Sufi Echoes in the City: 'Yatra with Aanchal' Brings a Soulful Mehfil to the Royal Opera House, Mumbai

Qawwali, the devotional music of the Sufis, has echoed through shrines, dargahs, and gatherings for centuries, an ecstatic, immersive form that blurs the lines between prayer and performance. Rooted in the mystical traditions of South Asia, it has long served as a bridge between the divine and the everyday, between timeless poetry and living experience. With its passionate crescendos, rhythmic clapping, and lyrical invocations of love, longing, and surrender, Qawwali continues to speak to the spirit across generations and geographies.

In contemporary times, this form has found renewed resonance, fusing seamlessly with folk traditions, popular anthems, and independent voices. Drawing from this lineage and reimagining it for modern listeners, 'Yatra with Aanchal' offers a powerful return to the roots, through a deeply intimate mehfil-style evening of music and storytelling that is both personal and universal.

Royal Opera House, Mumbai in collaboration with **Kaafi Kultured** and **Avid Learning,** present ***Yatra with Aanchal,*** an Immersive transcendent concert of Sufi and indie Qawwali music featuring one of India's rising voices in the genre. Led by *Singer, Composer, and Songwriter*, **Aanchal Shrivastava, *Yatra*** is an intimate, mehfil-style experience that revives the centuries-old tradition of poetic storytelling through music. Rooted in emotion and spirituality, it transports audiences into a world of mystic love, longing, and lyrical depth.

Aanchal's repertoire beautifully weaves together hit renditions of folk and Sufi classics—*Paar Channa De*, *Mast Kalandar*, *Kun Faya Kun*, *Jugni*, *Chaap Tilak*, and more—alongside originals such as *Ishq Akela* and *Woh Shaam,* further deepening the set's rootedness in cultural memory. The performance features a talented live ensemble of musicians accompanying Aanchal on stage, includingAccompanied on stage by a talented ensemble featuring a tabla/cajon player, keyboardist, guitarist, bassist, and drummer, the performance creates a rich soundscape that balances both contemplative and celebratory moods.

Having travelled across Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Pune, and beyond, *Yatra with Aanchal* now returns to Mumbai, the city where the journey began, for a homecoming edition that promises to be its most evocative yet.

Avid Learning and **Royal Opera House** deepen their commitment to curating soul-stirring musical experiences that honour India's living traditions. Rooted in the belief that music is one of the most powerful mediums for cultural memory, we present artists who reinterpret heritage with authenticity. Through such evocative evenings, we celebrate India's vast sonic and storytelling traditions, reminding us that the most powerful journeys often begin with a song.

Join us for an unforgettable night of melody and mysticism, an immersive celebration of sound, soul, and storytelling.

When: Sunday, 7th September 2025 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Where: Royal Opera House, Mumbai
Tickets: www.bookmyshow.com (Rs. 499 onwards)
Press Email: Ayeshah Dadachanji (ayeshah.avid@gmail.com)

About Artist:

Aanchal Shrivastava is a celebrated voice in the world of indie folk, Sufi, and Qawwali music, known for her rich, husky vocals and deeply emotive performances. At the heart of her artistic journey is her signature live act, *Yatra with Aanchal*—an intimate, mehfil-style experience that revives the centuries-old tradition of poetic storytelling through music. Rooted in emotion and spirituality, Yatra transports audiences into a world of mystic love, longing, and lyrical depth.

She lent her soulful voice to the much-loved "*Din Shagna Da*" in *Four More Shots Please* (Amazon Prime), followed by the hauntingly beautiful "*Doobi Tujh Mein Piya*", and made her Bollywood playback debut with *Love Games* (directed by Mahesh Bhatt).

From beloved folk renditions like "*Kadi Aao Ni*," "*Madhaniya*," "*Haji Lok*," and "*Tareyan To Puch Chan*," to original compositions such as "*Ishq Akela*" and "*Woh Shaam*," Aanchal's voice continues to captivate listeners across India. A two-time TEDx speaker and thoughtful storyteller, Aanchal brings a rare authenticity and depth to every performance, one that lingers long after the last note fades.