

Weekend bonanza for Goans in London

Two years of restrictions on account of the Covid pandemic had deprived thousands of Goans in London from participating in public events to celebrate Goan culture and identity. **LUI GODINHO** reports that this opportunity finally came their way, not once but twice within 24 hours in Hounslow, London, on August 20 and 21, when two major events were organised to showcase Goan music, dance and cuisine, much to the delight of the Goan community

GOAN CULTURAL FEST



An estimated 10,000 Goans from various parts of London and beyond converged for an unprecedented outdoor Goan bonanza at Cranford Community College ground, Hounslow, London, to participate in the Goan Cultural Fest (Goa Day London) on August 21 from noon till late evening.

Calvin Barretto along with his three partners, Somesh, Nitin, and Andy Collins organised the show under a newly formed company 'Ultrasonic Impact Events', drawing appreciation from the crowds and event officials and authorities at the event.

Supporting partners included Fly Pop Airlines, Calsan Builder, Eclipse Sound and Impact Gyms provided support for arguably the biggest and largest Goan outdoor festival in the UK till date. There were about 16 stalls serving traditional Goan food and other Goan delicacies.

Goa's nightingale Lorna was the main attraction and her singing drew a huge Goan crowd who were eager to listen to their favourite Konkani songs, even joining in at times to sing the timeless classics of legendary Goan musician Chris Perry.

Other Konkani performers included Comedy King Agostinho, Comedy Queen Janet, Tommy Afonso, Buntty Vaz, Salu de Loutolim, Nicky Carvalho, Bab Andrew, Luis Bachna, Andrea D'Souza.

The bands 'Rainbows End' and 'Band Royals' along with special guest artiste

Oliver Sean also enthralled the crowds, while other performers included DJ Flacid, and DJ Jonathan. London-based Goan music director Framton De Sa provided additional music.

Profits raised from a raffle will be donated to the Goa-based organisation which runs the 'Food Bank'.

There were life-members from Goan Association UK (GOA UK) present at the Goa Day show, as this was an event that GOA UK had been organising for many years. Most of those who did attend admitted that the new group had organised the event beyond expectation.

According to sources, the success of the Goan Cultural Festival was attributed to the new management delegating various responsibilities to the Goan youth, who took their duty very seriously and gave their best.

"This well-planned function used social media to its maximum in galvanising Goans not only from London, but also from elsewhere like Swindon and other towns, who made efforts to attend the event," acknowledged a Goan who attended the show.

The local MP and councillors also attended the event, which was organised with no untoward incident, with even the local police chief praising the organising committee and the Goan community.



Goa's nightingale Lorna enthralled thousands of people during the Goan Cultural Festival (Goa Day London) in Hounslow, London on August 21.

AMIGOS NITE



A Goan folk dance being performed at Amigos Nite in Hounslow, London on August 20.

The event management company Amigos Nite organised World Goa Day at the London Bar Stock Exchange, Hounslow Market Place, London, on August 20. The event from 5 pm till 11 pm had a full house in attendance, with a variety of Goan artistes, music, dances and traditional cuisine.

According to Simon Rodrigues, CEO of Amigos Nite, the event started with a solo violin performance by Joanro Gomes, grandnephew of late Tony Gomes, considered to be Bollywood's first guitarist. There was a variety of Goan artistes like Risma Leitao, Noywen Fernandes (one-man band) and DJ Velfern Fernandes. There were also two Kunbi dance performances by Alida Fernandes, Jessica Da Silva, Milena Dias and Mario Rodrigues on Ghumot.

Goa's Comedy King Agostinho and Comedy Queen Janet formed two comedy acts, while Bladwin Da Silva and Brandon Rato also performed a comedy act.

London-based Konkani singers and tiatrists Tommy Afonso (Jr Nelson), Bab Andrew D'Souza, Joao De Zuari, Princewell, Fernandes, Andrea D'Souza, Aliston Bareto, Nerissa Bareto, Se-

bastian Fernandes, Eleanora Fernandes and Swinton Fernandes sang Konkani songs. All the Konkani artists were backed by London-based Goan music director, Framton De Sa.

On the occasion, the Amigos Nite organisers felicitated Rene Barreto (Founder of World Goa Day), Fr Lucas Rodrigues (Chaplain to the Goan Community, Swindon and Parish Priest of St Peter's Catholic Church & Sacred Heart Church), Clayton Antonio Barreto (Senior Officer, Indian High Commission, who is helping bridge the gap between Indian High Commission and the Goan Diaspora and the Goan Associations in UK) and Flavio Gracias (Chair of the Trustees of the Goan Welfare Society UK).

The event was powered by 'Maka Tik Naka' and the show was compered by Simon Varella, while food at the event was catered from the kitchen of 'Maka Tik Naka'.

During the event, an appeal was made to help Melissa Nazareth, Goan based in Singapore who is diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, a type of blood cancer, who is in need of a lifesaving stem donor. Her video appeal was played during the event and appeal leaflets were distributed to the audience.



Risma Leitao, Simon Rodrigues, Candida and Simon Varella, Malcolm and Andrea Silveira, the partners of Amigos Nite.

From California, Goa Sudharop touches lives in Goa

Despite being thousands of miles away on a different continent, a Goan diaspora volunteer non-profit organisation based in California has been working for the betterment of Goa and Goans worldwide since 2000. **FRANKEY FERNANDES** contacted George Pinto of Goa Sudharop for more details about the organisation, its initiatives and mission

Give us a brief sketch and mission of Goa Sudharop.

Goa Sudharop has been working tirelessly to improve the lives of ethnic Goans and to encourage Goans to fully get involved in the development of their homeland. Filomena Giese and I are the co-founders of Goa Sudharop in 2000 and we are based in California.

Our goal is to promote opportunities for those in need, especially women and children, and provide resources for people to become empowered individuals with the ability to chase their dreams and use the tools they need to build the life they want.

At Goa Sudharop, we support individuals through our various initiatives and are committed to working together to make difference. We welcome Goans of all castes, religions, gender, beliefs and offer everyone our support in their quest for respect, inclusion and search for identity. We oppose all discrimination, unjust and unequal treatment of any group based on these human differences.

What inspired your team to start the Goa Sudharop?

Ethnic Goans do not seem to have opportunities that others have, even in Goa. Ethnic Goans seem to be sidelined in business and other areas in Goa. Goa Sudharop hopes to create and identify opportunities for ethnic Goans to flourish.

What are the events organised by Goa Sudharop?

Goa Sudharop has organised many events, programmes, workshops and forums over the years, ranging from the environment, education, children welfare, women's rights, disability rights, agricultural issues, etc.

At present, we continue to focus on our projects in Goa: The Farming Project, the Handloom Project, the Carpentry Project and the Pottery Project. These projects are to provide employment and skills to low-income women



Goa Sudharop members George Pinto and Harriet Ferens at the pottery project in Goa.



Women try out the handloom recently set up by Goa Sudharop at Orlim-Salcete.

and men and give ethnic Goans an economic opportunity. Many students from schools, colleges and other Kunbi fabric lovers visit the loom.

What would be your message to Goans around the world, especially our youth?

Learn about our motherland, the

sacrifice our ancestors made to preserve the land which is being indiscriminately sold today to non-Goans, for the sake of money and driven by greed. Soon, Goa as a separate state with its unique culture will be swallowed into India's vast mainland and there will be no unique Goa or Goan culture left.

We invite everyone to join Goa Sudharop on our board and as volunteers, to work for the common good of all Goans, to help us in preserving our Goan identity, heritage, and culture, and to save the rich environmental and natural resources of Goa for future generations. Anyone who wishes to volunteer with our NGO may please email our USA-based President Harriet Ferens (harrietferens@yahoo.co.uk) or Verma D'Mello (verma_dmello@yahoo.com) who is our Goa-based Executive Director.

Keeping Goan culture alive in Quebec



File photo of the choir at the St Francis Xavier Feast Mass celebrated by the Quebec Goan Association (QGA) on December 4, 2021.

MELISSA AND PRISCILLA FERNANDES

Home can easily be defined as that one place where we feel that sense of belonging, where we can be with the people that share our traditions, language, and history. At the heart of every community is that longing to find our way back to the comforts of home. That is the very driving force that inspired the creation of the Quebec Goan Association (QGA) on a warm summer day in July 1977.

Over the last 45 years, the QGA has fostered community spirit among residents of Goan origin and encouraged the preservation of Goan culture all while enriching and contributing to Canadian society.

The first members of our organisation came to Canada, facing the daunting task of starting a new life in a foreign land and adapting to a different lifestyle. Frequently, this way of life was far removed from what they had been used to back home. Nevertheless, with the support and ideals of like-minded individuals, they developed ways to make this transition easier for families through activities that brought a little bit of Goa to the shores of North America.

Each event organised by the QGA had the goal of keeping our beautiful traditions alive in the hearts and minds of members in the community. We celebrated all the mothers and fathers at various picnics for being the cornerstones of our community. Through their love and stories, we were encouraged to learn about our Goan roots and speak phrases in our traditional Konkani language.

We organised food fests, highlighting the unique Goan dishes that warmed our souls and the sweet desserts that tempted us as children. We inspired the youth through sports, dancing, outdoor games, and dart tournaments.

These events reminded the young and the old to stay active and connect with others in their neighbourhood. We even participated in fundraising for various causes that instilled the concept of kindness, caring for future generations and the belief of giving back to our community.

As we approached the end of each year, the QGA honoured the patron saint of Goa, St Francis Xavier. With a Mass accompanied by numerous hymns performed in both English and Konkani, families came together to pray, sing, and celebrate the occasions of the current year and bless the start of the next. Each feast was a labour of love, with cultural shows, musical performances, dancing, and a meal to thaw the Canadian winter out of everyone's bones.

In closing, the QGA has been preparing so many activities for our 45th anniversary and upcoming gala. We are excited for our community to be with us on this phenomenal journey, as we take those steps to find our way back to the traditions and comforts of our new home in Canada inspired by our Goan roots that lie deep within our hearts.

Set up World Goa Day to unite Goan diaspora: Goa Sudharop

Stating that Goa Sudharop came up with the idea of World Goa Day, George Pinto, founder member of Goa Sudharop, said the World GOAN Network was established by Goa Sudharop in 2000 to bring together Goan organisations, associations, non-profits/NGOs, and individuals. "The acronym G.O.A.N. stands for Goan Organisations Associations Network. It is the first and premier Goan network in the diaspora committed to bringing Goans together for the betterment of Goa and Goans. One of the first projects Goa Sudharop launched in 2000 was 'World Goa Day, an idea mooted by Goa Sudharop co-founder Filomena Giese to bring Goans around the world together," said Pinto.

"In the 1990s, one Goan organisation in the Gulf (GWS-Kuwait) had a local standalone fun-filled Goa Day celebration for its members. However, the idea of World Goa Day founded by Goa Sudharop is conceptually and organisationally very different to reach out to Goans and Goan organisations throughout the world."

Pinto said the World Goa Day, as promoted and advanced by Goa Sudharop and envisioned by Filomena Giese, is to bring Goan organisations in the diaspora together to work for the betterment of Goa and Goans.

"The late Jorge de Abreu Noronha (Lisbon) suggested World Goa Day be held

in August to commemorate Konkani being included in the Indian Constitution on August 20, 1992. Basilio Magno launched the song 'Proud to be a Goan' which helped internationalise this event," said Pinto.

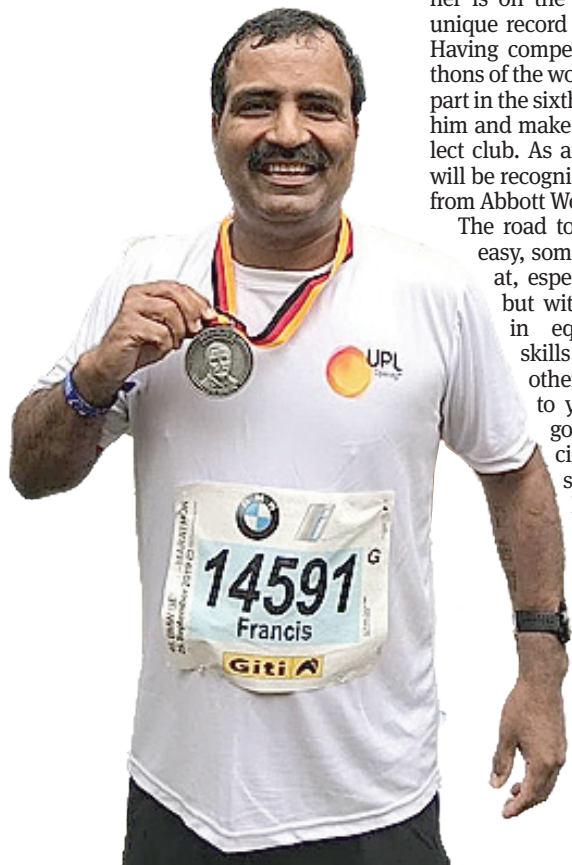
"We collaborated with others to reach out to Goan organisations to make this a worldwide celebration. Goa Sudharop set up and paid for the initial logo, website, and sent out promotional and awareness information to kick-start the event."

"Later, an email group 'World Goan Network' was started. We encourage Goans to make this day a meaningful celebration, not just a day to sing, dance, party and picnic. We want World Goa Day to bring Goans together to work for the betterment of Goa and Goans as originally envisioned by us," Pinto added. He stated that over the years, hundreds of Goan organisations/associations, non-profit bodies/NGOs and thousands of individuals have worked for the betterment of Goa and Goans and have benefited by being able to tap into Goa Sudharop's resources (time, money, talent) consistent with our aims and objectives.

"We support groups celebrating World Goa Day consistent with our founding of the event. Goans are spread out throughout the world and we want to bring them together to work for Goa," said Pinto.

Cuncoim-born runner eyes prestigious 6-star medal

The North Carolina-based long-distance runner is on the verge of completing a unique record as a Marathon runner. Having competed in the top 5 Marathons of the world he is looking to take part in the sixth one. As and when he does it he will be recognised with a 6-star medal from Abbott World Major Marathons



ARMSTRONG VAZ

DOHA

The realisation of a dream does not fall into your lap, we have to work very hard for it and the road to success is not without obstacles. It does not happen overnight. You need to draw up a long-term vision and be ready to make certain sacrifices, these sacrifices which are inextricably linked to the goal you want to achieve in life.

That's precisely what Cuncoim-born USA-based Francis Jawahar Borges has been doing in his professional life as Global Head of Food Value Chain at UPL Limited and as a Marathon runner and inspiring many people around him and elsewhere with his exploits in the sporting world.

The Durham, North Carolina-based long-distance runner is on the verge of completing a unique record as a Marathon runner. Having competed in the top 5 Marathons of the world he is looking to take part in the sixth one which will elevate him and make him a member of a select club. As and when he does it he will be recognised with a 6-star medal from Abbott World Major Marathons.

The road to success has not been easy, sometimes you are laughed at, especially in the beginning but with the right investment in equipment, knowledge, skills and nutrition, among other things, you can get to your highest attainable goal and that's what Francis, who did his school studies at Our Lady of Health Cuncoim, has been doing in long-distance running for the last 17 years beginning with his Mini-Marathon journey in 2005.

The Mini-Marathon journey has taken him to different parts of the world over the years having competed in around 50 so far.

He has also success-

fully competed and crossed the finish line in ten marathons so far including five of the World Major Marathons – Tokyo, New York, Chicago, Berlin and London-- and he is looking to his sixth one next year in Boston, says Francis, who did his Higher Secondary education from Chowgule College Margao and First year BSC from St Xavier's Mapusa before moving to Mumbai to complete his graduation in Microbiology from Ramnarain Ruia College Matunga.

The list of ten marathons he has done so far include Antwerp-Belgium, Paris-France, London-UK, Memphis-USA, Toronto-Canada, New York-USA, Dubai-UAE, Tokyo-Japan, Berlin-Germany, Chicago-USA and is looking towards the Boston Marathon which will take place on April 17, 2023.

The Boston Marathon is very important for him, he says: "With this (Boston Marathon) I would have done the top 6 marathons of the world. For this I will be recognised by a 6-star medal from Abbott world major marathons," he said while adding, "fitness is important to have a holistic life."

"Holistic fitness allows us to completely integrate mind, body and spirit in order to support total well-being. Working to improve holistic fitness positively affects every aspect of our lives including increased health, mental clarity, spiritual awareness and improved self-esteem. I practice meditation daily. I do volunteer work regularly in church and social clubs like Kiwanis. Giving back is an important principle in my life," adds the former CEO of Agrichem, Netherlands.

Very focused and willing to make sacrifices Francis says discipline is the key to the long road to success.

"I train 6 days a week with one-day rest. During marathon training, I train for 16 weeks usually with a coach. I run about 800 Kms during these 16 weeks," said Francis, who was based for 18 years in Belgium while working in the Netherlands and has since moved to the USA.

"I think the USA has a much better sports/running culture than Belgium. I was able to get a good coach who helped to improve my form and gave several tips to improve my perfor-

mance," when asked about the sports infrastructure and coaching facilities in Belgium and USA.

As for the rest of the year when he is not taking part in marathons his training schedule includes: "3 days' strength training for 50 minutes, 2 days metabolic/Cardio/boot camp training for 50 minutes, 3 days of Yoga for 50 minutes each and 6th day - cross training with a bike/swim/football/tennis/table tennis. The above routine I follow almost 80% of the time," says Francis.

"I also play football with fellow Goans and Mangaloreans here in North Carolina," says Francis, who moved to the USA in 2015.

Diet, he says, is an important part of a Marathon runner's life, who has a Master's degree in Management studies specialising in International Business from Welinkar's Mumbai and a Diploma in Import Export Management from Somaiya Management Institute Mumbai.

"Food is fuel. So I am mindful of what I eat especially while training and running for marathons. Hydration and fueling are important parts of Marathon running.

His advice to any upcoming long-distance runners and those who want to indulge in fitness is to be dedicated, committed and to strive to be on the top which will make the difference.

"Take the first step. Plan a race and train for it. The most difficult part of running or any sport is the first step out of your bedroom/couch. Everybody can run or do sports. In fact, it is necessary for a healthy life. Most medical sound advice is 10000 steps per day. How you want to get these steps is up to you."

As for advice for youngsters, he says: "Train, train, train. There is no easy way. Be serious, be disciplined. Give your best effort. See sports as a way of life and not to stop after teenage years."

So what next for him after the marathon trail, quick came the reply: "My next goal is to do trekking. Major treks and mountains in the world. I did the Grand Canyon - North rim to south rim. It took me 16 hrs. I did 130 kms trek Santiago de Camino in Spain. I will do Kilimanjaro next year and I plan to do base camp Mt Everest in 2024," who says he got his inspiration to indulge in sports during his childhood days watching many a sportsperson from Cuncoim playing at Dulpia Xett (Cuncoim Union Sports Complex ground).



1947 (before and after) Goans in Sports

Sports is a lifeline that runs through the bloodstreams of every Goan, like our love for music, song, and dance. By virtue of Karachi being a centre for education, Goans moved here in droves from the mid-19th century. The opportunity to participate and excel in sports enabled Goans to rule on the 'maidans' (open spaces) of a developing city.

Legendary schools like the 161-year-old St Patrick's and the 160-year-old St Joseph's nurtured talented boys and girls in multiple disciplines of sport. For the boys, hockey and cricket were the driving force, and track & field/badminton for the damsels across the street, separated by the grandiose St Patrick's Cathedral (1878) and the majestic Christ the King Monument (1931).

Karachi has the distinction of producing many wizards of hockey in the sub-continent including Peter Paul Fernandes, 'the first Goan hockey player' to represent British India at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Other stalwarts included Lawrie Fernandes, Marceline D'Costa, Patrick Mendes, Julius Tellis and many more, all contemporaries of the Indian legend Dhyan Chand (1905-1979). The mesmerising agility of the Goan players was known to have surpassed the best of the rest, including Dhyan Chand.

St Pat's produced brilliant hockey players, who participated and won several All-India hockey championships including the Cabral Shield, Beyton Cup, Aga Khan Cup, Dewar Shield etc. After partition when Pakistan announced its squad for the 1948 London Olympics, two Goans made the team, Milton D'Mello (centre-half) and Oswald Nazareth, as the co-manager. Four years later at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, another Karachi Goan, Jack Britto (centre-forward) donned the national colours. Incidentally, Jack was a brilliant cricketer too, he was selected to play for Pakistan in both disciplines (hockey and cricket) but chose hockey to show his mettle. Quite a unique 'all-time' achievement for any player on both sides of the fence.

This column would be incomplete without the mention of Karachi-born genius Anthony Stanislaus D'Mello who gave India a sports infrastructure which to-date is the backbone of Indian sporting excellence. Anthony was a visionary, a master planner and an astute organiser who founded the Cricket Club of India (Brabourne Stadium), the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the Ranji Trophy and was the Chief Organiser of the first Asian Games held in 1958 in New Delhi – a historic and star-studded achievement by a Karachi Goan.

In 1940, Bertie Gomes and Hannibal D'Souza were crowned All-India heavyweight and flyweight boxing champions. From the 1950s through the 1970s, Goan sportsmen and women were among the best in the country, winning national titles and representing Pakistan. The first Goan ever to play Test Cricket, he it India or Pakistan, was Mathais Wallis who played 21 tests from 1955-1961. Antao D'Souza played 6 test matches from 1959 to 1962. Several Goan hockey and cricket players in the 1960s and 70s came quite close to being selected for national teams. During the same time, several Goan women won national athletic sprint events.

Indoor sports like Table Tennis, Badminton, and Billiards & Snooker were very popular with our Goan boys and girls, and many went on to win national titles and represent the country. Leading the pack was Michael Rodrigues who was a five-time (1959-1963) national table tennis champion of Pakistan; the lanky shuttler Mennen Soares who played for Pakistan at the Thomas Cup in 1954, and national women's badminton champions, Marie Therese Braganza (1954), Gemma Rodricks (1958 & 1960) and Coral Barboza (1971). Lenny Dias represented Pakistan at the 1982 Billiard Championships in Bombay and in 1984, Earl Cordeiro was the national Junior Snooker champion of the country.

Goans don't feature prominently in sports at the national level anymore, though several Christians are and currently playing for Pakistan.

Next: Goan Kudds and Konkani

GLOBE TROTTING

Massage therapist guilty of sex assault charges

Gerard Rodrigues (62), who is already serving time for previous convictions, has been found guilty of three more counts of sexual assault, states a report in The Peterborough Examiner (Canada).

From his jail cell at Central East Correctional Centre, where he's serving an 18-month jail sentence for sexually assaulting former clients, Rodrigues listened over the phone while Justice Timothy Breen rendered his verdict. Over the course of five days, between January and June, seven people testified that they were sexually assaulted by Rodrigues between February and November 2019 at Euphoria Wellness Spa.

The accused denied that he had exceeded the scope of the consent provided by each of his clients. Despite rejecting Rodrigues' evidence, Breen found Rodrigues guilty of three of the seven counts of sexual assault. Rodrigues returns to court Sept 14 for sentencing, The Peterborough Examiner adds.

After helping world fight Covid, Goan CEO has Monkeypox in sight

As chief executive of San Diego-based genomic sequencing company Illumina, Francis de Souza feels well-placed to witness the world's next great scientific transformation, according to a report in Time (International). Well over a billion doses of mRNA vaccines—developed in record-time with the help of gene sequencing—have been safely deployed around the world to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The company was named "TIME100 Most Influential Companies" in 2021. "Over the last few months, we have been engaged with health systems around the world to understand the spread of Monkeypox and the evolution of the Monkeypox virus," explains de Souza, in the Time report.

Goan Chouriço among 63 finalists at New Zealand Food Awards

Dona Lou's – Goan Chouriço is among the 63 finalists to battle it out for top honours at this year's New Zealand Food Awards, states a report in the Foodticker.

Powered by Massey University, the awards are open to small and large food and beverage firms, primary food producers, food service providers, and ingredient supply companies. The 11 category winners and overall Massey University Supreme Award winner will be announced at a gala dinner in Palmerston North on 13 October, with the event back in person after being virtual last year, the Foodticker report added.

[News Courtesy: The Goan Voice, www.goanvoice.org.uk]



MICHAEL JUDE GRACIAS

The writer is tiatr researcher and an acclaimed Konkani script writer, director and actor

Celebrating the 90th birthday of the Melody King Alfred Rose, this year the Konkani Musical Show will be presented as a tribute to the legendary singer-musician and composer

Goem, Goenkar, Goenkarponn are the magical three words that light up the lives of Goans who are in domicile in any part of the world. Even if a Goan has acquired citizenship of another country due to better job avenues or for greener pastures, his love for his motherland Goa, will never diminish. Once in a foreign land, he will begin looking out for Goans settled around himself and once the Goenkars meet and begin co-existence as Goans, the fallout will naturally be to find Goenkarponn among themselves and the best form of Goenkarponn is the usage of the Maim Bhas Konkani and with this usage comes the Konkani song and tiatr that gets associated with Goa, Goenkar and Goemkarponn.

Mario Carvalho from Pequeno Madde-Margao was one such Goan who migrated to Melbourne, Australia, twenty-one years ago. The annual feast of St Francis Xavier and some Sports Day and Dance for Goans were being organised. However, the Konkani culture lovers were starving for Goan cultural activities. Mario felt the need for promoting the Konkani kantar or tiatr songs.

In 2010, he along with some fellow Goans founded the 'Konkani Cultural and Heritage Inc' group and organised the Carnaval Red and Black dance with King Momo and the accompanying float parade. This group also took the initiative of assisting the church authorities in mobilising people for the Eucharistic celebration and exposition of the sacred relics; the hand of St Francis that was scheduled for a visit to Melbourne. However, the group members due to some reasons decided to discontinue the activities and disband the group.

In the year 2019, Mario Carvalho brought together another four prominent Goans settled in Melbourne, Journalist Franky Fernandes, Josefato Vales a noted musician, Felipe Dias and Titus Fernandes, all having



a common thirst: the thirst for indulging in Goan culture and together they decided to organise a Konkani Musical Show in Melbourne.

The Konkani Musical Show was organised in September 2019. The Konkani-speaking populace patronised and attended the event which was rated as a starred performance. This writer has worked with the Music Director Mr Josefato Vales of Seraulim when in Goa, and given his penchant for achieving perfection, and practising till perfection is achieved, can understand the standards propagated in this musical show.

With the grand success achieved in the first edition of the Konkani Musical Show in September 2019, the group of five decided to organise a musical show annually. However, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic wiped away their dreams and aspirations of holding this event as planned, which had to be relegated to the limbo of oblivion.

With the world limping to normalcy post-covid-19 pandemic, the group of five led by Mario Carvalho once again sprung into action and have planned to organise a musical show of Konkani songs on September 24 at St John's Church Durkin Hall, at Mitcham in Melbourne Australia from 8 pm on-

wards. The musical show will also be an occasion for the Konkani-speaking audience gathered to move their legs to the rhythm of Konkani music played.

In order to encourage speaking of Maim Bhas Konkani and to promote its usage with children and youth, the entry for them is kept free, while those above 25 would be charged a nominal entry fee.

Celebrating the 90th birthday of the Melody King Alfred Rose, this year the musical show will be presented as a tribute to the legendary singer-musician and composer Alfred Rose. Besides the unique opening song in which the artistes will be introduced on stage as done in the musical shows of old, the event will feature solos, duets, duos and trios in the presentation.

While all singers are originally Goans now settled in Australia, the Dubai-based Goan singing sensation Sanio Fernandes will be flying to Australia to enthrall the audience with his unique singing style.

Having no sponsors to back the Konkani Musical Show organised by these five culture-loving Goans, the group has decided to put in whatever minus amount is created and square off the deficit all for the love of Maim Bhas Konkani.

