



  
**Shree Cement**  
**THE**  
**Sacred**  
**PUSHKAR**

## Shree Cement The Sacred, Pushkar ends on a high note

### Mukhtiyar Ali enthralls crowds at Jaipur Ghat at the closing of the Festival

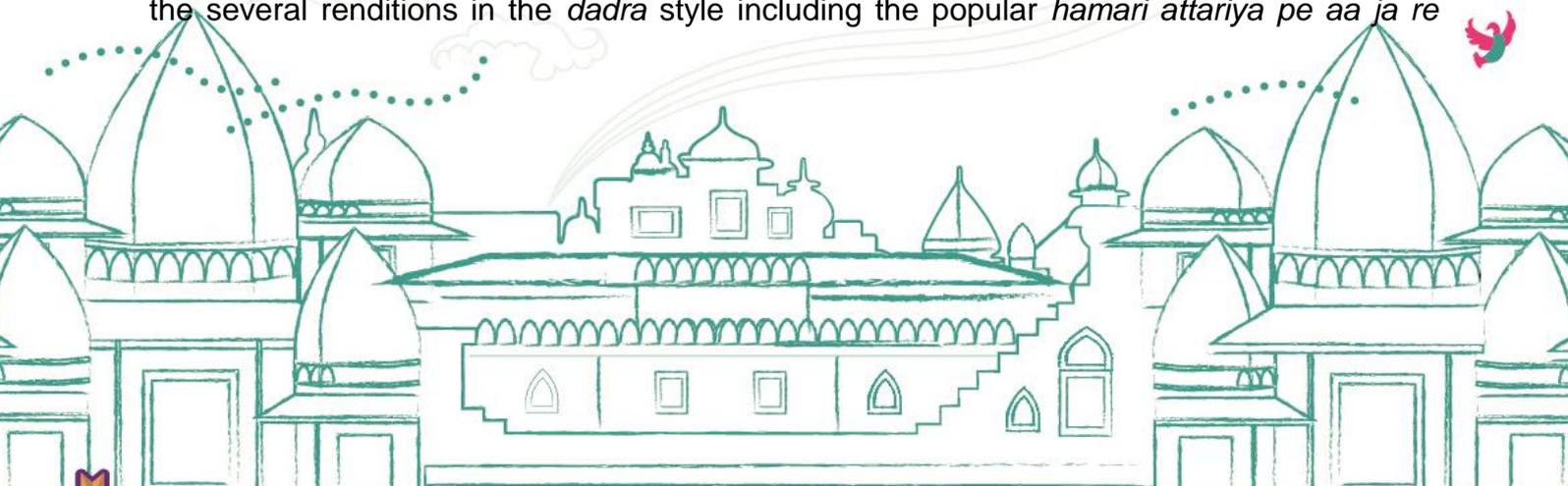
**Pushkar, 17 Dec 2017:** The third edition of the two-day Shree Cement The Sacred, Pushkar culminated on Sunday with incredible musical performances, meditation sessions and explorations through the city's along the *ghats*, heritage spots and local enterprises.

Organized by leading performing arts entertainment company Teamwork Arts and supported by Shree Cement, the Festival is an effort to create a unique experience within the timeless city of Pushkar, bringing sacred music performers, meditation practitioners and artistes from Rajasthan and the rest India as well as from across the world.

Shree Cement The Sacred, Pushkar brought a unique atmosphere of joyful celebration in the timeless and sacred environs of city and, along with a colourful programme for visitors and local audiences, also showcased local Rajasthani artists including a Sand Art display by Ajay Rawat from Pushkar who is popularly known as the desert artist of India, a colourful mural on the wall of Pushkar Inn's resort by Udaipur based illustration and muralist Mamta Singh and a photo exhibition titled Eternal Pushkar by Ajmer based Deepak Sharma who has captured the quintessential spirit of Pushkar's vibrant culture through his lens.

The second day of the Festival opened early on Sunday Morning as the sun rose at the Jaipur Ghat with Yantra Yoga and Vajra Dance: Meditation in Movement sessions by Zoltan Czer from Bulgaria. The *Vajra Dance* is a meditation practice integrating movement and sound to harmonise and coordinate the body's energy, integrating the experiences of body movements, speech and concentration of the mind leading to a state of contemplation.

This was followed by Indian Classical Ragas on the flute by Atul Shankar. Shankar received his training under his grandfathers, late Pt. Bholanath Prasanna and late Pt. Khelvan ji, renowned exponents of *Benaras Gharana*. He began his recital with *raag jait* followed by the several renditions in the *dadra* style including the popular *hamari attariya pe aa ja re*





*sawariya* and also played *raghupati raghav raja ram*. The sound of the flute complemented the serenity of the morning by the lake. Atul Shankar was accompanied by Kaushik Mitra on keyboards and Mihir Natta on the *tabla*.

Curated walks in the afternoon led the crowd to explore the town's diverse religious, architectural, culinary and handicrafts offerings. At the walks audiences were led through the gullies of Pushkar and included visits to the Brahma Temple and the Old Mosque, the various *ghats* surrounding the lake and through the food *gully* and various shops. There was also a Nagada workshop by Nathoolal Solanki who taught various techniques and beats on the Nagadas. Another exploratory walk took participants for a visit on the ropeway to the Savitri Temple, atop the highest hill in Pushkar, which provided a panoramic view of the Pushkar Lake and was timed to soak in the crimson sunset.

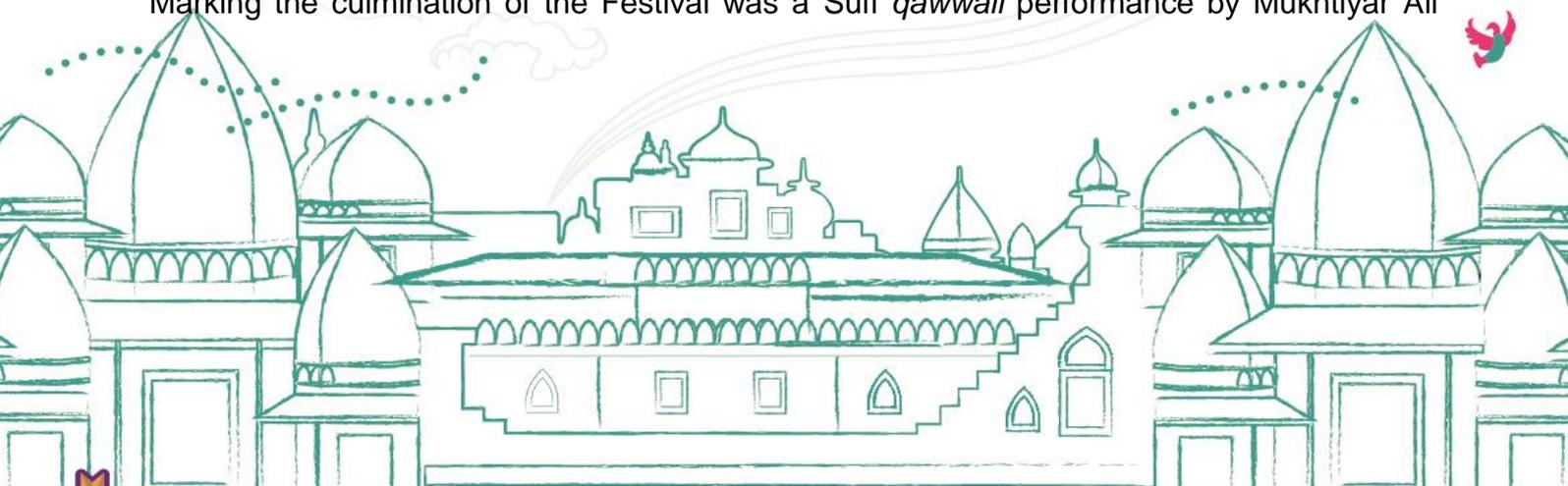
After spending an eventful day enjoying the *ghats* and by-lanes of Pushkar, the scintillating Evening Music marked the culmination of the Festival at the ethereal Jaipur Ghat.

The evening commenced with a Sufi and Devotional Music performance by Rashmi Agarwal. A versatile Indian singer known for her albums *Rang De Maula*; *Sentiments*, *Songs of Kabir*; *Folk Songs from Uttar Pradesh*; *Enchanting Chants*; *Deep Electric and Soul Box*, Rashmi Agarwal's hypnotic, crystal clear voice and compositions were an absolute delight for all present.

As the evening progressed, Simon Thacker's Svara-Kanti (Scotland), an international collective took to the stage. In the intercultural collaboration, Simon Thacker performed one of India's most beautiful folk cultures, the mystical *Bengali Baul* spiritual tradition, featuring mesmerising exponent Raju das Baul on *khomak* and Rupak Bhattacharjee on *tabla*.

[LaboratoriumPieśni](#) (Song Laboratory), a female group of Aapella singers from Tri-City (Poland) known for traditional and polyphonic singing performed with Shaman drums, creating new space in a traditional singing, adding voice improvisations, inspired by sounds of nature.

Marking the culmination of the Festival was a Sufi *qawwali* performance by Mukhtiyar Ali





  
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who performed several beautiful and soulful renditions including *piya re piya re* and *saanson ki maala pe likh doon tera naam* and ended with a thumping applause from the audience. Mukhtiyar Ali has lent his voice to Bollywood movies including *Tashan* (2008), *Bombay Summer* (2008), *Kathai* (2010) and *Delhi in a Day* (2011).

As the curtains drew on the third edition of Shree Cement The Sacred Festival Pushkar, the audiences were left spell-bound.

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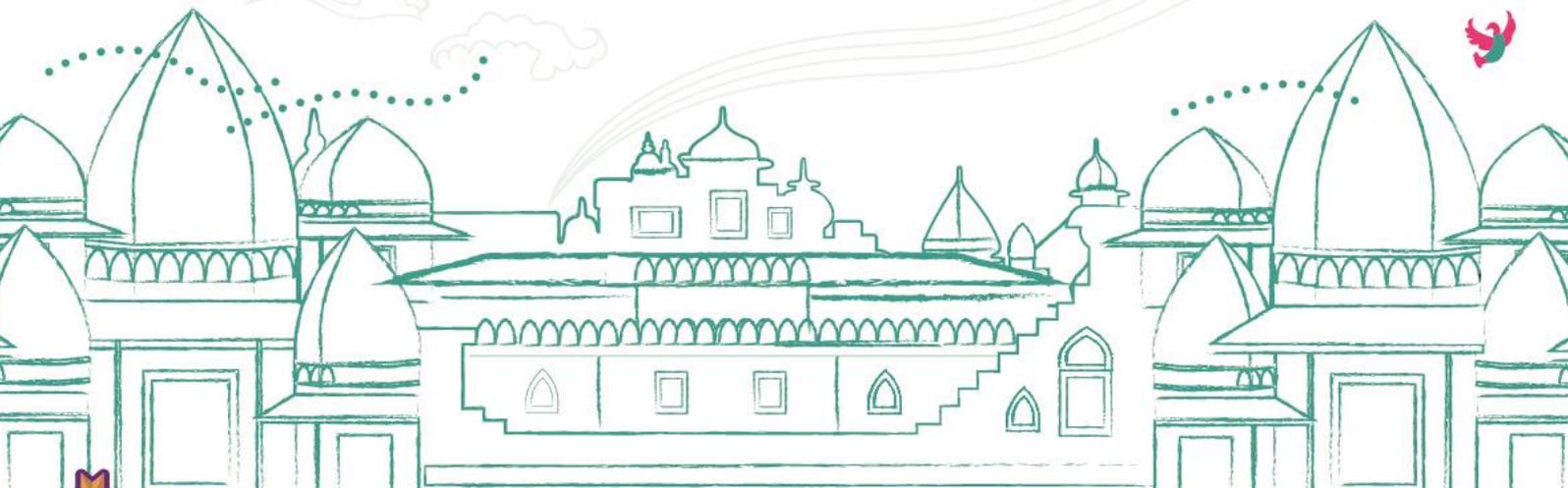
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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Teamwork Arts:** For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India. In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts, and literary festivals across more than 40 cities. Teamwork Arts produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual [ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival](#), the [Ishara International Puppet Festival](#) and the annual [Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards \(META\)](#)





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[and Festival](#) in New Delhi, international festivals [Shared History](#) in South Africa, [Eye on India](#) in the United States of America, [India by the Bay](#) in Hong Kong, [Confluence-Festival of India](#) in Australia, [India@70 2017: Year of Culture in the United Kingdom](#), and many more.

Website: [www.teamworkarts.com](http://www.teamworkarts.com)

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