

Deccan Heritage Foundation launches Festival in Goa at High Commission of India

The Deccan Heritage Foundation ("DHF") unveiled plans for the Reis Magos International Festival of Music ("RIFM") at a high profile reception showcasing the historical Deccan region of India, at the Indian High Commission in London on 21 May 2014. The event was generously hosted by His Excellency Ranjan Mathai, High Commissioner of India to the UK, who invited leading members of the Indian business community.

After an introduction by the High Commissioner, George Michel, Founding Trustee of DHF and an archaeologist specialising in the Deccan region, giving a fascinating slide show presentation highlighting some of the wonderful historical treasures of the Deccan region. This was followed by Mary Anne Cordeiro, Founding Chair of the DHF, outlining the charity's principle aims and how the launch the RIFM is in line with DHF's strategy. The first festival will be held at the newly-restored 16th century Reis Magos Fort in Panjim, Goa from 12 December to 14 December, 2014.

Heritage is of extraordinary importance to the Deccan region and Goa in particular owing to its unique historical background. DHF is a charitable organisation whose goal is to preserve, restore and promote the heritage as well as the plethora of places of cultural importance in the Deccan region of India through conservation, cultural and educational projects. One of its key objectives is to pass on this rich heritage to the ever-modernising next generation of Indians as well as foreign visitors to the region. RIFM will generally follow a theme that will reflect the rich heritage of Goa and in 2014 the theme will be "the Sea".

RIFM will revive a magnificent cultural space in Goa for the benefit of the local populace and visitors alike. A musical extravaganza will be put on to celebrate both traditional Goan music including fado, dekhni and Mando in addition to western classical music performed by world acclaimed musicians including the soprano singer, Patricia Rozario OBE, a native Goan herself. This reflects the burgeoning interest in western classical music in vogue all over India.

DHF is working in partnership with the Giving Voice Society and INTACH with financial support from the Dempo Group as Principal Sponsor and the Helen Hamlyn Trust as Education Sponsor. The partners will engage around 1000 local school children in workshops from around 20 schools around Goa in advance of the festival.

Mary Anne stated: "We feel that alongside a high level music festival, the restoration of Reis Magos opens the possibility of showcasing educational work on Indian heritage themes together with relevant arts and artefacts. In particular we are interested in the overall educational possibilities that a high level event of this nature with foster in Goa...The festival will also serve as a focal point for work in schools through the organisation of a competition, the finale of which will take place in the reconstructed jewel that is Reis Magos itself."



Rufino Cordeiro, Baroness Flather, Lira Cordeiro, Lord and Lady Gavron, Mary Anne Cordeiro (Chair of DHF) and Lady Hamlyn



Helen Philon (Trustee of DHF) and David Landsman, Director of Tata Limited



George Michell (Trustee of DHF), Mary Anne Cordeiro (Chair of DHF), HE Ranjan Mathai, High Commissioner of India to the UK



HE Ranjan Mathai, High Commissioner of India to the UK, introduces DHF to the guests