

State of the art

- Chitra Nair

If one word had to be used to describe Manthan, the fusion concert on Sunday evening celebrating the launch of Ishanya's amphitheatre, it would probably be captivating. And the audience was certainly held captive with renowned musicians Amaan All Khan on the sarod, Louis Banks on percussion, Rakesh Prasanna on flute, Eshal Ali on the sarangi, Satyajeet Talwalkar on the table, Pravin on the dholak and Gino Banks on drums. The music extraordinaire that flowed that day was a delighted experience.

The state of the art Amphitheatre itself is a thing of beauty. Its elegant style and aesthetic ambience by itself resonates refinement. It has 500 seats, is the first open amphitheatre in Western India and overlooks a large water body. There are a lot of firsts with Ishanya, it is the only amphitheatre with a distinctive wooden state area, rehearsal rooms and green rooms, catering to business launches as well as the performing arts.

The evening began with Tom Alter playing host with witty remarks and lyrical verses, followed by a brief note by Sailesh Mehta the vice chairman and managing director of Deepak Fertiliser and Petrochemical Corporation, one of the brains behind specialty mall Ishanya, the other being his wife, Parul. Renowned danseuse Mrinalini Sarabhai inaugurated the amphitheatre and Madhur Bajaj, one of India's foremost industrialist inaugurated the Ishanya Arts and Culture Club.

According to Mehta, "The amphitheatre aims at inspiring the performing arts and culture on the whole." With the launch of this amphitheatre, Ishanya promises to be a revolutionary concept, adding to the cultural and art scenario that Pune is."