



# ArtBeat TRPF

cultural foundation bulletin

## Introductory Note

Greetings from **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)**.

We are pleased to present Issue 4 | October 2026 of **ArtBeat TRPF: Cultural Foundation Bulletin**. This issue reflects the Foundation's continuing engagement with theatre, visual art, education, cultural documentation and the preservation of creative memory.

The issue records **TRPF's** recent **Kalavilay educational outreach at Government Senior Secondary School**, Sankror, Charkhi Dadri, including the donation of **Rameshwar Prem ke Prachalit Natak** (रामेश्वर प्रेम के प्रचलित नाटक) and an art workshop and demonstration that brought students into direct interaction with practicing artists.

A special theatre feature documents the 5-6 September 2026 Begusarai production of Rameshwar Prem's **Ajatghar**, directed by **Praveen Kumar Gunjan**. For **TRPF**, documenting such productions is an important part of building an archival record of how **Rameshwar Prem's** plays continue to be interpreted by new generations of theatre practitioners and audiences.

This issue also remembers **Chidambara Rao Jambe** and marks the October birth anniversary of **Rajendra Jaspal**, whose association with an early production of **Ajatghar** forms an important chapter in the performance history of the play.

Alongside these activities, **TRPF** continues to develop its **Digital Cultural Archive & Research Centre** and **Artist Database**, with the aim of documenting artists, performances, artworks, photographs and cultural records and making them accessible for future research and cultural exchange.

Through every workshop, publication, performance record and archival initiative, **TRPF** seeks to keep cultural memory active—connecting the work of the past with contemporary creative practice and future generations.

**With warm regards,**

**The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)**



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PAN: AAMCT9403F  
TAN: DELT269028  
80G Approved  
[www.trpf.co.in](http://www.trpf.co.in); [rpfoundation2026@gmail.com](mailto:rpfoundation2026@gmail.com)

## TRPF Donates Rameshwar Prem's Plays to Government School, Sankror



Representatives of **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation** and **Government Senior Secondary School**, Sankror, Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, during the presentation of **Rameshwar Prem ke Prachalit Natak** on 8 September 2026.

From right to left: **Hema Kumari**, **Mariyappa**, **Ajay Kumar**, **Ashwani Kumar**, **Usha Chaudhury** and **Rahul Chaudhury**

Photograph Courtesy: **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)**

As part of its continuing commitment to cultural education and the circulation of Indian dramatic literature among young readers, **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)** donated a copy of **Rameshwar Prem ke Prachalit Natak** to **Government Senior Secondary School**, Sankror, Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, on 8 September 2026.

The book was formally presented to the school during **TRPF's Kalavilay art workshop** and demonstration programme held on the school premises. The donation seeks to make the writings of playwright **Rameshwar Prem** (1943-2023) accessible to students and teachers and to encourage greater engagement with modern Indian theatre, playwriting and dramatic literature within the school environment.

Published by Setu Prakashan in 2026, **Rameshwar Prem ke Prachalit Natak** is a substantial 494-page collection of Rameshwar Prem's original Hindi plays. The volume brings together important works from his dramatic career and provides readers with an opportunity to encounter the range of his writing for the stage. The collection includes plays such as **Ajatghar**, **Charpai**, **Kuntha**, **Antarang**, **Camp**, **Shastra Santan** and **Jal Damru Baje**, Among others..

The collection has been edited by **Rahul Chaudhury**, bringing **Rameshwar Prem's** dramatic writings together in a form that can serve not only general readers but also students, theatre practitioners and researchers interested in modern Hindi theatre.

By placing the volume in the school's collection, TRPF hopes to extend the life of these plays beyond their performances and published history, enabling a younger generation to read, discuss and rediscover **Rameshwar Prem's** contribution to Indian theatre. Such access is particularly significant in educational institutions, where literature can become a point of departure for conversations around performance, language, social experience and cultural memory.

The donation also reflects **TRPF's** broader effort to connect its educational programmes with documentation and preservation. Through initiatives such as **Kalavilay** and its archival activities, the Foundation seeks to create meaningful encounters between students, artists, literature and India's cultural heritage, ensuring that significant creative legacies remain accessible to future generations.

## Kalavilay Art Workshop Engages Students at Government Senior Secondary School, Sankror



Artist **Mariyappa** conducting an art demonstration for students during **TRPF's Kalavilay** programme at **Government Senior Secondary School, Sankror, Charkhi Dadri, Haryana**, on 8 September 2026.

As part of its continuing educational and cultural outreach, **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)** organised a **Kalavilay** art workshop for demonstration programme at Government Senior Secondary School, Sankror, Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, on 8 September 2026. The programme was designed to introduce school students to creative practice through direct interaction with artists and to encourage observation, imagination and hands-on participation.

The workshop was conducted by artist **Mariyappa**, assisted by **Hema Kumari**. Around 35 students participated directly in the workshop, where they were encouraged to explore drawing, visual expression and the process of developing an artwork. Rather than treating art simply as a classroom exercise, the session focused on encouraging students to experiment, observe their surroundings and respond through their own visual language.

A large art demonstration session was also organized for the school community with more than **150** students and participants attending. The demonstration allowed students to observe the working process of an artist at close range and understand how an idea gradually develops into a visual composition. Such direct interaction offered the students an opportunity to experience art as a process of thinking, making and communicating.

Following the workshop and demonstration, certificates were presented to participating students by **Usha Chaudhury, Founder Director** of **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation**. The certificate distribution recognized the students' participation while also marking their involvement in **TRPF's** wider cultural and educational programme.

The Sankror workshop forms part of **Kalavilay**, **TRPF's** ongoing art and cultural engagement initiative that seeks to create connections between artists, children, schools and communities. Through workshops, demonstrations and participatory activities, the programme aims to make creative learning accessible beyond conventional art institutions and to encourage children to engage confidently with artistic expression.

The programme also reflected **TRPF's** broader belief that art education can complement formal schooling by developing observation, curiosity, experimentation and independent thinking. By taking **Kalavilay** directly into educational institutions, the Foundation seeks to create meaningful encounters between young learners and practicing artists while building a sustained relationship between cultural practice and education.

## Kalavilay Art Workshop Engages Students at Government Senior Secondary School, Sankror



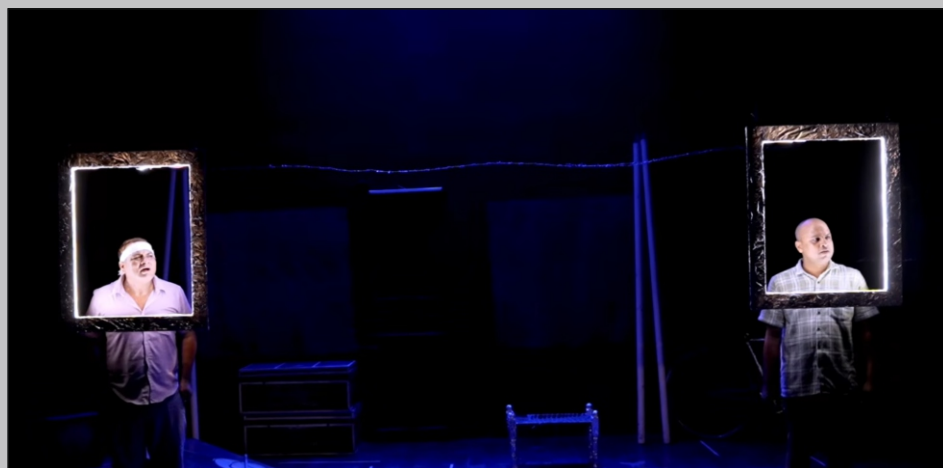
The participating students were Arti, Aman Rajput, Anuj, Arush Parmar, Deepika, Diksha, Dimple, Gautam Parmar, Harish, Himanshu Rajput, Jony, Khushi, Krish, Mansi, Minakshi, Muskan, Naitik Sharma, Nidhi, Nisha,

Prachi, Rahul, Riya, Rohit Singh, Saeina, Sakshi, Shreya, Siddhi, Siya, Subham Kaushik, Sushil, Tamanna, Taniya, Tannu, Tina and Yashu.

**TRPF** sincerely thanks **Mr. Ashwani Kumar**, Principal and **Mr. Ajay Kumar**, Art Teacher, for their support in making the **Kalavilay** workshop possible.

## **Ajatghar** play written by **Rameshwar Prem** and directed by **Praveen Kumar Gunjan**

5-6 September 2026, Begusarai, Bihar



**Ajatghar**, written by **Rameshwar Prem** and directed by **Praveen Kumar Gunjan**, presented by **The Fact Rangmandal/ The Fact Art & Cultural Society** at **Fact Space**, Begusarai, Bihar, 5-6 September 2026

**Rameshwar Prem**'s landmark Hindi play **Ajatghar** returned to the stage in Begusarai on 5-6 September 2026 | | **Fact Space**, Begusarai, Bihar

**Ajatghar** returned to the stage in Begusarai more than five decades after its first production, bringing **Rameshwar Prem**'s enduring questions of fear, identity, communal suspicion and human connection before a contemporary audience.

Written during the formative period of **Rameshwar Prem**'s

dramatic career, **Ajatghar** remains one of his most significant and frequently staged works. Its first production was directed by **Ram Gopal Bajaj** in 1973, and more than five decades later the play continues to speak powerfully about caste, communal identity, prejudice, fear and the human tendency to define the unknown through inherited social divisions.

The drama places two strangers inside a house while communal violence unfolds outside. Although the house offers temporary physical refuge, it soon becomes a psychological enclosure. Each man begins questioning the identity of the other—his caste, religion and possible intentions. Suspicion gradually becomes as threatening as the violence outside.

The title **Ajatghar** suggests an imagined space where a person might exist beyond caste, religion and social identity. Yet the characters discover that escaping physical violence is easier than escaping the prejudices and fears carried within themselves. Through two characters, sparse action, silence, dialogue and offstage sounds, Prem transforms a simple dramatic situation into an intense exploration of human identity.

The Begusarai production gains particular significance through director **Praveen Kumar Gunjan**, whose theatre practice has long been associated with the cultural life of the city. Trained at the **National School of Drama**, Gunjan founded **The Fact Art & Cultural Society** and has directed a wide range of classical and contemporary productions. He currently serves as Director of the **National School of Drama**'s Varanasi Centre.

By bringing **Ajatghar** back to the stage, the production demonstrates the continuing vitality of **Rameshwar Prem**'s dramaturgy. Its questions remain disturbingly relevant: How do human beings recognise one another when social identities become instruments of fear? And can a person truly encounter another simply as a human being?

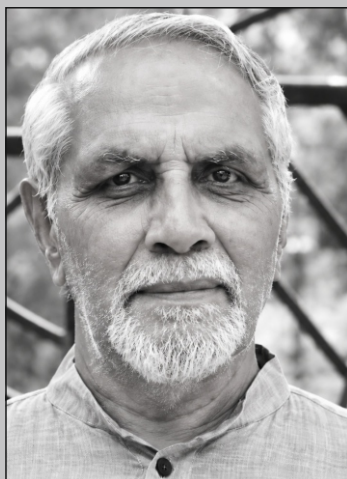
More than fifty years after its first staging, **Ajatghar** continues to find new meanings through performance, new actors and new audiences.

**TRPF** seeks to document the Begusarai production of **Ajatghar** as part of its wider effort to preserve the living history of Indian theatre. Through its **Digital Cultural Archive & Research Centre (DCARC)**, the Foundation is appealing to **The Fact Art & Cultural Society** to share photographs, production details, posters and related material so that contemporary interpretations of **Rameshwar Prem**'s plays remain accessible to future researchers, theatre practitioners and audiences.

**Direction:** Praveen Kumar Gunjan; **Sound:** Aman Kumar; **Lighting Design:** Vinay Chauhan;

**Dates:** 5-6 September 2026; **Production:** **The Fact Rangmandal/ The Fact Art and Cultural Society**, Begusarai

## TRPF Tribute | Chidambara Rao Jambe (1949-2026)



**C.R. Jambe**

Photographer: Unidentified  
Image Source: Vishwavani News

**The Rameshwar Prem Foundation** remembers with deep respect **Chidambara Rao Jambe**, eminent theatre director, teacher, cultural administrator and alumnus of the **National School of Drama**, New Delhi, who passed away on **12 September 2026** at the age of 77. Born on **3 January 1949** at Adderi village in Sagara taluk, Karnataka, Jambe studied at Keladi and Sagara, trained in **Yakshagana** at Udupi, and subsequently pursued professional theatre training at NSD in New Delhi in the early 1980s.

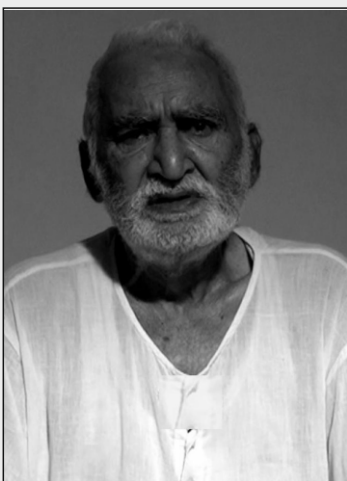
For more than four decades, Jambe played an important role in shaping modern Kannada theatre. He served for 22 years as Principal of the **Ninasam Theatre Institute**, Heggodu, later became Director of **Rangayana**, Mysuru, headed the **National School of Drama Bengaluru Centre**, and was associated with theatre training at Sanehalli. A prolific director, he staged more than a hundred productions across classical, modern Indian and Western dramatic traditions, including **Taledanda**, **Bhasa Bharata**, **Loka Shakuntala**, **Chanakya Prapancha**, **Puntila** and **Athensina Arthavantha**.

His theatre frequently brought contemporary dramaturgy into dialogue with indigenous performance traditions, particularly **Yakshagana**.

Recipient of the **Karnataka Nataka Academy Award in 1994** and the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** for 2014, Jambe leaves behind a legacy extending far beyond individual productions: generations of actors, directors and theatre students encountered the stage through his teaching and institutional work. **TRPF pays homage to Chidambara Rao Jambe—a director and pedagogue whose life remained inseparable from theatre, training and India's living performance traditions.**

## TRPF Remembers | Rajendra Jaspal

On the birth anniversary of Rajendra Jaspal-21 October



**Rajendra Jaspal**

Photographer: Unidentified  
Image Source: MUBI

**Rajendra Jaspal** occupies an important, though often overlooked, place in the early history of modern Indian theatre. Born on 21 October 1947 in Jaspal Bangar, Ludhiana district, Punjab, he trained initially in classical music before turning towards theatre. After working with Punjab theatre groups, he joined the **National School of Drama**, New Delhi, becoming part of the generation that included **Naseeruddin Shah** and **Om Puri**.

Jaspal later studied at the **Film and Television Institute of India**, Pune, where his friendship and professional association with **Naseeruddin Shah** continued. During a break from **FTII**, the two actors traveled to Chandigarh, where director **Ram Gopal Bajaj** rehearsed them in **Rameshwar Prem's Ajatghar**, an intense two-character play. The production was subsequently performed in Chandigarh and later in Delhi.

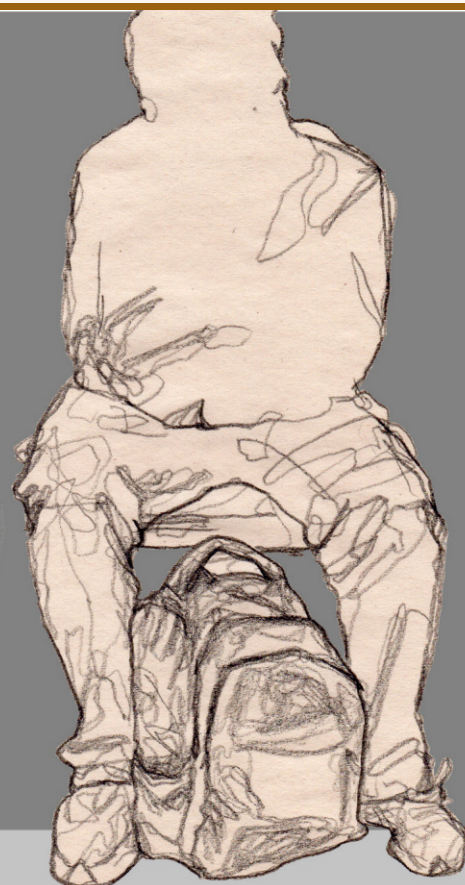
The association is also recalled by theatre director Devendra Raj Ankur, who assisted Bajaj and remembered **Naseeruddin Shah** and **Rajendra Jaspal** as the two performers in this early production of **Ajatghar**. His testimony

places the production within the important theatrical period around 1973, when **Rameshwar Prem's** work was beginning to receive wider attention.

Built around two men trapped together amid the fear of communal violence, **Ajatghar** examines how uncertainty about religion, caste and identity can transform suspicion into hostility. Through its minimal setting and two-character structure, the play confronts the disturbing possibility that social identities can make one human being fear another.

For **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation**, remembering **Rajendra Jaspal** is therefore also a way of recovering an important chapter in the performance history of **Ajatghar** and acknowledging an actor whose presence formed part of the early theatrical journey of **Rameshwar Prem's** work.

# TRPF Digital Cultural Archive and Research Center



**The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)** is building a Digital Cultural Archive & Research Center to document, connect and preserve the work and journeys of artists and cultural practitioners.

We invite: **Painters • Sculptors • Printmakers • Illustrators • Photographers • Installation Artists • Digital & Multimedia Artists • Performance Artists • Folk & Tribal Artists • Traditional Artists • Craft Practitioners & Artisans • Designers • Theatre Practitioners • Actors • Directors • Performers • Musicians • Singers • Dancers • Writers • Poets • Researchers • Cultural Workers** • and practitioners from every field of art and culture.

**YOUR CREATIVE JOURNEY DESERVES TO BE RECORDED, DISCOVERED AND REMEMBERED.**

Register your profile with the **TRPF** Cultural Database and become part of a growing digital network dedicated to documenting contemporary artistic and cultural practice.

**SCAN THE QR CODE & REGISTER YOUR CULTURAL PROFILE**

Create. Connect. Be Documented. Be Remembered.

**TRPF—The Rameshwar Prem Foundation**  
Digital Cultural Archive & Research Center

For enquiries: [info@trpf.co.in](mailto:info@trpf.co.in)



**THE RAMESHWAR PREM FOUNDATION**



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TAN: DELT269028

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[www.trpf.co.in](http://www.trpf.co.in); [info@trpf.co.in](mailto:info@trpf.co.in)

## TRPF: Building a Living Cultural Network

**The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)** is a Section 8 non-profit cultural organisation working across theatre, literature, visual arts, archives, education and cultural documentation. Established to preserve and extend the literary and theatrical legacy of **Rameshwar Prem**, the **Foundation** also seeks to create new spaces for artistic exchange, research, learning and public participation.

At the heart of **TRPF**'s work is the belief that cultural memory must remain active. Manuscripts, photographs, theatre documents, artworks, publications and personal archives acquire greater meaning when they are studied, preserved, contextualised and made accessible to future generations. For this reason, the Foundation approaches documentation not simply as preservation, but as a means of connecting historical memory with contemporary cultural practice.

Through exhibitions, theatre programmes, workshops, publications, educational initiatives, digital archives and collaborative projects, TRPF is gradually developing a platform where artists, writers, theatre practitioners, researchers, students, educators and cultural institutions can engage with one another. Such interaction is central to the Foundation's vision of encouraging dialogue across disciplines and strengthening a broader culture of creativity, inquiry and shared responsibility.

**TRPF** is equally committed to supporting contemporary artistic practice. Alongside its archival work, the Foundation seeks to provide opportunities for emerging and established artists to present their work, participate in discussions, contribute to documentation initiatives and become part of collaborative cultural programmes. Its growing **Artist Database and Digital Cultural Archive** initiatives are intended to create long-term resources for research, networking and cultural exchange.

Education and public engagement remain equally important. **TRPF** plans and develops programmes for schools, colleges, cultural organisations and independent practitioners, with activities designed to encourage observation, critical thinking, creativity and a deeper understanding of India's diverse cultural heritage.

As the **Foundation** expands its programmes, it invites artists, schools, institutions, researchers, cultural workers, educators, students and well-wishers to remain connected with its activities. Registered participants will receive information about forthcoming newsletters, **Artist Database** opportunities, exhibitions, workshops, theatre programmes, archival projects, cultural events and future collaborations.

Registration is available through the **TRPF** website and via the QR code included in the **Foundation's** communication materials.

Every new participant strengthens the possibility of creating a wider cultural network—one in which memory is preserved, knowledge is shared and new creative work continues to emerge.

Stay connected. Participate, collaborate and become part of **TRPF's** continuing cultural journey.



*Hirendra*

**The Rameshwar Prem Foundation**

website: [www.trpf.co.in](http://www.trpf.co.in)

email: [rpfoundation2026@gmail.com](mailto:rpfoundation2026@gmail.com)

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