

A MUSICAL SYMPHONY OF PLENTY

By an Anonymous Guest

At the stroke of the Sun's transition into Capricorn, marking the end of winter and the onset of longer days, Panaji witnessed a musical evening, MAGHEE, on Sunday, 14 January. Signifying the blend of two Sanskrit words, "Makar" and "Sankranti" (transition), this day represents a shift in the Sun's position, also coinciding with the completion of the harvest session. The change in solar energies is believed to affect both the environment and individuals positively. The day also marks the start of the month of Magh.

The event was held in the dining area of a fancy hotel in Miramar, which was exclusively reserved for the Academy's program. The hotel staff, led by Mr. Thomas D'Souza, was very helpful and made sure the guests had a great time.

A very graceful Seema Chaudhry, the hostess of the evening, welcomed all the guests to the program. The President of the Academy, B Dey, along with two Vice Presidents, R Nigam and A Bhattacharya, a well-accomplished technocrat Dr. Sudhir Desai, and the Ganesh Vandana singer Madhulika Mehta, formally started the event by lighting the lamp. The stage was set for a high-decibel musical performance.

But not that everything was smooth. The synchronisation between the singer's voice and the Karaoke music was much to be desired during the first few songs, despite the best effort by the singers. Things, however, got better later. Some of the songs remained with the audience- a couple of double-dhamakas by Harsha Naik- *Tum aaye to aaya mujhe yaad* and *My heart is beating*, and then *Chale the saath Milkar* and *Likhe jo khat tujhe* by Amit Goswami left the audience wanting for more. Later Kumar Gaurav Shrivastava sang *Kabhi Kabhi mere dil mein*. The first session of the musical program ended with two mesmerising songs of the late Kishore Kumar by Arvind Kumar, a professional singer especially invited for this evening.

Mr Anil Bhattacharya took the mike to coordinate the Felicitation function for the four top achievers in the fields of Science and Arts- Dr Rajiv Nigam (Marine Paleontologist), and Dr Haimanti Biswas (Marine

Biologist), Atul Mishra and Lata Mishra (Both in singing). A floral bouquet and a memento of the Academy was presented to them by the President B Dey.

Dr. Nigam, Also the Senior Vice President of this Academy, has received the 2022 Joseph A. Cushman Award (USA) for Excellence in Foraminiferal Research. Professor Nigam developed foraminiferal techniques for use and understanding in pollution monitoring, paleoclimatic reconstructions, paleodepth determination, Holocene sea-level identification, and tsunami history on Indian coasts.

Dr. Haimanti Biswas, a member of the Ganga Zuari Academy, has been nominated for the globally esteemed Humboldt Research Award (Germany) in recognition of her comprehensive research in oceanography. The glorious nomination sheds light on her commendable contributions to phytoplankton biology and casts a proud glow on her home country, India.

During their short stay in Goa, Atul and Lata Mishra enthralled the Goan audience with tons of Bollywood songs. They organised several programs and practically enticed one and all to the immortal melodies of the sixties and seventies.

The second session of the musical evening, again anchored by Seema, started with a bang, with Devika Mehta captivating the audience with a Rajasthani dance. It was so rhythmic, disciplined, and exciting as the crowd went into a rupture with Devika's every specialised move.

The second session of the musical program included performances of *Chandan sa badan* by Divya Davda, *Yeh raat yeh Chandni phir* by TK Mehta, and *Jeevan ke din* by Vibhas Mehta, which stirred up emotions in the audience. The program concluded with some soothing songs performed by Arvind Kumar, Anil Chatterjee, Atul Mishra, and Lata Mishra. As a token of appreciation for their outstanding contribution to the success of the evening program, Devika Mehta and Anil Chatterjee were presented with prizes.

The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner contributed by the performers, participants and audience alike. ■