




Shree Cement
THE
Sacred
PUSHKAR

Shree Cement *The Sacred, Pushkar* 2017 kicks off

**Sacred Music, Yoga, Heritage Walks, Meditation and much more at the
Jaipur Ghat in Pushkar**

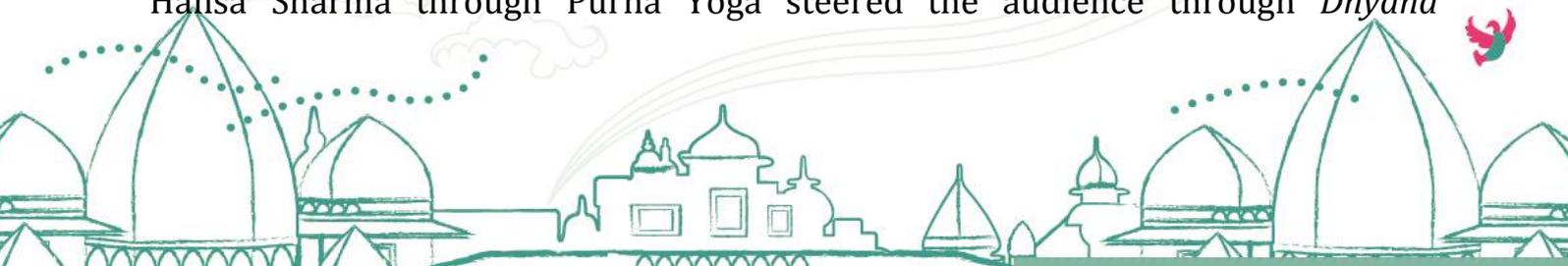
16-17 December 2017

New Delhi/ Pushkar, 16 December 2017: The third edition of *Shree Cement The Sacred, Pushkar* opened with a splendid reception in the beautiful surroundings of Aaram Bagh on Friday, with enthralling Rajasthani folk songs and the signature *nagadas* by Nathulal Solanki and his troupe.

The Festival is being organised by the leading performing arts entertainment company Teamwork Arts and is supported by *Shree Cement* in an effort to create a unique experience in timeless Pushkar. The Festival is taking place this weekend at the *Jaipur Ghat* in Pushkar.

Shree Cement The Sacred Pushkar brings together sacred music performances from India and across the world. It also features a *mélange* of art, performance, workshops, yoga and meditation by renowned artistes and performers in Pushkar, a town textured with ancientness, mysticism, mythology, an inclusive cultural heritage and a deep sense of history and spiritual calm.

The Festival began on Saturday with Morning Music featuring a collaborative performance by the Dangi Sisters Anju and Kiran Dangi from Pushkar along with vocalist Antoine Redon from *Vocal Rasta*. A guided Yoga session followed where Hansa Sharma through Purna Yoga steered the audience through *Dhyana*






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Meditation followed by *Sukshma Vyayamand Pranayam*, to align physical and mental well-being. Thereafter, flowed teachings on non-violence and compassion by Geshe Chopa Tenzin Lhadron, who is one of the first nuns in Tibetan History to earn the prestigious *Geshe degree*, comparable to a PhD in Buddhist Philosophy.

The afternoon featured heritage walks exploring the town's diverse religious, architectural, culinary and handicrafts offerings. At the walks, audiences were led through the *gullies* of Pushkar that included visits to the Brahma Temple and the Old Mosque, the various *ghats* surrounding the lake and through the food *gully* and different shops.

There were also workshops by Nathulal Solanki on the *Nagadas* and an Acapella workshop by *Laboratorium Pieśni* (Song Laboratory), from Tri-City (Poland) who led audiences on a journey to discover their own voices as instruments that can create beautiful harmonies.

The evening featured a musical programme at the creatively embellished *Jaipur ghat* beginning with the traditional *aarti* on the *ghat* followed by some *bhajans* sung by Arushi Asgaonkar. The musical programme was attended by the Chief Guest, *MLA Pushkar* Shri Suresh Singh Rawat, *Sansadiya Sachiv Rajasthan Government*; Yunus Khan, *Rajasthan State Minister for Transportation*; Gaurav Goel, *District Collector, Ajmer*, Mr Kamal Pathak, *Chairman Pushkar Nagar Palika* and Mr Rakesh Bhargav, Vice President, Shree Cement and Mrs Sita Bhargav.






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The evening music performances included World Ethnic Music Ensemble- WEME- featuring renowned musicians representing different classical traditions from around the world. The group, formed in 2009 comprised of Fakhroddin Ghaffari, a Master Iranian percussionist, Fateh Ali Khan on *Sitar* (India), Sultan Masood on Violin (Afghanistan), Loic Sanlaville on Guitar (France), William Rees (UK) on the Afghan Rubab and Nawahineokala'i Lanzilotti (US) on the cello and Mohit Lal (also a member of the band *Advaita*) on *Tabla*.

This act was followed by Rajasthani folk and devotional music by Bhanwari Devi accompanied by Nathulal Solanki on the *nagadas*. The evening proceeded with a performance by Grammy Award-winning legendary percussionist Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram on the *ghatam* accompanied by his exceptionally talented son Selvaganesh on the *hand drums* and grandson Swaminathan on the *kanjeera*. Audiences were left spell-bound having witnessed three generations of a family performing together as a testimony to their unmatched dedication and love for music. The day ended on a high note with veteran Kavita Seth presenting soulful Sufi and classical music in her powerful and enchanting voice, leaving audiences wanting for more.

Speaking about the third edition of the festival, **Sanjoy Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts**, said, "At Teamwork Arts, we celebrate the spirit of creative expression and this festival is a manifestation of all things sacred that lie within us. From the beautiful and timeless city of Pushkar to the numerous soul-stirring performers who've joined to collaborate for this experience, Shree Cement *The Sacred, Pushkar* is an experience like never before for visitors as well as local






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audiences. We're grateful to Rajasthan Tourism and to our partners Shree Cement who've collaborated with us to help make this festival a memorable experience."

On Sunday, the Festival will begin at 7 am at the Jaipur Ghat with *Yantra Yoga* and *Vajra Dance: Meditation in Movement* sessions by Zoltan Czer from Bulgaria. This will be followed by Indian Classical *Ragas* on Flute by Atul Shankar. The afternoon will have a second round of Heritage Walk exploring the sights and sounds of Pushkar Town, at 12 noon and the Savitri Temple walk at 4 pm. There will also be a *nagada* workshop at *Gangor Ghat* by Nathulal Solanki.

The Evening Music performances set against the backdrop of the crimson sunset on the lake at *Jaipur Ghat* will include Sufi and devotional music by Rashmi Agarwal, guitar and Baul music by Simon Thacker's *Svara-Kanti* (Scotland) and polyphonic singing and Shaman *drums* by *Laboratorium Piesni* (Poland). The Festival's finale will be a Sufi *qawwali* performance by Mukhtiyar Ali. Having lent his voice to Bollywood movies including *Tashan* (2008), *Bombay Summer* (2008), *Kathai* (2010) and *Delhi in a Day* (2011), Mukhtiyar Ali is known to blend Rajasthani folk idiom with refined classical to sing the poetry of Kabir, Mira and Sufi Poets such as Bulleh Shah.

With all this and more, there is much to look forward this weekend at *Shree Cement The Sacred, Pushkar*.






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For media queries, please contact:

Teamwork Arts

Vidushi Khera: vidushi@teamworkarts.com

Deeksha Purohit: deeksha@teamworkarts.com

VTY

Pooja Gulati: pooja.vty@gmail.com

Ujjala Gupta: ujjala.gupta@vty.co.in

Neeta Raheja: neeta.vty@gmail.com

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) 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





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India in Australia, India@70 2017: Year of Culture in the United Kingdom, and many more.

Website: www.teamworkarts.com

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