



**Celebrating 150 years of Shrimad Rajchandraji,
Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur presents the
a theatre production portraying the profound relationship between
Mahatma Gandhi and his spiritual mentor, Shrimad Rajchandraji titled
'Yugpurush – Mahatma na Mahatma'**

For Immediate Release

2017 marks the 150th birth anniversary of the great Indian saint, poet-philosopher, and spiritual luminary – Shrimad Rajchandraji (1867 – 2017). Hailed as the spiritual guide of Mahatma Gandhi, Shrimad Rajchandraji had a tremendous and formative influence on the Father of the Nation. *“Such was the man who captivated my heart in religious matters as no other man has till now.”*

Mahatma Gandhi on Shrimad Rajchandraji - Modern Review, June 1930.

The 150th celebrations were as though launched from the Red Fort itself by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who in his uplifting speech on India's 70th Independence Day said, *“The country is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Shrimad Rajchandraji, Mahatma Gandhiji's Guru. In one of His letters to Gandhiji, Shrimadji writes ... the principle of non-violence has existed ever since the existence of violence. What is important is which one do we utilise for the welfare of mankind.”*

Under the able guidance of Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshbhai, Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD) has been dynamically involved in practicing and disseminating the invaluable teachings propounded by Shrimadji through various spiritual and social activities. **On the glorious occasion of Shrimad Rajchandraji's 150th Birth Anniversary, SRMD presents the theatre production, 'Yugpurush – Mahatma na Mahatma.'**

The world premiere of '[Yugpurush](#)' mesmerised an audience of over 4000 people, all donning white, at Yogi Sabhagruha auditorium in Mumbai on 14th November, 2016. The shows are seeing people queue up in large numbers, and are given standing ovations by the audiences. **The play will be staged in India and across the world. In addition to Gujarati and Hindi, the play will soon be**

released in English, and other regional languages.

The great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Tushar Gandhi, shared his thoughts after beholding the world premiere of 'Yugpurush. He said, *"What is important for me is the humility and the selflessness that Shrimadji instilled in Bapu, because of which an ordinary man could rise to become a Mahatma. I hope you take this play all over the world, but especially to those places that need it the most – where the message of ahimsa is absent. These two greats have sown in us the seeds of becoming better human beings. It's now upon us to irrigate it with our own experiences, and with the humility of the belief that we are nothing but instruments."*

A Tribute to Two Greats

Have you ever wondered who shaped young Mohandas Gandhi's beliefs and character? Who influenced him towards ahimsa, satya and dharma? Who was his refuge during times of spiritual crisis? Who played a role in transforming him into the Mahatma?

['Yugpurush'](#) – Mahatma na Mahatma' is an inspirational and riveting portrayal of the profound spiritual relationship between Shrimadji and Gandhiji. What began as an honest friendship, progressed to Gandhiji's proclamation of Shrimadji as his spiritual mentor. Experience Gandhiji's internal and external journeys unfold under the inspiration of Shrimadji's direct interactions and insightful letters. *"In my moments of spiritual crisis, Shrimadji was my refuge."* Mahatma Gandhi wrote in His autobiography, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* (Ch. Raychandbhai).

['Yugpurush'](#) highlights the values of expanding one's capacity to love and give selflessly, respecting diversity, supporting truth, fostering trust, and building lasting communities. It brings to the forefront a powerful experience of looking within, upholding truth and fearlessness, as well as transforming character and consciousness.

The Gujarati play is directed by acclaimed director Rajesh Joshi of 'Code Mantra' fame, scripted by well-known playwright Uttam Gada of 'Maharathi' fame. The music direction is by popular composer duo Sachin - Jigar.

SRMD's year-long celebration marking 150 years of Shrimadji's birth includes the launch of several initiatives in India and across the world. On this occasion, Pujya Gurudevshri expounds, *"The birth and life of the Great Ones are worth remembering. They awaken our latent strength and kindle the desire to become like them."*

An Untold Story in Indian History

Gandhiji met Shrimadji for the first time in Mumbai, upon his return from England as a barrister in 1891. Shrimadji's inner equipoise, absorption in spiritual pursuits, enlightening wisdom, knowledge of the scriptures and moral earnestness left a deep-rooted impression on Gandhiji. Their relationship blossomed over profound interactions in the two years that Gandhiji spent in Mumbai.

Upon moving to South Africa, Gandhiji corresponded with Shrimadji through letters. Shrimadji's insightful thoughts ignited the fire of spiritual inquisitiveness in Gandhiji. Their close association contributed in moulding Gandhiji's moral fibre. Shrimadji's inherent adherence to the principles of satya, ahimsa and dharma later crystallised as the fundamental tenets of Gandhism. Although Shrimadji left his mortal body at a young age of 33 in 1901, Shrimadji's letters and compositions were Gandhiji's dear companions. He contemplated upon them time and time again. Gandhiji would write about Shrimadji, speak about Him in speeches and discuss Him with close associates. He continued to be deeply inspired by his bond with Shrimadji, and His spiritual works.

The force that influenced Gandhiji's ideas and guided his beliefs, the entity that contributed in the making of the Mahatma – Shrimad Rajchandraji is revered for His great spiritual state, extraordinary personality and literary genius by seekers across the world.

The play also supports the cause of Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital – a new 200-bed multi-specialty charity hospital for the economically underprivileged in South Gujarat. SRMD's aim behind the year-long celebration of Shrimad Rajchandraji's 150th birth anniversary is to spread Shrimad Rajchandraji's values of ahimsa and satya that shaped Gandhiji's beliefs, and to bring His spiritually uplifting teachings to the maximum number of people from all walks of life.

About Shrimad Rajchandraji

Shrimad Rajchandraji is the embodiment of an intense and incessant pursuit of spirituality. Born on Kartik Purnima on 9th November, 1867 in Vavania, Gujarat, Shrimadji was a perfect blend of pure knowledge, selfless devotion, and complete detachment, Shrimadji attained self-realisation at the age of 23. He spent months in seclusion, absorbed in the ecstasy of the Self. His compassion for the world flowed in the form of 'Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra,' a masterpiece in philosophical literature. On Chaitra Vad Pancham, 9th April 1901, at the age of 33, Shrimadji left His mortal body in Rajkot. His preachings have been published in an invaluable volume 'Shrimad Rajchandra,' which continues to quench the thirst of true seekers. Through ashrams, temples, and institutions dedicated to Shrimadji around the world, lakhs of devotees are benefiting from His teachings and progressing on the spiritual path.

About Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur

Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur is a global movement that endeavours to enhance the spiritual growth of seekers and benefit society. With its international Headquarters at Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram, Dharampur, the Mission has over 100 Satsang centres, 31 Youth Groups and 227 Divinetouch Centres - value-education and self-development programmes for children - spread across the globe in North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. The Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care programme includes: Health Care, Educational Care, Child Care, Woman Care, Tribal Care, Community Care, Humanitarian Care, Animal Care, Environmental Care and Emergency Relief Care. Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur is playing a key role in universal upliftment by actualising its Mission Statement - Realise one's True Self and serve others selflessly. www.shrimadrajchandramission.org

For press inquires and more information please contact Alpa Gandhi on 9322241513 or publicrelations@shrimadrajchandramission.org

For the upcoming shows schedule, bookings, testimonials and more, please visit: www.yugpurush.org