

“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.