



Gandhi revisits the Royal Opera House after 81 years with an Untold Story in Indian History

Renowned dignitaries and famous personalities from various fields attend the exclusive Hindi premiere show of 'Yugpurush' - a remarkable tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and his spiritual mentor, Shrimad Rajchandraji

For Immediate Release

19 December 2016, Mumbai

The newly refurbished and iconic Royal Opera House in Mumbai - the oldest and only surviving Opera House in all of India - witnessed the convergence of history, heritage, culture and spirituality. Corporate, social and political leaders, distinguished celebrities from the film and theatre industry, and members of the media fraternity, came together for a special Hindi show of **Yugpurush - Mahatma ke Mahatma** on **Sunday, December 18**, in the gracious presence of **Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshbhai**, Visionary and Founder of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur.

The event was attended by **Mrs. Tina Ambani** – Chairperson – CSR, Reliance Group; **Mrs. Indu Jain** – Chairperson – Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd; **Mr. Madhur Bajaj** – Vice Chairman & Whole-Time Director, Bajaj Auto Ltd, **Mr. Nikhil Meswani**, Executive Director, Reliance Industries Limited, **Mr. Amitabh Jhunjhunwala** – Vice-Chairman, Reliance Capital & Group Managing Director, Reliance Group; **Mr. Niraj Bajaj** – Chairman & MD – Mukand Ltd; **Mr. Mangal Prabhat Lodha** – Vice-President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Maharashtra and **Mrs. Manju Lodha**; **Dr. Mukesh Batra** – Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Dr. Batra's Homeopathy, **Mr. Mofatraj Munot** – Founder, Chairman and Chief Promoter, Kalpataru Group; **Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. K. Tated**; **Mrs. Amla Ruia** – Social Activist & Founder, Aakar Charitable Trust, to name a few.

The following personalities attended from the film and theatre world: **Mr. Ashutosh Gowariker**, **Mr. Jeetendra Kapoor**; **Mr. Vishal Bhardwaj** and **Mrs. Rekha Bhardwaj**; **Mr. Prem Chopra**; **Mr. Sharman Joshi**; **Mr. Rohit** and **Mrs. Manasi Roy**; **Ms. Tanishaa Mukerji**; **Mr. Vivan Bhatena**; **Mr. Manhar Udhas**; **Mr. Dilip Joshi**, **Mr. Satish Shah**, **Ms. Bhawana Somaaya**.

Mr. Sudhir Mungantiwar – Cabinet Minister of Finance, Planning and Forest Departments, **The Maharaja of Gondal** **Mr. Jyotendrasinhji** and his family – Owners, Royal Opera House, **Ms. Asha Parekh** - Veteran Film Actress, **Mr. Manoj Joshi** – Acclaimed Film and TV Actor, were amongst those who attended the special Gujarati show of **Yugpurush** on the morning of December 18 at the Royal Opera House.

“Thank you for inviting me for this amazing play. It was so interesting to see the insights of Gandhiji's life, because I was unfortunately not aware of Rajchandraji. What evolves a human being and how different people leave such different impacts. Rajchandraji's impact is on even today, as after seeing what I did, it was incredible, I'm going to find something He has written and read it. Very profound and in-depth, it was a fantastic play!”

Mrs. Tina Ambani – Chairperson – CSR, Reliance Group

Skillfully crafted scenes, magnificent backdrops, dramatic artistry, endearing creativity, and heart-touching dialogues, brought to stage the profound and enigmatic relationship between Mahatma Gandhi and his spiritual guide, the great Indian saint Shrimad Rajchandraji.

Under the proficient guidance of PujyaGurudevshri, Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur has been dynamically involved in learning, practicing and disseminating the invaluable teachings propounded by Shrimadji through various spiritual and social activities. Commemorating the glorious occasion of Shrimad Rajchandraji's 150th birth anniversary year, Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur presents the theatre production, **Yugpurush - Mahatma ke Mahatma**.

The 150th celebrations were as though launched from the Red Fort itself by **Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** who 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.*"

The premiere of **Yugpurush** on November 14 in Mumbai marked the beginning of the 150th year. In a short span of 35 days, **Yugpurush** has taken the city by storm with 43 shows running to full houses and standing ovations. Audiences from diverse backgrounds, ages, and communities have acclaimed it as a historic and dramatic masterpiece with the potential to trigger a social renaissance in modern India.

After a stupendous success in Gujarati, the play premiered in Hindi at the Royal Opera House. **Yugpurush** and its uplifting message will soon travel all over India and across globe over the next 12 months with daily shows in multiple languages. The play will soon release in English, Marathi, Tamil, Bengali, and Kannada.

Yugpurush is set to inspire audiences in South India in January 2017, followed by Gujarat in February and April, East India in March, Europe in May, North America in June - July, Middle East and Africa in September, and Australia and South East Asia in November.

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

The initiative also supports the construction of Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital – a new 200-bed multi-specialty charity hospital in South Gujarat.

"I must say that no one else has ever made on me the impression that Raychandbhai did. In my moments of spiritual crisis, he was my refuge." These words were penned by Mahatma Gandhi, the most influential figure India has produced in generations, in His autobiography - on his guiding light, Shrimad Rajchandraji.

In 1935, Mahatma Gandhi had addressed a public conference at the Royal Opera House. 81 years later, this late-Victorian structure beheld Gandhi come alive, once again, albeit on stage, recounting an untold story in Indian history – the story of the transformation of Mohandas into the Mahatma.

Hailed as the spiritual guide of Mahatma Gandhi, Shrimad Rajchandraji - the great Indian saint, and poet-philosopher, had a tremendous and formative influence on the Father of the Nation. Exalted for His spiritual state, extraordinary personality, and literary genius, Shrimadji inspired seekers during His time to embark on the inner journey and even today, His teachings continue to illumine the path of millions around the world.

"The more I consider His life and His writings, the more I consider Him to have been the best Indian of His times." Mahatma Gandhi on Shrimad Rajchandraji, Letter to HSL Polak, April 1909

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 VadPancham, 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 Satsangcentres, 31 Youth Groups and 227 DivinetouchCentres - 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 9920304047 or publicrelations@shrimadrajchandramission.org

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