



## VIII<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Goa Arts & Literature Festival (GALF) 2017

The VIII<sup>th</sup> Edition of **Goa Arts & Literature Festival (GALF)** was organised by The International Centre Goa (ICG) and Goa Writers; North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; and The Directorate of Art and Culture, Government of Goa. GALF was supported by Goa Tourism; Dempo Group; Navhind Times; Goa 365; Prudent Media; The Goan; Goan Varta; HDFC Mutual Fund; HDFC Bank; Axis Bank; Anand Bose; Sahitya Akademi; Culture Ireland, and others.

Mini Krishnan, who is one of the leading advocate for translation in India, and renowned historian and author Ramachandra Guha delivered the keynote addresses at the inaugural function held at the ESG Auditorium, Maquinez Palace in Panaji. The official artwork for GALF 2017 was designed by Hanuman Kambli, an artist and faculty member at the Goa College of Art, and unveiled at this function to mark the opening of the VIII<sup>th</sup> Edition.

As in earlier editions, GALF once again showcased writers and poets from a wide range of languages: Irish, Assamese, Assamiya, Gujarat, Kannada, Kashmiri, Urdu, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, and Telugu. As always, there was considerable focus on the languages most used in Goa: Konkani, Marathi, and English. Besides India (and Goa), delegates from seven other countries - Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Nepal, Singapore, the UK, and the US - were represented. Like at GALF 2016, this edition featured an exclusive pavilion under the aegis of North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. This pavilion was dedicated to discussions and film screenings focusing art, poetry, music, and literature from India's north eastern region. Bookworm curated Young GALF sessions specially designed for children. For the first time ever, GALF featured a '*Books Quiz Contest for Schools*' supported by Maria Crescencia Menezes Memorial Educational Trust and conducted by The Sunday Evening Quiz Club (SEQC). And quite fittingly, GALF 2017 began and ended with a session in remembrance of the late Eunice de Souza, the noted poet of Goan origin, who was closely associated with GALF.

Among the many eminent delegates at GALF 2017 were Singaporean poet Edwin Thumboo; Irish poet-translator Gabriel Rosenstock; Sahitya Akademi Award winning writers Ganesh Devy, Mohammad Asaduddin, Jerry Pinto, Paramita Satpathy Tripathy, A Sethumadhavan, Shafi Shauq, Subodh Sarkar, and Volga

(Popuri Lalita Kumari); activist writer and translator Arshia Sattar; Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Shakti Sinha; and Prashant Jha, noted political commentator and author and associate editor at *Hindustan Times*. GALF, in association with the Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Series Committee, organized a lecture on 'Caste, Gender and Christianity' by Ms Bama Susairaj, a well-known Dalit writer and activist.

There were 13 books released at GALF; and the highlight was the release of *Securing India the Modi Way* by Nitin Gokhale at the hands of Honourable Chief Minister of Goa and former Defence Minister of India, Shri Manohar Parrikar. Other prominent releases were *The Portuguese Impress* by the late Teresa Albuquerque at the hands of Archbishop of Goa, Daman & Diu Most Reverend Felipe Neri Ferrao; *Goem: Eke Dhuvechi Kani* by Maria Aurora Couto; and *Shahu: The Reformer'* (Translated from Marathi) by Ramakant Khalap. *In the sanctuary of a poem* by Salil Chaturvedi was launched on the inaugural evening. Other book launches were: *Goa - Ireland poetry anthology* by Gabriel Rosenstock; *The Miscreant* by Victor Rangel Ribeiro; *The Parrots of Desire* by Amrita Narayanan; *The Nine chambered heart* by Janice Pariat; *Islands in Flux* by Pankaj Sekhsaria; *Ramayana: The Game of Life* by Shubha Vilas; and *A Himalayan Poem* by Nishi Chawla. This edition also featured the sneak preview of *How to become Miss India* by Sathya Saran and featured the renowned fashion designer, Wendell Rodricks.

Manipur based Naga Folk Blues Legend, Guru Rewben Mashangva was the highlight performance at GALF 2017. Other performances included 'Two fathers', a play on Gandhi & Einstein; Extraordinary minds, Ordinary Fathers by Imaya and poetry performances by Goa-based group, Poetry Prism. The exhibition gallery at GALF featured 'Island Worlds...of land and sea, a photographic Exhibition on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands specially produced on silk by Pankaj Sekhsaria. Besides Goa based artists lead by Rajesh Salgaonkar under the label 'Silent Voices' curated a painting exhibition at the festival. Another attraction was the bookshop presence from Broadway Book Centre, Dogears Bookshop, Niyogi Books, Jaico Books, Other India Bookstore, Oxford University Press, and Bookworm Trust.