

## **SAANJH- A VISUAL TOUR TO THE LAND OF GOD**

As part of the The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Engagement Matrix between States and UTs , our state Kerala was culturally connected with the state Himachal Pradesh .As per the programme we watched a beautiful movie called “Saanjh” which was in every sense a visual tour to the Land of God –Himachal Pradesh.

Saanjh (transl. An evening) is a 2017 Indian Himachali language drama film, directed by Ajay Saklani. With a running time of 109 minutes this is the first feature film in Himachali Language to be released in cinema halls and is introducing Aditi Charak, Vishal Parpagga and Rupeshwari Sharma. The film also features two well known Bollywood actors Asif Basra and Taranjit Kaur.

Set in the beautiful Kullu valley of Himachal Pradesh, Saanjh follows the journey of Sanju, a 16-year-old city girl who becomes the victim of bogus social-media posts. When her father discovers a compromising online video in which Sanju supposedly features, he consigns her to their remote ancestral village to stay with her grandmother. Isolated and dejected, Sanju encounters ill-mannered house guest Jonga and finds surprising solace in his company. Unable to adjust to the village lifestyle, she hatches a plan to escape the village with help of Jonga, but need time to raise enough cash. Meanwhile, Sanju slowly begins to understand her grandmother’s pain—living a secluded life with almost no contact with her children—and a deep bond grows between them. When the grandmother falls sick, the film focuses on one unforgettable Saanjh (evening) in which they are caught between light and darkness.

This movie have travelled across the world and received global accolades. The film has been screened in multiple countries and even won the Best Feature Film at Borrego Springs Film Festival (USA), Award of Merit at Accolade Global Film Competition (USA). Saanjh is one of the highest rated film in IMDb and Facebook as well.

It is a lovely movie, for it has captured the essence of Himachal and it’s aspirations and portrayed human relations beautifully. It is a brilliant piece of artistic reality. The locations are heavenly. The cinematography have done complete justice in picturing the divinity and radiance of the land . The scenery in the movie is spectacular with mountains, valleys and much more to amaze the viewers . Saanjh is successful in showcasing the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of the Himachal for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity of our land , thus foster a sense of common identity among us. In every way it is the perfect movie to connect to the cultural diversity of the land. Throughout the 109 minutes we were virtually transported to the blissful land and emotions .By the end of the movie , we were overwhelmed with emotions and a strong desire to visit this alluring state.

To sum it up it is a must watch movie ,for it has been able to create an environment which promotes learning between States by showcasing and transferring across the borders ,the best practices and experiences of the land .