Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities January 2013

7 January Bharatha Natyam Dance recital by Ganna Smirnova

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized a Bharata Natyam Dance programme by Ganna Smirnova, well known Bharata Natyam exponents from Ukraine at its auditorium.

Ganna Smirnova did her Post Graduate Diploma in Indian Classical Dance (Bharata Natyam) with the ICCR Scholarship from Triveni Kala Sangam under the legendary Guru Jayalakshmi Eswar 1998-2003 and empanelled as an artiste by ICCR since 2004. She is a teacher of Indian classical Dance and Yoga in the Department of Arts and Aesthetic Education in the T.G. Shevchenko National University since 2004 onwards.

Ganna's dance recital commenced with Pushpanjalai and followed by Brahma Kautuvum, Devi Mangalam, Meera Bhajan and concluded with Thillana. Around 75 guests attended the event.






INDIA

10 January World Hindi day Celebrations

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated World Hindi Day 10 January 2013 with colourful cultural performances and holding a special conference on the subject "The influence of Hindi in Sri Lanka". Mr. P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India was the Chief Guest. Prof. Indra Dassanayake, a well known Hindi literary personality and former Professor of Hindi, University of Kelaniya, Prof. Lakshman Senevirathna, well known Hindi Professor at University of Kelaniya and Mrs. Nilanthi Rajapakse, Lecturer in Hindi at University of Jayewardenepura participated in the conference and made presentations on the Influence of Hindi in Sri Lanka as well as elucidated the emergence of Hindi as a world language.

Prof. Indra Dissanayake recalled her experiences while participating in the World Hindi Conference at Nagpur in 1975 where Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India announced the decision of making January 10 as a World Hindi Day. She underlined the need of teaching Hindi and providing accessibility to more books in Hindi in the field of humanities and culture in Sri Lanka as well as the necessity of more and more translation of literary works from Hindi to Sinhala.

Prof. Lakshman Senevirathna illustrated the need of corrective measures to be taken while teaching Hindi to the Sri Lankan students giving examples from the phonetic systems of the both the languages. He also exemplified the errors that commonly occur to Sri Lankans while they speak Hindi. In his presentation he stressed the necessity of teaching *Manak* (standard) Hindi so that the standardization of Hindi as living language in various parts of the world can happen.

Mrs. Nilanthi Rajapaksa illustrated the age-long cultural relationship of Sri Lanka with India and the development of teaching Hindi in Sri Lanka since 1965. She spoke about the influence of Hindi happened through the Bollywood films and music. She highlighted the need of commencing Post-graduate classes in Hindi in Sri Lankan Universities so that the relationship between the countries will become more cordial.

Listening to the points raised by the scholars in Hindi Mr. P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India informed the audience that the Indian Cultural Centre will be soon commencing its Language Lab and the students of Hindi

can make use of this new facility in the Cultural Centre for developing their skills in correct pronunciation of Hindi.

The students of the Centre made presentations of Hindi songs, dances and skits. 297 students received certificates and prizes for their participation in the Hindi Examination conducted by Centre and for the competitions held as part of the Hindi Diwas 2012. The Centre conducted competitions such as poetry, essay, poetry recital and reading, Hindi speech and singing.









11 January Hindustani Vocal and Violin Recital by Dr. Himanshu Vishwaroop & Mr. Manas Himanshu Vishwaroop

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized a Hindustani Vocal and Violin Recital by Dr. Himanshu Vishwaroop & Mr. Manas Himanshu Vishwaroop, eminent musicians from India on 11 January 2013 at its auditorium.

Born in a cultured and a knowledgably reputed family at Gwalior, which was and has always been the very cradle of Gwalior Gharana of Indian Classical Music, Dr. Himanshu had learnt violin from no less and illustrious Guru than Late Pt. Keshavrao (Dada) Surange for 20 years. He also had the guidance from Pt. Bimlendu Mukharjee & Late Padmashree Ustad Abdul Latif Khan.

His son and disciple Manas inculcated musical instincts very early under the tutelage of his parents, Dr Himanshu Vishwaroop (Violin Scholar and Reader, Bhatkhande University) & Prof. Dr. Veena Vishwaroop (Vocal Dept., Indira Kala Sangeet University and later by Pt. Babanrao Haldankar, renowned musicologist & vocalist of the Agra Gharana, under the guidance of whom Manas is still continuing his quest for musical excellence.

Their dazzling display of rhythmic wizardry was very much appreciated by one and all. The performance proved to be a marvelous exposition of music in true Indian Tradition. The audience numbering 85 comprising of musicians, teachers, students and music enthusiasts were fascinated by their performance.









18 January Screening of Malayalam Film "Kutty Srank" at Indian Cultural Centre

Indian Cultural Centre screened one of the most popular Malayalam Films "Kutty Srank" directed by Shaji N Karun on Friday 18 January 2013 at its auditorium. The Sri Lankan actress Meena Kumari Perera, who plays a major role in the film, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

The film features the South Indian Super Star Mammootty, Padmapriya, Kamalini Mukherjee and Meena Kumari Perera. In the 57th National Film Awards of India "Kutty Srank" emerged the biggest winner with five awards: for Best Film, for Best Screenplay for Best Cinematography for Best Costume Design and Special Jury Award for Editing. Premiered in the Montreal World Film Festival, 2009 the "Kutty Srank" was screened in major International Film Festivals such as Pusan International Film Festival 2009, Mumbai International Film Festival 2009, International Film Festival of India 2009, and Dubai International Film Festival 2009. Around 105 guests attended the event.





26 January Cultural show presented by the Indian Cultural Centre at India House

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented a Patriotic song performances and a dance recital on the occasion of 64 Republic Day Celebration flag hoisting ceremony at India House.







23 January – 2 February Kalarippayattu on the occasion of the 64th Republic Day of India

Celebrating the 64th Republic day celebrations of India the Madhava Madam CVN Kalari, the Kalarippayattu troupe led by R. Ramachandran Nair performed the vigorous martial art form at the Lionel Wendt Auditorium on 25 January 2013. Kalarippayattu, one of the oldest living traditions of martial training in the world that rooted in *Dhanurved* has a ritualistic and spiritual process of learning. This martial training of the ancient warfare system has very strict rules, and winning over the opponent should be according to the principles laid down by the masters of the art. The CVN Kalari Sangam followed the strict tradition of Kalarippayattu in their performance that lasted for 70 minutes. H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India, Sunimal Fernando, Advisor to the President,

Ananda Sankari, former MP, and P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India lit the ceremonial oil lamp on the occasion.

The very first item of the performance was the traditional salutation to the gods of Kalari by the entire troupe members. It was followed by the graded series of exercises starting from the exercises of legs in an unbelievable speed, and body control exercises of various methods that help each competent deep concentration and watchfulness against the opponents and a perfect a neuro-muscular coordination.

The performances of Short Staff and Dagger generated awe among the audience for the rapid movements and precision as well as the imminent danger in using the weapons. Gada another of the traditional weapons that used by people of large structure and great muscular strength in ancient times was used by the two of the performers with great dexterity. The kicking of ball was of another of the items that captured the attention of the audience due to the performer's ability to jump in a height and kick the ball effortlessly. There were also traditional numbers that mesmerized the viewers such as the use of Sword, Shield, Spear and Urumi, the flexible long sword. The use of long sword, Urumi, one of the most fatal weapons in Kalarippayattu, exemplified the agility, deep concentration and dexterity of the members of the troupe in using the weapons.

The troupe consisted of R. Ramachandran Nair, Gowthaman, Venugopalan Nair, Padmakumar, Anil Kumar, Anil Kumar Muthaiah and Karthikaya Kuruppe was deputed by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi. The Ministry of Culture and the Arts, Government of Sri Lanka hosted the performances of the troupe in Colombo. The troupe will be performing in Kandy as well as in Jaffna. IRCON, Lanka IOC, State Bank of India, LIC (Lanka) also supported the event. The performance in Colombo had an overwhelming response from the public and the performances held in front of a packed audience.

India House

The Madhava Madam CVN Kalari, the Kalarippayattu troupe led by R. Ramachandran Nair presented a short performance at India House on 26.1.2013. The performance was ten minutes long and it was part of the reception hosted by the High Commissioner on the occasion of the Republic Day 2013. Hon´ble Ratnasiri Wickremanayake, Senior Minister of Good Governance & Infrastructure, Government of Sri Lanka, Ms. Chandrika Kumarathunga, Former President of Sri Lanka, and a number of Ministers including Senior Minister A.H.M.Fowzi, Minister of Railways and Transport & Petroleum and Petroleum Resources, Members of Parliament, eminent personalities from the felids of art, culture, business, media and civil society

attended the reception along with prominent members of the Indian business community.

Assistant High Commission, Kandy

On the occasion of 64th Republic day, ICCR, New Delhi had sponsored an eight-member Kalarippayattu troupe, led by Shri Ramachandran Nair, to Sri Lanka from 23rd January - 2nd February 2013. During their stay in Sri Lanka, the troupe had also visited Kandy and gave a performance in Kandy on January 28, 2013. The Governor of North-Western Province (Wayamba) Tissa Ballale and Mrs. Ballale; Mrs.Anushia Shivaraja, Minister for Tamil Education and Social Affairs; Chief Secretary of Central Province were among the prominent and eminent personalities attended the programme.

Consulate General of India, Jaffna

The ICCR 'Kalarippayattu' Cultural troupe led by Guru Ramachandran Nair staged its performance on January 31, 2013 at Veerasingam Hall in Jaffna. Some of the noted persons who attended the event were the Major General Mahinda Hathurusinghe, Security Forces Commander in Jaffna and Mayor of Jaffna. Close to 300 persons attended the event.



























Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities February 2013

8 February Bharatha Natyam Dance Recital by Sahana Balasubramanya

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized a Bharata Natyam Dance Recital by Sahana Balasubramanya an upcoming Bharata Natyam exponents from India at its auditorium.

Sahana Balasubramanya has been trained by renowned Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan for twelve years in the Tanjavur style of Bharatanatyam at Ganesa Natyalaya, Delhi. She has performed widely as a solo performer and received critical acclaim for the same. She is also a member of her guru's troupe and has danced at major festivals both in India and abroad. She has given solo performances for AID, Epicentre, Gurgaon, Gayatri Fine Arts, Sahitya Kala Parishad, Chinmaya Mission, India International Centre, DRDO, Pracheen Kala Kendra (Chandigarh), visiting UGC delegates at Lady Sri Ram College and at the Ministry of Foreign affairs in Japan, among others. Sahana is a senior dance faculty member at Ganesha Natyalaya. Sahana's dance recital commenced with a Pushpanjali and concluded with a brisk Thillana. Around 80 guests attended the event.



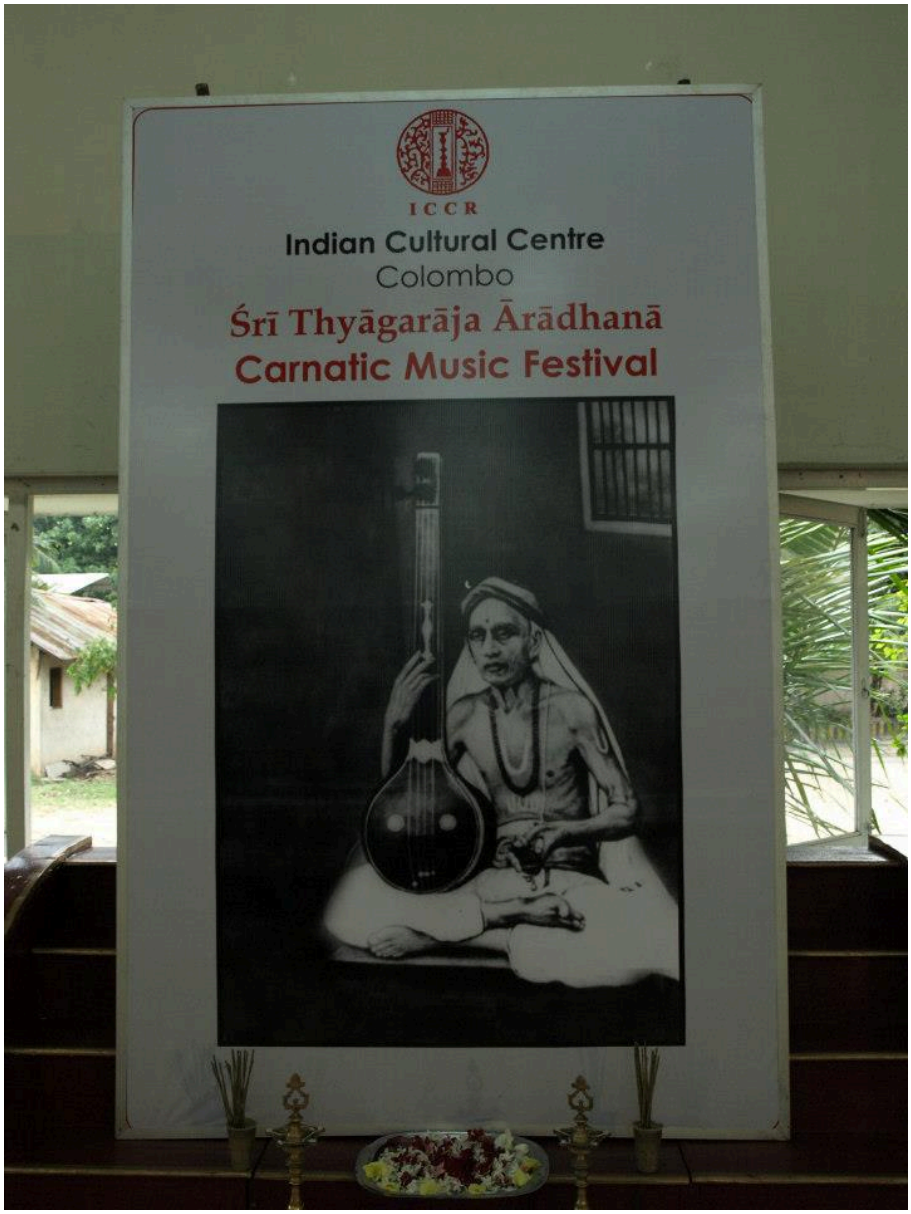




15 February Thyagaraja Aradhana

Over 200 musicians and aficionados of Carnatic music from various parts of Sri Lanka, including Batticalo and Jaffna assembled at the New Kathiresan Hall to sing Saint Thyagaraja's compositions under the direction of Kalasuri Smt. Aruntathy Sri Ranganathan. Five of his compositions called the Pancharatna Krithis (English:'five gems'), which are often sung in programme in his honour.

In addition to Vocalists, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Harmonium, Nagaswaram and Tavil artistes Participated in the festival. The event is organized by the Indian Cultural Centre annually.

















23 February Carnatic Vocal Kavalam Sreekumar



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with COMAL organised a Carnatic Vocal Concert by renowned musician Kavalam Sreekumar at 5.30 pm on Saturday 23 February 2013 at its auditorium. He was accompanied on Violin by Gobithas and on Mridangam by Thivyarooba Sarma. Sreekumar followed the traditional style of Carnatic music and began with a varnam and proceeded to the main raga and ended with lighter items.

The concert was organised with the support of State Bank of India, Colombo, Bluescope Lysaght, Taj Samudra, and Asian Paints.













26 February - 1 March Children's Festival

The Indian Cultural Centre in association with Children's Film Society, India organized a Children's Festival. The festival was conceived to engage children in the activities that enhance their creativity and imagination. The four day festival is designed with everyday orientation programme on a subject and to be followed by screening of a children's film. The festival included film screenings of Children film in various Indian languages and other activities. On 26th February in the programme titled "Wonders of drawing" where children were taught easy methods to draw and this was followed by a film screening Chota Sipai, on 27th February in the programme "Paper Designs" children were taught easy methods of creating paper images followed by a film screening Ebegetiya, The above 2 days the programmes were conducted by Ms. Fayaza. On 28th February a Magic show was presented by Dinesh the Dynamic and this was followed by a film screening Bhago Bhoot . The last day 1 March, the children were initiated in dancing though the programme "Let us dance" and this was followed by a film screening titled Keshu. The festival was very well enjoyed by the children who took part.








CHANGING
ROOM










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Deutschland




Hello Kitty






HUGO BOSS

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities – March 2013

8 March 2013 Slide Lecture - "The World Heritage City of Anuradhapura"
by Desamanya - Vidya Jyothi Ashley de Vos

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Slide Lecture titled “The World Heritage City of Anuradhapura” by Desamanya- Vidya Jyothi Ashley de Vos on Friday 8 March at at its auditorium.

The talk covered an introduction to the evolution of the city from its beginnings in 500 BC to its destruction in 10 C ADE including a re-creation of an important element in the 8 C ADE. His lecture was illustrated by a slide presentation.



Ashley de Vos is a Fellow of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects and a Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has trained as a Chartered Architect (UK), Landscape Architect (UK.) and in Architectural Conservation and Heritage Management (Rome, Italy).

In 1994, he won First Prize, for a very sensitive Master Plan Proposal for a Selected Area in the World Heritage City of Kandy, Sri Lanka, which led to the design and building of the 'Kandy City Centre' Project. In 2009 the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects conferred a special Life time award of Excellence in appreciation of his "life time Contribution to enhance the Built & Natural Environment of Sri Lanka".

The lecture was followed by question and answer session. Around 75 guests attended the event.







15 March Felicitation of Dr. Vajira Chitrasena by the High Commission of India

The Indian Cultrual Centre, Colombo supported the High Commission of India to organize an event to felicitate the living legend of Sri Lankan dance, legendary Kandyan danseuse and Sri Lanka's first prima ballerina Deshabandhu Dr. Vajira Chitrasesa was felicitated by the High Commission of India on her 81st birthday on Friday, 15 March 2013 at India House. The felicitation was in recognition of Dr. Vajira Chitrasena's outstanding and unique contribution to enriching India- Sri Lanka relations through the promotion of dance.



Hon. Dr. Sarath Amanugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning was the Chief Guest and H.E. Chandrika Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka and Padma Shri Pandit Amaradeva were the Guests of Honour at the felicitation event. The other dignitaries who graced the felicitation event included Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of National Languages and

Social Integration, Hon. Deputy Minister Faizer Mustapha, Hon. Members of Parliament Karu Jayasuriya, Ravi Karunanayake, Dayasiri Jayasekera, Eran Wickramaratne, A.H.M. Azwer and Vijitha Herath; Mrs. Indrani Weeratunga, along with four generations of Vajira family and Dr. Vajira's disciples.



In his address, Chief Guest Hon. Minister Dr. Sarath Amunugama emphasized the role Dr. Vajira played in the making of Sri Lankan national identity. He also recalled the High Commission of India's felicitation of the Sri Lankan musical icon Pt. Amaradeva in 2011 and underlined the significance of the felicitating Dr. Vajira as she is the dance icon of Sri Lanka.

In her address, H.E. Chandrika Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka focused on the stylistic aspects and various features of Dr. Vajira's dance. She also remembered her days of studying Kandyan dance under the tutelage of Dr. Vajira and her involvement in developing the dance for various kinds of expressions.



In his address, H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India said that the event was to celebrate Dr. Vajira's remarkable artistic journey spanning over six decades and her achievements. He underlined that Dr. Vajira is credited with creating the female version of Kandyan dancing and that some of the most treasured ballets of Sri Lanka such as Karadiya and Nala-Damayanthi were result of collaboration of Guru Chitrasena and Guru Vajira. He noted that indigenous dance theatre in Sri Lanka is firmly based on the traditions developed through the creative energy of Guru Chitrasena and Guru Vajira. He also acknowledged legendary role of Guru Chitrasena in the revival of Sri Lanka's traditional dance forms and his exposure to India, through learning of Kathakali in Travancore in 1940 and study at Shantiniketan in 1945, which was a key influence in shaping his art form. He also mentioned about numerous tours to India undertaken by Chitrasena and Vajira together with Chitrasena Dance Company from 1959 to 1998. He highlighted that connection established by Chitrasena and Vajira with India has continued to flourish and mentioned a remarkable recent collaboration between the Chitrasena Dance Company and

Nrityagram, an Indian Dance Ensemble in putting together a joint production " Samhara" which received rave reviews in India, Sri Lanka, USA and elsewhere. High Commissioner Kantha said that day was also a celebration of the shared cultural heritage of Sri Lanka and India and emphasized that based on shared, ancient roots, but nevertheless a living and dynamic cultural space is constantly renewed and revitalized through a process of give-and take and mutual appreciation.



Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe, eminent writer and theatre personality passionately spoke about life and illustrious career of Dr. Vajira, Chitrasena.

Dr. Vajira Chitrasena was presented a felicitation plaque by H. E. Ashok K Kantha, High Commissioner of India. Mrs. Sharmila Kantha honoured Dr. Vajira Chitrasena by presenting her with a Shawl.



The felicitation concluded with cutting of a cake to celebrate Dr. Vajira Chitrasena's 81st birthday in presence of distinguished invitees, her family members and officials of the High Commission of India.





18 March 2013 **One Day Kathak Workshop by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya**



A one day workshop on Kathak dance was conducted by the Centre on 18 March 2013. Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya, well known Kathak dancer and also one of the faculty members of the Indian Cultural Centre conducted the workshop. The workshop included a lecture demonstration replete with extensive clips and video clips of Great Kathak dancers of India, various elements of Kathak dance were explained and demonstrated. Young dancers and laypersons participated in the workshop in large numbers.









Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities - April, 2013

4 April **Exhibition of Photographs - Commentaries on Living IV by Angelo De Mel**



The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo in association with the Tagore Society of Sri Lanka organized a photographic exhibition by Angelo De Mel, eminent Sri Lankan Photographer at the Indian Cultural Centre from 4 to 7 April 2013. The inauguration was held on 4th April 2013 and the exhibition remained open from 5 to 7 April 2013. Madam Nana Kashimoto, Resident Japanese Photographer, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



The title of this whole series of photographs is taken from the series of books of the same title Commentaries on Living IV by the great Indian philosopher J. Krishna Moorthy. Mr. Angelo displayed around 80 photographs.

6 April Kendiriya Hindi Sansthan Agra, Examinations

The Centre conducted KHS, Agra examinations on Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 April 2013 at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Reid Avenue., Colombo 07. 220 students sat for the examinations and 2 examiners from KHS, Agra came to conduct the examinations.







23 April Book Launch The Moonmalle Inheritance by Prof Rajiva Wijesinha

On Tuesday April 23rd at 6.00 pm. the Indian Cultural Centre hosted the launch of 'The Moonemalle Inheritance' by Rajiva Wijesinha. Published in honour of Ena de Silva for her 90th birthday, the book consists of memoirs and also fiction based on characters and situations recorded from a different perspective in the memoirs.



Ms. Yasmine Gooneratne, whose ‘Relative Merits’ provided inspiration for the idea of presenting social change through the history of a family. Graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Channa Daswatte, of Geoffrey Bawa Associates, also spoke, in appreciation of Ena de Silva’s seminal contribution to Sri Lankan design. Her latest mural, an imaginative excursus on the Taj Mahal and its never completed black twin, adorns the entrance of the Indian Cultural Centre.

The book was accompanied by an exhibition of photographs representing the writer’s personal odyssey over the last few years. It covers much travel in Sri Lanka and abroad but is organized in terms, not of places, but of subject areas. These comprise Sun and Sky, Water, Earth, Rocks and Trees, the Arts and People and Animals.



The first section of the book describes the progeny of John Marcellus Lewis Moonmalle, great grand father of Ena de Silva, and great great grandfather of the writer. It deals largely with those who grew up in ‘The Old Place’ the house in Kurunegala of John Marcellus’ daughter Ada and her husband Edward Goonewardene. Their grand-daughter Lakshmi lived on alone in the house for nearly two decades before the place was finally sold.

The second section describes ‘Travels with Ena’, explorations of different parts of Sri Lanka, with ventures too in India and in China. The fiction in the last section includes chapters from ‘Servants’, which won the Gratiaen Award for 1995, and from ‘Acts of Faith’ and ‘Days of Despair’, which deal with ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka in the eighties.



24 & 25 April - 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 2013-2014 by putting press release in the local news papers and by sending letters to local institutions propagating Hindi and to the Universities. Around 30 candidates applied and faced the interview conducted by the Centre's Long Term Hindi Chair. From those who applied 18 candidates were selected and their applications were forwarded to KHS, Agra in April 2013.

30 April **Launch of Sinhala Translations of books on the ideals of Swami Vivekananda**

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Water Supply and Drainage and Chief Government Whip, in the presence of H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India, launched the Sinhala translations of the books titled 'Fables and Other Stories by Paramahansa Ramakrishna', 'Education', by Swami Vivekananda and 'The Biography of Shri Ramakrishna' in an event organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in association with the Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo, at BMICH on 30 April 2013, to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the great Indian philosopher and philanthropist. The first copies of the books were received from the Hon. Minister by A.A. Kingsley, the Principal of Waisakha Vidyalaya, the oldest school in south Colombo.





In his address, Hon. Minister remarked that India and Sri Lanka were close to each other not only geographically but culturally as well for centuries, and perhaps this was the reason for Swami Vivekananda's visit to Sri Lanka. He recalled the famous speech of Swami Vivekananda delivered at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago which made a tremendous impact individually and collectively. He said Sri Lanka was proud to have been part of his spiritual journey and ascendance to fame. He noted that Dhamma was eternal and urged for re-introducing and re-integrating into the society the preaching of Swami Vivekananda, who through his valiant efforts had tried to purify the society through his wisdom based on theology. Referring to the teachings of many eminent religious scholars and philosophers from India, the Hon. Minister emphasized that religion was a means of racial amity, a unifying force among the people and not meant to antagonize each other in the society. He also referred to several seminal books written by Swami

Vivekananda including a book written by him after his visit to Sri Lanka in 1897 titled “Colombo to Almora” and thanked the Ramakrishna Mission for publishing the books in Sinhala language, which he said would be a valuable treasure for the younger generation in Sri Lanka.



In his remarks, H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India, highlighted the decision taken by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka at the 8th Joint Commission meeting to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversaries of Swami Vivekananda and Anagarika Dharmapala in 2013 and 2014 respectively. High Commissioner Kantha recalled the great role played by the two contemporary visionaries, Swami Vivekananda and Anagarika Dharamapala, who had together participated in the World Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893 representing South Asia, and helped rejuvenate interest in Vedanta philosophy and Buddhism. He recalled the

special links of Swami Vivekananda with Sri Lanka, which he had visited thrice and travelled extensively across the island during his main visit in 1897. High Commissioner Kantha also highlighted the core ideals of Swami Vivekananda such as religious universalism and ideas of service to the people, rejection of ritualism, sectarianism, bigotry and fanaticism. He further stated that Vivekananda was one of India's earliest cultural Ambassadors who propagated Indian philosophy, thought and culture to the outside world. On this special occasion, the High Commissioner announced that the Government of India, as part of the activities to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, would provide assistance to Ramakrishna Mission in setting up of a Swami Vivekananda Welfare Centre at Killinochchi.



In his introduction of the books, Swami Sarvarupananda from the Ramakrishna Mission said that great spiritual leaders had transformed the

lives of many people and their teachings were a beacon of light benefitting others spiritually and morally. He said that Swami Vivekananda gave his message to all, in terms of the healing touch of love, compassion and service. He noted that the books published in Sinhala by the Mission had enough food for thought for the humblest beginner in religion all the way to the loftiest philosopher.

The programme commenced with lighting of the oil lamp, followed by Vedic chanting by the Ramakrishna Mission religious School children.

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities - May, 2013

7 May Tribute to Tagore- Garlanding the Tagore Bust

On the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Indian Cultural Centre in association with Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies and Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies the University of Colombo, Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies and paid homage to the Nobel laureate on 7 and 8 May 2013.

On 7 May 2013, P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India garlanded the bust of Tagore at 9.30 am at the main Library of the University of Colombo in the presence of the academic community and Tagore aficionados.





8 May Tagore Remembered – Releasing of Tagore and Sri Lanka

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized Tagore Day as a Tribute the Noble Laureate Poet on * May 2013. Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation & Deputy Minister of Finance, was the Chief Guest at the function and he released "Tagore and Sri Lanka", the 150th Birth Anniversary volume on Tagore, published by the Centre. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, was the Guest of Honour. The programme was organized in collaboration with the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations (LKIIRSS) and Strategic Studies and the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies(CCIS), University of Colombo. H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, presided over the function.

Addressing the audience at the LKIIRSS auditorium, Dr. Sarath Amunugama noted that reconfiguring and rewriting the history of Sri Lanka on the lines of the humanistic approach of Rabindranath Tagore was the need of the hour. He argued that Tagore would continue to remain a major figure as far as Sri Lanka was concerned, as he had played a key role in re-awakening interest and inspiring pride amongst Sri Lankans regarding their own history and culture. He had been able to do this through his own writings and his speeches during his visits to Sri Lanka, when he had interacted with several major Sri Lankan cultural figures and the influence Santiniketan, his educational institution, had on their thinking. The Minister also explored the relationship between Anagarika Dharmapala and Tagore, including the aspect of how Anagarika Dharmapala took cues from Tagore for running the Maha Bodhi Society.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon. Prof. G. L Peiris, the Minister for External Affairs, observed that the major contributions of Tagore were his ideas, personality and institutions. He stated that the ideas of Tagore about an Asiatic cultural tradition and a holistic education created an indestructible people-to-people relationship between India and Sri Lanka. The Minister also recapitulated how a number of major figures like Ediriweera Sarachchandra, Chitrasena, Ananda Samarakoon and many others were influenced by the personality and ideas of Tagore, and how this influence had enabled their efforts to revitalize the Sri Lankan indigenous cultural tradition.

H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India, in his address, recalled that book "Tagore and Sri Lanka" was the encapsulation of the proceedings of the Seminar organized in June 2012, as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Tagore. These events had demonstrated the groundswell of genuine interest in Tagore among the people of Sri Lanka, and had brought out that Tagore continued to elicit an affectionate response 89 years after his last visit in 1934, and 72 years after his demise in 1941. This was due to the tremendous respect for his multi-faceted genius and the fact that he embodied the ethos, aspirations and challenges of his age. The High Commissioner noted that Tagore's simple message encouraging the discovery of the ancient cultural roots of Sri Lanka struck a deep chord; his call for Asiatic unity resonates at a time when Asia was once again finding its identity and its enlarged role in the world.

The event was the culmination of a series of events organized over the past two year as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore in Sri Lanka. Around 200 guests attended the event.




ICCR
Tagore Day





9 May Shri Geeth – An evening of songs to commemorate Talat Mehmood



Shri Geeth, Hindi musical event on Thursday 9 May by Mr. Chandrasiri and his group presented an evening of songs to commemorate the legend, golden vocalist Talat Mehmood at the Indian Cultural Centre. Around 150 guests attended the event.







28 May Odissi Dance Performance by Alpana Nayak



Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized an Odissi dance performance of Alpana Nayak from India on 28 May at its auditorium. Alapana Nayak, along with her disciple and daughter Ayushi Nayak presented an Odissi dance in the traditional style that was embellished by her gurus such as late Guru Deva Prasad Das and Guru Sudhakar Sahoo.

Alpana and her disciple commenced their performance with Mangalacharana and continued with “Kirvaani Pallavi”, “Dashaavataar, and concluded with “Mokshaya”.

Alpana has enriched her Odissi style further under Guru Hare Krishna Bahera. Widely travelled Alpana performed Odissi dance in many parts of the world and participated in major cultural festivals. She has taught Odissi and different Indian folks dances in several cities of India, England and Japan. Her Odissi dance disciples include both normal as specially gifted children. 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.

The evening was very well enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre to witness their performance. Around 75 guests attended the event.

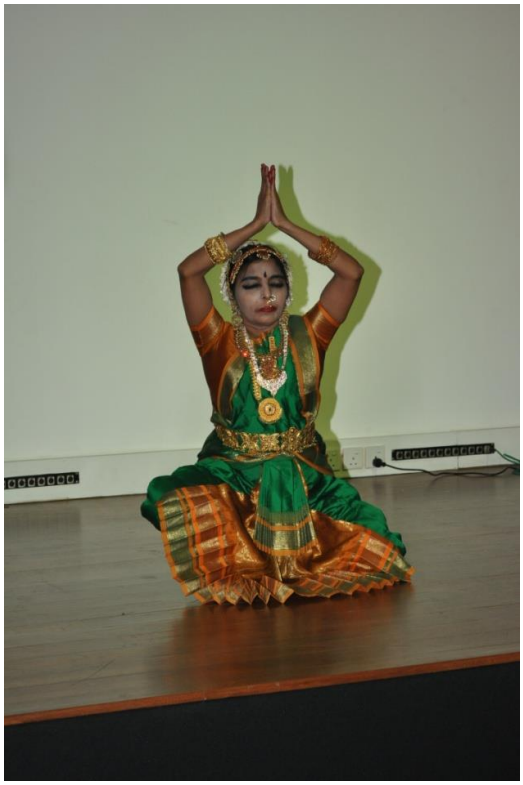






31 May Madhura Shesthra – Bharatha Natyam Recital by Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan.





“Mathura Shethra” a Bharatha Natyam Recital by Ms.Subashini Pathmanathan was held at the Indian Cultural Centre auditorium on 31st May 2013.

Subashini commenced her performance with “Thiruthandakam” of Saint Appar and continued with a “Keerthanam”. This was followed by another keerthanam titled” Adputha Chitpi”, a padam titled”Yaradi”, a composition by great tamil poet Bharathi Dhasan “Thunbam nerkaiyil”, a Telegu keerthanam “Brocheva” and concluded with “Thillana”.





Subashini.Pathmanathan studied at the Government College for Women Chandigarh. She graduated and received her Master’s degree from Punjab University. She studied Bharatha Natyam under the great Bharatha Natyam Maestro Padmashree Vazhuvoor Ramiahpillai and completed a Diploma from Vazhuvoorar Classical Bharatha Natya Centre, Mylapore, Chennai. The great Maestro Padmashree Vazhuvoor Ramiahpillai conferred upon her the title ‘Natya Kala Shikamani’. In 1984 she participated in the All India Cultural Festival and won the best performer award for Bharatha Natyam. She also completed a Diploma in Bharatha Natyam and Master of Fine arts in Bharatha Natyam from Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirapalli. Presently, she is pursuing a research for her doctoral degree on Sri Lankan temple sculptures

and archaeological sculptures in relation to Classical dance forms. Being a performing artiste she has performed dance in numerous countries around the globe.

She is a well-known writer on dance and related topics. She has been writing to the foreign and local publications since 1983.So far she has written more than ten books and hundreds of articles. In 1991 she won the Esmond Wickermasinghe award for Journalism.

The performance was very well received and appreciated. Around 75 guests attended the event.

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities - June, 2013

1 June Chitranjali – Art Competition Award Ceremony

The Tagore Society, in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre presented Chitranjali - an awards ceremony, to recognize the talents of the artists who participated in a painting competition that was held to commemorate the 152nd birth anniversary celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore. The programme was held on the 1st of June 2013 at the ICC auditorium at 3.30 p.m. The Awards function was followed by a cultural evening of Rabindra Sangeet in tribute to Rabindra Jayanti which was celebrated world-wide on the 7th of May.

14 June An evening of Hindustani Vocal Music





On Friday 14 June, the renowned vocalist from India Ustad Irshad Varsi Khan presented an evening of Hindustani Vocal Music at the Indian Cultural Centre. He was accompanied on Tabla by Nishant Sharma. The performance was greatly appreciated by the audience comprising

eminent musicians, classical music lovers, teachers and students. Around80 guests attended the event.

Shri Irshad Ahmad Khan Varsi is from Kirana Gharana and received his training in music from his father Ustad Mehphooz Ahmad Khan Varsi, Allahabad in the Kirana style of Khyal singing as well as Thumri singing. Since 1983 he is working at the Kathak Department of the Music University Khairagath. He has received many awards for his singing including the U.P Sangeeth Natak Akademi Award in 1970.

Nishant's journey with the Tabla started at the age of eleven years under the tutelage of Pt. Shri Vasudev Mishra (Banaras gharana) Sehore. After completion of his Vid, he went to Khairagarh for his further education under Pt. Ramnath Singh (disciple of Ustaad Karamatullah Singh Sahib Farrukhabad Gharana) Khairagarh where he has completed his Masters degree (M.mus).



21 June Film show: Mrinalini Sarabhai: The artist and her art

Indian Cultural Centre screened a documentary film titled "The Artist and Her Art" directed by Mallika Sarabhai and Yadavan Chandran on 21 June at its auditorium. The film detailed the artistic genius, style and various facets of Mrinalini Sarbhai's life. The Directors of the film are Mallika Sarabhai, who is also the daughter of Mrinalini Sarabhai, and Yadavan Chandran, who has been involved with films and television since his childhood. Mrinalini Sarabhai is a celebrated dancer and choreographer and the founder-director of the Darpan Academy of Performing Arts, Ahmedabad which is established in 1949. She was called 'High Priestess of Indian Dance' by dance critics. Mrinalini was the wife of eminent scientist Vikram Sarabhai. She received Padma Shri (1965) and Padma Bhushan (1992) from Government of India, Gold Medal from the Mexican Government (1968), State Award for Dance (1969) from Government of Gujarat and many such honours. Around 75 guests attended the screening.

28 June Sargam – An evening of songs to commemorate Mohammed Rafi

Sargam- Hindi musical event was organized by the Centre on 28 June by Dr. Ajith Jayaratne and his group. They presented an evening of songs to commemorate the legend, golden vocalist Mohammed Rafi at the Indian Cultural Centre. The Music composed by exotic musician Sarath Wickrama.




YAMAHA





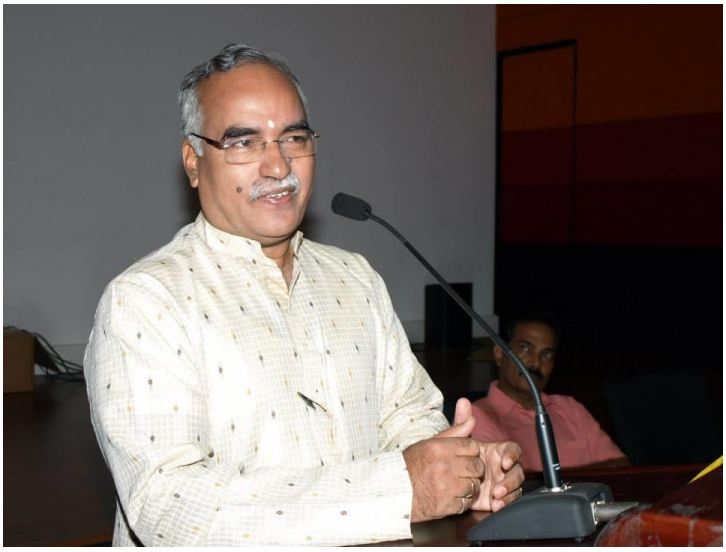
Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities - July, 2013

4 July Pranayama for Healthy life

Indian Cultural Centre in association with Yoga Mandir organized a Lecture titled "Pranayama for healthy life" at the Centre. The lecture was delivered by the renowned Yoga expert K. K Ganesh (Art of Living Foundation- India). In his talk he spoke on various benefits that can be gained by practicing Pranayama. Around 80 guests attended the event.







5 July Kathak workshop by Sadara Supathum Peiris

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak Workshop by Sadara Supathum Peiris at its auditorium located on Friday, 5 July 2013. Several Kathak dancers, teachers, and students participated in this workshop. The workshop commenced with few performances and later moved on to technical aspects of Kathak Dances and its music.

Sadara Supathum Peiris holds a Masters Degree from the Indira Kala Sangeet Vishvavidyalaya, India under the guidance of his Prof. Mandhavi Singh. He has also learnt Kandyan and fusion dance under Guru Chandana Wickramasinghe. Around 80 guests attended the event.







10 July "Praveshi" Sitar Recital

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Sitar recital titled "Praveshi" of Visharad Tania Karunaratne and Visharad Dinuka Samith Weerasinghe. They presented both solo and duet performances. The recital lasted for an hour. They were accompanied by Sriyan Chandrasiri on Tabla, Utpala Gajamana on Tanpura and Milinda Thennakoon on Sitar.

Tania Karunaratne and Dinuka Samith Weerasinghe completed their degree in Music from the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka under the guidance of Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo. Both of them are also music students of Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo since 2009. Since then they have been part of the Sitar orchestra of the Centre and taken part in its annual show "Nav Pratibha". Around 75 guests attended the event.





12 July An Evening of Drums and Music

Celebrity drummer and dancer Ravibandhu Vidyapathy and his dance ensemble presented a musical and dance performance at the Centre. The performance included Kandyan and low country dances and a power point presentation by Mr. Ravibandhu Vidyapathi on various costumes used for Sri Lankan dances and concluded with a scintillating drums performance by his ensemble. Around 80 guests attended the event.

Ravibandhu Vidyapathi, hails from a long line of traditional dancers and temple painters, had his traditional graduation at the Chitrasena School, where he studied Classical Kandyan dance under the legendary dancers Chitrasena and Vajira and drumming under the renowned Piyasara Shilpadhipathi and Punchiguro. In 1984, Ravibandhu established his own dance school, the Ravibandhu-Samanthi Dance School. Currently, he is the Artistic Director of the Sri Lanka State Dance Ensemble and does choreography for the Sri Lanka Youth Dance Troupe. Putting his own stamp on the short operas in Sri Lanka, he expanded rhythm and orchestration. With creativity and research he was able to take his creations to the stage outside Sri Lanka.













19 July An Evening of Hindustani Vocal Music

Renowned vocalist Shasthrapathi Sangeet Nipun W.A.M Wisidagama will present an evening of Hindustani Vocal Music at the Indian Cultural Centre. Nalin Ginendra Alwis accompanied on Harmonium, Isuni Konthasinghe on Violin and Bandula Desilva on Tabla. Her beautiful rendition of ragas captivated the audience gathered at the Centre around 100 guests attended the event.

Shasthrapathi Sangeet Nipun W.A.M Wisidagama completed her Bachelor of Performing Arts (Special Degree) at the University of Kelaniya and her Master's Degree in music at the Bathkande University, Lucknow, India.





Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

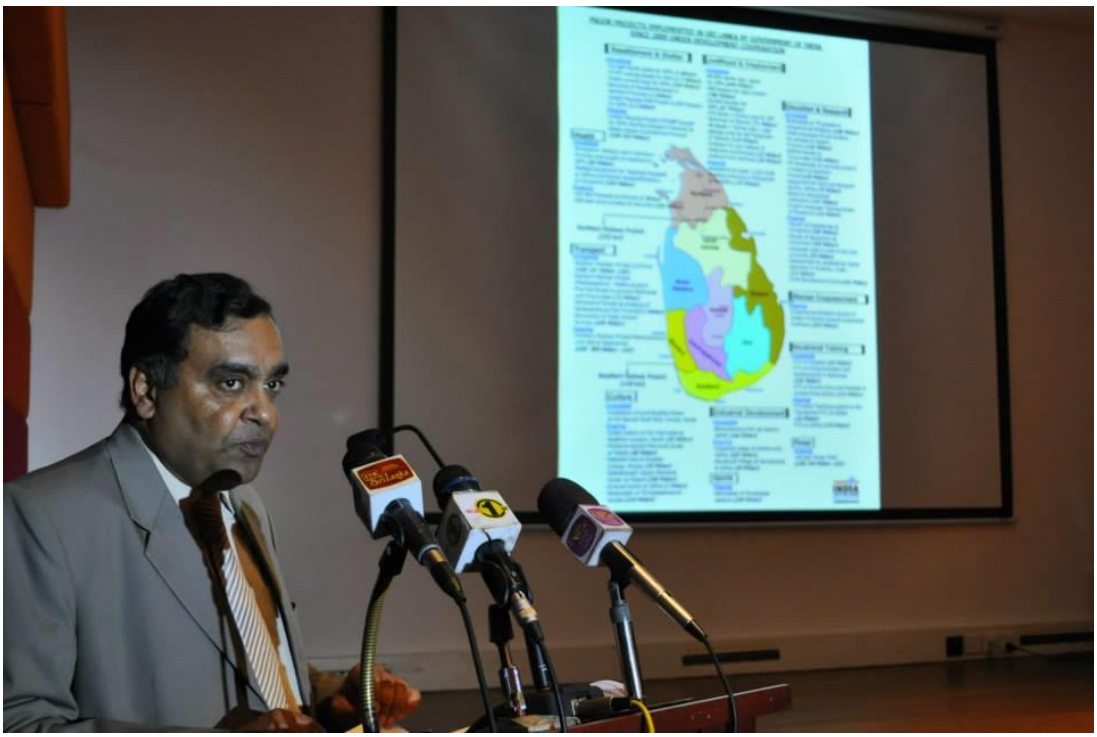
Activities - August, 2013

2 August Documentary: Beyond Boundaries

The Indian Cultural Centre organized a special screening of "Beyond Boundaries", a documentary produced by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, providing a glimpse of India's Development Assistance Projects in Sri Lanka on 2 August 2013. H.E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India addressed the invitees who included parliamentarians, senior government officials, members of the civil society, representatives of implementing agencies involved with the Indian projects and media representatives.

In his remarks at the screening, the High Commissioner highlighted the phased approach of India's assistance to Sri Lanka, in line with the needs and requirements of the people of Sri Lanka at any given time, as articulated through the Government of Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner also underlined the various stages of India's assistance to Sri Lanka and focused on sectors where India's assistance has been able to make a difference in the lives of the people in the conflict-affected areas.

The speech was followed by the screening of documentary. Around 100 guests attended the event.







8 August Carnatic Vocal Music Recital by Bagawathssing Nithyanandan

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Carnatic Vocal Music Recital by Isai Kalaimamani Bagawathssing Nithiyanandan on 8 August 2013 at its auditorium. He was accompanied on Mirudangam by Swaminathan Sharma, on Violin by Swarnangi Sugarthan and on Morsingh by V.Prabha.

Nithiyanandan is an accomplished Carnatic musician. He completed his Diploma in Carnatic Music at the Swami Vibulananda Music and Dance College, Batticalo and he was conferred the title Isai Kalaimamani by the same institution. At present he is working as Producer in Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (Nethra TV). Nithiyanandan has presented several Carnatic vocal recitals all over Sri Lanka. Music lovers and critics attended the event.



15 August Cultural show by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented Patriotic songs under the guidance of Ms. Manjula Seneviratne and two Kathak dance items choreographed by their guru Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya at the flag hoisting ceremony held on 15 August at the India House.







15 August 67th Independence Day Celebrations
Well known danseuse Madhurima Choudhury and her Raginee group from India

As part of the 67th Independence Day celebrations of India, well known Assamese film actress and danseuse Madhurima Choudhury, accompanied by her Raginee group performed folk dance and music of Assam at the Bishop's College Auditorium, Colombo. Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest and H.E Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function. Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resource Management was the Guest of Honour.

The performance started with an invocation item, Borgeet and folk music by Guru Madhurima Choudry & Rajen Borah joined by Raginee troupe members and musicians.

The group presented dance forms from Assam such as Bodo Dance, Rabha Dance (Hamjar Dance), Goalporiya (Kushan Nritya), Tiwa Dance (Barat Nritya), and presented traditional drumming and folk songs of Assam such as Oja Dhol, Badan Dhol and Pepa Badan.

The Bodo Dance depicted the movement of a tree during the time of storm, Rabha Dance described the process of Jhum cultivation like cleaning the forest, cutting woods etc, and the other dance forms that the group performed were Goalporiya and Tiwa dance.

Finally, the troupe performed the Bihu Dance which is an essential part the Assamese folk culture and tradition. The graceful combination of gestures of the hands and movements of the body and steps of the feet made Bihu dance highly appealing. It consisted of singing, dancing and instrumentation.

Bihu songs, composition of cowherds, buffalo keepers and farmers, sung in accompaniment with the musical instruments like drum, cymbal, flute, hornpipe, clay pipe, harp and bamboo clappers with grace and natural melody and depicting state of enjoyment in every activity undertaken by them, mesmerized the audience. Finally the Raginee group presented an enchanting choreography based on the National anthem of India.

The artistes who performed were Guru Madhurima Choudhury, Sangeeta Gogoi, Susmita Kalindi, Deepandita Rajbongshi, Gayatri Baishya, Rima Saikia, Maytrayee Goswami, Lachit Boruah, Pankaj Gogoi (dancers), Lakhya Dhar Gogoi, Hitesh Bikash Khanikar, Prasanta Borah, Dipak Baruah, Shankar Kalita, Rajen Borah (musicians).

The troupe's visit was sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Arts, Government of Sri Lanka.

Around 700 guests attended the event and the performance received rave reviews.























23 August Harmony Fest – Documentary Screening

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo screened a documentary titled "Harmony Fest" directed Sanjeev Sivan. The event will be held at 6.00 pm on Friday 23 August 2013 at the Indian Cultural Centre auditorium.

Harmony Fest is about festive harmony that binds India. The documentary is a celebration of an overbearing spirit of uniformity of expressions that are common to most of the festivals of Indian origin. The films selects, purposefully, festive occasions with regional importance, and while pitching together their associations and traditions, it paints a national picture of uniformity. Harmony Fest is the story of how harmoniously cultural differences are overcome. Around 50 guests attended the screening.

28 August An Evening of Hindustani Vocal Music

On Wednesday 28 August 2013 an upcoming and talented young vocalist Liyanage Himalka Sewwandi Perera presented an evening of Hindustani Vocal Music at the Indian Cultural Centre. Studied at Bathkande University, Lucknow, Sewwandi Perera tried to develop genuine way of rendition of Ragas. Hon. Jeewan Kumaranathunga, Minister for Postal Services graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Himalka was accompanied by Visharad Nalin Jinendra Alwis on Harmonium and Visharad Bandula de Silva on Tabla,Visharad Dilusha Ravindranath on Sitar and Shastrapati Isuru Kondasinghe on Violin









Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities - September, 2013

3 September Mandolin Performance and Hindi songs

Chandradasa Bogawatte and well-known Sri Lankan singers presented an evening of Mandolin recital and Hindi songs at ICC auditorium. The music was composed by Madhushanka and the performance was coordinated by Ajith Premlal. Around 75 guests attended the event.









6 September Swaranjali a Tribute to Pyarelal by KesarralalGunasekera

Swaranjali, a musical event was held at ICC on 6 September. The Swaranjali is a programme conceived as a tribute to Pyarelal, the famous Hindi film song composer of the duo Lakshmikant-Pyarelal. The tribute was done by Kesarralal Gunasekera and his troupe on the 73rd birthday of the legendry musician. Over 100 guests attended the event.






MAY THIS DAY DAWN A
HUNDRED TIMES UPON YOU





14 September Hindi Diwas

On 14th September 2013 Hindi Diwas was celebrated by the teachers and students of Indian Culture Centre, Colombo. Celebrating the occasion ICC organized many competitions such

as speech competition, poetry recital and singing competition for its students. Hindi song competition was held as the main competition on 14th of September 2012 at 10.00 a.m. The Chief Guest was Mr. Rohan, Senior translator and journalist. Lakshmi- singer, Farhana – Hindi Expert, Sanjay – Hindi writer and ICC Hindi teachers participated in the song competition as judges to adjudge the singing.

The programme commenced with welcome address by 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. The Director of the Indian Cultural Centre, M. Ramachandran spoke about the Hindi propagation in Sri Lanka. Brezil NagodaVithana, Hindi Teacher, ICC explained the aims and objectives of celebrating Hindi Day.Ms. AthilaKothalawala compeered the events. Ibrahim Khan, Hindi Teacher, ICC delivered the vote of thanks.

The students of the Centre presented a colourful cultural performances included songs, skits, groups songs, group dance, instrumental performances etc., which was highly appreciated. The programme concluded at 3.00pp.m.






हिन्दी दिवस २०१३
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र







14 September **Bharatha Natyam of SavithaSastry at Bishop's College Auditorium**



The 'Yudh' a dance theatre that captures the three perspectives, one truth was performed by the celebrated Bharatha Natyam exponent, SavithaSastry in association with the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on Saturday 14 September 2013 at Bishop's College Auditorium.

This unique presentation is structured on the story of a battle of equals. The strategists at this war are equal in their abilities. Their armies equally matched, and the outcomes certain only in their uncertainty. In such a universe, when perspectives are lost, a thousand doubts enhance the human frailty. Yudh tries to explain that perspective we have lost sight of. There are some wars that we fight whether or not we believe in them.

Yudh was brought to the Sri Lankan audience by the same team that presented Soul Cages - The Story of Life, Death and Beyond in 2012. Yudh is an experience that dazzled the viewer with not only the grace of the dance and power of the narrative, but also with stunning audio visual accomplishments that present an experience of a life time. Around 300 guests attended the event.


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February 16 Launch of Contemporary Short Stories of the SAARC Region, 2012 and Poems from the SAARC Region, 2012



Two annual anthologies of the SAARC Cultural Centre, Contemporary Short Stories of the SAARC Region, 2012 and Poems from the SAARC Region 2012 were launched on 16 September on the sidelines of the Colombo International Book Fair, 2013.The event was jointly organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre with Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo and VijithaYapa Publications.

In his welcome address, the Director, SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka, Mr. G.L.W.Samarasinghe mentioned that selection of short stories and poems has been a daunting task given the diverse linguistic landscape of the South Asian region. The works selected however are best representative of all the SAARC Member States; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Mr. M. Ramachandran, Director, Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in his address mentioned that the works fittingly capture the rich lingo-cultural diversity of South Asian neighbors

The role played by VijithaYapa Publishers in bringing out the two Anthologies is commendable and the limited canvass available for the South Asian literati for apt exposition of their thoughts led the VijithaYapa Publishers to come forward to be the joint-publishers of the anthologies for the second consecutive year.VijithaYapa Publications hope to see more and more works of Sinhala and Tamil translations on the ensuing anthologies.

The Chief Guest Mr. S. Amarasinghe, in his address mentioned that South Asia has a literary tradition that resembles so well and that they are hardly distinguishable. He thanked the SAARC Cultural Centre and VijithaYapa Publishers for their joint effort at a time when the cost of printing has dwindled and as a result has become a challenging task.

17 September Screening of the Hindi film "Current" and Meet the Director

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo screened a Hindi film titled "Current" of the well-known Director K. Hariharan. The screening was preceded by a talk by the Director. Mr. Hariharan

shared the experiences he went through in making this film and the difficulties face in making an art film. He also spoke about the technical difficulties involved in preserving the preserving the old films.

K. Hariharan, Director, L.V. Prasad Film & TV Academy, heads the Department of Direction. An accomplished film maker and distinguished scholar, he is a graduate from the FTII in Pune. His feature films include a 3d animation titled *Gulliver's travels*(English), the children's films *Dubhashi,Wanted Thangaraj* and *Mudhalai (Crocodile Boy),* Tamil), *Current* (Hindi), E*zhavathuManithan (The Seventh Man* , Tamil) that received National Award for the best Tamil film and the Afro Asian solidarity award at the Moscow International Film Festival in 1983 and *GhashiramKotwal (M*arathi). He is currently working on a book titled "Myths and Dreamers in Contemporary Indian Cinema", close study of the various language cinemas and their culture-specific relations with mythology, folklore, & the performing arts. Hariharan has also directed many Documentaries and Short films. He was Visiting Faculty Member at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from 1995 to 2004. Around 75 guests attended the event.







20 September **Book Launch *Mirrored Images* and Photography Exhibition *A Collation of Civilizations***

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized the launch of an anthology of Sri Lankan poetry titled Mirrored Images, edited by RajivaWijesinha and published by the National Book Trust of India on20 September 2013 at the Indian Cultural Centre.



The collection of poetry showcases the common themes explored by writers in different languages within Sri Lanka, and covers landscapes and love, politics and philosophy. It includes introductions to poetry in the different languages by distinguished academics, ChelvaKanaganayakam for Tamil and AmarakeerthiLiyanage for Sinhala. The book includes work by nearly 100 Sri Lankan poets, and translations are by experts such as Lakshmi de Silva and RanjiniObeysekera and Lakshmi Holmstron and A J Canagaratna.



Hon.VasudevaNanayakkara, Minister of National Languages and Social Integration and M.A. Sikander, Director, National Book Trust graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. The function was presided over by Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India.



The launch was followed by a recital of poems by the poets S. Pathmanathan (Tamil) AyaduraiSanthan (English) and Anne Ranasinghe (English)'Mirrored Images', edited by RajivaWijesinha, is an anthology of English, Sinhala and Tamil poetry from Sri Lanka.



The National Book Trust of Indian has earlier published ‘Bridging Connections: an Anthology of Sri Lankan Short Stories’ in the three languages, also edited by Wijesinha. The anthology has been translated into a number of other Indian languages, including Tamil and Marathi.RajivaWijesinha, editor of the volume, had taught initially at the University of Peradeniya, before working at other Universities and then heading the Sri Lankan Peace Secretariat. As a Member of Parliament, he is currently Adviser to the President on Reconciliation.



As a parallel event there will also be an exhibition of photographs by RajivaWijesinha titled A Collation of Civilisations at the Centre. The photographs display a mosaic of civilisations across the globe.

The Ministry of National Languages, Government of Sri Lanka and Alliance Francaise the Kotte also joined hands with the Indian Cultural Centre to co-host the event in which all art and literary enthusiasts are invited. Around 100 guests attended the event.





Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo

Activities - October, 2013

2 October **Mahatma Gandhi Oration**
"The Universality of Mahathma's Thoughts and Actions" by Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne

The Indian Cultural Centre in association with the Sri Lanka India Society organized the Mahatma Gandhi Oration on 2 October 2013 at its auditorium situated at 16/2 Gregory's Road, Colombo 7. Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne, Professor of Archaeology of the University of Peredeniya delivered the oration on "The University of Mahatma's Thoughts and Actions". His Excellency Y.K Sinha, High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest on the occasion.

A student of Ananda College, Colombo Prof. Seneviratne, had higher education in India at Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. His doctoral thesis was on the Social Base of Early Buddhism in Andhra, Tamilham and Sri Lanka under the supervision of Professor Romila Thapar. In 1980 he joined the Department of Archaeology, University of Peradeniya and guided the academic and research agenda of the Department for several years as its head and later as Professor of Archaeology.

The programme commenced with songs by the children of Sakthi Illam, Colombo, Hindu College, Ratmalana and Veena recital by Gamini Dissanayake, University of Colombo and conclude with a Gujarati dance by the students of Abhinayakshetra School of dance. The dance is choreographed by Thivya Sivanesan. Around 150 guests participated in this event. At the end of the programme His Excellency Y.K.Sinha honoured Prof. Sudharshan Seneveiratne by presenting a golden shawl and a memento. He also presented a small memento to all the dancers, musicians and singers. The event concluded with a reception.





















8 October **Presentation of Musical instruments to St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa**



On the request made by the Rector/ Principal Fr. Bonnie Fernandopulle to develop their Eastern Musical Orchestra 2 Sitars were presented by the Centre on 8 October 2013. The Director of the Indian Cultural Centre visited the school and at a function held at the lecture hall of the school the Sitars were handed over to the principal in the presence of the Vice Principal and the school teachers.





11 October Bharatha Natyam Recital
by Shanmugasharma Jeyaprakash and Sri Kanknan

The Indian Cultural Centre organized a Bharatha Natyam recital on 11 October at its auditorium by Shanmugasharma Jeyaprakash and Sri Kannan. They presented around 7 items which lasted an hour. The performance included Alarippu, Keerthanam, Javali, Dhasavataram and concluded with thillana. The performance was very well appreciated and received by the guests who attended the performance. Around 75 guests attended the performance.







23 October An evening of Indian and Sri Lankan dances by Chandana Wickramasinghe and the Dancer's Guild of Sri Lanka

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized an evening of Indian and Sri Lankan Dances by Chandana Wickramasinghe and the Dancer's Guild of Sri Lanka on 23 October.

Chandana Wickrarnasinghe and the Dancers' Guild of Sri Lanka, the Dance troupe entertained the audience with traditional, folk, creative and modern dancing based on Kandyan, Low country (Sri Lankan Style) Indian and free style dances. The performance included Kanya – a devotional dance, Ves – Traditional dance from Kandy, Thun Sohoriyo – an item depicting the relationship among three sisters, Devol – an item from the southern part of Sri Lanka, Salamba – a tradidional dance item performed in king's palaces, Bera Sandamani – a combination of Kandyan and Low Country drums, Seya – a dance with peacocks, Theme – a ritual dance item, Prashasthi – a royal dance and concluded with a dance item for Bollywood medleys. Around 100 guests attended the event.

























29 October Film Screening
Documentary: Magic Realism and After – Indian Englsih Fiction 1981-2011

Indian Cultural Centre screened the documentary film titled Magic Realism and After directed by Suresh Kohli at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 29 October 2013 at its auditorium.

Magic Realism and After takes one through the trajectory of Indian writing in English starting from 'Midnight's Children' and 'The God of small things' to the younger crop of authors who are making their presence felt internationally. The Indian novel in English has been significant globally because of the rich tradition of storytelling that it draws from and also because of the way it has appropriated the English Language and infected it with its own historical and Cultural emphases. The film explored several of these trends and concerns through a series of interviews with authors, publishers and people involved in literary festivals. Around 75 guests attended the screening.

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities - November, 2013

8 November Deepadhvani Sanndhvani

The Indian Cultural Centre organized a special programme to celebrate the Deepavali festival on 8 November 2013 at the Centre. The programme included pooja, bhajan and dance. The performance was presented by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya, Kathak teacher of the Centre and her disciples. Around 200 guests participated in the event. The bhajan was led by Visharad. M.A.P. Samarasooriya . The pooja was conducted by the gurukkal of Vishnu temple and the dance performance was presented by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya in Kathak style and MrJayatha Karunasekera in Bharata Natyam style.

The performance was followed by a reception.









20 November Bharatha Natyam Recital – Natya Kavyam by Mohanapriya Thavarajan

Mohanapriyan Thavarajah presented Natya Kavyam on 20 November at the Indian Cultual Centre. The performance was based on Rasas of Bakthi, Vatsalayam and Shringaram deriving from the various ancient Indian text of dance, music and theatre. Some of the items he presented were Nataraja Dhiyanam – an abstract choreography inspired by the various iconic imageries of Nataraja, Annaiyai Potri – based on the Vatsalya Rasa, a composition by Maha Kavi Subramanya Bharathi, Nandanar and Shringaram. The performance lasted for an hour was very well appreciated by the audience. Around 120 guests attended the performance.











23 November **Shankar's International Children's Competition 2014**
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 23rd 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 2014.













25 November India International Art Exhibition

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaborations with Art Katta, Pune & Inter Act Art, Colombo organized an Art Exhibition at the Centre.. The exhibition was inaugurated on 25 November by Mr. M.Ramachandran, Director of the Indian Cultural Centre in the presence of Mr. Chandraguptha Thenuwara, well known artist of Sri Lanka and a scholar. India International Art Exhibition 2013 was a confluence of 27 artists all over India. The exhibition was held from 26 to 29 November at the Centre. Several art critics, art lovers and general public visited the Centre for viewing.











26 November Nrityollasam – the joy of dance

Dr. Sanjay Shantaram and his disciples from the Shivapriya School of Dance, Bangalore presented an evening of dance tilted Nrityollasam. The performance lasted an hour and a half and it was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the audience gathered at the Centre. They presented, Pushpanjali, Ganesha sthuthi, Natha tharuma nisham, a song on Lord Hanuman, Koalatam and concluded with Thillana. Around 60 guests attended the event.









27 November Qaumi Ekta Week

The Indian cultural Centre and the High Commission of India, Colombo organized an evening of Dance to observe the Qaumi Ekta Week on 27 November. The students of Natya Kala Mandir trained by Kalasuri Vasugy Jagatheeswaran performed dances based on for patriotic songs on the unity of India. The staff members of the Indian High Commission attended the event.





South Asian Band Festival

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo assisted the Band Troupe from Sri Lanka, Stigmata in their participation at the South Asian Band Festival organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi and SEHER from 29 November to 1 December 2013. Bands from various countries participated in this festival. The five member band named “Stigmata”, representing Sri Lanka performed in New Delhi on 30 November 2013.

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities - December, 2013

1-3 December Bilateral Workshop on Kathak Dance & Choreography

The Moksha Art of Dance in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre conducted a 3 day workshop on Kathak Dance and choreography at the Centre. Renowned scholars of Sri Lanka and Mr. Sourav Roy an ICCR empanelled artiste from India conducted this workshop.

From Sri Lanka Mr. Ravibandhu Vidyapathi, Sri Lankan dance exponent and choreographer, Mr. Chinthaka Bandara, Senior Lecturere, Natya Bhushana Mr. Jayantha Bandara, Mr. M.A.P.Samarasooriya, Retd. Lecturer, Mr. Hashitha Abeywardane and Nritya Nipun Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya conducted this workshop.

At this workshop various aspects of Kathak dance was taught such as introduction to Kathak, meditation and dance therapy, comparison of Kandyan percussion and Kathak, music exercises, creative dance and choreography etc., were taught with practical sessions.

Around 100 students took part in this workshop. At the end of the workshop all students were awarded participation certificates presented by First Secretary, High Commission of India Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia, First Secretary (Political and Information) and concluded with a performance of Mr. Sourav Roy and Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya.




















Bilateral Kathak Dance and
Choreography Workshop









6 December Sangeeth Sandhya – An evening with maestro Padmashri Pandit Amaradeva

Legendary Sri Lankan musician Pandit Amaradeva presented a musical evening titled “Sangeeth Sandhya” at the Indian Cultural Centre.

Pandit Amaradeva is known as the father of Sinhala Song. In the field of contemporary Sri Lankan music he has earned the rare distinction of being admired by artists, connoisseurs and ordinary rasikas for his dynamic influence on the creation of music of a national tradition, and for his incomparable virtuosity as well as creative genius. As a composer, conductor, violinist and singer, for more than half a century Pandit Amaradeva immensely enriched the musical traditions of Sri Lanka.

The program commenced with a Sanskrit Shloka by Pandit Amaradeva and students. This was followed by a Tabla solo by Harindra. The Pt. Amaradeva along with his students sang a selection of Art Songs that has enriched a nation for over 5 decades - Saraswathie Abhinandana, Vasanthaye Mal, Sannaliyane, Pile Pedura, Swarnamaliye, Wakkada Langa, Chando Ma Bilinde. Ms. Subhanie Amaradeva presented 2 songs.

The evening concluded with a short Violin solo by Pandit Amaradeva - Rag mala (Garland of Ragas) Basant, Bahar, Kamaj, Dharbari etc. Around 140 guests participated the event.

Mr. P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner presented a memento to Pt. Amaradeva.


YAMAHA


YAMAHA









10 December An evening of Hindustani Vocal Music by Dr. D.H.M.Bandara

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo organized an evening of Hindustani Vocal Music recital by Wijedasa Bandara. He commenced he recital with raag Madhuwanthi and contined with rrag Madhya maathi saaranga, Krishna bhajan in Yaman raag, and concluded with a Ghazal in kalawathi raag.

Wijeyadasa Bandara holds a Master's Degree in Music from the Indira Kala Sangeet Viswavidhyalaya, Khairagarh. He was also holds Sangit Visharad & Nipun Degree from Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapeeth, Lucknow. He is a retired music instructor of the Department of Education, Sri Lanka. There are several solo and group performances that he has done in Sri Lanka to his credit. He is an "A" grade artiste at the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Broad Casting Corporation. Around 100 guests participated in the event.









13 December **Skills with paper – A programme for Children**

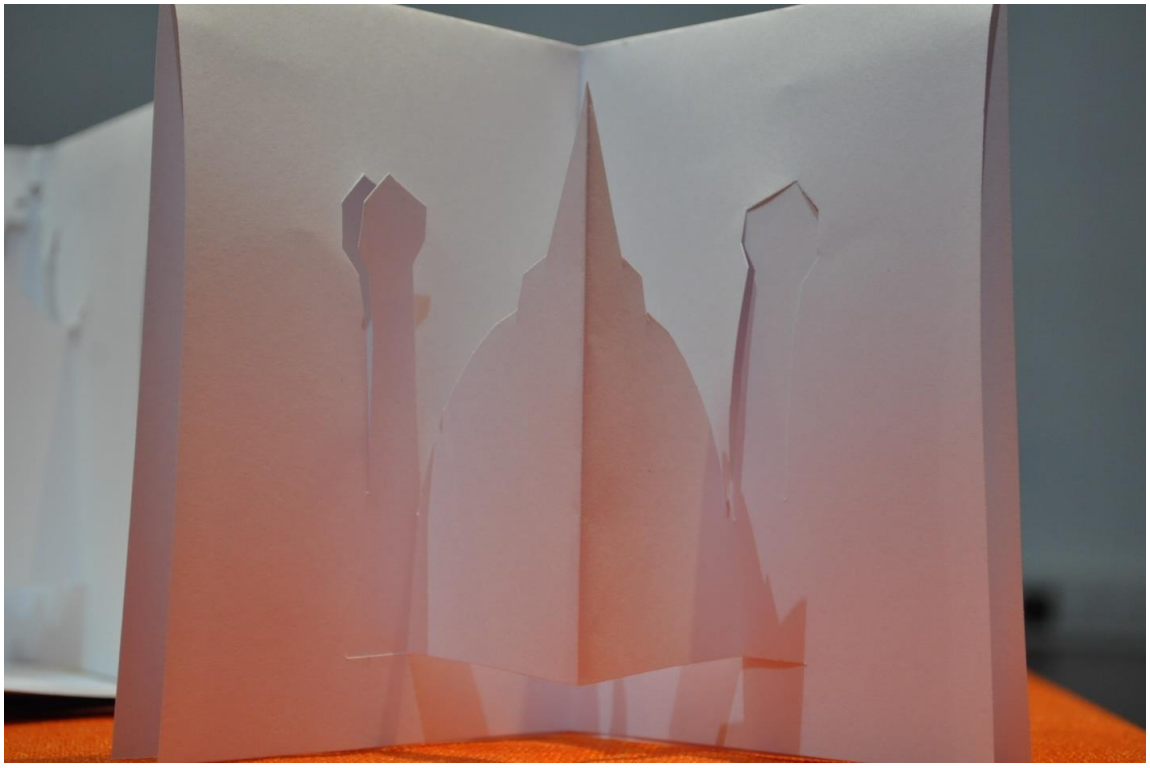
The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo organized a programme for Children titled “Skills with Paper” by Mr. Rizan M.A.Hameed at the Centre. Children with their parents participated in this event enthusiastically. A very talented Mr. Rizan brought the papers alive with his skills. From a simple flower to the Taj Mahal kept the children spellbound.

Mr. Rizan is skilled in Calligraphy, Origami, Paper Folding art and craft for over 20 years. As a part time activity he enjoyed undertaking calligraphy work and became a trained teacher in 1993.

Around 35 children along with their parents and grandparents participated in this event.









20 December **Meet the Director Asoka Handagama followed by a screening of his Tamil feature film**

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo screened a Tamil feature film titled "Ini Avan" of the well-known Director Asoka Handagama. Asoka Handagama is one of Sri Lanka's best known and most controversial filmmakers. This is My Moon (2000) and Flying with one Wing (2002) earned him international recognition through several awards. Ini Avan is his seventh feature film.

The screening was preceded by a talk by the Director Mr. Handagama in which he shared his experiences in making this film.

"Ini Avan" deals with the theme of post-war situation in the Tamil-dominated Northern Sri Lanka. After twenty-six years of devastating war ended in 2009 the scars of the untold stories of the innocent people who got caught between the two sides still remain. Handagama's film revolves around one individual who returns home after the rehabilitation program. Around 75 guests participated in this event.





28 – 30 December Rajgir Mahotsava

On the request made by the Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar, India the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo recommended and made all arrangements and assistance for the Chandana Wickramasinghe & the Dancer's Guild to participate in Rajgir Mahotsava. The 12 member troupe, from Sri Lanak displayed the Sri Lankan Low Country, Up Country and various ritual dances.