



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद्
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India, Colombo

Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre

JANUARY 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Major Highlights

20 Schools of Colombo selected for Bharatiyam

- 07 National Schools
- 05 Provincial Schools
- 02 International Schools
- 02 Private Schools
- 02 Pirivena (Buddhist Monastic Institution)
- 02 Dhamma Schools

20 Events Organised Exhibitions Organised

- 5,000 Students participated in events
- 10,000 Students visited Exhibitions
- 100,000 Social Media posts reached

Event 01 14th November

BHARATIYAM- ICCR's School Connect Event-1 was organized at Wycherley International School, Colombo. The programme was initiated by the Cultural Affairs Officer of SVCC Ms. Subhashini Hande. The Director, SVCC, Colombo Prof. Anurag Dutta delivered a lecture on the Unity in Diversity in India followed by the interactive session with the students where about 100 students participated. The Principal of the school also addressed on the occasion and shared his experiences of visiting India. Among the students, there were 6 Indian students who elaborated on different areas about India. The Director presented books on India to the Principal Mr. Dayan Fernando. Sri Lankan students performed Indian dance and music.



Event 02 14th November



BHARATIYAM- ICCR's School Connect Event-2 was organised at Vivekananda Tamil Vidyalayam, Kotahena. About 500 students of this 97 years old government school participated in the event. The students also performed Bharatanatyam and popular Tamil songs. The Director, SVCC, Colombo Prof. Anurag Dutta delivered a lecture on Indian Culture- dance and music and also presented books on India Mythology to the Deputy Principal Mr. Santhakumar for the school library. The students very enthusiastically participated in the programme and also asked different questions on Indian society and culture, which were answered by the Director and the staff of SVCC.



BHARATIYAM- ICCR's School Connect Event-4 was organized at Zahira College, a 130 year-old boys' school. During the session, the students were excited to share that Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Nehru, Sarojini Naidu paid historic visits to the school in 1900s. This is an Islamic school at Colombo in Maradana, Sri Lanka, which was founded in 1892 as Al Madrasahul Zahira by one of renowned Islamic lawyer and educationalist. The college also has one of the oldest mosques in the country on its campus. The Principal of Zahira College, Md. Trizviy Marikkar spoke about the Islamic monuments of India and received the Urdu books donated by the Director, SVCC on behalf of the Centre to the library of the school. The students interacted on different issues of Indian sciences, politics, religion and so on. The Director, SVCC played a video for the students and spoke about the ICCR- history, activities etc. alongwith the ICCR's scholarship schemes for higher studies in India.

Event 04 16th November

Event 03 15th November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-3 was organized at Hindu College- a 72-year-old provincialized Boys' school in Colombo. The Director, SVCC, Colombo presented books on Indian Philosophy and Life Stories of Mahatma Gandhi to the Vice Principal Mr. Sri Ganesh for the school library. Students shared their experiences of visiting India and important facts including Indian culture, music, cinema and a lot of information on ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. About 500 students participated the event. Director SVCC spoke on the Indian Society and later enumerated the ICCR's scholarship schemes for higher studies in India.



Event 05 17th November

ICCR's School Connect Event-5 was organized at Mutwal Hindu College, a provincialized school in Colombo. The students performed Bharatanatyam, Yoga, and Indian film songs during the interactive session and shared their experiences of visiting India. A few students also explained about the recent achievements of the Indian space science with Chandrayan-3. Director presented books for the school library on Indian Birds to the Principal Mr. S. Karunakaran. Many of the students and teachers of the school belong to the Indian Tamil community of the upcountry.



Event 06 19th November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-6 was organized at the Dhamma School of 130 year-old Sri Hasthivarama Viharaya, Minuwangoda. Students of both English and Sinhala medium took part in the interactive session on India under the guidance of their teachers. The Chairman of Palmyra Department, Board of Sri Lanka Dr. Krishantha Pathiraja explained interesting facts on Indian society and economy. The concept of a Dhamma school is originated in Sri Lanka about 150 years ago. The purpose of the school is to guide students from nearby villages to understand, practice, and analyze Theravada Buddhist principles (Dharma) which Lord Buddha discovered. The school intends to produce non-violent, peaceful, well-mannered students with their ambitions to become useful people to the world. The Director, SVCC spoke about the religions originated in India and on the principles of "non-violence".



Event 07 20th November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-7 was organized at Hindu Ladies College a 90-year-old girls' school in Colombo managed by a board of women trustees. Over 300 students of grades 8, 9, and 10th participated with a lot of questions about Indian history, politics, culture, and sports. Students also wanted to know about the space research of India and women scientists. The Director, SVCC spoke about the advancements of science in India and the role of women scientists in strengthening and inculcating scientific temperament in Indian society. Many of the students shared their aim to study in India. The Director has presented R. K. Narayan's 'Malgudi Days' and a copy of Tamil 'Gita' to the Principal Mrs. Arunthathi Rajavelayan and Deputy Principal for the school library.

Event 08

21st November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-8 was organized at D.S. Senanayake College, the school named after the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. It was established on 10 February 1967 with R. I. T. Alles as the founding principal. The students of grade IX participated the event and shared various information and experiences on India. They learnt about Indian history, culture, religions. The Director, SVCC spoke on the India-Sri Lanka's millennia-old relationship through Ramayana and Buddhism.



Event 09

21st November



BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-9 at Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya, Nawala- a national girls school founded in 1996 by the then Chief Minister of the Western Province and present Minister of Education of Sri Lanka H.E. Mr. Susil Premajantha. Compared to its modest beginning with 13 pupils and 1 teacher, the school has over 4,000 pupils and about 150 teachers now. The students in this school has also the option to learn Hindi as a foreign language. The Director delivered a speech on the importance of learning language and linguistic diversity of India. He also encouraged students to study Hindi as it is one of the most spoken language in the world. The students shared their ideas on their neighbour India and also performed songs of Bollywood.



Event 10

22nd November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-10 was organised at Yoshida Shokarji International School, Sapugaskanda. The senior students of the school participated in the interactive session. The school was established in 1979 with the blessings of Most Ven. Banagala Upatissa Nayaka Thero, Chairman of the Yoshida Foundation, Chief Priest of Sanchi Viharaya and Mahabodhi Society. The Director, SVCC has presented a lecture on the Cinema of India and also interacted with the students on different areas including the entertainment industry of India, sports and science.



BHARATIYAM

Event 11

22nd November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-11 was organised at Sri Rahula Balika Vidyalaya, a govt. girls school at Malabe. This school was founded at the dawn of the 19th century by Ven. Sobhitha Thero. It was found as a vernacular Boys' School until 1840. Administration of this school was taken over by the government in 1869. In 1980 it became a Girls' school and currently has over 3000 students. The students performed Hindi songs and Kathak. Books on Indian Mythology were donated to the School Library. The Director, SVCC delivered a lecture on Indian music and how music connects the hearts beyond the borders. A student of grade-IX Samadani Nitya of the school sang beautifully A R Rahman's 'Tu Hi Re' from 1995 Bollywood super hit film 'Bombay' during the programme which has been reached more than 80,000 in Facebook only in the last one month.



Event 14

24th November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-14 was organised at Karapathy Ladies College, Srimath Bandaranayake Mawatha, Colombo. The A-level students of the school interacted on various aspects of Indian society and also a few students performed beautiful Tamil songs. The Director SVCC spoke on the Cuisine of India. The Principal and senior teachers also participated in the event. They encouraged the students to understand Indian Education System and how to prepare for the scholarships offered by ICCR to study in India.



Event 15

26th November

BHARATIYAM



BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-15 The students of the Mayurapathy Aranyeri School, Colombo performed Carnatic music- a song Mukunda Mukunda Krishna, Bharatanatyam on Navav-Rasam and advanced Yoga. They also interacted on different aspects, including education in India. This Sunday school is managed by the Mayurapathy Bhadrakal Amman temple and hundreds of students learn Hindulim, Tamil, Yoga, Bharatanatyam and Carnatic music. The Director SVCC enumerated the indigenous knowledge system of India with reference to Yoga and Ayurveda. He also urged to initiate Sanskrit learning in the school for the students. The Principal, Trustees were also present in the event and interacted with the students.

Event 12

24th November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-12 was organised at Colombo Central Hindu Maha Vidyalayam- this boys school is going to complete hundred years soon. The students wanted to know about the education in India and opportunities to study in India. Director, SVCC spoke on the Indian politics and government system and has donated a few books to the Principal Mr P Pathmananjan and Deputy Principal Mr K Jegannathan. The students interacted on the politics of India and economic growth.



Event 13

24th November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-13 was organised at Wollendhal Girls High School, Vivekananda Hill, Colombo. The girl students participated in discussions on Indian culture, cuisine, education and also political system. The principals of both Sinhala medium and Tamil medium participated in the programme alongwith senior teachers of the school. The Director, SVCC delivered a lecture on Indian Dance- Classical, Folk and Contemporary forms.



BHARATIYAM

Event 16

27th November

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-16 was organised at Arya Nikethana Pirivena-a Buddhist Monastic School at Athurugiriya. A pirivena is a monastic college for the education of monks in Sri Lanka. In ancient time, they were also centers of secondary and higher education for lay people. As of now 826 piriven have been founded and maintained by the Ministry of Education. Young monks undergo training at these piriven prior to their ordination. Director Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo delivered a lecture on India-Sri Lanka's shared heritage and the contribution of Arhant Mahindra and Sanghamitra in spreading the teaching of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka. Ven. Rammale Sumanaratna Thero from the Ministry of Education shared his experiences of his recent visit to India under Buddha Bhoomi Vandan Yatra. The principal and senior teachers of the pirivena attended the event.

Event 17

28th November

BHARATIYAM



BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-17 was organised at St. Paul's Girls' School, which is a National school for girls established in 1887. Over 500 senior students attended the event today. The students interacted on different aspects of Indian culture, politics, geography, history and performed instrumental music, Dandiya dance and Hindi song under the guidance of teachers. Director SVCC has donated about 50 Hindi books to the library as Hindi is taught in this school for a long period of time. The principal Ms. Chandri Sirwardhana inaugurated the exhibition "India Re-imagined" which was visited by over 800 students of the school from different classes. The Director, SVCC delivered a lecture on the ethnic diversity of India and unity with the concept of Indianness.

ICCR's School Connect Programme

From 14 November to 30 November, 2023

Event 18

30th November

Event 19

30th November

Event 20

30th November

BHARATIYAM- ICCR's School Connect Event-18 was organised at Ananda College, a National school for boys established in 1886. Gandhiji visited this school in 1927. During his first visit to Sri Lanka in 1922, Gurusdev Rabindranath Tagore delivered a historic speech in the School Prize Giving ceremony at this school. The students interacted on different aspects of Indian science and technology, politics, geography, history etc. Director SVCC has donated a book on Gandhiji commemorating his visit to this school and delivered a lecture of renowned Sri Lankan personalities who studied in India including the author of the National Anthem of the country Ananda Samarasekera. The school has produced a lot of renowned personalities in the field of politics, cricket (former Sri Captain Arjuna Ranatunga is an alumnus among many others), art and culture. The Principal, deputy principal and other teachers interacted with the Director, SVCC. The school has about 7,000 students at the moment.

BHARATIYAM

BHARATIYAM- ICCR's School Connect Event-19 was organised at Ananda Balika Vidyalaya, a century old national school for girls. It was the desire of Srimalth Anagarika Dharmapala to establish a school to train the school girls in keeping with the Buddhist moral values. He donated his house called "Victor House" and a land at Maligakanda, Colombo to establish a Buddhist girls' school. The students performed beautifully Hindi songs and also interacted on Indian culture. The Director, SVCC spoke on the concept of India's worldview- Basudhaya Kutumbakam and the neighbourhood first policy of the country to assist the neighbour in crisis.

BHARATIYAM ICCR's School Connect Event-20 was organised at Parama Dhamma Chaliya Pirivena, Rathmalana. This Buddhist monastic institution is one of the oldest institutions in Sri Lanka established in 1841. The programme was inaugurated by Ven. Dr. Maitripa Wimalasara Maha Thera, Chief Incumbent. Venerable monks of the Pirivena discussed on different subjects about India. Alongwith the Sri Lankan monks, the Indian and Chinese monks also interacted during the event. The Director, SVCC spoke on the Buddhist pilgrimages in India and the higher education opportunities of Buddhist and Pali studies in India. The Chief Incumbent Ven. Maha Thera congratulated the Director and the SVCC team for achieving 20 schools in Colombo in a fortnight by interacting with more than 5,000 students. He also shared his experiences as an ICCR alumnus studying in the University of Calcutta and Banaras Hindu University.

Events Calendar – January 2024

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|--|---------------|-----------|
| FRIDAY | 5 6.00 pm | Nartana Yatra Sattriya and Bharatha Natyam Dance Recital by DviDala dancing duo Venue: SVCC Auditorium | Online Yoga On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti “Yoga for concentration and detachment” by Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga Expert from India | 12 6.00 am | FRIDAY |
| TUESDAY | 9 | Pravasi Bharathiya Divas | | | |
| WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY | 10 & 11 | WORLD HINDI DIWAS CELEBRATION Two days Seminar and Cultural performances Venue: Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (Please stay tuned to our social media accounts for additional updates and information) | Online Yoga “YOGA FOR FATIGUE AND TIREDNESS” by Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga Expert from India | 15 6.00 am | SUNDAY |
| | | | Cultural Performance on the occasion of 75th Republic Day of India (Please stay tuned to our social media accounts for additional updates and information) | 24 | WEDNESDAY |
| | | | Event to mark Gandhiji’s Death Anniversary | 30 | TUESDAY |
| FRIDAY | 12 4.00 pm | Poetics of home and the world A conversation on multifaceted works of Painter, Poet, Playwright, Lyricist, Novelist and Film Maker Mahagama Sekera One of the most influential cultural personalities of modern Sri Lanka With Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi Department of Sinhala – Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya Dr. Ravibandu Vidyapathy Dancer, Choreographer & Percussionist Mr. Jagath Ravindra Dean, Faculty of Visual Arts, University of the Visual and Performing Arts Mr. Dileepa Abeysekera Writer, Translator Venue: SVCC Auditorium | Free Events. All are cordially invited. | | |
| | | | <p>We Conduct CLASSES on</p> <p>Bharatha Natyam, Kathak, Sitar, Violin, Tabla, Carnatic Vocal, Hindustani Vocal, Yoga and Hindi</p> <p>for more information Contact us on</p> <p>+94 11 2 684 698</p> <p>or iccrcolombo3@gmail.com</p> | | |

For upcoming facebook live events, visit www.facebook.com/ICCRSriLanka

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