

BHILWARA NATYA PURSKAR 2014

Bhilwara Natya Puraskar brings alive Samrat Ashok and Dara

Samrat Ashok and *Dara*, two legendary characters of history came alive at the Bhilwara Natya Puraskar, which showcased these two, plays at the fourth edition of Bhilwara Natya Puraskar. It's been an extraordinary journey for the Group to find out talents and gift these young individuals a platform to showcase their plays to theatre lovers. The success of this initiative could be judged by the crowd that thronged Sri Ram Centre auditorium on 11th and 12th October, 2014 to watch 'Samrat Ashok' and 'The Crowning of Dara' respectively.

"LNJ Bhilwara Group has strived to propagate traditional Indian values and promotion of Indian classical traditions of music and theatre has been one of its core philosophies. Bhilwara Natya Puraskar has been an example of the Group's commitments," said Shri L. N. Jhunjhunwala, Chairman-Emeritus, LNJ Bhilwara Group.

This year finalist, *Samrat Ashok* directed by Shri Daya Prakash Sinha, is based on historical and ancient Buddhist writings which look at the phenomenon of life in its totality. The play underscores the ultimate futility of ambition in life.

On the other hand, *The Crowning of Dara* directed by Smt. Tripurai Sharma relives the intense period of conflict of Mughal India in the mid-seventeenth century, and uses the struggle of succession among the sons of Emperor Shah Jahan, as the setting to follow the evolution of his eldest son, Dara Shikoh as a remarkable scholar and liberal thinker of medieval India.

Samrat Ashok bagged the first prize of Rs 2 lakh, a trophy and a certificate while *The Crowning of Dara* was declared second with a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, a trophy and a certificate by the jury members. The jury comprised, Shri L. N. Jhunjhunwala, Chairman-Emeritus, Dr. Bharat Gupt, Former Prof., University of Delhi and Shri R. K. Bagrodia, an entrepreneur and a theatre lover.

On 11th October 2014, Dr Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi was present as Chief Guest to inaugurate the 4th edition of BNP. Dr Singh appreciated the initiative taken by Shri Jhunjhunwala to promote the Hindi theatre.

Former Dy. Prime Minister, Shri L. K. Advani was the chief guest on 12th October, 2014. Shri Advani had given away the award to the winners of both Plays Ashoka and Dara. He liked the play and felt happy that LNJ Bhilwara Group is helping to promote the Hindi theatre.

This event was organized by Shri S. K. Babbar and Shri N. Mudgal, Corporate Office.

