



**For Immediate Release**

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## **‘The Jodhpur Auction’ in support of IHIF a grand success!**

*The auction at Umaid Bhawan Palace had a performance by rock star Sting*

At the first edition of Bid & Hammer’s ‘The Jodhpur Auction’ that was to raise funds for the Indian Head Injury Foundation (IHIF), a number of fine works of art from sourced from across the country and abroad were auctioned to garner support for the cause head injury treatment in India. “After setting up the Indian Head Injury Foundation five years ago, we now felt that we needed to take it to the next level by raising awareness and resources for the cause and the foundation. The retreat is an endeavour to bring like minded people from across the world on a common platform to discuss future initiatives,” Maharaja Gaj Singh II of Jodhpur said about the initiative.

The distinguished guests who were present at the Zenana Durbar of the Umaid Bhawan Palace to attend the auction included royals, business tycoons and sporting and film icons. British royals the Duke and Duchess of York Andrew and Sarah Ferguson and Sheikha Hussah Sabah, who, along with her husband, owns the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah (museum) in Kuwait City amongst others from Egypt and France were also present besides Prince Richard Shivajirao Holkar of Indore.

The Jodhpur One World Retreat extravaganza had kicked off with champagne welcome at the Umaid Bhawan Palace followed by a grand procession to the ramparts of the Mehrangarh Fort and then a special ‘Desert Beckons’ opera show. Multiple Grammy-Award winning rock star, Sting, performed the next day, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013, at a private concert that preceded the auction.

Maher Dadha, Chairman & Managing Director of auction house Bid & Hammer mentioned that the auction-event went exactly the way it was anticipated. “Results at our auction in Jodhpur closely mirrored those of other international auction houses in the current market. Buyers making careful and considered purchases and making a substantial contribution to the IHIF cause. All in all the auction was a grand success being well supported by the presence of national and international royalty, the glitterati and leaders of multi-national businesses” he said.

The guests showed a lot of interest in antique jewels and miniature paintings. “We were able to raise a significant amount from the auction and hope to finalize more sales very shortly. The buyers showed a lot of enthusiasm for heirloom jewellery, which included pearl necklaces, diamond rings and gold pieces.

Decorative items like the sculpture depicting ‘the lioness’ and the ceremonial swords and daggers, being offered for the first time ever at an auction in India, were also well received,” he further added. The other highlights were the watercolour by England’s most iconic artist JMW Turner depicting a view of Srirangapatnam and a jazz screen by French visual artist Etienne Drian made for the music room of the Manik Bagh Palace of the Maharaja of Indore besides the Indo-Islamic zardozi tent backdrop and a suite of six Moineaux 1 Renee Lalique lights.

To give an indication of the way the bidding progressed, Sabino Lights (lot 81), which were estimated for 6-9 lakhs went for 12 lakhs and a pair of twisted bangles estimated between 17-20 lakhs went for around 51 lakhs. Husain's works also fetched a good amount.

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