

## Ahmedabad, December 17, 2010

**ODYSSEY CORPORATION LTD. presents *Ghazal* King Jagjit Singh to create record-breaking live show in Ahmedabad**

**12,000 fans greet *Ghazal* Samrat Jagjit Singh at Odyssey's 1st "*Living Legends Ghazal Symphony*" show at Rajpath Club**

**Jagjit Singh sings *Ghazal* in Gujarati and thousands of fans sing with him**

**ODYSSEY CORPORATION is the first company in the world to successfully blend ancient Indian art form of *Ghazals* with modern day symphony for a global appeal**

**ODYSSEY CORPORATION LTD. plans 30+ shows with *Ghazal* King Jagjit Singh to celebrate his 70th year**

*Ahmedabad, December 17, 2010: Time stopped still in Ahmedabad as history was created! ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED, a leader and pioneer in the world of entertainment, glamour and glitz, created history in Ahmedabad by presenting for the first-time ever the biggest-ever rendition of a novel concept in Indian music industry - *The Living Legends Ghazal Symphony* by *Ghazal* King Padma Bhushan Jagjit Singh (Prominent *Ghazal* singer, composer, music director, activist and entrepreneur) - on the memorable evening of December 17, 2010.*

Present on the occasion were technocrats Hemanshu Mehta and Pradeep Goradia of ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED, who created a record by getting 12,000 fans together at the vast lush environs of Rajpath Club in Ahmedabad.

When *Ghazal* King Jagjit Singh sang a *Ghazal* in Gujarati, the crowds went berserk! And when he sang his eternal classic, "*Hoton Se Chhulo Tum, Mera Geet Amar Kar Do*", thousands of fans started singing with him, taking the volume to a crescendo.

In fact, Parthiv Gohil, Founder Promoter of Odyssey Corporation's Entertainment Division also sang a few *Ghazals* when music maestro Jagjit Singh invited him on stage. Towards the end, there was a scintillating and mesmerising fusion session as Deepak Pandit did a great piece of work.

### **Event Gist**

***Ghazal* Symphony by Jagjit Singh**

**Initiative by: Hemanshu Mehta, Managing Director, ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED, Pradeep Goradia, CEO, ODYSSEY CORPORATION's Entertainment Division and Parthiv Gohil, Founder Promoter of ODYSSEY CORPORATION's Entertainment Division**

**Project arranged & conceived by: Kuldeep Desai**

**Symphony arranged by: Deepak Pandit**

**Event managed by: Jatin Dev, ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED**

**Media Relations managed by: Parul Chawla, Mumbai**

ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED recently inaugurated the first-of-its-kind website [www.ghazalsymphony.com](http://www.ghazalsymphony.com) in the presence of venerable luminaries from the world of music, including Chief Guest and eminent lyricist Gulzar and *Ghazal* Samrat Jagjit Singh. On this glorious occasion, ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED also announced that it planned 70 shows with *Ghazal* Samrat Jagjit Singh, with the first being held in Ahmedabad on December 17, 2010. ODYSSEY CORPORATION LTD. intends to take the “*Ghazal Symphony by Jagjit Singh*” concept across the US, Europe, Asia and Australia.

On the momentous occasion, *Ghazal* Samrat Padma Bhushan Jagjit Singh said, “I’m happy that ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED presented the first-of-its-kind show in Ahmedabad for *Ghazal* fans and music lovers! In my 70th year, I have the rare distinction of becoming the first artiste to perform with an entourage of 30 talented musicians for the first-time ever in any such musical event in India or abroad. I shall celebrate Year 2011 with 70 live shows and ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED has already planned more than 30 of them.”

Hemanshu Mehta, Managing Director of ODYSSEY CORPORATION LTD., said, “We are proud to present the first-ever ‘Living Legends *Ghazal* Symphony by Jagjit Singh’ in Ahmedabad. We have been his fans for four decades and were wondering how we can pay rich glowing tributes to the legendary maestro! We are happy to present a completely new format to the Gen-Next resulting in an artistic accomplishment, not just in India but across the globe. With the launch of [www.Ghazalsymphony.com](http://www.Ghazalsymphony.com), we, at Odyssey Corporation, are proud to present this unique event that will witness the participation of Indian and international *Ghazal* lovers.”

Pradeep Goradia, CEO, ODYSSEY CORPORATION LTD., Entertainment Division, said, “India's famed and finest *Ghazal* exponent Padma Bhushan Jagjit Singh’s legendary vocal repertoire and range along with his complete mastery over Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu languages have helped him perfect the art of *Ghazal gayaki*, as well as to give well-rounded expression to his rendition of Indian classical music. In Ahmedabad, he sang in Gujarati, too, showing his phenomenal range and versatility. Odyssey Corporation Ltd. will present on the world stage Jagjit Singhji as India's goodwill and cultural emissary to spread the magic and melody of *Ghazals*.”

Parthiv Gohil, Founder Promoter, ODYSSEY CORPORATION’s Entertainment Division, added, “Ahmedabad has never witnessed such a show, with over 12,000 fans singing every word of his eternal classics. Legendary Jagjit Singhji's versatility, love and passion for *Ghazals* clearly appear to be drawn together by his extraordinary vocal range. This unique towering personality and tremendous talent has brought in a shower of accolades from renowned institutions of Indian music and reputed maestros and practitioners of the art. ODYSSEY CORPORATION is proud to be associated with such a phenomenal event wherein both the Company and Jagjit Singhji together have created history.”

True to its name inspired by Greek epic poem, ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED has charted a novel course in the history of ‘live’ shows in India by showcasing for the first time ever the legendary music maestro Jagjit Singh with an entourage of 30 renowned musicians for an unforgettable evening of *Ghazals*, Music and Melody.

The beautiful environs of Rajpath Club reverberated with applause as *Ghazal* Samrat Jagjit Singh delivered timeless renditions of classics such as “*Ahista Ahista*”, “*Tum Itna Jo Muskara Rahe*

*Ho*" and "*Hosh Walon Ko Khabar Kya*" and transported distinguished dignitaries and guests into a musical voyage.

The *Ghazal* Ensemble featured master musicians from various Indian classical traditions performing on various Indian musical instruments. Music Maestro Jagjit Singh became the first *Ghazal* singer in the world to perform with 30 musicians as he held hundreds of specially invited guests in a hypnotic spell with a scintillating 1-hour long concert.

And symphony arranger Deepak Pandit and his entourage of 30 talented musicians had the crowd in raptures as they went into a musical frenzy, delivering a rousing climax to the evening even as applause, claps and shouts of encores were heard all over.

ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED's project, conceived by Kuldeep Desai and Parthiv Gohil, was an epoch making moment in *Ghazal* history, as they blended *Ghazals* with modern-day symphony. The momentous launch by ODYSSEY CORPORATION was attended by the crème-de-la-crème of the Indian music industry.

ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED ventured into the field of Entertainment and Media with the expertise and initiative of Parthiv Gohil, the well known singing sensation of '*Saawariya*' fame. Parthiv actively conceived and created the musical initiative of "*Ghazal Symphony by Jagjit Singh*" with the additional support of Kuldeep Desai, converting his long-cherished dream of several years into a pleasant and truly memorable reality. This wonderful thought is now being presented in the form of a first-ever "*Ghazal Symphony*" to be promoted in Indian and International locations. This year 2011 marking the 70th year celebration of Padma Bhushan Jagjit Singhji, the act by ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED is all set to enthral the audiences and fans with its mesmerising spell.

This magnum opus '*Ghazal Symphony*' was presented on a momentous epoch-making occasion has been conceptualised and conceived by Kuldeep Desai, who has associated with Jagjit Singh since last 20 years And it was melodiously arranged in symphony format by Deepak Pandit (son of Shambhulal Pandit of Shankar-Shambhu, a well known Sufi Singer Duo). "We are very happy that ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED is supporting and promoting an ancient Indian art form amongst the new generation. It is indeed a real triumph for Odyssey Corporation to blend an ancient Indian art form with modern symphony and make it relevant across the world. Odyssey Corporation is proud to work with this esteemed maestro who understands the subtle nuances of *Ghazals* so well and is an example for lovers of the exponent of this art form," says Deepak Pandit.

## **About ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED**

ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED is a public limited company, listed company on the Bombay Stock Exchange. Engaged in construction business and Financial Services, the Entertainment Division of ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED is a fast growing films distribution division based in Mumbai.

With its ultimate aim of providing wholesome entertainment to the audience, the Company has planned interesting projects in order to establish itself throughout the country. The core competency of the Company's Entertainment Division lies in the distribution segment of the film making process. Thus, it is an integrated film distributing division, operating in alliance, a

chain of multiplexes which offer a wholesome entertainment to its viewers. The ultimate aim of the division is to reinvigorate cinema with new talent and also to maintain a sense of professionalism in the Indian Film Industry, so as to produce quality entertainment. In its endeavour to act as a catalyst and to nurture and develop the Indian film Industry,

ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED is in the process of distributing high quality films to reach larger audience and contribute in the development of Indian film industry with quality offerings.

ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED with its expertise in distributing films has planned some exciting projects. Emerging as a distribution company, ODYSSEY CORPORATION LIMITED has a vision to distribute hardcore Commercial and Family Entertaining Films and entertainment the entire Indian audience. With its experienced and highly dedicated team, the Company believes that one day it will reach its goal and would make a quality-conscious status for itself in the Indian Film Industry and would be recognized as one amongst the top film distributing companies.

### **About Ghazal King Jagjit Singh**

*Ghazal* King Jagjit Singh is considered to be the most successful *Ghazal* singer and composer of all time, in terms of both critical acclaim and commercial success.

With a career spanning over four decades and a repertoire comprising 50 albums the range and breadth of his work has been regarded as genre-defining. He gained acclaim together with his wife, another renowned Indian *Ghazal* singer Chitra Singh, in 1970's and 80's, as the first ever successful duo (husband-wife) act in the history of recorded Indian music. Together, they are considered to be the pioneers of modern *Ghazal* singing and are regarded as most successful recording artists outside the realm of Indian film music.

Jagjit Singh has sung in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Sindhi and Nepali languages. He was awarded India's third highest civilian honour, the Padma Bhushan, in 2003. He is widely credited for the revival and popularity of *Ghazal*, an Indian classical art form, through his music in landmark films.

Transporting one back to simpler, unhurried times while delicately provoking memories and emotion, Jagjit Singh's *Ghazals* transcend barriers of age, language and culture. With a velvety voice, beloved to *Ghazal* aficionados around the world, Jagjit Singh's prolific oeuvre is as extensive as his popularity.

He is credited with bringing *Ghazal* appreciation from its elitist confines to the reach of the layperson. Jagjitji has tremendous appeal among folks of all ages. He is to be credited for bringing *Ghazals* to the attention of music lovers around the world. He is a pioneer who made Urdu lyrics accessible to listeners. His greatness lies also in the fact that he himself chooses every *Ghazal*, geet or nazm that he composes music for or lends his voice to!

Born in Sri Ganga Nagar in Rajasthan, Jagjit Singh's passion for music started early in life. While his family wished he would pursue a career in the Indian Civil Services, Jagjit chose to chase his dream. He trained with Ustad Jamaal Khan for fifteen years, reinforcing his education with hours of dedicated riyaz.

When Jagjit Singh moved to Bombay in 1965, he sang jingles for ads and soon teamed up with Chitra Singh, who later became his partner musically and in life. Chitra and Jagjit became the *Ghazal* duo of Bombay and were much in demand in private mehfiles. Their repertoire grew, as did their fame, and soon the two were a permanent fixture on the Bombay cultural circuit. Their albums *Unforgettable*, *Live at Wembley*, *Milestone*, *Passion*, *Echoes* and *Main Aur Meri Tanhai* became huge hits with the listening public.

Jagjit Singh has always maintained that he only sings *nazms* that he can pour his soul into. He makes sure that the meaning of the *nazms* can be accessed and understood by every one of his listeners. He also composed and sang for Bollywood films, starting with *Arth* and *Saath Saath*. Who can forget the *Ghazals* from Gulzar's TV series *Mirza Ghalib*, with exquisite music by Jagjit Singh, or Chitra Singh's near flawless rendition of *Yeh Na Thi Hamari Kismat?*

The soulful singer has won several awards, including the Sahitya Academy Award, 1998 for popularizing Ghalib. The Madhya Pradesh Government also honoured him with '*The Late Magnesia Samaan*' in 1998. A professional to the core, he takes an interest in the making of each of his albums and is involved in selecting the *ghazis*, to composing the music and all the other related minute details. He was awarded the Padma Shree on January 26, 2004.

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