

## Report – Virasat 2023



1. The heritage collective of BMCC organizes Virasat every year, and since its beginning, the event never fails to stand out with its originality by celebrating culture in an innovative and authentic style. The event was held on 27<sup>th</sup> of December between 10am to 12pm where the hall was filled with a genuine and sincere crowd. The event emerged victorious and was a huge success under the expert guidance of Principal Dr. R. P. Kuchekar, Dr. Rajashree Gokhale and Prof. Neetika Sharma, who were assisted by the staff and the core team of Virasat.

2. We were extremely fortunate to have a renowned actor, writer, director, BMCC alumni, Mr. Nipun Dharmadhikari who graced the show and shared his immense knowledge and vast experience. After a brief introduction of our chief guest by Mrunal Gawade and Sahil Dhumal, one of our students presented a small Kathak performance called Kasturi Tilakam- Krushna Vandana. After the performance our chief guest, principal sir and other professors inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. Shreya Karandikar eloquently highlighted Mr Nipun's career and his achievements.



3. The event was further continued as Mr. Nipun addressed the audience. He started off by telling us his journey since his school days that his first contact with arts came when he did an impromptu performance of the Marathi play, *Varhad Nighalay London La* in front of his class, in school. The teachers found out and he then began performing for annual days and other public events. He was studying to become a chartered accountant when he was a student of BMCC, where he found out about Pittie hall where students can explore the cultural and artistic parts of themselves. He told us



about his maiden venture, a play called *Cycle* where he directed Mr. Amey Wagh, one of his closest friend, an actor and a BMCC alumni. He further talked about his decision of leaving his article ship and pursuing writing and directing as a full-time career after his graduation. He started a theatre troupe called Natak Company along with various other students of BMCC and worked on the revival of *sangeet-natak*. After few years of working in theatre he started to feature in a few Marathi films and made his debut as a director through

his film *Baapjanma* in the Marathi film industry. He talked about his latest release *Me Vasantrao*, about how the idea first came into existence in around 2011 where he first got to know about Vasantrao Deshpande and how he got inspired by his work and life, and to then properly researching and finding a story that will be a biopic but also a story that would engage with the audience, and

how it all came to fruition when it released in 2022. He shared all of this while giving little anecdotes here and there, making the audience laugh and keeping a light-hearted atmosphere.

4. The event proceeded with questions right from the audience. Mr. Nipun engaged with the audience by attentively addressing their inquiries. When asked about his YouTube talk show *Casting Couch*, he humbly gave all the credit to Mr. Sarang Sathey as it was his idea, and to Mr Amey Wagh for its popularity. One of our student asked what made him leave his article ship and seriously pursue writing to which he gave a beautiful response that with discipline you can achieve whatever you are currently striving for, while working in the company he could see that he could very well become a CA but he did not have that confidence that he would



be best among the others working there, but with his art, his writing, he is confident that one day he will be at the top. This answer really inspires us to strive to be the best among all and also shows the passion that he has for his art. Even while pursuing artistic fields you have to have some kind of discipline and that they both, art and discipline, go hand in hand. His answers told us that he is more interested in telling a story rather than the commercial success it makes, mentioning his recent visit to Hampi, he told us that there are thousands of stories to be told just from that small city that has years of heritage and cultural references



dwelling inside it, saying he would love to make such a story and help it reach towards the audience. His knowledgeable and engaging manner captivated the audience, making the interaction an enriching experience for all involved.

5. After an interactive session the show came to an end with many minds inspired and motivated. Then our chief guest distributed certificates to students who organized Astitva. Aaditi Gautam announced each teams name and they came on stage to receive the certificates. Then the event was concluded with the vote of thanks by Rutuja Gaikwad .This was truly one of the most interactive and informative sessions conducted which encouraged a new thinking approach amongst the young minds about writing and having the passion and courage of following your dreams.





-Apurva R. Dhobale (FYBCOM-D) & Mohit Kansal (FYBBA-IB) -Heritage Collective