



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
वर्तमान संस्कृत-संस्कृत-संस्कृत
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India, Colombo

Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre

DECEMBER 2022

MERRY

Christmas

— & HAPPY NEW YEAR —



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Christ, church and *Christmas*

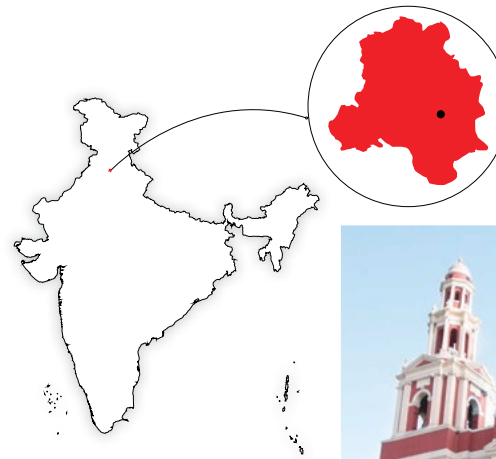
This Christmas, we showcase well-known shrines in the country, their flagship festivities, impressive architecture and fascinating history



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Delhi

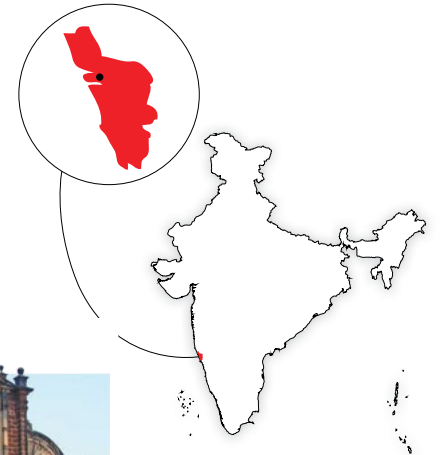
A unique combination of Italian and British architecture, the foundation stone of this church was laid in 1929. Designed by British architect Henry Medd, its facade of white pillars against a brick red background is remarkable. A towering curved roof, polished stone floors and broad arches make for grand interiors. Easter celebration are well-known

here including the death ceremony of Christ. These are followed by his joyful resurrection. On last Sunday of September is the Parish Feast, the feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus. During Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Christmas Vigil Service is organised where prayers and scriptures are read an hour before midnight on Christmas eve.



Basilica of Bom Jesus, Goa

A fine example of Baroque architecture, the foundation for this UNESCO World Heritage Site was laid in November 1594. It is dedicated to Bom Jesus meaning good or infant Jesus. Murals and marble floors inlaid with precious stones add charm to interiors. Mortal

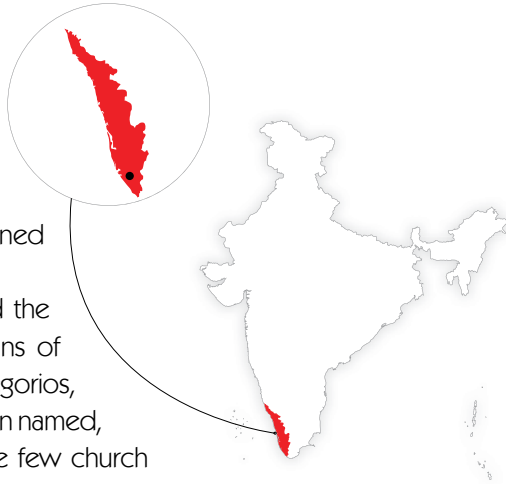


remains of St Francis Xavier, who died in 1552 and had unbelievable healing powers, are kept here in a glass case ensconced in a silver casket since 1624. His body was buried in three

different countries; each time it was exhumed, it was found to be incorrupt! Once in 10 years, the Spanish saint's body is brought out for pilgrims to see in a ceremonial procession. The 17th such St Francis Xavier Exposition is scheduled from November 24, 2014 to January 4, 2015.

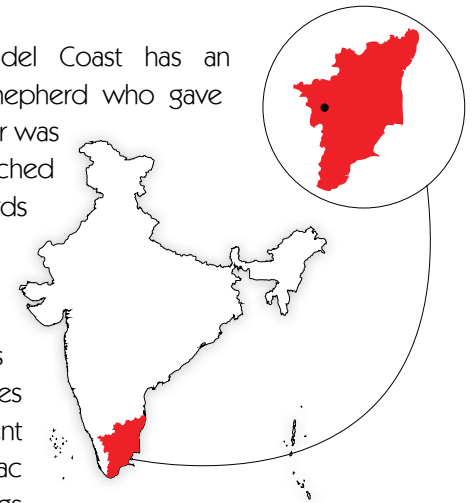
Originally built in 1885, Parumala

Church in Thiruvalla, Kerala, at present, is a modern building re-designed by renowned architect Charles Correa. Apart from the Holy Altar and the room where the mortal remains of Parumala Thirumeni or Saint Gregorios, after whom the church has been named, are entombed. It is one of the few church buildings which are circular in design. You can be a part of the week-long festivities here on November 2 when an annual feast commemorating the death anniversary of Saint Gregorios is organised.



Velankainni Church, Tamil Nadu

Velankainni Church on Coromandel Coast has an interesting history behind it. A shepherd who gave milk to baby Jesus found his pitcher was never out of milk and a small thatched chapel was built at the site. Towards the end of 16th century, Virgin Mary appeared and cured a lame boy after which the church, dedicated to Our Lady of Health, was constructed. Even today, devotees offer a candle shaped to represent a respective illness: Heart for cardiac complications, liver for jaundice, lungs for tuberculosis... When cured, they donate miniature replicas of body parts in silver or gold which are housed in a museum in the premises. On Christmas eve, church priests come in a procession to announce the birth of Jesus.



Source : India Perspectives

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INDIAN DIASPORA IN SRI LANKA

ADAM'S PEAK



Nope it wasn't about Adam's peak.....

Tis not about choosing the toughest route to trek..... But it is about Park street mews.....

My 1st welcome dinner to SL.....

My 1st girls gang lunch meet there.....

It was all the planning, and work out schedules and WhatsApp exchanges and hijacking the boat party.....and all the zillion tips.....and d zillion trips to decathlon..... and the blogs.....virtual experiences..... But honestly this one was bigafter Run the Rann.....the toughest.....I experienced.

36 hours were testing times without electricity and in heavy rains n leeches all over us sucking blood.

More than 60% of the hike was in pitch dark, one step slip and all of us would have toppled over each other and fallen in d thick jungle.

We didn't know where the next step would land us. But then a big sense of achievement after completing 29 kms.

Even pictures and words don't do justice to the narrative.

It was pure love and friendship that made the trip and the unachievable A SUPAAAAH SUCCESS!

My true welcome to Sri Lanka..... like minded friends..... a tick to everyone's bucket list and a dream we all shall cherish.....loads more to this story....

Virtual friendz a big part of us not captured here, Love and camaraderie.....

All that is taught over years in B School.....

A new script written every second according to how the environment evolved....

What a successful storyline.....

Was there a strategy.....

Did we play on our individual strengths.....

ONE GOAL.....

CLEAR OBJECTIVE.....

each one help one.....

THE TEAM HAS TO GET TO ADAM'S PEAK.....

THE TEAM IS A WINNER.....never an

individual..... This picture defines it all.... though it was just the beginning of tough times to come.....

Who knew a picture was being taken.....and did anyone care.....

Introducing a magical person, with a soft heart BUT assertive and how.....our new friend our guide, was half our age but twice the energy and positivity than HE MAN..... the never give up attitude.....and not so difficult words

Once upon a time, my friends set up welcome lunch in Park Street Mews, Alice created a group called Nature Lovers, and that created News.Lying on the bed I was glancing thru FB, hands under my chin.

Took a screen shot, came by this Ceylon Ramblers post, Shared on the WhatsApp group, expecting a yes from all the gals dost. Promptly said yeahh Alice and 2 friends on chat, Another was hummmm my birthday, I want to but.....this and that.

The trek is tuff n to make this happen we said, letz keep a min quorum of six, On November the 15th, boys we added and a group we could fix.

Soon 10 were game, no one had any clue dat we were gonna swallow a dangerous pill; Felt good cos the numbers kept adding so did our baby Namya, then advices poured in and more peeps wanted to enjoy the vicarious thrill.

The Guide panicked, are u guys in? And when we made the payment as a commitment, he suddenly said, m not there, with another guide u r in safe hands, Articles were shared, guesses were made based on googling, assumptions, stories shared, excitement grew and now no one would a-band-on.

As we started climbing n tougher it got, I realised that I was carrying a burden of luring all, how I wish I could fly like superman in his cape, Reach all to Adams peak and get them back intact in even shape.

But the love that grew, roles that developed, team building, comaderie formed, stories that were written by tired soles, Survivors,

fighters, motivators, helpers, peppers, jugadoos all names outta an mba class of skill perhaps penned down in every appraisal roles.

Walking scheds, yoga sessions, staircase climbing, gym workouts, leg training et al, Shopping trips, decathlon, leech socks, everything for our Adam's peak call.

Leech prevention tips to recovery tips to what we should be wary, What to pack to how much, to process of elimination if we do not get porters to carry.

Everything that could come in the way and stop us was tried....but it had to be God was by our side, One was bed ridden ouchhhh to stormy rains n thunder showers a week before was anotherz concern since there were thunder showers nation wide.

The concern and wait for our champion, to all of our family trying to reach them tring tring, To the sigh of relief when one of us got a signal announced good news jinga lala jing jing. Whether it was ambalama or alabama didn't matter, the truth is that it was unending, lekin tha ek dono ka saath, It was a ghostly trail, probably the dogs and dustbins were only to trust to show the path.

We would have just passed out in 7 degrees cold wet shivery state, as we were out of food, had it not been for the heap of HOT RICE prepared by jugaad, Language barriers, heavy rains, no light, over 60% of the trail was done in pitch dark with no support of torches/head lights bola baar baar.

AND obviously the most dangerous moments are only captured in our hearts and etched in our memories forever and forever, Siddhalepa is king siddhalepa is king and can be replaced NEVER.



Phalguni Sampat

Source : UTSAV 2019-20

<p>3 Saturday 7.00 am</p>	<p>Monthly Lecture Series –116 On the occasion of Geeta Jayanti Bhakti Yoga in Geeta by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India (Online)</p>	<p>Indian Food Festival Hindi Class students and Indian diaspora Venue: SVCC</p>	<p>10 Saturday 10.30 am to 1.00 noon</p>
<p>4 to 25 Every Sundays 4.00 pm</p>	<p>Monthly Lecture Series – 117,118,120,121 Online Yoga lecture / workshop sessions for Param Dhamma Chaitya Pirivena, Ratmalana by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India</p>	<p>Monthly Lecture Series – 119 On the occasion of International Universal Health Coverage Day Yoga for Health and Happiness by Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga Expert from India (Online)</p>	<p>12 Monday 7.00 am</p>
<p>9 Friday 3.30 pm</p>	<p>Friday Matinee Film: Fanaa (Hindi) Venue: SVCC Auditorium</p>	<p>Sanskriti Sandhya Series – 37 Hindustani Vocal Recital By Mr. Dinidu Muthunayake, Visiting Lecturer, University of Visual and Performing arts</p>	<p>14 Wednesday 6.30 pm</p>
		<p>Friday Matinee Film: Black (Hindi) Venue: SVCC Auditorium</p>	<p>16 Friday 3.30 pm</p>

Free Events. All are cordially invited.

For details in regard to
CLASSES on

**Bharatha Natyam, Kathak, Sitar, Violin, Tabla,
Carnatic vocal, Hindustani Vocal, Yoga and Hindi**

please call on

tell no. +94 77 672 6143 or E-mail to iccrcolombo2@gmail.com.

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

Published by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
16/2, Gregory's Road, Colombo 07. Tel: 011 2684698
Email: iccrcolombo@gmail.com Facebook: [facebook.com/ICCRSriLanka](https://www.facebook.com/ICCRSriLanka)

