Phase II of Musical Soiree 'Under the Banyan Tree on A Full Moon Night' leaves audience in awe

Showcasing India's rich classical and folk music

- Performances by Rajasthani stalwart [Anwar Khan Manganiyar](#) (Folk-Vocalist), [Vidhi Sharma](#) (Hindustani Classical Vocalist); and [Ahsan Ali Ensemble](#) (Leading Sarangi player) enthralls the audience

- Next phase of the series on June 24th, at 1AQ, Near Qutub Minar, Mehrauli

New Delhi 28th May, 2018. Produced and presented by the pioneering entertainment company, *Teamwork Arts*, Phase II of the **Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night** brought together different traditions in Indian music, with a focus on traditional folk. Moonlight and music blended together, in this *baithak*-style evening, to offer a mesmerising experience and an opportunity to engage with the musicians as well.

Supported by Fab India, Phase II featured three artistes: Anwar Khan Manganiyar (Rajasthani Folk-Vocalist), Vidhi Sharma (Hindustani Classical Vocalist); and Ahsan Ali Ensemble (Leading Sarangi player).

The evening began on a soulful note with the immensely talented Vidhi Sharma presenting a mix of semi-classical and folk-based Sufi music. She set the mood with a semi-classical *Thumri 'ab ke sawan ghar aaja'*, before moving on to the second set – '*sakhi more piya ghar aaye*' by Hazrat Aamir Khusro. In her own sufiana style, she performed Kabir Das's '*ghunghat ke pat khol re tohe piya milenge*' and ended her act with another famous *kalam* of Aamir Khusro '*chaap tilak*'. Talking about her experience of performing at 1AQ and this initiative by Teamwork Arts, Vidhi said, "It was surreal - the full moon, the banyan tree, the ambience - a one of its kind music *baithak*. It was a blessing to perform here tonight."

The second act of the evening was a mélange of compositions by Ahsan Ali Ensemble. The group led by Ahsan Ali, a sixth-generation multifaceted musician from the *Kirana Gharana* comprises Mudassir Khan and Azeem Ali on Sarangi, Amaan Ali on Tabla, Tarit Pal on Percussions, and Vishal Dixit on Keyboard. The performance began with *Raag Yaman*, and moved on to a 'Blues' composition, which was indeed a revelation for the audience. Their performance concluded with an expressive rendition of the popular ghazal *'aaj jaane ki zidd na karo'*, which received a rapturous applause from the audience.

Marking the culmination of the concert was the Rajasthani stalwart, Anwar Khan Manganiyar, who is renowned for having performed with leading maestros of Indian classical music. His ability to connect with audiences from varied cultural backgrounds and his vocal tonality added more depth to his performance. Having enchanted the audience with his earthy voice and melodious music, he received an-overwhelming response from the audience for his folk and Sufi compositions – which included those of Lord Krishna, Bulleh Shah, Kabir, and Amir Khusro.

Commenting on this initiative, **Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts**, said, "Our musical legacy has survived due to patrons and in this new age music enthusiasts are playing the role of patrons. I take this opportunity to thank the discerning audience of Delhi for giving us the strength to initiate new projects. *Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night* pays tribute to the age-old *baithak* scene of India."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Teamwork Arts: For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India. In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts, and literary festivals across more than 40 cities. Teamwork Arts produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, the Ishara International Puppet Festival and the annual Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) and Festival in New Delhi, international festivals Shared History in South Africa, Eye on India in the United States of America, India by the Bay in Hong Kong, Confluence- Festival of India in Australia, India@70 2017: Year of Culture in the United Kingdom, and many more.

Website: www.teamworkarts.com

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