

**High Commission of India
Colombo**

Subject: AKAM Activities for the Month of March 2023

Event No. :01 International Women Day celebration commenced with a programmes of art demonstration and a Kathak dance performance in collaboration with SMD Art Foundation, India.

Event No. :02 An online Yoga session on the occasion of Ram Krishna Jayanti Yoga of Ram Krishna Paramhansa by Ajay Khumbar on 4th March.

Event No. :03 Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Colombo Kathak students performed traditional Ghungroo Puja under the Guru of the centre ICCR in Sri Lanka on 6th March

Event No. :04 The Centre celebrated Holi at its premises with colourful cultural events and with colours on 6th March

Event No. :05 International Women's Day celebration. A lecture – Divine hands that lulls the world by Prof.(Mrs.) Prashanthi Narangoda, Director SAARC Cultural Centre on 7th March. The Centre observed a week long "Nari Shakti" programme with different events.

Event No. :06 An online Yoga session on the occasion of Women Day - Yoga for Women by Ajay Khumbar on 8th March.

Event No. :07 A special lecture on Relevance of Swami Vivekananda's message of Strength and Universal Brotherhood" to be delivered by Swami Satyeshananda ji Maharaj, Belur Math, Kolkata, India at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre on 8th March

Event No. :08 Holi celebration by Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Colombo today with Colombo Expat Cultural Centre at Taj Vivanta, Colombo on 12th March

Event No. :09 A special gesture!! Thanks to octogenarian artist S. Shanmugarajah for the unique wood burn art/pyrographic portraits of Hon.President Droupadi Murmu, PM Narendra Modi FM Nirmala Sitharaman and EAM Dr. S Jaishankar. Such moving gestures are the hallmark of multi-dimensional India and Sri Lanka ties -15th March

Event No. :10 Carnatic vocal recital by Dr Aaruran Arunanthy at SVCC, Colombo on 17th March.

Event No. :11 Bollywood Film screening on 21st March – Neerja at SVCC auditorium

Event No. :12 On the occasion of World Puppetry Day today Sri Lanka Cultural Affairs organised traditional Puppet drama at BMICH Colombo. Minister for Buddhasasana Religious and Cultural Affairs Hon'ble Vidura Wickramanayaka interacted with the Director of Swami

Vivekananda Cultural Centre Colombo Prof Ankuran Dutta on puppet traditions of India and Sri Lanka on 21st March

Event No. :13 Paintings of Indian authors provided by Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Colombo have been formally handed over by AHCI, Kandy Dr Athira S to the VC of Sabargamuwa University Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake. All five portraits will be displayed at the dept of Languages of the University on 22nd March.

Event No. :14 Distance learning helps student's access quality education at their own pace and place. With the academic support of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Colombo the Open University Sri Lanka is preparing to launch a certificate course on Hindi through distance learning. SVCC recently organised the first meeting on designing the course with the Dean, Head and Coordinator of Languages Faculty of the Open University and experts from the Dept of Hindi of University of Kelaniya - Sri Lanka on 22nd March

Event No. :15 The Indo-Sri'23 Intercultural Festival organized by Nāgānanda International Institute for Buddhist Studies (NIIBS) in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Colombo was successfully held on March 25 at Nāgānanda International Buddhist Institute Auditorium.

Event No. :16 President Indian Council For Cultural Relations Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe paid his respects to Swami Vivekananda and unveiled his picture at SVCC in Sri Lanka. This was to commemorate 125 years of the visit of Swamiji to several cities in, Sri Lanka on his return to motherland India, after his famous address at the Parliament of Religions. The President delivered a speech and interacted with the students and teachers of the Centre on 27th March

Event No. :17 President Indian Council For Cultural Relations Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and High Commissioner presented the ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award to Indologist, Prof. Mervin Dharmasiri. Prof. Dharmasiri spoke about the profound influence of studies in India on his life and its role in shaping his career. Sri Lanka chapter of India Alumni was also launched on the occasion on 27th March.

Event No. :18 Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe Indian Council For Cultural Relations President called on H.E PM Dinesh Gunawardane today and discussed ideas to strengthen collaboration and engagements between India and Sri Lanka in the cultural sphere, which is a key pillar of the multi-faceted bilateral relations between the two neighbours on 27th March

Event No. :19 Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President Indian Council For Cultural Relations interacted with Ven. members of the clergy, Hon. Minister Vidura Wickramanayaka and other dignitaries from various walks of life over a dinner held on 27th March. Exchanged several ideas to deepen the partnership between India and Sri Lanka in diverse areas

Event No. :20 President of Indian Council For Cultural Relations, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe offered prayers at Sri Dalada Maligawa. He was accompanied by DHC Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, ICCR

in Sri Lanka Director Prof. (Dr.) Ankuran Dutta, AHC Dr. Athira S. & Second Secretary of AHCI Kandy Mr. P. Somaraj on 28th March

Event No. :21 During his visit to Central Province, President of Indian Council For Cultural Relations, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe offered prayers at Seetha Amman Temple, Nuwaraeliya. He was accompanied by Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, ICCR in Sri Lanka Director Prof. (Dr.) Ankuran Dutta, Second Secretary of Ahci Kandy Mr. P. Somaraj on 28th March

Event No. :22 President of Indian Council For Cultural Relations, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe inaugurated Hindi classes at Sri Dalada Maligawa for the theeros of Asigiriya and Malwatte Mahapirivenas. Mahanayake Thero of Asgiriya chapter MV Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana Thero, Anunayake Thero MV Anamaduwe Sri Dhammadassi Thero, Lekhadhikari MV Madagama Dhammananda Thero, Hon'ble Diyawadana Nilame Dr. Pradeep Nilanga Dela, senior theeros of Asgiriya & Malwatte chapters & other dignitaries were present. After the inauguration of Hindi classes, President Indian Council For Cultural Relations, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe toured the India Gallery at the International Buddhist Museum at Sri Dalada Maligawa on 28th March

Event No. :23 President of Indian Council For Cultural Relations, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe visited Kandyan Dancing School. Hon'ble Diyawadana Nilame Dr. Pradeep Nilanga Dela welcomed Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, DHC Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Director SVCC Prof. (Dr.) Ankuran Dutta & AHC Dr. Athira S. Students of the academy performed Kandyan dances on 28th March

Event No. :24 Bollywood film Screening on 29th March at SVCC auditorium- Mirziya

Event No. :25 President Indian Council For Cultural Relations , Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and esteemed dignitaries were enthralled by the mesmerizing "Natha Isai Sangamam" by Saxophone Brothers and the scintillating Bharatha Natyam presentation by RAFA students, at Jaffna Culture Centre. The event was organized by India in Sri Lanka, Consulate General of India, Jaffna, showcasing the cultural richness of the region on 30th March

Event No. :26 During the visit of President Indian Council For Cultural Relations Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe to Jaffna, dignitaries engaged in a fruitful interaction, emphasizing the common bonds of cultural heritage and linkages between India and Sri Lanka on 30th March

Event No. :27 President ICCR visited Mahabodhi Temple and Mahabodhi Tree at Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. Princess Sanghmitra had brought the sapling of Bodhi tree from Bodhgaya, Bihar centuries ago. Besides Ramayana, Buddha and Buddhism are the two other strong linkages between India -Sri Lanka. Also met with Ven Pallegama Hemrathana Thero , the Atamasthanadhipathi of Anuradhapura and other spiritual leaders.

Event No. :28 An Online Lecture cum dance recital by Dr. Subashini Pathmanathan, (Renowned Bharatha Natya artiste & scholar). Lecture on "Impact of Ramayana on South East Asia "with Dance recital from Ramanadaka Keerthanams on 31st March

Event No. :29 The Asian Media and Cultural Association offered tribute to the pontiff of Sravanabelagola Jain Mutt Swastisri Charukeerti Bhattaraka Swami on 31 March 2023 at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Colombo. The members of the association also shared their experiences of meeting Swamiji Sravanabelagola Jain Mutt in the recent past.