

Press Release

Viva Goa! - Avid Learning and Royal Opera House Present a Dazzling Goan Cultural Spectacle in Mumbai

In the narrow lanes of Fontainhas and the bustling markets of Mapusa, there's a unique blend of Indian and Portuguese influences that has shaped a culture unlike any other. Beyond the postcard-perfect beaches lies a rich legacy of art, literature, and music that resonates deeply within the Goan identity.

From the revival of Konkani literature to the emergence of new-age Goan fusion music, the state is witnessing a cultural awakening that goes beyond its shores. It is this spirit of innovation rooted in tradition that has caught the attention of artists and thinkers sparking conversations about identity, heritage, and the future of regional cultures in a globalized world.

Royal Opera House, Mumbai and **Avid Learning** present, in association with **Stuti Choral & String Ensemble** and **Furtdaos**, **FESTA DE GOA: A Celebration of Goan Literature, Art, Music, Food, and More!** offering audiences a vibrant journey into the heart of Goan culture through its diverse artistic expressions.

The festival will showcase Goa's rich cultural heritage through a range of speaker sessions, performances, and interactive experiences. The evening will kick off with a lineup of thought-provoking discussions featuring renowned authors, historians, and cultural catalysts including *Jnanpith Awardee* **Damodar Mauzo**, *Writer and Translator* **Jerry Pinto**, *Co-founder and Co-curator, Goa Arts & Literature Festival* **Vivek Menezes** diving into topics ranging from Konkani literature to Goa's contributions to the global music scene.

As the evening progresses, the attendees are in for a special treat with **Stuti - Choral & String Ensemble** led by **Parvesh Java** and Fado music recital by **Sonia Shirsat** capturing the musical essence of Goaness. Meanwhile, the outdoor lawn will come alive with Goan-inspired art installations, live music, and a bustling bazaar offering to bring you authentic food and a shopping experience.

Mr. Asad Lalljee, *CEO, Avid Learning and Curator, Royal Opera House, Mumbai* says, "The idea for Festa de Goa came to me after speaking at the Goa Heritage Festival in 2022. While presenting the impact of the Royal Opera House on Mumbai's cultural fabric, Goa's rich heritage and creative practices struck me, an idea to bring a celebration of this cultural legacy to Mumbai. It has taken us two years to bring this festival to life, and we are excited to share it with audiences at the Opera House finally. This festival is about highlighting the deep cultural exchange between Goa and Mumbai and continuing our commitment to showcasing India's diverse creative heritage."

Mr. Ashish Doshi, *Honorary Director of the Royal Opera House, Mumbai*, says, "The Royal Family of Gondal's unwavering support of the arts has been paramount in presenting such multi-dimensional cultural narratives. This festival not only celebrates Goa's extraordinary legacy in art, architecture, and music but also reaffirms the Opera House's role as a venue where India's diverse artistic expressions come to life. We are proud to support initiatives that spotlight regional cultures and look forward to hosting more festivals in the future."

Festival Schedule:

Speaker Sessions | 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm | Auditorium | Open Seating: First-Come, First-Served

Konkani City: Goa in the Making of Mumbai - *Damodar Mauzo* in conversation with *Jerry Pinto* and *Abhay Sardesai*

Discussing the rich and diverse history of Konkani literature, they will explore the socio-cultural dynamics that have influenced Konkani literature, discussing themes of identity, tradition, modernity, and contemporary relevance.

Soboicar: Konkani Catholics in Old Bombay with *Jane Borges* and *Malvika Bhatia*

Sharing insights from the 'Soboicar' project, an oral history archive chronicling the lives of Christians who migrated from the Konkan to South Mumbai and their pivotal role in the broader context of the Goa-Bombay connection.

Book launch of ‘The Memory Keepers and Future Seekers: Portraits of Heritage Homes in Goa’ with *Ulka Chauhan, Samira Sheth and Dean D’Cruz*

A layered narrative with visual and literary portraits of the 300+ year-old homes in Goa that focuses on stories of families and fragments of memories; while also touching upon the historical, cultural, political, economic, social, and religious moments that shaped Goa.

The Boy from Crawford Market: A Centenary Tribute to F.N. Souza with *Dadiba Pundole, Reema Desai Gehi, and Vivek Menezes*

Celebrating 100 years of a trailblazer, delve into the son of Saligao’s artistic journey—from his early days in Goa, his unique style, his rise in London, and his indelible influence on modern art.

Heard but Unseen: Goans in the Musical Conversation between India and the World with *Naresh Fernandes*

From the 1920s jazz scene to the golden era of Hindi cinema, learn how Goan musicians, arrangers, and composers like Anthony Gonsalves, Chic Chocolate, and Chris Perry infused music with diverse influences.

Performances | 7:15 pm – 8:35 pm | Auditorium | Tickets Required | Open Seating: First-Come, First-Served | Seating on Dress Cricle and Grand Balcony Only

Fado Music with *Sonia Shirsat*

Experience the soulful melodies with the Queen of Goan Fado, joined by Franz Schubert Cotta on the Portuguese guitar, and Mr. Carlos Meneses on the Viola de Fado as they perform the Portuguese semi-classical music form, which has been around in Goa for over 100 years infusing the listeners with ‘saudade’ (a state of longing and nostalgia).

Echoes of Tradition: The Stuti Choral and String Ensemble, conducted by *Parvesh Java*

A 112-member ensemble showcasing Goa’s musical revival through rich harmonies and skillful performances, offering an experience that will leave audiences deeply moved and inspired. Supported by Furtados.

Stalls | 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Outdoor Lawns

Step into a lively Goan experience outside on the lawn, where a multi-sensory feast awaits! Savor the flavors of Goa with **The Coconut Boy** and **Aiyo Patrao**, serving delicious coastal-inspired dishes, while **Tinto Feni** brings a touch of Goa’s spirit with handcrafted Feni cocktails. Shop at **Siesta O’Clock** for vibrant, Goa-inspired shirts, explore eco-friendly bags, pens, and sneakers from **BANDIT**, and explore the curated collection of Goan literature from **Crossword Bookstore**. The air resonates with upbeat Konkani melodies, featuring **Allan Vaz**, creator of the World Konkani Music Awards. With great music, mouth-watering food, and artisanal treasures, the outdoor celebration perfectly complements the evening’s festivities..

Join us as we bridge the shores of Goa and Mumbai, exploring the rich cultural dialogue and deep connection between the two coastal gems.

When: Saturday, 5th October 2024 | 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Where: Royal Opera House, Mumbai

Tickets: www.insider.in (Rs. 199 onward)

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