

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities held in the month of January, 2012

Artist Rabindranath Tagore – Digital copies of Tagore Paintings

To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Indian Cultural Centre organized ‘Artist Rabindranath Tagore’ that features the facsimile copies of Tagore paintings from the collection of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and the exhibition titled Pilgrimages to the East comprising photographs showing the travels of Tagore to eastern countries including Ceylon (Sri Lanka) at Hambantota and Kandy in association with Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy and Consulate General of India, Hambantota..

Hambantota 5 – 7 January

The Exhibition was held from 5 ñ 7 January 2012, at the Mahanaga Hall, Hambantota. It was inaugurated by Mr. R.M.D.B Meegusmulla, District Secretary, Hambantota. About 200 people witnessed the exhibition.

Kandy 17 – 19 January

In Kandy the Exhibition was held from 17 ñ 19 January 2012, 2011 At E.L Senanayake Children’s Library Auditorium. It was inaugurated by His Worship Tushantha Mahendra Ratwatte, Mayor of Kandy. The local dignitaries who are based in Kandy had also visited the exhibition that included the Chief Custodian of Sri Dalda Maligawa (Tooth Relic Temple). The inaugural function was attended by 100 people. During these three days, between 350 and 400 people had visited the exhibition. Children from many schools had visited the exhibition.

9th January 2012 Talk on wild life "Tigers in the wild"– by Mr. Valmik Thapar

The Indian Cultural centre, Colombo in association with Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies and Ruk Rakaganno organized a slide lecture titled ‘Tigers in the wild’ by Mr. Valmik Thapar on Monday 9 January 2011 at BCIS auditorium, BMICH, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 at 6.30 p.m. Valmik Thapar, an Indian natural historian and a wild life documentary film maker and author of 14 books and several articles talk on the characteristic habits of Tigers and the methodology and approach to preserve them. He had also presented movie clips of Tigers that he captured in his explorations.





10 January World Hindi Day

The Indian Cultural Centre organized the World Hindi Day Celebrations on 10 January 2012 in a grand scale, as Sri Lanka has a huge population of Hindi lovers and lots of students are studying Hindi. The Centre involved the other institutions that teach Hindi in Sri Lanka in the celebrations. Around 15 institutions in Sri Lanka participated in the event. Some of the institutions participated were Hindi Niketan, Samudra Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Galle,



Special event organized by the Indian Cultural Centre on 10th January 2012 at the New Town Hall, Colombo was very well attended. As part of the celebrations, the Centre organised competitions in poetry, speech, essay writing, reading, copy writing and skits for students learning Hindi. During the event Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's message on the occasion of the World Hindi Day 2012 was read. Participants presented a cultural programmes including performances of Bharathanatyam, modern dances, Folk dances and rendition of ghazals and Hindi songs. The winners in different categories of competitions were awarded prizes. More than 350 students participated in the competition.







Rhythm and Sound – Contemporary Dance Performances by Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company

Galle

The dance troupe Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company sponsored by ICCR to visit Sri Lanka in connection with the Indian Republic day celebrations had its first performance in Galle on 21st January, 2012. The programme in Galle was in conjunction with Galle Literary Festival. Mr. Parakrama Dahanayake, Chairman of the Galle Heritage Foundation was the Chief Guest. The event was held at the Halle de Galle and the 500 capacity auditorium was full. About 100 literary festival participants also attended the performance. The Consulate General of India, Hambantota and Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo made necessary arrangements for the troupe and for the performers.

Kandy

In Kandy the performance of Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company was held at Hindu Cultural Hall, Kandy on 23.1.2012. Rev. Udawatha Nanda Thero, former MP was the Chief Guest. Mr. Lakshman Dharmapriya, Secretary, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), Mr. Jayarathna Dissanayake, Member of Central Provincial Council and Brg. K.C Gunawardane, 11 Div. Commander, were guests of Honour. The programme was great success which was appreciated by all. Around 550 people witnessed the dance performance. The artists were also very much impressed with auditorium and other arrangements made by the AHCI, Kandy and Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

Colombo



To commemorate India's 63rd Republic Day, reputed danseuse Aditi Mangaldas and her troupe, presented 'Rhythm and Sound' a contemporary Kathak performance at Bishop's College Auditorium on 25th January 2012. Hon. Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy, Government of Sri Lanka lit the ceremonial lamp as the Chief Guest. **H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function.** The other distinguished guests who honoured the function were Mr. Nandimithra Ekanayake, Deputy Minister of Education and Mr. M.T Hasen Ali MP, Secretary General, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress.



The visit of the 12 member troupe to Colombo was sponsored by the Indian Culture for Cultural Relations, **New Delhi. The performance was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with** the Ministry of Culture of Sri Lanka who provided a nominal financial support and they also arranged the local transportation for the troupe.

Prior to the arrival of dance drama troupe, the Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and televisions, printed 2500 invitation cards and 2500 Flyers, emailed to more than 4000 email ids and gave advertisement in three languages (English, Tamil, Sinhala) to publicize the event. The performance was attended by Members of Parliament, diplomatic community, eminent personalities from the field of art and culture, civil society, media and other distinguished guests. The attendance of the audience was 700. The performance was well received by the audience.







H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presented a gift to the Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy on the occasion. The artistes were honored by souvenirs by Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy.

Indian House

Aditi Mangaldas and her troupe presented a short performance at India House on 26.1.2012. Hon. Rathnasiri Wickramanayake, Senior Minister was the Chief Guest. Around 800 guests attended the programme.

Jaffna

In Jaffna the performance was held at Kailasapathy Hall, Jaffna on 28.1.2012. Prof. Vasanthi Arasarathnam, University of Jaffna was the Chief Guest. The programme was appreciated by the audience, that of appropriate 200 people.

Lecture cum Demonstration

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak Workshop by Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company **at University of Visual and Performing Arts on 30 January 2012.** Prof. Jayasena Kottegoda, Vice Chancellor, University of Visual and Performing Arts was the Chief Guest. **Kathak teachers and around 60 students from the University of Visual and Performing Arts and Indian Cultural Centre participated in this workshop.**





30 January 2012 Martyrs' Day Photo Exhibition on Gandhi, Bhajans and Film

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo paid homage to the great soul Mahatma Gandhi with a photographic exhibition on Gandhi and by singing his favourite bhajans on the Martyrs' Day at the J.D.A.Perera Gallery, 46, Horton Place, Colombo 03 at 5.30 p.m. The bhajans will be presented by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre and it was followed by screening of the film Gandhi by Richard Attenborough.





Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities held in the Month of February, 2012

8 February Maya Krishna Rao's Lecture cum Demonstration



The well known theater personality from India, Maya Krishna Rao conducted a Lecture cum Demonstration on "Contemporary Theatre Practice as influenced by Classical Tradition" at the auditorium of the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo. In her lecture cum demonstration she explained how the traditional dance form of Kathakali is helping her in all her contemporary productions. Here lecture was followed by a screening of one of her productions. Maya Krishna Rao is known for her solo as well as group creations. She has had training in Kathakali in Delhi and Kerala.





Photographic Exhibition "Islamic Monuments of India"
8-13 February 2012 at J.D.A Perera Gallery, Colombo 7





The exhibition titled "Islamic Monuments of India", curated by Dr. Neeru Misra consisting of 45 photographs of Mr. Benoy K. Behl and Abinav Atris was inaugurated on 8 February 2012 at J.D.A Perera Gallery, Colombo 7 by Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister for Justice. H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function. The other dignitaries who attended the inaugural function include Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha, MP, H.E Anwar Al Agaha, Ambassador of Palestine and Mr. Kumar Nadesan, Managing Director, Virakesari and several writers, painters and musicians. The inaugural function was attended by more than 80 people. The exhibition was on view from 9 to 13 February 2012 at the Gallery. More than 500 people visited during the six days of the exhibition.



Hon. Rauff Hakeem in his inaugural address appreciated the High Commission's initiative to bring the exhibition to Sri Lanka, which he said would help in creating greater understanding in Sri Lanka about the long history of Islam in India, its architectural beauty and its vividness. The Minister pointed out the diverse cultural elements in India and the role Islam played in making it robust. In his remarks, H.E Ashok K. Kantha, highlighted the spread of Islamic heritage in India from the 7th century AD onwards and its role in creating a syncretic culture, combining elements of local traditions, resulting in a rich architectural diversity.

23-25 February 2012 at Zahira College, Maradana, Colombo 10

The exhibition "Islamic Monuments of India" was again exhibited at Zahira College, Colombo also. It was inaugurated by H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India on 23 February 2012 at 3.30 pm. The exhibition has been organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in association with the Zahira College. Zahira College, one of the leading schools in Sri Lanka established in 1892 is celebrating 120 years. Zahira College had the privilege of hosting many great Indian leaders who visited Sri Lanka in yesteryears like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu and Dr. K.G. Seiydeen. The exhibition was on view on 24 and 25 February 2012.

10 February Odissi Dance Recital and Lecture cum Demonstration by Alpana Nayak



Indian Culture Centre, Colombo in association with the University of Visual and Performing Arts organized an Odissi dance recital of Alpana Nayak from India at the auditorium of University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo 7.



Alpana Nayak presented Odissi dance solo in the classical style that was embellished by her gurus late Guru Deva Prasad Das and Guru Sudhakar Sahoo. She has enriched her Odissi style under Guru Hare Krishna Bahera. She takes special care to train Odissi dance to specially gifted children (physically and mentally challenged) in Indian classical and folk dance forms for their holistic development in the society. Alpana Nayak also conducted a Lecture cum Demonstration of Odissi dance at the University of Visual and Performing Arts.

17 February Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Hindu Educational Society organized its annual event "Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana" – Carnatic Music Festival on 17 February at the Saraswathie Hall, Bambalapitiya. 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. Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Renganathan conducted and coordinated the music festival.







23 - 25 February Photographic Exhibition “Islamic Monuments of India”

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an exhibition of photographs of Benoy Behl and Abhinav Atris titled “Islamic Monuments of India” at the Zahira College, Maradana, Colombo. His Excellency Ashok K.Kantha inaugurated the exhibition. Several dignitaries, students of Zahira College, others schools and general public viewed the exhibition.

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities

March, 2012

14 March Nav Pratibha 2012

Nav Pratibha – A display of new talents in Indian classical music & dance - performances on Sitar, Violin, Tabla, Carnatic vocal music, Hindustani vocal music, Bharatha Natyam & Kathak dance recitals by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre were held at the Bishops College Auditorium, Colombo 03 on 14 March 2012. The event was presided over by the High Commissioner Shri Ashok K. Kantha . Hon. Neomal Perera, Acting Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest Hon. Neomal Perera and His Excellency Shri Ashok K. Kantha felicitated the teachers.

The evening started off with a classical sitar recital in which the students trained by Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo presented an item, “Sitar Sandhwani” based on raag Miyan Ki Malhar and Bahar set to Madhyalaya ek taal and Drut teen taal.

The Sitar recital was followed by Carnatic vocal music recital, the students trained by Carnatic music maestro Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan. The students presented the Keerthanam “Sithi Vinayagam” in raag Mohana Kalyani set to Aathi taal, followed by “Himagiridanaye” in raag Suddha Danyasi and concluded with “Brahma Mokate”, an Annamacharya keerthanam.

It was followed by a Hindustani Violin recital by the students trained by their guru Visharadh Somasiri Illesinghe. They presented an item based on raag Bhageshri set to teen taal.

One of the students trained by the Hindustani vocal Guru Dr. Premadasa Mudunkotuwa presented a solo in raag Bageshri set to madhyalaya teen taal and that was followed by a Holi geet and a Bajan presented by the other students.

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 solo and duet were the other performances.

The instrumental and vocal music recitals were followed by dance recitals. The students trained by Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran commenced the dance recital with “Natesa Kauthawam” followed by a dance item for Bharathiyar Paadal. The Kathak dance students trained by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya presented a “Tharana”. Thereafter, there was a Bharatha Natyam dance

recital by the students trained by their guru Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan. They started with a dance performance for the song “Sabari Malai” and concluded with a folk song on Lord Shiva.











15 March Madhur Sandhya

The Tagore Society in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an evening of music and dance titled Madhur Sandhya at John de Silva Memorial Theatre on 15 March 2012 at 5 p.m. The programme consisted of Santoor Recital by Dr. Karunaratne Kiriwathtuduwa, Esraj recital by Sanjeeva Ranasinghe, Rabindra Geet by Thilini Rodrigo, a Dance based on Rabindra Sangeet by the disciples of Jayawanthi Panibharata and Varsha Mangalya, another Dance based on Rabindra Sangeet by the disciples of Mr. Senaratne Pathirana.







16 March Lecture cum Demonstration – Bharatha Natyam

Indian Cultural Centre in association with Sri Lanka Foundation and Apasara Arts, Singapore organized a Dance Lecture cum Demonstration on Friday 16 March 2012 at 3.00 p.m. at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, 100, Independence Square, Colombo 07.

The Lecture demonstration on Nirmanika covered in depth details of production including, the unique concept, research, compilation of lyrics, dance choreography, dance technique, music composition and aesthetic elements such as costume design, light design etc. It was conducted by the core creative team of Nirmanika – Aravinth Kumarasamy, Creative Director, Neila Sathayalingam, Artistic Director and Anjana Ananad, Choreographer and lead dancer.

The demonstration was of interest to dancers, students of dance, dancer teachers, choreographers, dance enthusiasts, musicians, researchers, architects and art connoisseurs. In addition there was an opportunity of Q&A, dancers had the opportunity of a “hands-on” session to learn some of the key choreographic elements.





14 – 19 March Ghazal Performances by Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe

The Ghazal performances of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe in Sri Lanka was the result of a suggestion made by Hon. Governor of Western Province, Sri Lanka to highlight the rich Islamic heritage of India during an interaction of the “Friends of Indian Cultural Centre” held in September 2011.

It was in response to the specific suggestions made by the Hon. Governor of Western Province, Sri Lanka, the High Commissioner of India promptly acted on and requested ICCR, New Delhi to send the photographic exhibition “Islamic Monuments of India” and a Ghazal troupe to Sri Lanka.

The Hon'ble Governor, Western Province took initiative in organizing the successful Ghazal performances of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe in Colombo, Galle, Kalmunai and Kandy.

Along with the Indian Cultural Centre and the Office of the Governor of Western Province, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Arts, Western Province, as well as the Governor's Secretarial Office, Municipal Council and the Department of Culture, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, involved in organizing the Ghazal concerts. The local hospitality including local travel, boarding and lodging, concert arrangements such as venue for the performances, light and sound etc. were taken care of by the Sri Lankan Institutions which were involved in organizing the concerts in Kalmunai and Colombo. In Galle and Kandy the Indian Cultural Centre organized the concerts in association with the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy and the Consulate General of India, Hambantota.

Galle

The Consulate General of India, Hambantota organized a Ghazal concert on the evening of 14.03.2012 at Hall de Galle, Southern Province. The Ghazal performance by Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations was the first performance by Dr. Kumud Diwan in the series of Ghazal concerts in Sri Lanka. The Governor's Office, Southern Province along with Ministry of Fisheries, Cultural Affairs, Food Supply & Distribution of Southern Province provided assistance in organizing the event. About 400 persons attended the event. The event was one of the most successful events organized by the Consulate so far in Southern Province.

Kalmunai

In Kalmunai the Ghazal concert of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe was held at Santhankeni Play Ground, Kalmunai on 16 March 2012. Rear Admiral Mohan Wijeyawickrama, Governor, Eastern Province was the Chief Guest. The Governor Secretariat Office, Municipal Council along with Department of Culture, Southern Province provided assistance in organizing the event. The programme was great success which was appreciated by all. More than 2500 people witnessed the ghazal performance. The artists were also very much impressed with audience.

Kandy

The Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy organized the concert of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe and was held at auditorium of the Bharatiya Kala Kendra of Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy on 17 March 2012. Between 70 - 80 people attended the programme. The concert was highly appreciated by the audience.

Colombo



Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe presented Ghazal performance at Kularathne Hall, Ananda College on 19 March 2012. Hon. Alhaj S. Alavi Mowlana, Governor, Western province was the Chief Guest. H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function. The other distinguished guests who honoured the function were Pt. Amaradeva, well renowned classical musician, Ms. Sujatha Attanayake, singer and Prof. Amara Ranatunga.

The performance was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the Ministry of Culture & Art Affairs, Western Province of Sri Lanka, who provided local hospitality, boarding and lodging, hall, announcer, light and sound.

Prior to the arrival of Ghazal troupe, the Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and televisions, printed 5000 invitation cards, 30 posters and 500 flyers, emailed to more than 4000 email ids and gave advertisement in three languages (English, Tamil, and Sinhala) to publicize the event. The performance was attended by eminent personalities from the field of music. The attendances of the audience were around 600. The performance was well received by the audience.

The artistes were honored by souvenirs by Hon. Alhaj S. Alavi Mowlana and H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India.

The ICCR, New Delhi has efficiently and in a timely manner responded to the request from Colombo to send the exhibition titled “Islamic Monuments of India” and the Ghazal troupe led by Dr. Kumud Diwan to Sri Lanka to highlight the Islamic culture of India.





14 March Kathak
by Moksha Samarasooriya and her students



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak recital by the well known Sri Lankan danseuse Moksha Samrasooriya and her students at 6.30 pm on 27 March 2012 at Lionel Wendt Art Theatre, Colombo 07.

His Excellency Ashok K. Kantha graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The programme included dance items such as the Dawn of Light, the Songs of Katyayani, the Royal Court and many more.

Moksha Samarasooriya, received her Kathak dance training at Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music Govt. of U.P, Lucknow, India. Several of her performances were telecast over television in Sri Lanka. Moksha was awarded Sangeet Pratiyogitha award at the Bhatkhande Jayanti in India in 1997. Apart from running her own dance school Moksha is also working as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Visual & Performing Arts. Moksha has been teaching Kathak at the Indian Cultural Centre since June 2005. Moksha Smarasooriya represented Sri Lanka at the Second International Dance Festival held in the year 2011 at New Delhi.





**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities in the Month of April 2012

25 April SAARC Film Day – Featuring “Iqbal” – a Film from India

The fourth of many films featuring movies from the SAARC Region, Iqbal was screened on Wednesday, 25 April 2012 at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall. The film's screening was organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo (SCC) in collaboration with The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo High Commissioner of India HE Mr Ashok Kantha was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Iqbal is a 2005 Hindi Bollywood film written by Vipul K Rawal and directed by Nagesh Kukunoor and was released under Subhash Ghai's new banner, "Mukta Searchlight Films".

The Film is a story about determination, hardwork, and an unending passion to become a pace bowler in the National Cricket team. "When the heart begins to think like the head... that's when real success is achieved," says coach Naseeruddin Shah to his special student, a deaf-and-mute boy who strives to become a national cricket player. The world of Nagesh Kukunoor's latest film is a mellow one of basic and valuable emotions. This isn't the first film where the director has dealt with the ambiguous world of adolescent dreams. Unlike Kukunoor's "Rockford", "Iqbal" rocks to a rustic and heartfelt raga-rhythm.





26 – 30 April Buddhist International Performing Arts Festival

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi organized Buddhist International Performing Arts Festival from 26 to 30 April 2012 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 Mudiyanse Dissanayake Arts Foundation was sent to represent Sri Lanka. The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo assisted Mudiyanse Dissanayake Arts Foundation's participation at the Dance Festival.

Scholarships for studying Hindi in India

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called in applicants for Sri Lankan nationals to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (Central Institute of Hindi), Agra, for the academic session 2012-2013 by putting press release in the local news papers and by sending letters to local institutions propagating Hindi and to the Universities. Around 35 candidates applied and faced the interview conducted by the Centre's Long Term Hindi Chair. From those who applied 19 candidates were selected and their applications were forwarded to KHS, Agra in April 2012.

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities the Month of May, 2012

8 May 2012

Tribute to Tagore on his Birth Anniversary

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an event titled “Legacy of Santiniketan” which included performances from renowned Sri Lankan artists such as Weerasena Gunathilake, Thilini Rodrigo, Charith Perera and Chandana Wickramasinghe who are alumni of Santiniketan, an institute founded by Gurudev Tagore to mark his 150th birth anniversary. The artists paid tribute to founder of their alma-mater with their artistic skills in music, dance and choreography.

Honourable Vasudeva Nanayakkara, the Minister for National Languages and Social Integration, was the Chief Guest and His Excellency Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India and Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President graced the event.









Nominations invited for Premchand Fellowship from Sri Lanka

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called in nominations for Premchand Fellowship from Sri Lanka for the year 2012 by putting press release in the local news papers. 11 Nominations from Scholars/writers were received and forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi in May 2012.

Refurbishment work of the Indian Cultural Centre

The refurbishment work of the Indian cultural Centre commenced from December 2011 is in progress.

Sri Lankan participation for Cultural Confluence- United Colours” Art Camp

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo invited applications for the Art Camp titled "Cultural Confluence-United Colors" for young artists from South Asia organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi from 25 to 31 May 2012 by putting press releases in local news papers and sending letters to schools etc. From the applications received 3 candidates were selected and details forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi. The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo assisted the candidates for their participation at the Art Camp.

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities in the month of June 2012

Tagore and Sri Lanka

Academic Seminar



A One day seminar on “Tagore and Sri Lanka” organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, in association with the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies and the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo was held on 12 June 2012. The seminar was organized as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

The seminar commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, Executive Director of Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies. H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India addressed the gathering recalled that the idea of the Seminar originated on 7th May last year when Government of Sri Lanka released a special postal stamp to pay homage to Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary and the

University of Colombo had brought out a special volume “Remembering Rabindranth Tagore” with a message from H.E. the President of Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner announced that the deliberations of the seminar and the illustrations, letters, newspaper reports, photographs and paintings associated with Tagore’s visits to Sri Lanka would be published in the form of a commemorative volume, which would serve as a treasure trove for students and researchers on Tagore. This was followed by the inaugural address by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation, who emphasized the friendly relations between India and Sri Lanka and recalled that during difficult negotiations with IMF and World Bank, India had supported Sri Lanka. The Minister highlighted that the strong foundation of India- Sri Lanka relations was based on geographical proximity, history, common cultural space and people-to-people contacts.



The seminar focused mainly on the travels of Tagore to Sri Lanka and the cultural linkages they served to enhance. It was divided into five sessions, including three academic sessions and the inaugural and valedictory sessions. Eminent Indian author, historian and educationist, Prof. Bharati Ray, who is currently Vice President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, delivered the keynote address titled “ Through the Prism of Travel: Rabindranath Tagore’s Internationalism” at the seminar. She underlined three aspects related to Tagore namely universalism, education and cultural exchanges. She underlined the impact of Tagore’s visits to Sri Lanka which resulted in the cultural resurgence within Sri Lanka and at the same time, absorption of Kandyen and mask dances in future productions of Tagore.

The seminar was coordinated by the well-known Indian author and literary critic, Prof. Radha Chakravarty. Her presentation was mainly on Tagore's travels to Sri Lanka and the cultural inter-linkages. The three academic sessions featured presentation of papers by prominent scholars and artists. Dr. Sushobhan Adikary spoke on the influence of Kandyan dance on Tagore's dance-drama and Prof. K.N.O Dharmadasa spoke about the translations of Tagorean literature to Sinhala and its impact. Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa reviewed Tagore's visits to Sri Lanka, whereas Prof. Vini Vitharana's paper was titled "Reminiscing within narrow domestic walls". Ravibandhu Vidayapathi spoke on the influence of Tagorean dance-drama on Sri Lankan dance-theatre and Chandraguptha Thenuwara delineated Tagore's influence on Sri Lankan visual arts. Prof. Tissa Kariyawasam, in his paper, analyzed Tagore as a visionary who visited Sri Lanka. Prof. Wimal Dissanayake, author and scholar from the University of Hawaii, presented a paper on the poetic humanism of Rabindranath Tagore.



The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Jagath Balasuriya, Honourable Minister of National Heritage. The Hon. Minister announced at the Valedictory Session that the National Archives of Sri Lanka would be bringing out a compilation of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's speeches delivered during his five visits to Sri Lanka. Dr. Radha Chakravarty, the academic coordinator of the seminar summed up the various aspects issues deliberated in the seminar. Mr.P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner gave the vote of thanks.

The event concluded with a beautiful rendition of *Rabindra Sangeet* by Charith Perera, a young and promising singer who studied music at Santiniketan.

Prior to the seminar, the Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and television channels, printed 750 invitation cards and 100 Flyers, emailed to more than 4000 email ids. A number of press persons especially from Daily News, Daily Mirror, Island, Ceylon Today Thinakaran, Sudar Oli (Tamil), Lanka Deepa and some freelancers, 4 television channels (ITN, SLRC, Art TV and Sirasa) attended the Seminar. The Seminar was attended by Members of Parliament, diplomatic community, eminent personalities from the field of art and culture, civil society, media and other distinguished guests. The attendance of the audience was 225.

A day before the Seminar, Eye Channel (SLRC) held a breakfast show (live telecast) with Prof. Radha Chakravarty and Director, ICC, Colombo. The show was of 40 minutes length.

Lectures of Prof. Radha Chakravarty

Colombo

Prof. Radha Chakaravarty delivered her lecture on "Tagore's Short Stories in English" at 12 noon on 11 June 2012, at the Department of English of the University of Colombo. The lecture was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in association with the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies and the Department of English, University of Colombo.

Kandy

Prof. Radha Chakaravarty delivered her second lecture titled "Representations of the body in stories by South Asian Women" at 4.00 pm on 13 June 2012, at the Seminar Room, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. The lecture was organized by the University of Peradeniya and the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy.

ICCR Scholarships in Fine arts subjects for Sri Lankan students

In the month of February the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called for applications for the ICCR Scholarships in Fine Arts subjects for Sri Lankan students by issuing Press Releases in various newspapers in the 3 main languages. 56 applications were received and after the interviews 15 were short listed and forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi.

Out of the above students 10 received the Cultural Scholarship of ICCR New Delhi. The following students have accepted the scholarship in the following streams and joined the respective institutions:

Sl.	Name of Scholar	Course	Institute
1	Ms. Jeevarathnakumar Nivasini	Bharatanatyam	Kalakshetra Foundation, Thiruvannamipur, Chennai - 600041.

2	Ms. Samadhi Anuranijika Kuragodage	Kathak	Pracheen Kala Kendra, Sector 35-B, Chandigarh-160022
3	Ms. Hetharachenige Yashora Kalhani	Kathak	Rabindra Bharati University, 56 A, B.T. Road, Kolkata-700050
4	Mr. Lumbini Prasad Gunasekara	Kathakali	Kerala Kala Mandalam, Cheruthuruthy, Thrissur Dt., Kerala.
5	Mr. Hirimbura Gamage Madusanka Privadesha	Kathakali	Kerala Kala Mandalam, Cheruthuruthy, Thrissur Dt., Kerala.
6	Ms. Pathanathan Thadshayini	Carnatic Music	Kalakshetra Foundation, Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai - 600041.
7	Mr. Biyagamage Ishu	Hindustani & Instrumental Music	Rabindra Bharati University, 56 A, B.T. Road, Kolkata-700050
8	Mr. Heshaka Thilina Pilana Vithanage	Painting - BFA	Rabindra Bharati University, 56 A, B.T. Road, Kolkata-700050
9.	Ms. Gopalakrishnan Sihami Luxiska	Carnatic Music	Kalakshetra Foundation, Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai - 600041.
10	Mr. Senawirathna Ranhoiti Gamage Dinesh Ishantha	Painting - BFA	Rabindra Bharati University, 56 A, B.T. Road, Kolkata-700050

Morning Classes in Hindi

With the joining of a Long Term Hindi Chair the centre has commenced morning classes for those who cannot attend the regular afternoon classes. At present there are three batches in the morning.

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities in the Month of July 2012

7 July 2012

Bharata Natyam Performance by Savitha Sastry

A Bharata Natyam dance performance entitles 'Soul Cages' a dance theatre that captured the cycles of life and death as a journey, rather than an end itself was performed by the celebrated Bharata Natyam exponent, Savitha Sastry was held on Saturday 7 July 2012 at Bishop's College Auditorium. The event was supported by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo. Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

This unique presentation is structured on the imagery and narrative of a story, told through the fluid grace of the classical Indian dance form of Bharatha Natyam. The connoisseur of this art form was enthralled by the sophistication and nuances employed in the presentation. Around 350 people attended the performance.





23 – 25 July 2012

Visit of Ms.NamitaGokhale, Writer, Publisher and Festival Director

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo supported India-Sri Lanka Foundation in organizing the lecture series of Ms.Namita Gokhale, Writer, Publisher and Festival Director in Sri Lanka.

She presented a lecture titled “Many Languages One Literature” at the Department of Sinhala Auditorium on Monday, 23 July, 2012 organized by the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS), University of Colombo.

The lecture on the theme “Singular Pluralities – Perspectives on South Asian Literature” held in association with the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) at the BCIS auditorium on Wednesday 25 July, 2012. Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



Presentation of Hindi Text Books

The Indian Cultural Centre presented Hindi text books to two institutions. 30 Hindi books were presented on 5.7.2012 to Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka, Homagama and 22 Hindi books on 19.7.2012 to Samudradevi Balika Maha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda.

31 July to 10 August 2012

Film Appreciation workshop as part of celebrating 100 years of Indian Cinema

The Indian Cultural Centre in association with Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy, Film & Television Institute of India, Pune and India-Sri Lanka Foundation organized a 10 days Film Appreciation Workshop from 31 July to 10 August 2012 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy. The workshop included screening of prominent films of eminent Film Directors. The workshop was organized as part of the celebration of 100 Years of Indian Cinema.

The Film Appreciation Workshop was conducted by the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune under the Agreement for Cultural Cooperation between India and Sri Lanka for the years 2010 – 2013. Prof. Indranil Bhattacharya from the Film and Television Institute of India along with Mr. K. Hariharan and Mr. Avijit Mukul Kishore conducted the workshop. Mr. P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India was the Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony held at Sri Lanka Foundation. Ms. Sumithra Pereis, eminent Sri Lankan Film Director was the Guest of Honour.

The Film appreciation workshop was conceived as a course for film lovers, journalists and media persons, film students and film critics to enhance their ability in watching and understanding various styles in film production and the techniques involved as well as an orientation to the ways of looking at films. 41 film enthusiasts participated in the 10 Day Workshop.





Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

Activities in the Month of August 2012

10 – 12 August 2012

Photographic Exhibition titled “India Through Sri Lankan Eyes - The Buddhist Circuit”

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo supported High Commission of India Colombo in organizing a photographic exhibition titled “India Through Sri Lankan Eyes- Buddhist Circuit”. The High Commission of India, Colombo organized this exhibition in partnership with the Photographic Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL). The exhibition was inaugurated by Hon. Prof. Tissa Vitarana, Senior Minister of Scientific Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka in presence of H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India on 10th August, 2012 at the J.D.A. Perera Gallery.

The exhibition titled "India through Sri Lankan Eyes" was curated by Mr. Mithra Weerakone, Immediate Past President of the Photographic Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL). Mr. Weerakone undertook an eight-day journey in December 2011 on the Mahaparinirvana train – a special train run by the Indian Railways starting from New Delhi covering various Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India. The photographs displayed an excellent combination of natural beauty and human devotion and capture the emotions involved, through “Sri Lankan eyes”. The exhibition was a display of popular Buddhist sites revered and visited by a large number of Sri Lankans to pay homage to Lord Buddha.

15 – 19 August 2012

Mohiniyattam performances by Dr. Kanak Rele and Nalanda troupe performed in Sri Lanka.





Colombo

Dr. Kanak Rele, accompanied by the Nalanda troupe performed at the Lionel Wendt Auditorium, Colombo as part of the 66th Independence day celebrations of India. Hon. D.E.W Gunasekera, Minister for Human Recourses was the Chief Guest and H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function.

The Mohiniyattam performance started with an invocation to the elephant-headed deity revered by the Hindus, who banishes impediments and grants success to any undertaking. It was followed by an enchanting rendering of portrayal of the four seasons summer, monsoon, autumn, and spring. The choreography of the item was done according to the traditional manner of the participation of birds and beasts who played a very significant part in human life.

The legendry Mohiniyattam dancer Dr. Kanak Rele, at her age of seventy five, performed a brilliant episode from the life of Lord Krishna based on a poem written by Mr. Sitakant Mahapatra. The composition was the dancer's response to the sufferings of women and her hope for women's freedom from exploitation. The Nalanda troupe performed another well-choreographed piece based on Geeta Govinda of Jaya Deva depicting the joy of being in love, before the interlude.

The musical interlude, led by Mr. M.S. Geerisan, a gifted vocalist, could enthrall the audience with songs based on Carnatic ragas in the style of the traditional Kerala singing Sopana. Mr. Narayanan Namboodri accompanied Geerisan on Mridangam, Mr. P. Nandakumar on Edakka and Mr. S. Balasubramaniam on Violin.

Under the stage management of Mr. C. Gopalakrishnan, who also did the Nattuvangam, the dancers performed excerpts from the dance-drama titled “The Enlightened One – Gautama Buddha”, which is researched and choreographed by Dr. Kanak Rele. It highlighted the manner and method in which prince Siddhartha could achieve the ultimate salvation from the great agonies of worldly life.



Hambantota

The dance troupe led Dr. Kanak Rele performed at Hambantota in connection with the Indian Independence day celebrations on 17 August, 2012. Mr. R.C.D Soysa, District Secretary of Hambantota was the Chief Guest. The event was held at the Singapore Hall, Hambantota and 320 people witnessed the performance. The Consulate General of India, Hambantota and Indian Cultural, Centre, Colombo made necessary arrangements for the troupe and for the performers.

Kandy

In Kandy the performance of Dr. Kanak Rele accompanied by the Nalanda troupe was held at Hindu Cultural Hall, Kandy on 19.8.2012. The two hours of performance was highly appreciated by the audience. There were around 250 people from Kandy and nearby towns who came to attend the programme. The performance was organized by AHCI, Kandy in association with GOPIO and the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

20 August 2012

Symposium on “Relic Worship: History, Archaeology and Religion”

On the occasion of the exposition of the Sacred Kapilavastu Relics in Sri Lanka, Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS), Pali and Buddhist Studies Unit, University of Colombo in association with the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS) are organizing a half-day Symposium on “Relic Worship: History, Archaeology and Religion” at LKIIRSS Auditorium on 20 August 2012. The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo assisted on organizing the symposium.

In the inaugural session H.E. Mr. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India, Colombo, Hon. Prof. G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka and Hon. Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India addressed the gathering.

In the academic session of the symposium Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa was the moderator. Dr. Ravindra Panth (Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, India) presented his paper on Relic Worship: History, Archaeology and Religion. The paper of Prof. Anura Manatunga (Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya) was on Excavations at Kapilavastu and the Discovery of Buddha's relics. Prof. Asanga Tilakaratne (Pali & Buddhist Studies Unit, University of Colombo) spoke on Relic-worship as religious practice: Personalizing impersonal Buddhist worship. The final paper was of Emeritus Prof. K. N.O. Dharmadasa (Editor –in- Chief, Sinhala Encyclopedia) and he presented his paper titled Worship of Relics in the Sinhala Literary Tradition.

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities - September 2012

Hindi Day Celebration 2012

On 14th September 2012 Hindi Day was celebrated by the teachers and students of Indian Culture Centre, Colombo. To celebrate the occasion ICC organized many competitions such as hand-writing, essay, slogan, reading, one- act play, poetry recital, Hindi elocution, poetry writing and story writing for its students. Hindi song competition was held as the main competition on 14th of September 2012. The Chief Guest was Mr. Upali Rajapaksha, the Director, Old Hindi Film & Song Lovers Society and Mr. Hemalal Geetha Dev, Mr. Sunil Dharmavardhana and Ms. Sashikala Samarasingha, members of Sri Lanka Hindi Rasika Sangh, Hindi Geeth Sangh, Old Hindi Film & Song Lovers Society participated in the song competition as judges to adjudge the singing.

The programme commenced with welcome address by Mr. Ibrahim Khan, Long Term Hindi Chair. In his speech he spoke on the keen interest shown by Sri Lankans to the Hindi language, songs and films. Mr. Brezil Nagoda Vithana, Hindi Teacher, ICC, explained the aims and objectives of celebrating Hindi Day. Ms. Nadeera Shewanathi, Hindi teacher ICC, coordinated the song competition. More than 75 students participated in the celebrations. Ms. Deshani Vithanage, Ms. Chathurika and Ms. Punya Katriarachchi were awarded first, second and third place respectively. Ms. Kithani, Ms. Nitya, Ms. Hansika, Ms. Suwini and Ms. Umali were given consolation prizes.

Mrs. Athila Kotalawala, Hindi Teacher, ICC delivered the vote of thanks.







Visit of a delegation from Santiniketan, Visva-Bharati to Sri Lanka

A 42 member delegation from Santiniketan led by Mr. Sushantha Dattagupta Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan and comprising of faculty members and students visited Sri Lanka.



The Indian Cultural Centre organized a visit of the Shantiniketan Faculty and the Students to Sri Palee College, on 3 October. Sri Palee College is the institution of which the foundation was laid by Gurudev Tagore himself during his visit to Sri Lanka in 1934 and is modeled on the lines of Santiniketan. The visiting delegation had interaction with the Sri Palee college authorities and teachers as well as with the members of its Past Pupils' Association. The visiting delegation presented dance and songs in the Sri Palee College Auditorium. The students of Sri Palee also enthralled the visitors with Kandyan dance.





On 3 October 2012, faculty members and students from Santniketan presented “Shaap Mochan” of Rabindranath Tagore, a dance-drama at John De Silva Theatre, Colombo.

On 4 October 2012, the troupe performed dance-drama “Chandalika” of Rabindranath Tagore at the Ramakrishna Mission Hall. The performance was graced by H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India. The Colombo leg of the visit was organized by the Global Organisation of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), Sri Lanka.

The Indian Cultural Centre assisted in publicizing the event and coordinating the performances.



**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities - October 2012

Mahatma Gandhi Oration by Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy

The Annual Mahatma Gandhi Oration organized by the Sri Lanka India Society was delivered by Deshmanya Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (April 2006- July 2012), renowned academic, lawyer, Human Rights advocate, former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, former Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission and author, at the refurbished Indian Cultural Centre on Tuesday, 30 October 2012. H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India graced the event as Chief Guest. The Oration was attended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of the Sri Lanka India Society, friends from the media, members of the civil society and school children.







**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activity Report - November 2012

**17 November Shankar's International Children's Competition 2013
Painting, Drawing and Essay Competition for Children coinciding
with the birth anniversary of Pt. 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 17th November 2012. Around 350 children from all over the Island participated in this competition. Boys and girls between the age group 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 that completed at the Centre were sent to India to be adjudged in the Shankar's International Competition 2013.











19 November

Qaumi Ekta Week

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a dance recital as part of its the Qaumi Ekta Week on 19 November. The students of Natya Kala Mandir, trained by Kalasuri Vasugy Jagatheeswaran performed specially choreographed items on the occasion. The staff members of the Indian High Commission attended the event.





**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities: December 2012

5 December Film Screening

The Centre screened the Hindi feature film Sholay directed by Ramesh Sippy at its auditorium. 52 people watched the film.

7 December Hindi Certificate Distribution Ceremony & World Hindi Day Competition Prize Giving

A function to distribute certificates to students who have passed the Hindi Language exam held in April 2011 was held at the Indian Cultural centre on 7 December 2012. Around 218 students who have successfully completed the exams received the certificates. Form the Chief Guest Deputy High Commissioner of India Shri P. Kumaran and the Director of the centre Mr. M.Ramachandran. 52 Prizes were presented to ten winners of the World Hindi Day Competition held on 10th January 2012. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Ibrahim Khan – Hindi Long Term Chair and followed with a speech by the Chief Guest. Mr. M.Ramachandran Director of the Centre gave the vote of thanks.

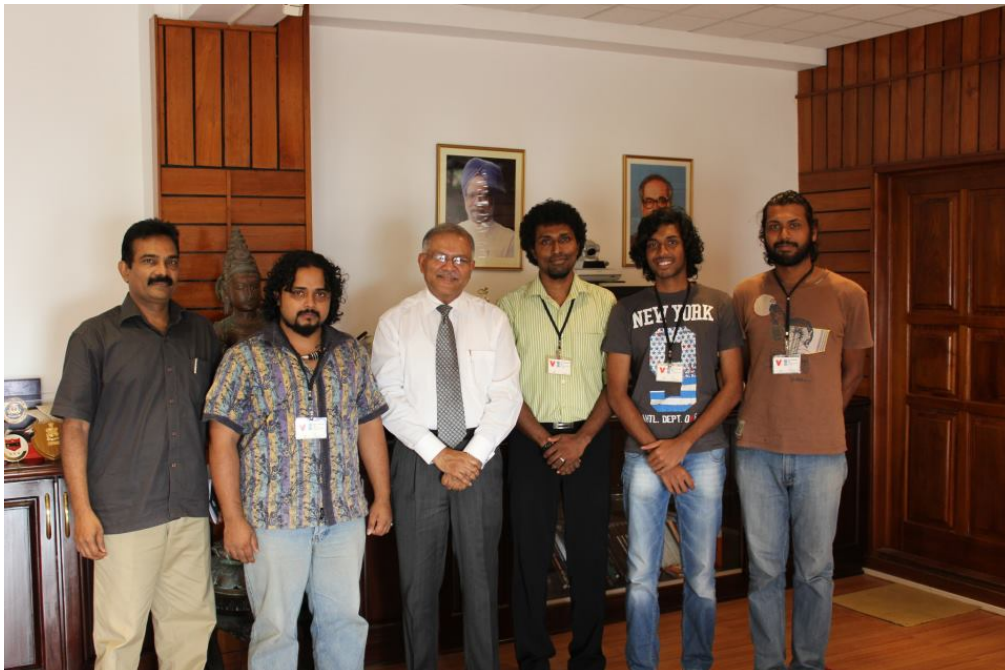






South Asian Band Festival

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo assisted Thriloka in their participation at the South Asian Band Festival organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi from 6 to 10 December 2012. Bands from various countries participated in this festival. From Sri Lanka a four member band named "Thriloka" was sent to represent Sri Lanka.



12 December - Natha Chalitham - Bharata Natyam Performance

Ms Thivya Sivanesan and her disciples captivated the audience with their brilliant Bharata Natyam performance on 12 December 2012. Among the items they performed was a brisk Thillana. The performance was greatly appreciated by the audience comprising eminent dancers and dance lovers. Around 70 persons attended the event.





14 December Sethu – an evening of Dance Music

A Percussion and music programme by the celebrated Sri Lankan Dancer and Percussionist Ravibandhu Vidhyapati and his troupe was organized at the Centre on 14 December 2012. The programme comprised performances on various percussion instruments such as dhol, table, bamboo drum etc. The evening was very well enjoyed by the audience gathered at the centre.







5 December Film Screening

The Centre screened the Hindi feature film Black directed by Sanjay Leela Bansali at its auditorium. 75 people watched the film.

21 December Poetry Recitation by Kamal Premadasa, President, Tagore Society

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organised a poetry recitation by Kamal Premadasa, President, Tagore Society of Sri Lanka at 6.00 pm on Friday 21 December 2012 at ICC auditorium. Around 25 people attended the event.

28 December Documentary Screening

The Centre screened 2 documentaries titled 1000 Feet of Hope & Palimpsest: India and Europe at its auditorium. 35 people watched the documentaries.