

## Press Release



On 4th Feb 2023, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih re-opened the Olympus theatre in Male', renovated and upgraded with modern facilities under Indian grant assistance. Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage YumnaMaumoonand High Commissioner MunuMahawar delivered remarks on the occasion. The ceremony included performances by several senior Maldivian artistes. Besides, an ICCR-empaneled band 'The Aniruddh Varma Collective' specially travelled from India to perform at the re-opening ceremony of the Olympus theatre.

Built in 1959, Olympus theatre is the first and oldest building dedicated to performing arts and entertainment in the Maldives. This building, listed as a national heritage, has been the nucleus around which the art and cultural movement in the Maldives has blossomed since 1960s to the present day. For decades , it has provided a platform for local artistes – actors, filmmakers, playwrights and musicians alike - to develop and display their talents. It has supported the Dhivehi film industry and encouraged the development of the Maldives' music scene in its formative years.

India is privileged to be associated with the redevelopment of this iconic theatre through a grant assistance of MVR 8 million under its High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) scheme. The scope of the project included renovation works, installation of modern facilities , studios and equipment to provide state of the art facilities for the artistes fraternity in the Maldives.

This project will greatly improve the facilities for artistes to explore and better utilize creativity and technology in production and distribution. The higher quality in film screenings as well as regular music and theatre shows

will increase the audience engagement and in turn benefit the artistes' community financially. It will go a long way in the revival of the local theatre and concert scene.

Cooperation in the cultural domain is among the pillars of our bilateral partnership. The Indian Cultural Centre in Male' organizes several activities – including music classes – which sees enthusiastic participation from our Maldivian friends. We are working closely with the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage to realize other significant projects – for restoration of the HukuruMiskiy in Male', development of a Cultural Centre in Dhangethi, development of a site-museum in NoonuLandhoo and restoration of the Dhiyamigili Palace in Thaa atoll.

The Olympus theatre redevelopment is an excellent example of projects furthering socio-economic development that are being implemented across Maldives under the India-Maldives development partnership. India is supporting, through grant assistance, 46 such projects spread across 16 atolls and 36 islands. 23 of these projects, including Olympus theatre, have already been completed.

During the recent visit of External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar, India committed to extend a further MVR 100 million (USD 6.5 million) to take on additional community welfare projects in the Maldives.