New Delhi, reverberated this August with the vibrancy of theatre and the thunder of applause. Organized by *Natsamrat*, the **Summer Theatre Festival** offered audiences a kaleidoscope of performances that made them laugh, stirred their emotions, and provoked deep reflection. Each play was directed by the acclaimed Delhi-based theatre director **Shyam Kumar**, whose creative vision and disciplined stagecraft elevated every production into a memorable experience.

The festival commenced on **2nd August** with Anton Chekhov's celebrated one-act play *The Proposal*. What begins as a simple

marriage proposal soon spirals into a heated quarrel over land and dogs, leaving audiences in peals of unexpected laughter. On the same day, the satirical *Kallu Nai MBBS* was staged—an incisive portrayal of rural ironies through the comic clashes of a drunken barber and his wife. Both plays were so well received that they were restaged on **10th August**, once again drawing enthusiastic applause.

On **15th August**, marking Independence Day, the same two plays returned to the stage. Amid laughter and wit, audiences were invited not only to reflect upon rural contradictions but also to rediscover the sharp brilliance of Chekhov's pen.

The evening of **23rd August** brought a unique blend of sensitivity and humor. *Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahein* by Ashish Kotwal presented an intense dialogue between a lonely elderly doctor and the free-spirited Mansi, unraveling layers of relationships, empathy, and self-realization that touched the hearts of spectators. Following this, R.B. Singh's satirical gem *Meri Biwi Ki Shaadi* had the audience roaring with laughter, as a hypochondriac patient, obsessed with his own imaginary death, entangled himself in absurd worries about his wife's future.

The **30th August** evening immersed the audience in the layered world of Chekhov and the eternal theme of love. *Chekhov Ka Sansar* offered glimpses into the Russian master's life philosophy and stories, while Satya Prakash's *Kambakht Ishq* sensitively explored the loneliness of the elderly and their longing for true companionship—making the audience laugh as much as it moved them to tears.

The festival concluded on **31st August** with two powerful performances. J.N. Kaushal's *Kya Karega Qazi* kept audiences entertained with the hilarious failures and fumbling efforts of the clumsy barber Fakhruddin. This was followed by *Bichchu*, inspired by Molière's classic, which humorously portrayed the tug-of-war between lovers and fathers, blending satire with

sparkling wit.

Throughout the festival, performers such as **Vishwajit, Munmun, Shivangi, Aman Kumar, Raman Kumar, Dhananjay, Ansh Rathore, Rajan K. Bhatheja, and Adyasha Mohanty** brought each story alive through their powerful stage presence and spirited dialogue delivery. Balanced use of set design, lighting, and music added to the immersive experience, keeping the audience spellbound.

Equally significant was the contribution of the **technical team**, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. **Sunil Rathore, Suraj Singh Pawan, Nisha, Raj Rani, Payal Rani, Rohit Prasad, and Poonam** managed costumes with precision, while **Vansh Rathore** created the musical atmosphere that enriched every performance.

More than a series of plays, the **Summer Theatre Festival** of NatSamrat Sanstha was a celebration of the diversity and power of Indian theatre. With humor, satire, and heartfelt storytelling, the festival not only entertained but also offered profound glimpses into the truths of life. For an entire month, LTG Auditorium pulsated with theatrical energy, leaving audiences with memories that will linger long beyond the final curtain call.