

# A Graceful Beginning: Inauguration of the Padmashri Daya Prakash Sinha Theatre Studio & Art Gallery



Delhi witnessed a moment of cultural significance as the *Disha Group of Visual and Performing Arts* inaugurated the **Padmashri Daya Prakash Sinha Theatre Studio & Art Gallery** on 2–3 December 2025. The ceremony, dignified and heartfelt in its essence, was formally opened by **Shri Somesh Ranjan**, senior social worker and son-in-law of the late Daya Prakash Sinha. The event brought together eminent personalities from the fields of art, culture, education, and theatre – including **Subodh Sharma** (RSS/Sanskar Bharati), veteran theatre artist **J.P. Singh**, senior critic **Anil Goyal**, theatre personalities

**Shyam Kumar** and **Anil Sharma**, critic-performer **Munmun**, Principal **Ravindra Kumar**, community figure **Lala Rajkumar**, renowned sculptor **Devidas Khatri**, and cultural coordinator **Dinesh Agrawal**

Founded in 1990, the Disha Group has carved a notable space in Indian theatre with more than **26 productions** staged across the country. For this studio initiative, **Dr. Satya Prakash** (Secretary) and **Sampa Mandal** (Theatre Director) played a pivotal role in shaping the vision and the event. Dr. Prakash described the studio as a *free, open creative space* where young artists can rehearse, experiment, and grow without any financial barriers. Significant contributions were also made by members **Sandhya Verma**, **Neelima Verma**, and **Varuna Verma**, whose dedication strengthened the foundation of this cultural endeavour.

Following the inauguration, **AAOMA – The Third Space Foundation** presented two plays based on the writings of Daya Prakash Sinha. The first, **“Naak Ka Sawal,”** a sharp humorous satire, kept the audience thoroughly engaged. **Ankit Chaudhary (Thakur)**, **Udit Koli (Pandey ji)**, and **Shreerag M.S. (Kunwar)** delivered lively and well-timed performances that evoked continuous laughter. The second play, **“Purane Chawal,”** unfolded with emotional depth and sincerity. **Shikha Arya (Chadmilal)**, **Gagan Chaudhary (Ranjit)**, **Kishlay Raj (Dheer)**, and **Mohammad Siraj (Harish)** portrayed the inner conflicts of their characters with remarkable nuance and sensitivity.

Behind the scenes, technical support by **Aditya Mukul** (Music/Lights), **Kashish** (Costume/Makeup), and **Vipin Kumar & Mohan Koli** (Camera) ensured a seamless theatrical experience. Both plays were directed by **Meeta Mishra**, whose thoughtful staging and rhythmic pacing elevated the aesthetic appeal even with minimal resources.

The next day offered a moment of pure artistic resonance through the Odissi presentation of **Tiara Tripathi**, who

performed a soulful tribute to the late Daya Prakash Sinha. Trained under the acclaimed **Guru Madhavi Mudgal** since the age of five, Tiara has immersed herself in the Odissi tradition for over **15 years**, performing at prestigious festivals including the Youth Festival and Konark Festival, and at institutions such as **Sangeet Natak Akademi** and **National School of Drama**.

Her chosen piece, "**Khela Lola**," an Oriya *champu* from *Kishora Chandranand Champu*, brought forward the subtle charm of Radha being teased by her friend for desiring the unattainable. The choreography – shaped by legends like **Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra** and **Madhavi Mudgal** – allowed Tiara to display both expressive finesse and technical mastery. Her command over *abhinaya*, clean geometry of movement, and serene stage presence created a performance that was at once evocative and deeply poetic.

Holding both **BA and MA degrees in Dance** and awarded the **Scholarship for Young Artists**, Tiara's artistic journey now extends into the intersection of **dance and mental health**. As the founder of the **Mudrika Art Foundation**, she continues to nurture interdisciplinary collaborations in contemporary, Odissi, semi-classical movement, and therapeutic arts. Her presentation stood as one of the evening's most memorable highlights – a luminous blend of devotion, skill, and artistic maturity.

The ceremony was smoothly anchored by **Praveen Kumar Bharti**, while the organisational support of **Harish Tiwari (President)**, **Madhulika Singh (Vice-President)**, **Kewal Krishna Bhatia (Vice-President)**, and **Surendra Verma (Treasurer)** ensured a highly successful event.

The inauguration of the Padmashri Daya Prakash Sinha Theatre & Art Culture Studio emerges as a **meaningful cultural milestone** – honouring a towering figure of Indian theatre while opening new pathways for training, experimentation, and innovation. It

marks the arrival of a vibrant creative hub, offering young performers a dedicated space to learn, explore, and contribute to Delhi's ever-evolving theatrical landscape.

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## **“Abhi Raat Baaki Hai” – A Deeply Moving Portrayal of Human Struggle and Social Reality**



Presented under the joint banner of Drishyama Trust and Disha Group of Visual and Performing Arts, the acclaimed Marathi playwright Jayant Pawar's play *“Abhi Raat Baaki Hai”* was

staged on October 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the *Sammukh Auditorium* at the *National School of Drama (NSD)*, New Delhi.

Based on insights shared by **Dr. Satya Prakash**, the play draws inspiration from the industrial strikes of the 1980s, portraying the struggles of the working class. It powerfully reflects the economic disparities that divide society and the fragile emotional bonds that hold families together.

The narrative centers around **Aai**, a mother who, after her husband's death, strives to keep her family united amid growing emotional and financial turmoil. Her four children, each absorbed in their own ambitions and conflicts, gradually drift apart – one toward literature, another into sports, one down a destructive path, and the daughter misled under the guise of work.

**Shampa Mandal**, who both directed the production and essayed the role of *Aai*, delivered a performance marked by depth, restraint, and emotional precision. Her portrayal of maternal resilience and fatigue formed the beating heart of the play.

The ensemble cast – **Shikha Arya, Aditya Mukul, Gagan Chaudhary, Aryan Singh, Sufiyan, Sachin, Mani, Saif, and Udit** – performed with sincerity and control. **Deepak Rana's** stage design authentically recreated the humble atmosphere of a working-class home, while **Dhirendra's** lighting and **Vishal Jodi's** music amplified the emotional cadence of the narrative.

The **costume design team** – *Nitin Tiwari, Nitish Kumar, Chanchal Agarwal, and Neeraj Singh* – enhanced the realism of the characters, supported by *Vikas Verma's* photography, *Noor Khan's* videography, *Madhvi's* post-production, and props by *Udit Kohli and Aryan Singh*.

**Mr. P.K. Mohanty**, Registrar of the *National School of Drama*, who attended the show, praised the direction and performances, calling it “an artistically accomplished and emotionally stirring experience.”

According to **Dr. Satya Prakash**, the audience was deeply moved by the performance. *“There was a profound silence in the hall – the kind that speaks of shared empathy,”* he observed. *“This play did not just unfold on stage; it lingered in the hearts of those who watched it.”*

In essence, *“Abhi Raat Baaki Hai”* stood out for its thoughtful direction, powerful performances, and sensitive depiction of social and emotional realities. It was not merely a play – it was an experience that resonated long after the curtain fell.