



Mrityunjayi: Release of the Epic Work of Bhagwat Jha 'Azad'

**“Bhagwat Jha’s Journey: From Inner Conflict to Resolve” –
Janardan Dwivedi**

**“Azad: A Social Thinker Who Rose Above Politics” – Dr.
Sachchidanand Joshi**

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On the commemorative occasion honouring the eminent writer and incisive political thinker Bhagwat Jha ‘Azad’, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts held the release of his epic Mrityunjayi along with a literary discussion. The event was presided over by political leader Janardan Dwivedi, with Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary of the National Centre for the Arts, as the chief guest. Senior journalists Alok Mehta and Ashutosh also shared their insights. The welcome address was delivered by Bhagwat Jha Azad’s eldest son, Rajvardhan Azad.

On the occasion, political leader Janardan Dwivedi remarked that Bhagwat Jha’s life was a journey from inner conflict to firm resolve. He recalled several personal memories shared with Azad. He added that Bhagwat Jha belonged to the second generation of freedom fighters, and he regarded him as a representative of that very generation. From beginning to end, he remained a sincere and forthright individual.

Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest of the event, Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, said that although he never had the opportunity to meet Bhagwat Jha Azad in person, reading his writings in Dharmayug had left a lasting impression. It always seemed that, even while being active in politics, he rose above political boundaries to reflect deeply on the concerns of the nation and society.

Dr. Joshi further observed that he wrote of how the decision to withdraw from formal positions and well-trodden paths, and instead to traverse the quieter, simpler trails of life, constitutes a profound discipline in its own right. The flow of thoughts, too, moves forward like rivers that merge into one another and expand—without boundaries, without obstruction. For him, poetry was not merely a means of expression, but a process of healing that soothed inner anguish and sensitivity. This is why this work too leaves a similar calming and restorative effect on the reader’s mind.

The essence of Azad ji’s life seems encapsulated in his own words—“Do not give me support, give me obstacles; I will build my own world. I do not seek alms, let me rise on my own.” These lines stand as testimony to his resolve, inner strength, and spirit of perseverance. It is for this reason that in the second volume of this work, his life experiences, the anguish he felt for his region, and his inner radiance—all appear in an intensely compelling form.

Journalist Alok Mehta remarked that Bhagwat Jha Azad possessed an exceptionally forthright, resolute, and uncompromising personality. He emphasized that the contributions of such a towering figure must be communicated to the younger generation. Through the epic ‘Mrityunjayi’, multiple dimensions of Azad ji’s remarkable character have been vividly highlighted. Mehta further suggested that a compilation of Azad ji’s speeches should be published as a dedicated volume, ensuring that his ideas and vision are accessible to all.

In addition, Mehta recited some of Azad ji’s poetry, which delivers a powerful critique of hypocrisy and corruption, while simultaneously conveying strong, unwavering messages against casteism and communalism. The verses, he noted, reflect not only moral courage but also an enduring commitment to justice and societal harmony, capturing the essence of a visionary thinker whose work continues to inspire.

Senior journalist Ashutosh Kumar remarked that Bhagwat Jha Azad had a profound understanding of Indian philosophy and Buddhism. He noted that, had Azad ji not been active in politics, he would have achieved the highest distinction in the field of literature. The book provides a clear and comprehensive account of Buddha’s entire philosophical journey and the Eightfold Path. Azad ji engaged deeply with the principles of human liberation, and this profound contemplation is thoroughly embedded throughout the epic Mrityunjayi.

Dr. Savita Jha recited selected verses from the epic ‘Mrityunjayi’. She remarked that, although Bhagwat Jha Azad was active in politics, he was fundamentally a writer and remained so until the end. Through literature, he engaged in a dialogue with politics and continually enriched the political discourse through his writings. The three sons of Bhagwat Jha Azad—Dr. Rajvardhan Azad, IPS (Retd.) Yashovardhan, and cricketer-cum-Member of Parliament Kiritvardhan Azad—welcomed the guests at the event.

Sunil Kumar Tiwari

pibculture[at]gmail[dot]com

(रिलीज़ आईडी: 2196117) आगंतुक पटल : 545
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