

# **23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav Brings Vibrant Theatre to Delhi's Cultural Stage**



**New Delhi:** The 23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav, held at the LTG Auditorium in Mandi House from 28 February to 8 March 2026,

concluded successfully after several days of engaging and thought-provoking theatrical performances. Featuring plays based on diverse themes and styles, the festival offered theatre lovers in the capital a vibrant and enriching cultural experience. The entire festival was dedicated to the eminent theatre personality **Daya Prakash Sinha**. Organized under the direction and coordination of **Shyam Kumar**, the festival was widely appreciated for its well-curated productions and smooth execution.

The festival opened on **28 February 2026** with two plays. The first, **"Marilyn Monroe: My Crush,"** written and directed by **Ashraf Ali**, explored the emotional struggles and private life hidden behind the glamorous public image of the legendary Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe. Through powerful performances and a sensitive narrative, the play attempted to reveal the complex realities that often lie behind fame and celebrity. Later that evening, the play **"Chuhedani,"** written and directed by **Ishwar Shunya**, was staged. Through satire and humorous situations, the play presented the contradictions and ironies of middle-class life. The lively performances and sharp dialogues kept the audience thoroughly engaged.

The next round of performances took place on **4 March 2026** with the staging of **Anton Chekhov's** celebrated one-act comedy **"The Proposal,"** directed by **Shyam Kumar**. Beginning with a simple marriage proposal and escalating into heated arguments over trivial matters, the play humorously exposed the peculiarities of human nature. The energetic acting and precise dialogue delivery made it an entertaining experience for the audience. On the same day, **"Kallu Nai M.B.B.S."**—a satirical play inspired by the works of **Molière** and also directed by **Shyam Kumar**—was presented. With exaggerated characters and witty exchanges, the play humorously critiqued social conventions and everyday absurdities. Its lively staging and comic energy made it one of the most entertaining performances of the festival.

On **7 March 2026**, audiences witnessed two plays with contrasting emotional tones. The first, "**Lajo**," was based on the renowned story *Lajwanti* by **Rajendra Singh Bedi**. The theatrical adaptation and direction were by **Chandrashekhar Sharma**. The play sensitively portrayed the tragedy of the Partition and the suffering endured by women during that turbulent period. The restrained direction and deeply moving performances created a powerful emotional atmosphere. Later that day, the play "**Prem Parinde**," written, conceived, and directed by **Chandrashekhar Sharma**, was staged. Presenting modern relationships, youthful aspirations, and the influence of social media in a light-hearted and entertaining manner, the play was warmly received by the audience. The natural performances and excellent comic timing added charm to the presentation.

The festival concluded on **8 March 2026** with two impactful productions: "**Dayashankar Ki Diary**" and "**Gadhe Ki Baraat**." "*Dayashankar Ki Diary*" is written by **Nadira Zaheer Babbar**, while "*Gadhe Ki Baraat*" is written by **Haribhai Wadgaonkar**. Both plays were directed by **Vishwadeepak Trikha**. Filled with humour, satire, and social commentary, these productions provided an engaging theatrical experience and brought the festival to a memorable close.

The **23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav** emerged as a celebration of the diversity and vitality of theatre. From satire and comedy to deeply emotional narratives, the wide range of plays highlighted the multifaceted possibilities of contemporary theatre. The festival offered a meaningful platform for artists and audiences to come together and engage with compelling stories and performances.

Over the years, the **Natsamrat Natya Utsav** has established itself as a significant cultural event in Delhi's theatrical landscape. Through consistent efforts and thoughtfully selected productions, the festival continues to encourage theatrical creativity and nurture a deeper appreciation for

performing arts among audiences. Under the leadership of **Shyam Kumar**, the event remains committed to promoting quality theatre and providing artists with opportunities to present diverse dramatic works.

With its varied themes, strong direction, and dedicated performances by talented actors, the **23rd Natsamrat Natya Utsav** once again proved that live theatre continues to be a vibrant and essential part of the capital's cultural life.