

in Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in the month of January 2011

10th January 2011

World Hindi Day Celebrations

Professor Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage, Professor, University of Kelaniya delivered a talk on Hindi Studies in Sri Lanka: A Brief History at the Centre. In his lecture he spoke about the teaching and learning of the Hindi Language in Sri Lanka and its history and the influence of Indian dramatic traditions on Sinhala theatre.



One-day Seminar – Emergence of the South Asian Economies with special reference to India and Sri Lanka

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized One Day Seminar on *Emergence of the South Asian Economies with special reference to India and Sri Lanka* on Thursday, 20th January, 2011. The seminar was organized in view of the increasing growth momentum in the Indian and Sri Lankan economies who are the close neighbors in South Asia. His Excellency Shri Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka inaugurated the seminar. In his inaugural address, he highlighted about the spurt of economic growth in the South Asian region particularly in India and Sri Lanka.



In his illuminating address among the well-attended and participated important seminar, Shri Kantha pointed out that the focus has shifted from developed nations to the emerging countries that would shift the balance of economic growth at the global level. The South Asian region is experiencing now the tectonic economic growth. In the current period, the South Asia has been growing at the fastest rate outsmarting others. This has opened new chapter of economic growth and development in the South Asian region. India has been now showing high economic growth rate providing confidence to other countries in the region particularly Sri Lanka. In India, there have been uneven regional growth realizations. However, through a proper and porous growth strategy, there have been better growth realizations in the countryside and rural

ar. These have been helpful in sustaining and enhancing the growth momentum in the Indian economy. Growing population has been made to help the economic expansion in India through better strategy for demographic dividends. Thus, the untapped potentialities in the Indian economy are being taken care prudently. Private sector is fast upcoming now leading to their expansion as well as contributing significantly for the overall economic growth in India. There have been infrastructural gaps in India. However, now these gaps are being bridged to provide larger base for rapidly growing Indian economy.

Shri Kantha while appreciating the high economic growth rate of 8 percent a year during 2004-08 shown by Sri Lanka argued that it has shown its potentialities. It has greater potentialities if its untapped requisite potentialities might be released further. In this regard, Sri Lanka may take advantage of its proximity with the billion plus economy of India. Already, there is increased cooperation and this may be seen more obviously in areas like airways, dockyards, etc. There is now need that the growth stories of South Asia is made more successful through mutually reinforcing ways. With regard to India's economic relations with Sri Lanka, it might be pointed out that India has been working on non-reciprocity and asymmetrical strategy for larger economic growth. Private sector can play a strong stimulus in the South Asian region for reinforcing growth momentum further as intra-regional trade in the region is quite limited although there is great scope in this regard. Besides, the South Asian region needs to address the issues like poverty alleviation and inclusive growth for a sustainable growth.



Prof S.S.M.K. Kshanika Hirimburegama, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo presided over the inaugural session. She said that India is like our brother. There is growing cooperation between the two countries and it needs to be further strengthened through improved relationships at the University level education and research.

The theme paper of the seminar entitled ***Emergence of the South Asian Economies with special reference to India and Sri Lanka*** was presented by Dr Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Visiting Professor of Economics, University of Colombo (Sri Lanka). He said that scholars have

decades that the economic power is shifting towards Asia due to its fast emergence wherein South Asia has been showing the remarkable progress. This fact has been well recognized now even by the international agencies like the World Bank that says that in this culturally rich part of the world, economic growth has surpassed collectively 5 percent and these needs to be improved and sustained. He later dealt with the two emerging economies of the South Asia viz. India and Sri Lanka in detail.

In his theme paper Dr Agarwal argued that India has been looked upon by the western scholars even before its independence in 1947 that it has strong economic potentialities and that would be difficult to get manifested because of its pluralism. Still India has shown it through strong democratic practices that India can and would emerge economically as well. Its pluralism would not be a hindrance but through democratic mechanism and other institutional reforms since the beginning itself India would emerge as one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world. More importantly, it is being sustained and India is making accelerated economic performance and is now poised for double digit economic growth. Its macroeconomic parameters are consistently improving and giving a sense of confidence of sustaining high economic growth rate in future as well. There are still areas where more attention is needed in India like human development, regional and inter-personal equality and poverty alleviation and women empowerment. His argument was that through suitable economic and other reforms these areas of challenges might be converted into potential sources of economic growth.

For the Sri Lankan economy, Professor Agarwal has shown much optimism through inter-temporal analysis as well as through the contemporary developments since the last few years in the backdrop of elimination of conflict after three decades. The Sri Lankan economy is credited for many firsts in South Asia like improving human development; drastic improvement in sex ratio; initiating economic reforms in 1977 when others could not imagine that way. This island economy is showing now sign of improvement and it shows the potentialities to grow faster through proper policy strategies. This would require focusing on the real sectors, changing human development into human resource development and adopting the policy of inclusive growth through the economic convergence approach.





The Valedictory speech was delivered by Shri Manish (Counselor, E&C, Indian High Commission, Colombo) who said Indian and Sri Lankan trade and commerce relationship is growing at very high pace and with further understanding it is expected to grow at still higher pace. The seminar was highly interactive as many important research deliberations were made by noted experts in their field from India and Sri Lanka. Many prominent researchers participated in the seminar like Prof W.D. Lakshman (former Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo), Prof K. Jothi Sivagnanam (University of Madras, India), Prof M.D.A.L. Ranasinghe (Head, Department of Economics, University of Colombo), Prof SMP Senanayake, Prof H.D. Karunaratne, Rev. Dr W. Wimalaratna, Prof S.T. Hettige, Dr S.P. Premaratne, Dr M. Ganeshamoorthy and many others.

17th January 2011

World Hindi Day Celebrations - Performances

As continuation of the World Hindi Day Celebrations the Hindi students of the Centre celebrated World Hindi Day on 17th January at the Centre. The evening included a variety of items which was performed by the Hindi students of various ages. The students showed their hidden talents on that day. The evening was very well enjoyed by the students and the parents who attended the event. Around 100 guests attended the recital





25th January – 1st February 2011

Celebrating the 62nd Republic Day of India

Kathakali performance by P.S.V.Natyasangam, Kottakal, Kerala.

The Kathakali troupe led by Kottakkal Chandrasekharan of PSV Natyasangham of Kerala visited Sri Lanka for their performances associated with the 62nd Republic Celebrations of India. The troupe came to Sri Lanka under the aegis of Cultural Exchange Programme signed between India and Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Culture and Arts of the Government of Sri Lanka gave local hospitality to the troupe.

The Ministry of Culture of Sri Lanka arranged the local transportation and programmes at Noope Culture Centre, Matara, and at the University of Jaffna. The performance in Colombo was taken care of by the Indian Culture Centre and at Galle, the organizers of Galle Literary Festival. The Ministry of Sri Lanka has paid the per diem allowance of the troupe. They were accommodated fairly well-maintained hotels at all the places the troupe performed.

Prior to the arrival of Kathakali troupe, ICC issued press release detailing the performances of the Kathakali troupe and most of the newspapers carried it as their news item.

In addition to that, on the day of the troupe's arrival on 23rd of January, ICC held a Press Conference. Though the Conference was limited to a few press persons, 2 television channels (Rupavahini and Prime TV) attended the Conference and they telecast the Press Conference in their News and Cultural Calendars.

invited programme inviting the Kottakkal Chandrasekharan, the leader of the group, and the Director, ICC to their studio. Many newspapers covered the Kathakali performances and carried the information about the programmes.

We invited Hon. Minister T.B Ekanayake, Ministry of Culture and Arts, Government of Sri Lanka as Chief Guest for the Kathakali performance held on the eve of the 62nd Republic Celebration of India at Kularathne Hall of Ananda College, Colombo. The Minister was received by High Commissioner of India, His Excellency Shri. Ashok K. Kantha.

Due to our publicity in the form of press releases, invitation cards (2200 Nos) and advertisements, the attendance of the audience were overwhelming. The hall was full for the performance.

The story of performance was a scene from the Malayalam Kathakali Classic "Nalacharitham" of Unnai Varriar. The troupe performed Kathakali in their typical classical style: with very slow movements and highly expressive gestures. Though, the audience was totally new to such a classical way of Kathakali performance, the connoisseurs of acting and dancing who attended





the performance. The length of the performance was one hour and twenty minutes.

The artistes were honored by bouquets and souvenirs by Mr. Wimal Roopasinghe, Secretary of Cultural Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka in the presence of the High Commissioner.

Performance in Galle Literary Festival

Kathakali troupe did another performance at Galle as part of Galle Literary Festival on 27th January 2010. The story of performance was "Nalacharitham - second day". A majority of the audience was writers, especially those who came from western countries.

Performance at Matara

Another performance by Kathakali troupe was at Noope Cultural Centre Matara on 28th January 2011. We have invited former Minister of Cultural Affairs Mr. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and Mr. Wimal Roopasinghe, Secretary, Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka and the Consular General Mr. Mohana Kumaran.

The story of performance was "Keechaka Vadham - Third day". Due to a very good publicity the audience was huge in number. There were about 650 people to watch the programme. A majority of the crowd was local people and they appreciated the programme.

Performance at Jaffna.

The final performance of Kathakali troupe was held at Jaffna University Auditorium on 30th January 2011. The Programme was inaugurated by Additional Secretary of Cultural Affairs Mr. Piyathilake, Dean of Faculty of Arts Prof. Ghanakumaran, Registrar of the University Mr. Kaandiban and Consular General Mr. Mahalingam.

The story of Performance was "Nalacharitham" and the programme was well appreciated by the crowd. There were more than 350 people to watch the performance. (Some of the press clippings and the advertisements appeared in the local dailies is herewith attached)



World Hindi Day Celebrations – Essay Competition

In continuation of the World Hindi Day Celebrations the Centre has also conducted an essay competition for the students of the Centre. According to the levels choices of topics were given and the students were asked to choose a topic. Totally 32 students took part in the competition. The winners will be awarded a prize and a certificate and all others will get a participation certificate. We will be organizing the presentation Ceremony combined with another future event.



To Commemorate the 150th Birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore a series of talks by dr. Reba Som

ICC Colombo, in association with the University of Colombo the University of Jayewardenepura and the University of Kelaniya organized a Lecture Series of Dr. Reba Som from 31st January to 2nd February 2011.

Prior to her arrival in Colombo, ICC has released a press release about the lecture series. A few newspapers carried the press release and there were many enquires by email and over telephone to the Office by the Tagore loving community in Colombo.



Lecture at University of Colombo

The Lecture of Dr. Reba Som was held at FGS hall of the University of Colombo on 31st January 2011. The subject of the lecture was "Musical Journey of Rabindranath Tagore". The lecture was well received by the audience, who were mostly comprised of the University teachers, scholars and there were a few guests from the public.

As Dr. Reba Som lectured as well as sang Rabindra Sangeet, the ICC provided harmonium for her lecturers.



Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama delivered the welcome address and the Director of ICC introduced Dr. Reba Som. After the lecture, a short film titled the *Story of Tagore's Gitanjali* was projected. Most of the members of the audience personally went to Dr. Reba Som and conveyed their appreciation about the lecture.

Since the lecture was in the University the audience was limited to the University circle. On the other hand, Dr. Reba Som was also expecting an audience of scholarly nature and the University of Colombo had an audience of that nature.

Lecture at University of Kelaniya.

On 1st of February Dr. Reba Som has delivered a lecture at University of Kelaniya. The Welcome Address was made by the Dean of Art Faculty in the presence of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya.

The Dean of the Faculty spoke at length about Tagore in Sinhalese. There was also a dance performance by the students based on a song composed by Rabindranath Tagore. The Director, ICC introduced Dr. Reba Som.

The subject of Dr. Reba Som's lecture was "Rabindranath Tagore: the Nation and the World". She had also sung a few Tagore songs so that the audience could feel more comfortable.

Lecture at University of Jayewardenepura

On 2nd of February 2011 the lecture was held at the University of Jayewardenepura.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Saman Chandra Ranasighe and Ms. Preethika of the Department of English, conducted the Programme. The Director, ICC introduced Dr. Reba Som and the lecture of Dr. Som, was an extempore one. She has also sung a few songs of Rabindranath Tagore.

The crowd was limited to 60 people. A majority of them were teachers of the University. The short film of *Story of Tagore's Gitanjali* was also projected.

As such we may have to create much more awareness about Tagore through various lectures and enactments of his plays for getting more mileage in the activities related to Tagore Anniversary to reach out to the literary and art enthusiastic crowd of Sri Lankans.

We also arranged a few interviews of Dr. Reba Som in the newspapers and broadcast her interview through SLBC.

in Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in February 2011

2nd February

Kathakali

Lecture cum Demonstration by P.S.V.Natyasangam

The Kathakali troupe led by Kottakkal Chandrasekharan of PSV Natyasangham of

Kerala visited Sri Lanka for their performances associated with the 62nd Republic Celebrations of India.

The troupe delivered a lecture cum demonstration at the Centre. In their demonstration they explained the Kathakali mudras, steps and also played different rhythm patterns with the musical instruments used for the traditional Kathakali repertoire. The expressions of Navarasa were done by Kottakkal Chandrasekharan.

With the help of mudras and postures the troupe explained the features of acting. They had shown how any kind of dialogue is communicated within the set of rules laid for Kathakali.





9th February

Hindustani Vocal Music recital

by Vinod Kumar Dwivedi

Vinod Kumar Dwivedi, an accomplished Dhrupad and Dhamar singer of the Darbhanga Gharana presented an evening of Hindustani Classical Vocal Music at the Indian Cultural Centre. While Performing he explained some aspects of Hindustani Music. The audience comprising students, musicians, were greatly impressed by the technical perfection and appreciated his performance.





11th February

Musical Creativity of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore by Dr. Dayaratna Ranatunga and Prof Amara Ranatunga

The Tagore Society of Sri Lanka presented a programme of Rabindra Sangeet by Dr. Dayarathna Ranatunga and Prof. Amara Ranatunga at the centre. In addition to Dr. Dayarathna Ranatunga and Prof. Amara Ranatunga, Sangeeth Visharadha Rupashika Ranatunga and Sangeeth Visharadha Sadhana Ranatunga performed Rabindra Sangeet.

Dr. Dayarathna Ranatunga and Prof. Amara Ranatunga are trained In India and they popularised Hindustani and Rabindra Sangeet in Sri Lanka.





Lecture – Buddhist and Hindu Monuments at Polonnaruwa by Prof. Anura Manatunga

Prof. Anura Manatunga, Professor of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya presented a slide lecture on Buddhist and Hindu Monuments at Polonnaruwa at the Centre. In the lecture Prof. Anura Manatunga observed that other than any archaeological site in Sri Lanka Polonnaruwa is most important because at this place the historical remnants of Buddhist and Hindu religious structures as well as secular structures are available.

The lecture was followed by a question and answer session with the audience.



16th February

An evening of Old Hindi Film Songs presented by the Geeth Malhar Hindi Lovers Association

The members of the Geeth Malhar Hindi Lovers Association presented an evening of Old Hindi Film Songs at the Centre. They sang the songs from the films of 60's 70's & 80's. The evening was well enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre.



22nd February

Sitar recital by Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo

Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo, Lecturer, University of Kelaniya presented an evening of Sitar Recital which captivated the audience gathered at the centre. Her recital lasted an hour and half in which she played rag Charukeshi in Vilambit then taal, madhyalaya Char taal ki sawari and Madhyalaya & Druth then taal. This was followed by raag Mishra Peelu in Dhun style and Misra Pahadi again in Dhun style. She was supported on Sitar by Mr. Jagath Mapalagama. The evening was very well enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre.



Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana

The Indian Cultural Centre organized its annual event "Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana" – Carnatic Music Festival on 25th February. Musicians from various parts of the Island gathered at the Centre to sing as a chorus to pay homage to the great composer and musician. As per the tradition they sang the Pancharatna Kritis of Thyagaraja. The event provided a chance to the Carnatic musicians of Sri Lanka to come together and exchange ideas on music. Honourable Major General G. A. Chandrasiri, Governor of Northern Province was the Chief Guest. Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan conducted and coordinated the music festival.





In the month of February 2011 the following film was screened at the Centre:-

February 12

Film: Mahabharat – India's greatest epic (In Hindi) - Volume VI

February 28

Ankur



Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in March 2011

March 4

Film: Mahabharat (Volume VII) – India's greatest epic

March 9

Kuchipudi Dance Recital by Nrutya Ratna Smt. Maddali Usha Gayatri

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo is organized a Kuchipudi Dance Recital by Nrutya Ratna Smt. Maddali Usha Gayatri (Hansa Awardee) from India on Wednesday, 9th March 2011 at the ICC Auditorium.

Emerged as a child prodigy Smt. Maddali Usha Gayatri is a disciple of Natyacharya Bharatakala Prapoorna, late Sri Vedantam Jagannadha Sarma. She is also a Scholar & Teacher of Kuchipudi Dance. She also holds a Masters Degree in Dance from the Central University, Hyderabad, India. She is also a recipient of Hansa Award and Nrutya Ratna Award. As a dancer she has choreographed many dance ballets taking up subjects of traditional and social mores.

Ms. Gayatri presented several items which lasted for an hour and half which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. Around 75 guests participated in this event

March 11

Kathak Dance Recital by Ms. M.M. Deepa Kure

Ms. M.M. Deepa Kure is a disciple of Shasthrapathi Achini Lanka presented a Kathak Dance Recital at the Indian Cultural Centre. Deepa Kure is one of the known teachers of Kandyana and Low Country dances. She holds a Diploma in Kandyana dance and a Bachelors Degree from the University of Kelaniya. She also has vast experience of traditional Indian dance Kathak. She has presented a number of stage performances all over Sri Lanka. She performed Tarana, Tumri and dance for bhajans on various deities such as Lord Krishna and themes. Around 125 guests attended the event.

March 15

Film: Purva Uttara (Past Forward) – A series of unusual films on historical sites of India directed by Shyam Benegal

March 24

by Mr. Chandragupta Thenuwara

Mr. Chandragupta Thenuwara, Senior Lecturer at the University of Visual & Performing Arts delivered a Slide Lecture – Reflections on Art at the Indian Cultural **Centre**.

Mr. Thenuwara completed his BFA at the Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya and MFA at the Moscow state Art Institute and obtained his M. Phil from the postgraduate Institute of Archaeology. Mr. Thenuwara has exhibited widely in Colombo, New Delhi, Moscow, Vienna, London, Melbourne, Liverpool, New York and many other cities of various countries.

Mr. Thenuwara shared his experience in the field of Art and spoke about his works. Several slides of his works were also projected for the audience view. Around 50 guests attended the event

March 25

Film: Purva Uttara (Past Forward) – A series of unusual films on historical sites of India directed by Zafar Khan

March 28

An evening of Tagore Songs by Rezwana Choudhury Bannya



High Commission of India and High Commission of Bangladesh jointly organized an evening of Tagore songs (Rabindra Sangeet) on March 28th 2011 at Lionel Wendt Theater by renowned artiste Rezwana Choudhury Bannya to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev

Mr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation, Sri Lanka, Mr. Dilan Perera, Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion & Welfare, Sri Lanka, Mr. Mohamed Mijarul Quayes, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Mahbub Uz Zaman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh and H.E. Mr. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India lighted the traditional lamp to inaugurate the evening event which was well attended by the lovers of the Rabindra Sangeet in Sri Lanka.

Tagore, a poet, music teacher, playwright and visual artist, was one of the major witnesses and protagonists of the beginning of the industrial era and of the first half of the twentieth century. His significant work provides us with a philosophical system emblematic of Asian civilizations.

A contemporary of Gandhi and Nehru, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, friend of Einstein and of many artists and scientists, this humanist in search of the universal is at the core of a galaxy of intellectuals and creators from Asia and continues, moreover, to have an impact on the international community as a whole.

Tagore visited Sri Lanka thrice and discovered the beauty and the elegance of the Kandyan dance, raised its stature and inspired a renaissance of Sri Lankan culture. Gurudev also laid the foundation of Sri Palee, an Institute modeled on the lines of Santiniketan.

A number of events are on the anvil to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in Sri Lanka including release of a special postal stamp, publication of a commemorative volume including articles on Tagore, exhibition of paintings by Tagore, photo-exhibition on Tagore and a film festival of the films based on the stories of Tagore, etc.





March 28

Nav Pratibha 2011

Nav Pratibha – A display of new talents in Indian classical music & dance - performances on sitar, violin, tabla, Carnatic vocal music, Hindustani vocal music, Bharata Natyam & Kathak dance recitals by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre was held at the Kularathne Hall, Ananda College on 31st March. The event was presided over by the Deputy High Commissioner Shri Vikram Misri. Managing Director of the Express newspapers Mr. Kumar Nadesan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The evening started off with a classical sitar recital in which the students trained by Dr. Normal Kumara Rodrigo presented an item, "Sitar Sandhwani" a composition based on raag Kalawathi set to Madhyalaya and Drutha Teental. The classical sitar recital was followed by Hindustani Vocal music recital. The students trained by Dr. Premadasa Mudunkotuwa sang classical bhajans based on raag Kedar and Dadra based on raag Khamaj. The students trained by Carnatic music maestro Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan presented a Keerthanam "Sri Jalandhra" in raag Natai set to Aathi taal, followed by "Shanthi Nilava Vendum" in raag Thilang and concluded with a Thillana in raag Thilang. It was followed by a Hindustani Violin recital by the students trained by their guru Visharadh Somasiri Illesinghe. They presented an item based

Next was a Tabla recital by the students of the Centre trained by their guru Visharadh S.W.Randoowa. Many aspects of Tabla percussion were displayed by the students. A Tabla duet was another performance.

The instrumental and vocal music recitals were followed by dance recitals. The students trained by Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran commenced the dance recital with "Kurai Ondrum Illai" followed by a dance item for the songs "Nandhalala" and "Aaja nachle". The Kathak dance students trained by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya presented a "Tharana". Thereafter, there was a Bharata Natyam dance recital by the students trained by their guru Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan. They started with a dance performance for the song "Neethani" and concluded with a Thillana. Shri Kumar Nadesan, Chief Guest of the occasion felicitated the teachers.







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in Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in April 2011

April 5-12

Puducherry Blue - An Exhibition of South Asian Art

The Puducherry Blue, an exhibition of South Asian art was inaugurated by Hon. Mr. S. Alavi Mowlana (Jamal Allai), Governor, Western Province, Sri Lanka in the presence of H. E. Mr. Ashok K Kantha, High Commissioner of India , His Excellency Mr. Mahbub uz Zaman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh and His Excellency Ms. Kathy Klugman, High Commissioner of Australia on 5th April 2011 at the J. D. A. Perera Gallery, No.46, Horton Place, Colombo 07.



The exhibition was on view till 12th April 2011 between 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. The exhibition features some of the most prominent artists from South Asian countries including Sri Lanka.

Paintings evolved at the artist's camp held at Puducherry, India, was held under the auspices of ICCR in 2010. The camp was held with a view to bring together artists from the South Asian region. The camp gave creative artists from nine South Asian nations – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka a platform to interact and mingle each other socially through the medium of art.

Since art knows no boundaries and hence no prejudices. Puducherry Blue was a step beyond diplomacy, to achieve solidarity and to share a bonhomie and friendship through the universal medium of art. The camp highlighted close bonds and common cultural heritage that we all share in this region. It also helped deeper understanding and inspiration within the South Asian region.

Thirty two artists from nine countries converged in Puducherry that set the stage for a unique interaction among the charged minds from varied backgrounds, style and schools of thought. The paintings exhibited in this exhibition are the paintings done in the camp. By exhibiting these works in Sri Lanka the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo expects further interaction among the art lovers based on the styles and sensibilities that benchmarked the creativity of the artists

There are 32 paintings from the artist of the South Asian region. Following are the participating artists:

Mehreen Zuberi (Pakistan), Amber Hammad (Pakistan), Latifa Meeran (Afghanistan), Enayatullah Niazi (Afghanistan), Chandragupta Thenuwara (Sri Lanka), Sanjeewa Kumara (Sri Lanka), Tshewang Tenzin (Bhutan), Karma Zangmo (Bhutan), Erina Tamrakar (Nepal), Birendra Pratap Singh (Nepal), Alokesh Gosh (Bangladesh), Md. Rafiqun Nabi (Bangladesh), Mariyam Omar (Maldives), Kyaw Shein (Myanmar), John Tun Sein (Myanmar), Ajay Rajgarhia (Delhi), Kota Neelima (Delhi), Mona Rai (Delhi), Masooma (Delhi), Sumedh Rajendran (Delhi), Amitava Das (Delhi), Niladri Paul (Delhi), Farhad Hussain (Delhi), Prabhakar Kolte (Mumbai), Vanita Gupta (Mumbai), Vilas Shinde (Mumbai), Jin Shook Shinde (Mumbai), Debnath Basu (Kolkata), R. Bala (Chennai), Parvathi Nayar (Chennai), Zakir Hussain (Kerala) and V. Ramesh (Hyderabad).





April 8

Film: Mahabharat (Volume VII) – India's greatest epic

April 11

Film: Chalte Chalte – A Film directed by Aziz Mirza

April 19

Film: Koi Mil Gaya – A Film directed by Rakesh Roshan

April 25

Book Launch: "Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore"

The Tagore Society of Sri Lanka launched their journal "Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore" to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore at the Centre on 25th April. The journal consists of multifaceted aspects of Tagore's contribution to culture, literature & philosophy. Editor of the journal is Dr. Leel Gunasekera. The first copy was presented to Mr. Edwin

sekara & Mr. Kamal Premasadasa, President of the Tagore Society also addressed the gathering. Around 75 members attended the event.

April 27

Carnatic Vocal Recital by Mrs. Dhaaranie Rajkumar



Mrs. Dhaaranie Rajkumar presented a Carnatic vocal Music Recital at the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo. Mrs. Dhaaranie Rajkumar, was a pupil of music at Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts and also served as Assistant Lecturer at the same institution. She has already established herself as a vocalist in the classical style and held numerous performances. Her recital lasted for an hour and half. Some of the songs and ragas he sang were ragam Karthikeya Kankeya , Thodi ragam set taalam Aathi, ragam Mohanakalyani, Keerthanams and concluded with Thillana. Around 50 guests attended the event.

April 29

Lecture – Sigiriya Revisited by Prof. T.K. Nimal P. de Silva

The well known author and Conservationist **Prof. T. K. Nimal P. de Silva** delivered a lecture entitled Sigiriya Revisited at the Centre. Prof. de Silva is presently Director General, Central Cultural Fund of Sri Lanka. He has authored 14 books and lectured on Art & Culture at important institutions and universities. He was a consultant to UNESCO for the selection of World Heritage sites. A known archeologist and conservationist, Prof. de Silva was the Director of the Post Graduate Institute of Archeology, Chairman Urban development Authority, Chairman National Design Centre and Deputy President of National Trust of Sri Lanka. Prof. de Silva is a product of Moratuwa University and specialized in conservation form ICCROM, Rome. He lecture

presentation. The lecture was followed by an interactive session. Around 40 guests attended the event.



Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in May 2011

May 7

Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth Anniversary celebrations in Sri Lanka



Commemoration of the 150th birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Sri Lanka was marked by release of a special postal stamp in the denomination of Rupees 5 and a First Day Cover by Government of Sri Lanka and of a Commemorative Volume "Remembering Rabindranath Tagore" published by University of Colombo on Saturday, 7th May 2011.

Releasing the stamp at a function held in Colombo, which was presided over by H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Mr. Hemasiri Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Postal Services of the Government of Sri Lanka said that release of the special stamp was the most appropriate manner in which Sri Lanka could have paid homage to this great personality who played an instrumental role in the cultural renaissance within Sri Lanka.

The first copy of the volume "Remembering Rabindranath Tagore" published by the University of Colombo with the support of India-Sri Lanka Foundation was presented by Mr. Wimal Rubasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Arts of the Government of Sri Lanka to the Vice-Chancellor, University of Colombo.

Volume published to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, H.E. the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka wrote that "Tagore inspired many Sri Lankans to develop and appreciate our own traditions of music and song and that Tagore also had a great influence on Ananda Samarakoon, who wrote and composed our own National Anthem". H.E. the President of Sri Lanka commended the initiatives of University of Colombo in collaboration with the High Commission of India and the Indian Cultural Centre for organizing series of activities to remember and honour this great Asian who reshaped and influenced thinking in our region and the world .



In his address at the event, High Commissioner thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for releasing a special postal stamp on this occasion. He said that this was a befitting homage to a towering personality who straddled the world of literature, art, music and intellectual discourse and contributed in a very meaningful manner to the cultural renaissance of India, Sri Lanka and other countries of Asia. High Commissioner recalled Tagore's strong association with Sri Lanka, which he had visited thrice in 1922, 1928 and 1934. He also noted Tagore's association with the Sri Palee Campus at Horana, whose foundation stone he had laid at the invitation of Wilmot Perera. High Commissioner announced that "Shaap Mochan", the play staged by Tagore during his 1934 visit, would be re-staged in Sri Lanka in November this year by famous Manipuri dancer Bimbavati Devi and her 21- member troupe. High Commissioner especially thanked His Excellency the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for sending his message for the Commemorative Volume "Remembering Rabindranath Tagore".

Other events planned by the High Commission of India during the year to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore in Sri Lanka include a festival of films based on the novels and stories of Tagore and an essay competition in Sinhala, English and Tamil on Tagore for undergraduate students in the universities in Sri Lanka. The High Commission of India and Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Arts also agreed to organize later this year research by scholars on the three visits of Tagore to Sri Lanka in 1922, 1928 and 1934 and the impact of Tagore's visit in the cultural renaissance within Sri Lanka.

The special event organized to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Tagore in Sri Lanka concluded with musical tribute to Gurudev Tagore in form of beautiful rendition of Rabindra Sangeet by Amar-Daya Foundation.

May 18 -21 Participation in the Sambuddhatva Jayanthi



As a part of the activities being undertaken by India to commemorate the Sambuddhatva Jayanthi an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored Odissi Dance troupe presented a recital "Nirvana- the life of Gautam Buddha" at the BMICH Exhibition Centre, Colombo from 18-21 May 2011.

Hon'ble Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament was the Chief Guest during the 18th May performance. The troupe also performed at Kandy and Kegalle.

A photographic exhibition sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations "Buddhism in India" by renowned photographer Sondeep Shankar was also displayed at the BMICH Exhibition Centre from 18-22 May 2011. India's contribution to the Sambuddhatva Jayanthi celebrations also included screening of a film "Gautam Buddha" by famous Director Bimal Roy and screening

ation", "The Path of Compassion", "The Land of Buddha" and "Path of Buddha" at the SMITH and Independence Square.

On March 20, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka had inaugurated the International Buddhist Conference at Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), Kandy, which was also organized by the Indian Council for Cultural relations (ICCR) as part of the joint commemoration by India and Sri Lanka of the Sambuddhatva Jayanthi. The other activities being undertaken by India to commemorate the Sambuddhatva Jayanthi celebrations include an exposition of the Kapilvastu Relics in Sri Lanka later this year, setting up of an Indian Gallery at the International Buddhist Museum in Kandy and installation of a 16 feet high idol of Lord Buddha in the Sarnath style from the Gupta Period at the entrance of the International Buddhist Museum Complex in Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy.

May 10 Talk on wildlife – Sri Lanka: the Last and Best Hope of the Leopard in Asia



talk on Wildlife titled "Sri Lanka: The Last and Best Hope of the Leopard in Asia". He spoke about the Leopards in Sri Lanka and their living habitual. He interspersed his talk with a multimedia presentation. The talk was followed by an interactive session. Around 75 guests attended the event.

May 12 – 15 Children and Youth Art Exhibition (To Commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore organized by the Tagore Society of Sri Lanka)



The Tagore Society of Sri Lanka organized a Children and Youth Art Exhibition at the Centre. The exhibition was inaugurated with the traditional custom of lighting the oil lamp. The oil lamp was lit by Prof. Carlo Foneska, Mr. Kamal Premadasa, President of the Tagore Society, Dr. Leel Gunasekara, and Director of the Indian Cultural Centre Mr. M.Ramachandran. Prof. Carlo Fonseka garland the portrait of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. The Tagore Society brought out this exhibition under the Guidance of Mr. K.M.A.Bandara. Students from various schools participated and displayed their works at the exhibition. Around 100 guests attended the event.



Journey through Norwegian traditions

The Indian Cultural Centre organized an Indian tradition dance & Norwegian traditional dance concert in collaboration with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Colombo on 16th May 2011 at the Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium.

The concert featured internationally acclaimed artists Andreas Ljones (fiddle) and Ulf-Arne Johannessen (fiddle dancer) from Norway and a collaborative Indian dance performance by the dancers of Aru Sri Art Theatre. Around 125 guests attended the event.



Classical Dance by Aru Sri Art Theatre

The dancers of Aru Sri Art Theatre presented an evening of Indian Classical Dances at the Indian Cultural Centre Colombo 27 May 2011.

Aru Sri Art Theatre, the brain child of the reputed celebrity Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan was founded by her in 2004 to promote the visual and performing arts, nationally and internationally. It has bloomed into a centre par excellence in innovative, artistic and cultural creations renowned worldwide.

Its unique styles of performance based on the subtle nuances of movements has caught the attention of many lovers of art and music all over the world leading to international performances at several prestigious festivals in many world renowned concerts including the OSLO MELA festival in Norway, FERDE folk music and dance festival in Norway, SHANGHAI Music and dance festival in China, VOICE OF ASIA festival in Kazhakastan, NEW OPERA HOUSE Opening ceremony in Norway, and at the International RAMAYANA festival in Madhya Pradesh – India, at the 61st Anniversary of India s independence in Colombo, and several repeat performances of Ramayana for the Ministry of Tourism in Gujarat and Sri Lanka. The theatre, with its main mission focusing on ethnic harmony produced numerous multi-cultural concerts titled UNITY IN DIVERSITY through popular demand.

The latest production of the theatre is Mahakavi Kalidasa's SAKUNTHALA – a Dance Drama staged in Colombo in September 2009. A special performance of the said dance drama was held in Jaffna and a repeat performance of this production was held on popular demand in Colombo on 11th June 2010. The Theatre performed ethnic drumming and dancing in Norway in August 2010 at the MELA FESTIVAL on the invitation extended by Concerts Norway. The Dance performance included various dance styles of India such as Odissi, Kathak, Bharata Natyam & Kuchipudi. Around 150 guests participated in the event.





May 23

Film: Do Bigha Zamin – A film directed by Bimal Roy

May 25

Film: Mahabharat (Vol. IX)

**May 30 Slide Lecture - Ritual Performances of Kerala by
Balan Nambiar, Eminent Indian Artist**

Eminent Indian Artist Mr. Balan Nambiar will be presented a slide lecture entitled "Ritual Performances of Kerala" at the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on Monday 30th May 2011.

Balan Nambiar is a painter, sculptor, enamellist, photographer and a research scholar. His paintings and sculptures have received national and international acclaim and his works are in the National Gallery of Modern Arts and four Museums in India. He is the recipient of various awards including the National Award of Lalit Kala Akademi and the State Award of Karnataka LKA for his creative works and the Senior Fellowship of the Ministry of Culture of Govt. of India and the prestigious Nehru Fellowship for his academic research work. His two important works



ork (2010) is a monumental sculpture in stainless steel, titled "The Sky is the Limit" for IOC, Delhi.

Mr. Balan Nambiar interspersed his talk with a slide presentation showcasing various ritual performances of Kerala. Around 75 guests attended the event.

in Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in June 2011

June 8

Film: Mahabharat (Volume X) – India's greatest epic

June 10

Kathak Dance Recital by Sadara Supathum Peiris, Anjalee Wijesiriwardane, Rangana Nawagamuwa and Loshitha Samaraweera

Sadara Supathum Peiris, Anjalee Wijesiriwardane, Rangana Nawagamuwa and Loshitha Samaraweera presented a brilliant Kathak dance recital that captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. Sadara, Anjalee and Rangana compelled their Bachelor of Dance at the Indira Kala Sangeet Vishva Vidyalaya, India and Loshitha Samaraweera is a disciple of Ms. Anushka Ekanayake.

Their performances included Tarana, Krishna Vandana, Sargam, Dance items for bhajans and for fusion music. Around 150 guests attended the event.





June 11

Meet the Director

Film screening “Naalu Pennungal” (4 women) followed by an interaction with Director Padma Vibhushan Dr. Adoor Gopalakrishnan

Padma Vibhushan Dr. Adoor Gopalakrishnan, renowned film director screened his film Naalu Pennungal (4 women) and delivered a talk about his film making on Saturday 11 June 2011 at the Centre. The director was in Colombo as the Chief Guest for the launch of Lester James Peries and Sumithra Peries Foundation. We requested Dr. Adoor Gopalakrishnan to deliver the talk at the Centre and he accepted.

Dr. Adoor Gopalakrishnan explained the issues he has been taking up in his films are familiar to him. He told that in his films he went back to the 40s & 50s of Kerala as he is well aware the life and situations of that period. He emphasized that he can take films only about the issues he is familiar with.

The film that was screened at ICC is about four kinds of women and their existential issues. More than 115 guests attended the event and they also interacted with the film director after his talk. Several dignitaries from the fraternity of Art & Culture were part of the audience.



Cookery Demonstration – Indian Dishes

An enthusiastic audience gathered at the Centre to witness the expert skill of the Chef Chauhan of the Hotel Taj Samudra turn out the mouth watering Indian cuisine. The items prepared were Subz dum biriyani, Allo tiki chaat and Murgh tariwala. The audience was given clear instructions on the preparation of each recipe and they were treated to a sample of the preparations. Around 125 guests participated in the event.





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Film: A tale of two cities – Mumbai & Bombay

June 22

Film: Kathakali - Documentary

Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in July 2011

8 July 2011

The Film: "Mahabharat" India's Greatest Epic (Volume XI) was screened. We have had the regular audiences who have been watching the series continuously.

12 July 2011

Film: Bhumika, directed by Shyam Benegal was screened and the Film Club audience watched the film.

15 July, 2011

Hindustani Vocal Concert

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an evening of Hindustani Vocal Concert of Palinda Udawela Arachchi. Palinda Arachchi is pursuing his studies in music at Benaras Hindu University, India under the ICCR scholarship Scheme. He was accompanied on Tabla by Visharad B. Isuru Tharaka Perera, on Violin by A.A. Amila Madhusanka and on Harmonium by Visharad Nalin Ginendra Alwis. Palinda rendered raga Bhimpalasi, and a Thumri in Charukesi and sang a Gazal. More than 120 guests, including Members of Parliament and eminent cultural personalities enjoyed the concert.





Sunday, 17 July 2011

Bharata Natyam Workshop

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Bharata Natyam Workshop by celebrated Bharata Natyam exponent, Rama Vaidyanathan in association with Indo Lanka Forum on Sunday 17 July 2011 at ICC, Auditorium.

The workshop was beneficial to the teachers of students of the classical dance Bharata Natyam. Rama Vaidyanathan shared her knowledge and ideas of dance and choreography in the workshop. She was trained under accomplished Gurus like the veteran Yamini Krishnamurthy and Saroja Vaidyanathan,

Rama has been noted as one of India's top young exponents of Bharata Natyam, having also trained in Carnatic vocal music. More than 50 guests, including teachers and students of ICC were present for the workshop.



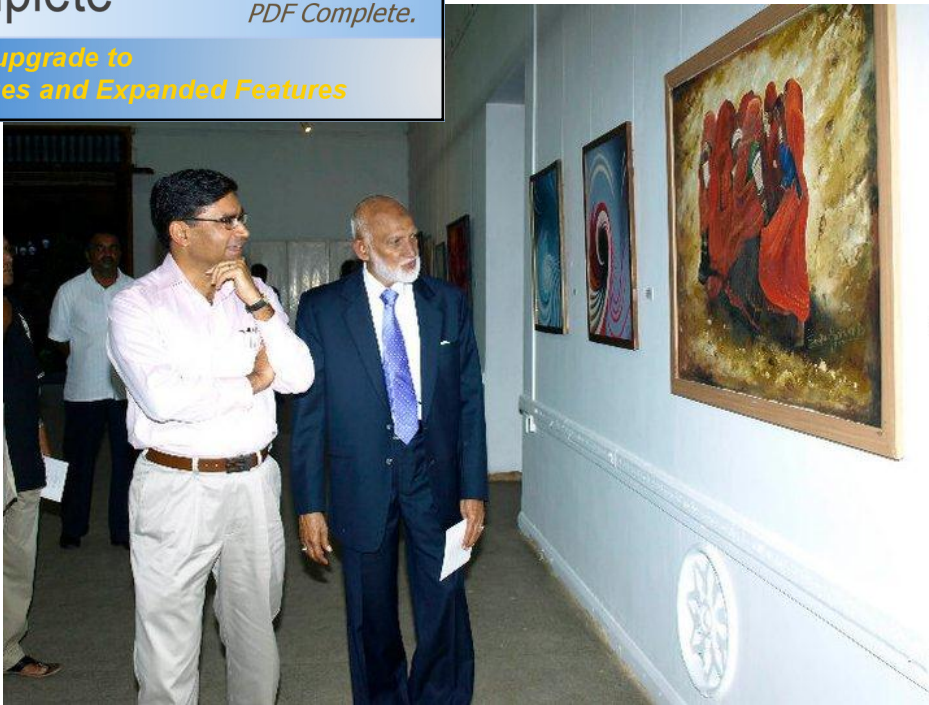
Harmony & Rhythm – Art Exhibition



Veteran abstract painter Ouida Keuneman inaugurated the exhibition "Harmony & Rhythm" at the National Art Gallery, Colombo. The paintings are of Ruchi Goyal Kaura, Deepa Seth Bhandu, Sonika Agarwal and Sandhya Singh from India and the ICCR, New Delhi send the exhibition. The Ministry of Cultural and Arts of Sri Lanka provided the Gallery free of cost.

Music, Rhythm, elements of design and human predicaments are the motifs used by the artists in the works. 29 works were on display in the exhibition. Senior Minister for Urban Affairs of Sri Lanka Hon. A.K.H.M Fowzie, Vidura Wickramanayaka, Member of Parliament, Naveen Gunarathne, Chairman, Light Asia Foundation and Film Director, were also graced the occasion.





21 July, 2011
Violin Duet

A Hindustani & Carnatic Violin Recital by Shasthrapathi Mahinda Seneviratne, Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Applied Music & Mass Communication, University of Visual & Performing Arts & Mr. S. Dhibakaran, Instructor, Carnatic Music Department, University of Visual & Performing Arts was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on 21 July 2011. They were accompanied on Tabla by Chandralal Amarokoon and on Mridangam by V. Jambunathan. The artistes rendered Raag *Malkauns* (Hindolam in Carnatic Music) and the Bhajan *Raghupathi Raghava Rajaram* as jugalbandhi. More than 100 music lovers were captivated by their brilliant performance.





July 22 - 24 India Week

The Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) and the Indian Cultural Centre are jointly organized '**India Week**' from 22nd to 24th July 2011 at the BCIS Auditorium (BMICH), Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07

Deputy High commissioner of India Shri Vikram Misri H inaugurated the three (03) day long cultural extravaganza on Friday, 22nd July 2011 at 4.30p.m. Mr. Rajah Kuruppu , Pro tem Chairman/BCIS Board of Studies was also present on the occasion.

"India Week" was conceived to provide introductory information on Indian art and culture. On Friday, 22nd July 2011, the inaugural day, Ms. Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan, renowned Carnatic Vocalist and Veena player, delivered a speech introducing the various aspects of Indian Music. The speech was followed by a Carnatic musical recital presented by Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan, Dharini Rajmohan and ICC students. They were accompanied on Violin by S. Dibakaran, on Mritangam by V. Jambunathan and on Gatam by R. Ratnadurai.

On Saturday 23rd July 2011 the renowned Dancer and Scholar Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan delivered a speech introducing Indian dances. It was followed by a classical Bharata Natyam performance by the ICC students of Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan.

On 24th July 2011, the concluding day, Mr. M. Ramachandran, Director of the Indian Cultural Centre delivered an introductory speech on Indian cinema at which was followed by the screening of a Malayalam film 'Elipathayam' (Rat Trap with English subtitles) directed by the Padma Vibhushan Dr. Adoor Gopalakrishnan.



Nrithyopasana

Nrithyopasana, a Bharata Natyam recital was presented by the students of Natya Kala Mandhir & the Indian Cultural Centre trained by their Guru Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran. The students performed beautifully choreographed items displaying their talents in the traditional mode of the dance.

Ms. Vasugy Jegatheeswaran has been teaching dance over three decades and produced several dance dramas and her students have presented several classical performances in Sri Lanka and abroad. More than 150 guests enjoyed the dance performance.



Meet the Writer

"Meet the Writer" is a programme organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo as the inaugural session of its Literary Club. Dr. Gunadasa Amarasekara, one of the most eminent Sri Lankan poets and writers, has delivered a talk on colonial elements in literature. He tried to compare the similarities of Indian and Sri Lankan middle class culture in the paper he read out. Dr. Amarasekara is a prominent Sinhala writer, poet and essayist and one of the founders of the Peradeniya School of Literary tradition, Sri Lanka. He has written several novels, short stories and poems. Approximately 50 guests attended the lecture.



Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in August 2011

August 05

Ghazal Recital by Raviraj Nasery



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with Indo - Sri Lanka Forum organized a Ghazal Recital of Raviraj Nasery, a well known Ghazal singer from India, at its auditorium on 5th August, 2011. Raviraj Nasery is very popular for his Marathi Ghazals and travelled to many countries to enthrall the audience. He also sings his own compositions with his own music direction and lyrics. His beautiful rendition kept the audience spell bound. Around 120 guests participated in this event





August 10

Hindustani Vocal Music Recital by Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo is organized a Hindustani Vocal Concert of Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri at its Auditorium. He was accompanied on Tabla by Visharad B. Isuru Tharaka Perera, on Violin by P.A Amila Madhusanka and on Harmonium by Visharad Nalin Ginendra Alwis. Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri is pursuing his studies in B.A in music at Bhatkhande Music University, India under the ICCR scholarship. His initial training in music were under Sangeeth Nipun Manjula Senevirathna, Visharada Nalin Jinendra Alwis and Dr. Wijayadasa Bandara. In his recital he sang bhajans and ragas. The evening was very well enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre. Around 150 guests participated in the event.





August 12

Film: Mahabharat (Volume XII) – India's greatest epic

August 15

**65th Indian Independence Day Celebrations – Melody and Rhythm
Kathak Performance by Nalini-Kamalini, Guru Jitendra Maharaj & their troupe**

Colombo

Renowned Kathak exponents Nalini-Kamalini and their troupe performed at Bishop's College Auditorium, Colombo on 15th August, 2011. The troupe performed Kathak in their typical classical style with very fast movements and highly expressive gestures. Their performances in Sri Lanka are supported by Taj Samudra and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs & Arts, Government of Sri Lanka under the Cultural Exchange Programme signed between the countries.

The Ministry of Culture of Sri Lanka arranged the local transportation and accommodation and programmes at Hindu Cultural Hall, Kandy, and at the Singapore Hall, Hambantota. The performance in Colombo was taken care of by the High Commission of India and the Indian Culture Centre.

Prior to the arrival of Kathak troupe, the Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and televisions, printed 2300 invitation cards and 1000 Flyers, emailed to 4000 email ids and gave advertisement in three languages (English, Tamil, Sinhala) to publicize

On Sunday, 14th of August, 2011 ICC held a Press Conference. Though the Conference was limited to a few press persons, 2 television channels (Rupavahini, ITN and Dharmavahini) attended the Conference.

Hon. Dullas Alhapperuma, Minister for Youth Affairs & Skills Development, Government of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest. Shri. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India presided over the function. The other distinguished guests who honoured the function were Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management, Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister for Traditional Industries & Small Enterprise Development, Major General. G.A Chandrasiri, Governor of Northern Province, Kumari Balasuriya, Governor of Southern Province, Mr. Alavi Moulana, Governor of Western Province, Mr. Wimal Roopasinghe, Secretary of Cultural Affairs & Arts, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr. Rohit Khosla, General Manager, Taj Samudra, Ms. Pradeepa Dharmadasa, renowned Sri Lankan Singer and the Former President Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga.



Due to our publicity in the form of press releases, invitation cards (2300 Nos) and advertisements, the attendance of the audience were overwhelming more than 1300. The hall was full for the performance. Prime TV channel interviewed the Kathak Duo and telecasted the programme on 23.08.2011.

They performed 8 items altogether. Nalini & Kamalini are devoted disciples of Guru Jitendra Maharaj of Benaras Gharana of classical Kathak tradition. The troupe made a tremendous

of temple style of Kathak dancing and contributed much in the promotion of their cultural ties between India and Sri Lanka. Performances are widely appreciated by local communities.

The artistes were honored by souvenirs by Hon. Minister Dullas Alhapperuma, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Skills Development, Hon. Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management and Governor of Northern Province, Major General. G.A Chandrasiri and Ms. Pradeepa Dharmadasa, renowned Sri Lankan Singer in the presence of the High Commissioner.



Kandy

In Kandy the performance was held at Hindu Cultural Hall, Kandy on 16.08.2011. Mr. Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Governor of Central Province was the chief guest. Shri. R.K Misra, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy, Rev. Udawatte Nanda Thero, Ex. Member of Parliament, Mr. S. Rajarathnam, Member of Central Provincial Council, Mr. P. B. Amarasekara, Chief Secretary, Uva province and Rt. Rev. Fr. Bala Rajendran, EPISCOPAL – VICAR of Kandy were guests of Honour. The programme was a success which was appreciated by all. Around 350 people including invitees attended the programme. The artists were also very much impressed with Auditorium and other arrangements made by the Ministry of Culture and Arts, Government of Sri Lanka and AHCI, Kandy.

The Kathak dance performance at Hambantota by the visiting ICCR sponsored troupe of Nalini-Kamalini and Guru Jitendra Maharaj was a big success. The performance was held on 18th August, 2011. Mr. R.M.D.B Meegasmullah, District Secretary of Hambantota was the chief guest. The hall was full, nearly 750 people attended the programme. The response from the public was good and every one enjoyed the show. Ministry of culture got a traditional lamp made on the site with banana plant stem and coconut leaves which looked very beautiful. They had also made arrangements for traditional welcome of the important guests. The Consulate General of India, Hambantota and Ministry of Culture and Arts, Government of Sri Lanka, made necessary arrangements for the troupe and for the performers.



August 12

Film: Gandhi – A film directed by Richard Attenborough

Kathak Workshop by Nalini & Kamalini

Nalini & Kamalini also conducted a one day work shop at the Centre. Students of the Centre and from various universities participated in the workshop. The sisters shared various techniques of the Kathak dance. The participants also had an interaction with the musicians. Around 75 students participated in the workshop.



August 30

Tabla Recital by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre trained by their Guru Visharad S.W.Randoowa



is organized a Tabla Recital by the students of Indian Cultural Centre trained by their Guru Visharad S. W. Randoowa on Tuesday 30th August 2011 at the Indian Cultural Centre.

Visharad S. W. Randoowa has been teaching Table at the Centre since 2000. He served as a super grade Tabla artiste in Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and he accompanied several Indian artistes who visited Sri Lanka.



Students of various age groups displayed their talents. The students showcase their talents by accompanying a vocalist, an instrumentalist and they also showed various styles in table playing. Around 125 guests participated the event.



Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in September 2011

1-5 September at NFC Cinema, Colombo

Celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore Tagore Film Festival

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Sri Lanka, a 5 day long Tagore Film festival organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo focusing on works of Gurudev Tagore was inaugurated yesterday evening at the National Film Corporation Hall by Senior Minister Dr Sarath Amunugama in presence of High Commissioner of India H.E. Mr. Ashok K. Kantha. The films being screened in this festival are Pathar Panchali, Ghare Baire, Agantuk and Charulata directed by Satyajit Ray and Chokher Biali directed by Rituparno Ghosh. A documentary on Tagore made by Satyajit Ray in 1961 when Tagore's 100th birth anniversary was commemorated worldwide will also be screened at the Festival.

Speaking at the inauguration, High Commissioner Kantha highlighted that Gurudev Tagore was a towering personality who straddled the world of literature, art, music and intellectual discourse and contributed in a very meaningful manner to the cultural renaissance of India, Sri Lanka and other countries of Asia and specially recollected Tagore's strong association with Sri Lanka, which he had visited thrice in 1922, 1928 and 1934 and strong association of many prominent Sri Lankan artists like Ananda Samarakoon, Chitrasena and Sunil Shantha with Visva-Bharati University.

High Commissioner emphasized that Tagore's universal humanism and constant enquiry into the human condition reflected through his novels and short stories, remain as relevant today as they were in the first half of the previous century and that it was befitting that some of Tagore's works have been re-interpreted by two of India's finest directors, Satyajit Ray and Rituparno Ghosh. The films being screened in the film festival are not only an articulation of Tagore's depiction of the human spirit, but also the visual creativity of icons of film in India. 4.

High Commissioner also outlined the events already held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Tagore in Sri Lanka which included release of a special postal stamp by the Government of Sri Lanka and a commemorative volume "Remembering Rabindranath Tagore" on 7th May 2011. High Commissioner also underlined that the events planned during the course of the year include re-staging of

staged in 1934 in Sri Lanka and which Gurudev Tagore himself had acted, exhibition of digital reproductions of Tagore's paintings and a photographic exhibition on life and travels of Tagore. High Commissioner also highlighted the strong bondage between Satyajit Ray and Dr. Lester James Peiris, whom Satyajit Ray had described as his closest relative in Asia.

In his remarks, Senior Minister Amunugama said that not only Lester James Peiris was the closest relative of Satyajit Ray but India and Sri Lanka were also the closest relatives. He highlighted the uniqueness of some of the masterpieces from Satyajit Ray which still continue to be admired by cine-lovers and compared Satyajit Ray and Lester James Peiris to famous Japanese Director Kurosawa.

The films being screened in the film festival were:

Pathar Panchali (Song of the Little Road) is a 1955 Bengali film was the directorial debut of Ray. The first film of The Apu Trilogy, it depicts the childhood of the protagonist Apu in the rural countryside of Bengal in the 1920s. Was the first movie from independent India to attract major international critical attention. Pather Panchali won "Best Human Document" at the 1956 Cannes Film Festival, establishing Satyajit Ray as a major international filmmaker. Pather Panchali is today considered one of the greatest films ever made.

Ghare Baire (The Home and the World) is a 1985 film by Satyajit Ray, based upon the novel of same name by Tagore. Ray prepared a script for it in the 1940s, long before he made his first film Pather Panchali. It deals with a subject that has often appeared in Ray's work; the emancipation of women.

Charulata (The Lonely Wife) was the director's favourite. Ray described the film as the one which has the least defects. In an interview with 'Cineaste' magazine, when asked about his most satisfying film, Ray said, "Well, the one film that I would make the same way, if I had to do it again, is Charulata." In Charulata as in Ghare Baire, Satyajit Ray explores the emergence of the modern woman in colonial India.

Agantuk ("The Stranger") is a 1991 Bengali film directed by Satyajit Ray. It was also Ray's last film, and is based on one of Tagore's short stories, Atithi (The Guest).

Chokher Bali is a Bengali film based on the novel of same name by Rabindranath Tagore. Directed by Rituparno Ghosh in 2003. It elaborately records early 20th century Bengali society, through its central character, the rebellious widow, who wants to live a life of her own.



Guitar Recital by Amano Manish accompanied on Tabla by Uday Ramdas Deshpande

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an Indian Slide Guitar Recital by Amano Manish accompanied on Tabla by Uday Ramdas Deshpande at its Auditorium.

Amano Manish is a gifted slide guitar player trained in the Senia Maihar Gharana tradition, performed in the Cultural Centre with the accompaniment on Tabla by Uday Ramdas Deshpande the legendary Tabla maestro Ustad Alla Rakha. Amano Manish rendered morning ragas such as Nat Bairav in his rendition which was enriched with tuneful intricate glides and melodic phrases blended with various staccato patterns. Around 40 guests participated in the event.



14 September Saandhy Geet – Hindi Diwas Celebrations

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo in collaboration with the University of Kelaniya, Department of Hindi organized Saandhy Geet. The programme included Hindi Poetry, Hindi Music and Dance. Around 75 guests attended the event.



14 September Meet the Director
Buddhadeb Dasgupta followed by screening of his film





The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a programme Meet the Director with the prominent Indian film Director Buddhadeb Dasgupta followed by a talk by the Director on Wednesday, 14 September 2011 at ICC Auditorium. It was followed by screening of his Film "Lal Darja (Red Doors)" (Bengali with subtitles in English). Around 100 guests participated in the event.

Buddhadeb Dasgupta is a poet and prominent contemporary Indian filmmaker, most known for films like Bagh Bahadur, Tahader Katha, Charachar and Uttara. Five of his films have won the National Film Award for Best Film, Bagh Bahadur (1989), Charachar (1993), Lal Darja (1997), Mondo Meyer Upakhyan (2002) and Kaalpurush (2008), while Dooratwa(1978) and Tahader Katha (1993) have won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali. As a director he has won National Film Award for Best Directing twice, for Uttara (2000) and Swapner Din (2005). Over the years he has published several works of poetry including Govir Araley, Coffin Kimba Suitcase, Himjog, Chhaata Kahini, Roboter Gaan, Sreshtha Kabita, and Bhomboler Ascharya Kahini Ananya Kabita. Lal Darja (Red Doors)

September 20

Film: Living Stories – Story telling traditions of India

ies of 3 outstanding women

**30 September Carnatic Vocal Music Recital
By Bagawathssingh Nithyanandan**





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Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Carnatic Vocal Music Recital by **Bagawathssing Nithiyanandan**. Nithiyanandan completed his Diploma in Carnatic Music at the Swami Vipulananda Music and Dance College, Batticaloa. At present he is working as Producer in Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (Nethra TV). Nithiyanandan has presented several Carnatic Vocal recitals. He sang several ragams, keerthanams and devarams. Around 60 guests participated in the concert.

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities in October, 2011

3 October

Tribute to Mahatma

Lecture by Ven. Olande ananda

Natyollash: Thematic Bharatha Natyam Performance on

Peace by Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh

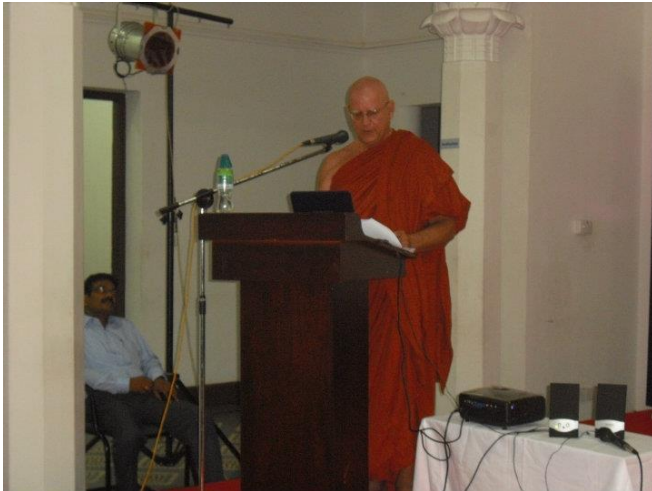
Indian Cultural Centre invited Ven. Olande Ananda to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi. Ven Olande Ananda, spoke about Gandhiji's life at various points such as Gandhiji in London, his arrival from South Africa and Gandhiji as a reformer. He interspersed his talk with a power point presentation. He concluded his talk with a favorite bhajan of Gandhiji Vaishnava Janatho.

Ven Olande Anadanda has been a member of the Buddha's Light International Association from Taiwan/USA. He is Chairman of the non-Chinese speaking Coordinating Committee; also Ven. Ananda has been a member of the INEB - International Network of Engaged Buddhists and attended several of their international meetings. He is also associated with the Tibet House and Advisor on some of their projects.

In addition to the speech on Mahatma, Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh Natyollash, an Bharata Natyam artiste based at Bangalore performed a Thematic Bharata Natyam performance on Peace. The performance of Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh kept the audience spellbound. Some of the items she performed are Navaratna - This number has nine precious verses from the Bhagwad Geeta, Puranas and Vedas with corresponding episodes from legends. Some of them depicted the Mahabharata, Geetopadesha, the Pancha Gargas of Indian Culture. The art of living with faith and brotherhood, imbibing good values from an early age to get rid of various mundane difficulties were the messages in this presentation. Another piece was *Navashakti*: here the nine forms of Goddess Durga who destroys evil forces to reinstate righteousness are portrayed with verses from Devi Mahatmya and Kali Kavutvam, a forte of the Tanjore school of Bharatanatyam. This was a special composition for the Navaratri season. When we talk of peace, we actually reiterate the principle of love. Hence Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh concluded here recital with Vasant Ritu, a piece on Radha and Krishna exemplified as the Jivatma [limited human soul] becoming one with PARAMATMA [the infinite consciousness] respectively. Selfless love and celebration of spring season with fragrant flowers, lush mango trees and the

swinging on tree and spashing colours for the vibrant Holi were beautifully presented by the dancer in this piece.

Around 75 guests attended the event.



5 October Lecture on the Character of Carnatic Classical Music and Launch of Music Club by Eminent Carnatic Musician Shri T. M Krishna followed by Screening of a documentary film on him "Margazhi Raagam"

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Lecture on the character of Carnatic Classical Music by the Eminent Carnatic Musician Shri. T. M Krishna on Wednesday, 5 October 2011 at ICC Auditorium. T. M. Krishna explained about various ragas and the occasion and time it is sung. He argued that in Carnatic music the composition and improvisation have to be equally concerned about unlike that of Hindusthani which gives more importance to improvisation. The audience also had an interactive session with T. M. Krishna in which he shared his experience and knowledge. The talk was followed by screening of a Documentary film on him "**Margazhi Raagam**". Around 80 guests attended the event.



7 October T. M. Krishna – Carnatic Vocal Music Concerts

T. M Krishna, one of the major vocalists from the younger generation of Carnatic musicians from Chennai scintillated the audience at Ramakrishna Hall, Colombo with his great command over voice and immense control over sound variations.

His concert was sponsored by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo as part of Navarathri Festival organized by the Department of Religious and Cultural Affairs of Government of Sri Lanka on 7 October, 2011 06 at Ramakrishna Mission Hall.

D. M Jayaratna, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka inaugurated the Festival. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India and M.K.A.D.S Gunawardana, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana and Religious Affairs, were the Guests of Honor on the occasion.

T. M Krishna captured the heart of the audience, that included several Ministers, Member of Parliament and other leading personalities from all walks of life, with his mesmerizing voice. Krishna selected Tamil classical compositions in all his renderings.

The improvisations of the musician were well within the established structure of the concert. His elaboration of the raga "Kalyani" as the major piece in the concert was beautifully followed by "thaniyavarthanam" on Mridangam by Kallidaikurichi S. Sivakumar, on Ghatam by Giridhar Udupa and on Ganjira by Alathur Rajganesh. The violin accompaniment of Akkarai S. Subhalakshmi supplemented the renditions of Krishna.

M.K A.D.S Gunawardana, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana honored the musicians. The music concert of T.M. Krishna was followed by Shakthi Samarpanam, a dance recital by the Nirthana Dance School and choreographed by Shivananthi Haritharshan. The dancers were honored by Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India.

The Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and televisions, printed 1500 invitation cards and 500Flyers invitees emailed to 4000 email ids and gave advertisement in three languages (English, Tamil, Sinhala) to publicize the event.

Due to our publicity the attendance of the audience were overwhelming more than 2000. The hall was full for the concert. Rupavahini TV channel interviewed T.M Krishna on 6.10.2011 at 10am to 10.30am and that was a live telecast programme.

Concert was attended by number of press persons, 5 television channels (Rupavahini, ITN, Nethra TV, Derana TV, Shakthi TV).The media and newspapers co-operated much and good publicity was given to the event.

T. M Krishna was invited by the Indian Cultural Centre especially for a concert tour to the North of Sri Lanka to provide some kind of solace to the people who have seen a lot of tragedy in the past.

Concerts in North of Sri Lanka

After more than two decades an eminent musician from India has had concerts in the North of Sri Lanka. The Department of Culture, Northern Province along with the Consulate General of India in Jaffna arranged the concerts of Krishna and his troupe in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya.

Jaffna

On October 02, 2011, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary day T.M Krishna & the troupe performed in Jaffna. The concert was held at Veerasingham Hall, Jaffna and inaugurated by Douglas Devananda, Minister of Traditional Industries & Small Enterprises Development of Sri Lanka. V. Mahalingam, Consul General of India, Jaffna and Yogeswaray Patgunarajah, Mayor, Jaffna Municipal Council were the Guests of Honor.

The concert was attended by more than 750 cultural enthusiasts. T. M Krishna enthralled the audience with his awe – inspiring voice, strict adherence to grammar in the classical Carnatic Music and awe-inspiring stage presence.

Befitting to the occasion Krishna sang a melodious song praising Mahatma, the great soul and his contribution to the noble principle of Ahimsa. The Concert was a grand success and there were requests for many such cultural programmes from the audience.

Kilinochchi

The second concert was held on 03 October 2011 at Maha Vithiyalayam Hall, Kilinochchi. M. Chandrakumar, Member of Parliament was the Chief Guest and Mrs. R. Ketheswaran, Government Agent, Kilinochchi was the Guest of Honour. Raghu Ram, Deputy Consul from Consulate General of India was the Chairperson for the event.

The Carnatic concert was the first of its kind to be ever organized in Kilinochchi for many years rekindled the passion for art and culture among the 250 and more audience.

Vavunia

The third concert was held on 04 October 2011 at Urban Council Hall, Vavunia. G.A Chandrasiri, Governor of Northern Province, graced the concert as Chief Guest. This concert was also a runaway success with participation of more than 500 music fans.





12 October Hindi Rasanjali

Hindi students of the Indian cultural Centre celebrated Hindi Diwas on 12th October at the Centre. The evening brought out latent talents of the students through a variety of items in Hindi, such as songs, dances on Hindi numbers, skits, poetry recitals etc. The evening was very well enjoyed by the students and the parents who attended the event. Around 175 guests attended, which included Hindi lovers, parents and well wishers of the students, academics etc.





14 October Celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore – Kanya – A combination of Sri Lankan and Indian classical and fusion dance by Chandana Wickramasinghe and the Dancer's Guild of Sri Lanka

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an evening of dance programme "Kanya", a combination of Sri Lankan and India classical and fusion dance by Chandana Wickramasinghe 14th October at the Centre.

Chandana Wickramasinghe and the Dancers' Guild of Sri Lanka, the Dance troupe entertained the audience with some traditional, folk, creative and modern dancing based on Kandyan, Low country (Sri Lankan Style) Indian dance and free style dance.

Chandana learned his first steps of dancing from Vajira Chithrasena at the age of 06. At the end of his studied in School, he joined the Sama Ballet troupe, as a dancer when he worked for 8 years.

He went to India in 1994 and joined the prestigious university of Vishva Bharathi Santi Niketan to study Kathakali and Manipuri style of dances.

Kanya is a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, in whose institution Chandana perfected his art of dancing. Around 100 guests attended the event.





17 October Mahatma Gandhi Oration

Mahatma Gandhi beyond all the barriers by prof. Sarath Amunugama

The Sri Lanka India Society organized “**Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration**” on 17 October at the India Cultural Centre.

Prof. Sarath Amunugama, Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya delivered the lecture titled “Mahatma Beyond All Barriers”.

H. E. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. A.T Ariyaratne, Basavashree Award Winner was felicitated at the function.

The programme commenced with the songs by children of Sakthi Illam, Colombo Hindu College, Ratmalana and was followed by a Gujarati Dance by the students of Kalalaya School of Dance and Music choregraphed by Mrs. Rishanthini Sanjeevan. Around 160 guests attended the event.





19 October Inauguration – The Film South Asia Retrospective hosted by Young Asia Television in partnership with film South Asia Secretariat, Nepal

The Young Asia Television (YA TV) in partnership with Film South Asia Secretariat, Nepal and the India-Sri Lanka Foundation, Colombo organized “**The Film South Asia Retrospective**” on 19 October at the Indian Cultural Centre.

H. E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest. “The Film South Asia Retrospective” entertained film-lovers of Colombo through a festival of non-fiction films from South Asia. It showcased some of the best South Asian documentaries screened during the past Festivals of Film South Asia, Nepal. The festival took place at the Punchi Theatre, Borella, from the 20-22, October 2011 and was open to the Public free of charge with a lineup of exciting films, giving audiences an opportunity to sample a wide range of topics and themes, presentation styles and techniques. Around 95 guests attended the inaugural ceremony held at the Centre.





Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo

Activities in November, 2011

12 November Shankar's International Children's Competition 2012
Painting, Drawing and Essay Competition for Children
coinciding with the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal
Nehru

The Indian Cultural Centre celebrated children's day, which falls on November 14, coinciding with the birthday of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, by hosting a painting, drawing and essay writing competition for children on 12th November. Around 275 children from all over the Island participated in this competition. Boys and girls between the age groups of three and fifteen drew and painted colourful pictures on a wide variety of themes using their imagination. It was interesting to see such enthusiasm among the children. At the end of the day each participant was awarded a certificate for participation. All entries completed at the Centre were sent to India to be adjudged in the Shankar's International Competition 2012.







18 November **Film:** Urdu and Modern India
A Perfect Blend
It's Cricket, No?

23 November **150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore - Performances of Prabhu Amar Priyo Amar, the dance drama based on Shaap Mochan written by Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore**



Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore's dance-drama '*Shaap Mochan*' was choreographed and restaged by Ms. Bimbavati Devi, a well-known Manipuri danseuse and Mr. Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee, a noted Kathak exponent, re-titling it as *Prabhu Amar Priyo Amar* in Colombo as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore. Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management lit the ceremonial lamp as the Chief Guest on the occasion of restaging the dance drama at the Bishops College Auditorium, Perahera Mw., Colombo 03 on Tuesday, 22nd November 2011. H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function. The performance was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with India – Sri Lanka Foundation.



Nimal Siripala De Silva, the Minister, emphasised the age-long relationship between India and Sri Lanka and the strong cultural bonds between the countries. He highlighted the contribution of Tagore to Sri Lankan art and culture and spoke on the special relevance of restaging the dance drama that Tagore presented in Sri Lanka when he paid his last visit to Sri Lanka way back in 1934.



Ashok K Kantha, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka stated that this play has a historical and cultural relevance to Sri Lanka because Tagore, with his presence, speeches and performance of Shaap Mochan, could generate a cultural revival in Sri Lanka.

The restaging of the dance-drama is a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, who made a deep impact on the cultural resurgence of Sri Lanka by inspiring artistes, dancers, and singers to his *Santiniketan* to develop their genres to classical forms. Bimbavati Devi, who is famous for her artistic qualities of natural expression, grace, sweetness, clarity, perfection and for her refined sensibilities and subtlety along with Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee, a performer, teacher and choreographer par excellence, experimented with the play Shaap Mochan of Rabindranath Tagore and recreated it in a *jugalbandi* of Kathak and Manipuri styles of dancing. The



choreography of the duo was mellifluous and harmonious and complemented the distinct classical styles without diminishing the qualities of each of the styles. The love story of Saurasen and his beloved Madhusree, their banishment from Heaven and the suffering of Sourosen as the disfigured King Aruneshwar were beautifully presented with dramatic expression and lights.



Galle

The dance drama performance at Galle by the visiting ICCR sponsored troupe led by Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee & Bimbavati Devi combined the dance forms of Manipuri and Kathak was a big success. The performance was held on 23rd November, 2011. Hon. U.G.D Ariyathilake, Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs in the Southern Provincial Government was the chief guest. The hall was full, more than 400 people and was a big success in terms of audience turn out. The Consulate General of India, Hambantota and Governor Secretariat Southern Province made necessary arrangements for the troupe and for the performers.

Kandy

In Kandy the performance of Prabhu Amar Priyo Amar was held at Hindu Cultural Hall, Kandy on 25.11.2011. Mr. Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Governor of Central Province was the chief guest. Shri. R.K Misra, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy, Rev. Udawatte Nanda Thero, Ex. Member of Parliament, Brigadier Kavindha Gunawardhana, Divisional Commander, Pallekelle, Mr. Nihal Samarakoon, DIG, Central Range, Kandy were guests of Honour. The programme was a success which was appreciated by all. Around 350 people including invitees attended the programme. The artists were also very much impressed with Auditorium and other arrangements made by the AHCI, Kandy and Kalyana SLICA, Kandy.

Jaffna

In Jaffna the performance was held at Veerasingham Hall, Jaffna on 28.11.2011. Major General G.A Chandrasiri, Governor of Northern Province was the chief guest. Mr. L. Ilangovan, Secretary, Ministry of Education Cultural Affairs & Sports, Northern Province was the chair person. Mr. V. Mahalingam, Consul General of India, Jaffna and Mrs. Yogeswary Patgunarajah, Mayor, Jaffna Municipal Council were guests of Honour. The programme was a success which was appreciated by all. Around 750 people including invitees attended the programme. The artistes were also very much impressed.

28 November - 1 December Buddhist International Performing Arts Festival

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi organized Buddhist International Performing Arts Festival from 28th November to 1 December 2011 in New Delhi. Artistes from various countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Japan, Korea, Bhutan, Cambodia, and many more participated in this festival. From Sri Lanka Prasanna Ru Dance ensemble was sent to represent Sri Lanka. The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo assisted Prasanna Ru Dance Ensemble's participation at the Dance Festival.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
COLOMBO
SRI LANKA

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
AT THE
CENTRE DURING THE MONTH OF
DECEMBER 2011

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Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo

Report for the Month of December, 2011

Participation in the South Asian Band Festival

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi organized a South Asian Band Festival from 2 to 5 December 2011. Bands from various countries participated in this festival. From Sri Lanka a four member band named "Tantrum" was sent to represent Sri Lanka. The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo assisted Tantrum in their participation at the Band Festival.

Refresher course for the Hindi Teachers

The Hindi Language teachers of the Indian Cultural Centre were sent to Kendiriya Hindi Sansthan Agra, New Delhi for a period of two weeks for the Refresher Course programme. The teachers were given a clear idea of teaching methods, how to explain the subjects easily to the students, some of the problems in gender in Hindi vocabulary while teaching. The correct method of writing scripts and pronunciation.

Lecture's on Yoga

Mr. Raghu Ananthanarayanan disciple of Yogacharya Krishnamacharya delivered a talk on Yoga at the Centre on 11 December 2011. Structure of central nerve system how it importance in the day to day life what are yoga postures and breathing exercises which are appropriate and will help in the development of the central nerve system.

Swami Akandanand Giridelivered a talk on 18December 2011 on Emotional Intelligence. He spoke on the different types intelligence human has and also how it can be developed.

