

## Indian Cultural centre Colombo

### Monthly Activity Report - January 2016

#### 9 January      Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2016

The High Commission of India, Colombo organized Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2016 at the Indian cultural centre. Hon. Mano Ganeshan - Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages graced the occasion as Chief Guest. His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka, Deputy High Commissioner Sri Arindam Bagchi, President of GOPIO Mr. Kaushik Udeshi, Mr. Omar Ashraff, CEO of Brandix, officers of HCI and many more graced the occasion. Dr. S.D. Singh, Counselor Consular conducted the programme.



## 11 January      World Hindi Day celebrations by Hindi students of Sri Lanka

Indian Cultural Centre, organized “**World Hindi Day-2016**” on Monday 11th January 2016 at its auditorium.

Relevant to this occasion the Indian Cultural Centre has organized many competitions for students studying Hindi in different institutions in Sri Lanka. As a part of the celebrations certificates were distributed to the winners which were followed by a variety of cultural programmes by Hindi students.

His Excellency Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The programme commenced with the lighting of the oil lamp, Saraswathi Vandana followed by welcome speech by Director, ICC, speech by the Chief Guest His Excellency Y.K.Sinha and prize distribution for the winners of the competitions .Prof.Upul Ranjith of University of Kelaniya, Ms. Anusha Salwathura of University of Kelaniya, Ms. Esha Srivastava, First Secretary(PIC) of HCI also graced the occasion. The main event was followed by a cultural performance presented by the students from various institutes involved in propagating Hindi. Around 200 students and parents participated in the event.









**13 January      Moghalmari - A recently excavated Buddhist Mahabihar - A power-point presentation by Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay**

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a power point presentation on Moghalmari a recently excavated Buddhist Mahabihar at its **auditorium** by Ms. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, former president of Alliance Française of Bengal. She is also the Co-Convenor of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), West Bengal. The newly excavated site of Moghalmari in West Midnapur district of West Bengal reinforces the account of famous Chinese pilgrim Huen-Tsang that in Tamralipti region existed at least ten monasteries and minimum one thousand monks lived here. Though the name suggests the defeat of Moghul soldiers, the excavation unearthed the ruins of a much more ancient monastery named Vandak Mahabihar, perhaps a *Vajrajana* Buddhist seat of learning which dates back to 6<sup>th</sup> century.

The powerpoint presentation was followed by an interactive session around 80 guests participated in the event.







**19 January      Workshop on Hindustani Classical Vocal by Prof. Sunith Bhale & on Indian Classical table by Prof. Mukund Bhale**

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Santiniketan friends organized vocal and tabla workshops at the centre. Vocal workshop was conducted by Prof. Sunith Bhale and tabla was conducted by Prof. Mukund Bhale of Indira Kala Vishwa Vidyalaya, India. Around 30 students participated in each workshop.









**20 January      Workshop on Bharata Natyam by Mr. Unnat Hassan Ratnaraju**

Renowned Bharatha Natyam exponent Mr. Unnat Hassan Ratnaraju conducted a Bharatha Natyam workshop at the centre. Around 20 students participated in the workshop. This workshop was organized in collaboration with the friends of Santiniketan



**20 January      Dance Performance by Mr. Unnat Hassan Ratnaraju and Chandana Wickramasinghe and the Dancer's Guild along with well known Sri Lankan dance & music schools**

On 20<sup>th</sup> evening Mr. Ratnaraju and few other Sri Lankan dancing and music schools presented a variety of dance and music items at the Centre. The institutions participated were Dancer's Guild(Kandyan dance)Malmi Thilanga Dancing Academy (Kandyan Dance), Pradeepa Divyapradi (Bharatha Natyam ) Moksha Art of Dance (Kathak) and Prasanna Ru Dance Academy (Traditional Drums). The programme lasted for an hour and half was very well enjoyed and appreciated by the audience gathered at the centre. Around 100 guests attended the event.















**25 January     Celebrating the 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India - “Stringstruck” A musical performance by Sitar Maestro Purbayan Chatterjee and his group**

As a part of the 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations of India, the Indian Cultural Centre organized “Stringstruck” a musical performance by sitar maestro Shri Purbayan Chatterjee and his troupe, on 25 January 2015 at 7pm at Bishops College, Auditorium, Colombo.

Hon'ble Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest and Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India, presided over the function. The performance was extremely well received. Several Ambassadors and cultural personalities attended the event.

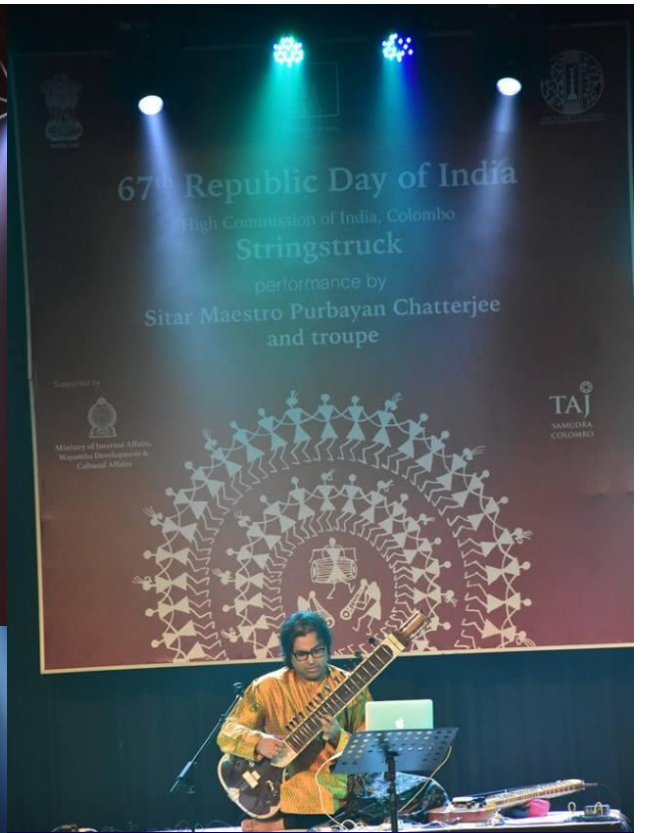
The programme was organized with the support Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka and Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo.

Purbayan Chatterjee was accompanied by world renowned musicians Darshan Doshi (Drums), Prakash Ulliyer (Keyboard) and Manas Chowdhary (Guitar).

Around 750 guests attended the event and the performance was well received by the audience. The artistes were honoured with souvenirs by Mrs & Mr. Hon'ble Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and H.E Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Mrs. Girija Sinha.















## 26 January Cultural performance by the students of ICC

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented a cultural performance on 26 January at the flag hoisting ceremony at India House. Cultural segment started with rendition of patriotic songs and bhajan by students of ICC. Kathak dance items were presented under the guidance of their guru Moksha Samarasooriya. Around 500 guests attended the event.











**26 January      Performance by Shri Purbayan Chatterjee and his troupe at India House - Reception hosted by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha**

On the occasion of 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha hosted a reception at India House. Several Ministers, members of parliament, members of diplomatic community, Senior Officials of Government of Sri Lanka and other distinguish guests attended the reception. Shri Purbayan Chatterjee and his troupe presented a performance at India House. Hon'ble Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Special Assignments, Government of Sri Lanka graced the occasion as Chief Guest.







**Indian Cultural centre  
Colombo**

**Monthly Activity Report - February 2016**

**3 February      Print Making as Mass Communication**

Shivaji Mukund Shet, Ph.D Research scholar of Shantiniketan delivered a talk on Print Making as Mass Communication at the centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The lecture was organized by the Friends of Shantiniketan in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre. He elaborated his talk with a power point presentation. Around 30 members attended the lecture.



## 12 February Vasant Panchami Celebrations

The Hindi class students and the teachers celebrated Vasant Panchami at the centre. The Celebrations commenced with a pooja and concluded with variety of cultural programmes. Around 60 students from all classes, teachers and the staff members of the Centre participated.











## 12 February    Lecture – Success and Peace through Vedanta

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a lecture on "Success and Peace through Vedanta" on 12 February 2016 at its auditorium by Ms. Umayal Venugopal. She spoke how Vedanta helps a person to be successful in life and how it gives an inner peace to a person. Her talk was delivered with a power point presentation. Around 75 guests attended the event.

Umayal is disciple of the internationally renowned Vedanta Philosopher and Management resource Swami Parthasarathy. She had completed the three-year residential Diploma in Vedanta course at the Vedanta Academy, India. She has dedicated her life for a full time study, research and dissemination of Vedantic knowledge and its practical application for a decade. She has mastered the art of presenting the sublime truths of Vedanta clearly and precisely in simple language both in English and Tamil.







## 19 February    Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana - Festival of Carnatic Music

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the Hindu Educational Society and the Express Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd organized Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana, an annual music festival paying homage to the great Carnatic music composer Thyagaraja, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016, at the Saraswathie Hall Colombo 04.

Musicians, vocalists as well as instrumentalists and percussionists from all over Sri Lanka came together and render Pancharatna Keerthanas (five songs) of Thyagaraja on this occasion under the leadership of Kalasuri Smt. Arunthathi Sri Ranganathan. The choral rendition of the five songs is an integral feature of the Aradhana. Around 400 guests participated in this music festival.

















## **24<sup>th</sup> February-An evening of Sufi songs from bollywood**

Nimatha Heshan Gamage and his disciples presented an evening of Sufi songs at the Centre. The performance comprising of 15 songs included pure Sufi songs to the Sufi melody film songs. Some of the songs were presented with improvisations. Around 75 guests attend the event.

Nimantha Heshan Gamage learnt many basics of music at the Sangeetha Ashramaya conducted by Sangeeth Visharad Nanda Malini. He made his mark as a juvenile dubbing artiste of the SLBC and did his MA music at Indira Kala Sangeeth University in India. He also performed in many different TV channels and secured favorable responses from audiences. His expertise in singing and playing music instruments paved the way to his becoming a lecturer in Kathak dancing department of the University of Visual and Performing Arts in Colombo. His special talent in voice modulation and voice projection inspired him to found an institution called " Aavaaz - School of Music and dancing " where he aspires to create a group of students trained in his own unique style of singing.











## 27<sup>th</sup> February Workshop/Seminar on Hindi

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a symposium and workshop on "Videshi Chhatron ke liye Pustak ki Bhasa ko Saral and Sahaj Bana ne ke bisya mein Rachnatmak lekh" with professors ,lecturers and teachers of Hindi from all over Sri Lanka on 27th February 2016 at the centre. They established " Hindi Prachar Mitra Mandal" to devise ways of effective propagation of Hindi in Sri Lanka. This event was coordinated by Long Term Hindi Chair Ms. Shirin Qureshi and the local Hindi teachers of ICC.



















**Indian Cultural centre  
Colombo**

**Monthly Activity Report - March 2016**

**1 & 2 March    Visit of Performance audit team from ICCR,  
New Delhi**

A Performance audit team from Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi headed by former Ambassador Mrs. Veena Sikiri along with Prof. Aswini K Mohapatra, Chairperson - Centre for West Asian Studies, JNU; Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Director- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji Research Foundation and Dr. Varun Veer, a leading Yoga exponent visited Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on 1st & 2nd March 2016.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of March the team had an interaction session at the Centre with the staff, teachers and students of the Indian Cultural Centre about its activities and the difficulties faced by the Centre following the interaction the team visited the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo and had a meeting with the representatives of the University. The team also visited the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo and met the Vice Chancellor and the representatives of the University.

The team visited India House and had a luncheon meeting with the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka Mr. Y.K.Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha following which they met the Hindi Department heads from various universities and institutions of Sri Lanka and the Hindi teachers of the Centre. The student of the Centre presented a special cultural programme for the visiting team. The team also had an interaction

with the Sri Lankan academics, cultural personalities and other officials of Government at the reception hosted by the Director of the Indian cultural Centre, Mrs. Rajashree Behera.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> the team had a meeting with Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo.

Interaction with ICC staff and Fine Arts Faculty teachers



Interaction with representatives of the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo





## Interaction with representatives of the University of Visual and Performing Arts



## Interaction with representatives from various University involved in propagating Hindi



## Interaction with ICC Hindi Teachers and students





Meeting with Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo



Lunch hosted by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha



Dinner hosted by Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director, ICC





**8 March                      To Celebrate International Women's Day - "Baawre Mann ke Sapne" (Sound of Dreams)**

The SAARC Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Indian Cultrual Centre celebrated the International Women's Day by presenting "Baawre Mann ke Sapne" (Sound of dreams), a national award-winning all-women theatre production from India by the Creative Arts, India on 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Lionel Wendt Theatre.

The play was attend by His Excelncy Shri Y.K.Sinha, Mrs. Girija Sinha, The Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Arindam Bagchi, Mrs. Ananya Bagchi, Prof. Maitree Wickramasinghe - spouse of Sri Lankan Prime Mninister , Mrs. Radhika Coomaraswamy - Former Chair Person of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission and several other dignitaries and VIPS.

The play was based on the works of Indian women authors like Jhumpa Lahiri, Bulbul Sharma, Abha Iyenger, Irene Dhar Malik and Lalitambika Antaranjanam, Baawre Mann Ke Sapne directed by Ramanjit Kaur the cast is made up of Kamal Ahluwalia, Vineeta Abhani, Pragya Gupta, Namrata Manot, Bhavna Gupta, Nandita Daga, Arati Daga, Anita Khandelwal . The play was very well received by the audience. Around 500 guests attended the play.







## 11 March      Lecture - Science of "Indian Vaastu and Feng Shui"

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a lecture on "Science of Indian Vaastu and Feng Shui" focusing on the scientific aspects of the age old practice specifically on "Prosperity through Vaastu and Feng Shui in the year 2016" on 11 March 2016 at its auditorium by Mr. S.BS.Surendran. He spoke on various aspects and benefits of Vaastu and Feng Shui. His talk was delivered with a power point presentation. Around 80 guests attended the event. Mrs. Girija Sinha spouse of His Excellency Mr. Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka and other invited guests along with 100 more enthusiastic listeners attended the lecture.

S.BS.SURENDRAN is an Electrical Engineer by profession and pursues his keen interest in Vaastu & Fengshui. He is the first and only Indian to receive accreditation from the international Feng Shui Association (IFSA), Singapore. Apart from integrating the science of Vaastu and Feng Shui his other specialization is "Bio-energetic" adapting the German Physicist Dr Ernst Lecher's method to locate danger zones in a property using "LECHER ANTENNA'.







## 13 March      Lecture "Kitchen Chemistry"

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a lecture titled "Kitchen Chemistry"--the day to day impact on wellness through the use of herbs, spices, vegetables according to the Siddha Medical System by Dr. (Mrs). Vivian Sathyaseelan on 13 March 2016 at its auditorium . Lecture "Kitchen Chemistry" was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in association with A.A.Y.U.S.H . Her talk was delivered with a power point presentation. Around 150 guests attended the lecture.

Dr Vivian Sathiyaseelan is working as Senior Lecturer, Unit of Siddha Medicine University of Jaffna. she has completed B.S.M.S (Sri Lanka), M.D(India). She has worked as a Government Ayurvedic medical officer (1992-94) and as a lecturer for since from 1995. Her specialization is in medicinal plants and preparation of Siddha drugs.



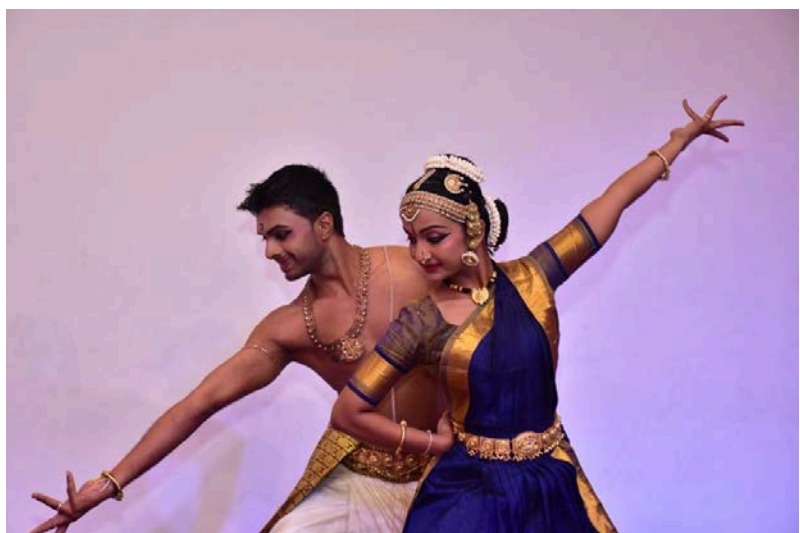




## **14 March      Bharatha Natyam Recital**

The dancing duo Parshwanath and Shruti Parshwanath from India presented a spectacular dance performance on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at the Centre. The performance which lasted an hour kept the audience spellbound. The dancers artistic choreography was very much appreciated by the audience. Around 75 guests attend the event.

Shruti and Parshwanath Upadhye are the Artistic Directors of Upadhye School of Dance and Punyah Dance Company Bangalore. The Dance school and Company have made a tremendous mark in the cultural arena in a short span of time. This young couple aspires to approach India's favorite epics with a fresh, young perspective and hope to entertain as well as spark a love for the world's oldest heritage.







## 18 March      Flavours of India - Cookery Demonstration

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo organized a cookery demonstration titled "Flavours of India " on 18<sup>th</sup> March. The demonstrations were carried out by Mrs. Luna Bose and Mrs. Manita Aggarwal, who are members of Indian Community in Sri Lanka and High Commission .The audience were given clear instructions on the reparation of each recipe. Members of the audience were treated to a sample of the preparations. The items prepared were Naan, Harabhara kebab, chicken razala and Gulab jamun. Around 50 Sri lankan and Indian guests attended the demonstration.







## 19 March      Holi Celebrations

On 19<sup>th</sup> of March Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated Holi in a fun filled manner which was organized by the Hindi class students, teachers and long term Hindi chair. The students of Indian Cultural Centre from Hindi dept. presented a variety of cultural programme including dance, songs and music which was attended by the students, families from High Commission of India with Children and local guests. The Deputy High Commissioner of India Shri Arindam Bagchi and Mrs. Ananya Bagchi also participated in the event. The programme concluded with playing colours. Around 175 enthusiasts participated in the Holi celebrations.











## **29 March      Panchkanya - A Bharatnatyam production**

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Poornam Foundation presented Panchkanya-a **bharatnatyam production** on 29<sup>th</sup> March at its auditorium. Pancha Kanya explored the role of women in public space, examining the stories of five iconic women from Indian epics, through the medium of Indian classical dance. The dance performance was choreographed by Smt. Araty Shetty from India based on the concept developed by Smr. Srilekha Mehta. Around 100 guests attended the event. Mrs. Vijitha Thambinayagam, President of Sri Lanka Tamil Women's Union graced the occasion as Chief Guest.







### 31 March Kathak Recital

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak recital by Dumith Gunawardana on 31 March 2016 at its auditorium at Indian Cultural Centre. Former Vice Chancellor of the University of Visual and Performing Arts Prof. Jayasena Kottegoda graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The performance lasted for an hour and half.

Dumith Gunawardana started learning Kathak dancing under Prof. Jayasena Kottagoda (Raigarh Gharana) thereafter, he continued Kathak under Ms. Naila Riaz (Jaipur Gharana) in Lahore - Pakistan at Al - Hamra Art Council. Later as per her guidance he started learning under Pandit. Rajendra Gangani (Jaipur Gharana) - New Delhi - India, one of the world famous best Kathak Dancers. He has performed nationally and internationally several times.







### **Scholarships for studying Hindi in India - KHS, Agra**

In the month of March the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called for applications for the Scholarships for studying Hindi in India for Sri Lankan students by issuing Press Releases in various newspapers in the 3 main languages. Applications were received and interviews were held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, after the interviews 15 were short listed and forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi.

### **Performing/Fine Arts Scholarships for studying in India**

In the month of March the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called for applications for the performing/Fine Arts Scholarships for studying in India for Sri Lankan students by issuing Press Releases in various newspapers in the 3 main languages. Applications were received from all over Sri Lanka and interviews were held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, after the interviews 21 applications were short listed and forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi.











## **24<sup>th</sup> February-An evening of Sufi songs from bollywood**

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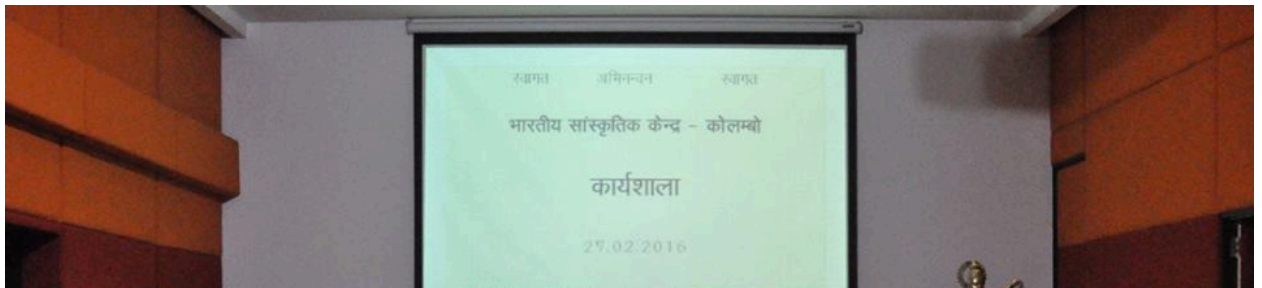
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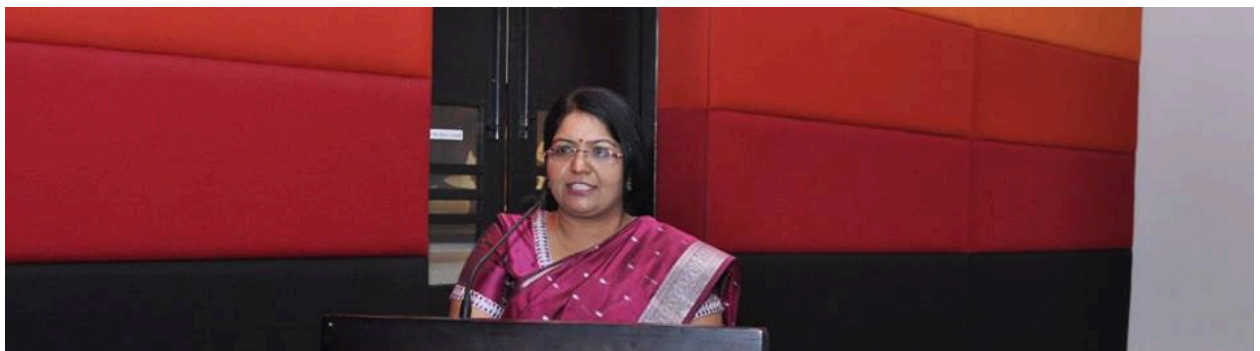
















## **1-6 April      Workshops – Conducted by Colombo International Theatre Festival**

Colombo International theatre Festival conducted 6 days workshop at the Indian Cultural Centre. Experts from India, Georgia, Italy and Germany conducted the workshops. The festival was organized by the Inter act art Black Box Theatre House. Various theatre groups as well as upcoming dramatists took part in the workshops. Around 20 students participated in each workshop.



**8 April      Guru Upahara - Vocal Recital dedicated to  
Sangeet Visharadh Sunil Shantha**

Dr. Mahinda Tennekoon presented a vocal performance titled Guru Upahara– 2016. The programme consisted of Sunil Santha's melodies, which have been very popular over the years. Visharadha Dr. Mahinda Tennekoon has completed his Visharadha from the Bhatkande Sangeet Vidyapeeth, Lucknow in 2005. As homage to his guru, Visharadha Dr. Mahinda Tennekoon presented this concert. The programme lasted for one-hour duration under the music direction of Thushara Aluthge and the orchestra consisted of Channa Pradeep on Violin, Somasiri Badegama on Tabla, Rama on percussion, Wickramapala Pallimulla on Box guitar, Gayan Jayasinghe on Flute and Gamini Perera on Key Board. Around 120 guests attended the event.





**9 April      International Day of Yoga- Curtain Raiser**  
**Vajira Yoga – Dynamic Yoga Session Asanas and Breathing**  
**practices conducted by Astanka Yoga Mandir**

As the first curtain raiser event of the International Day of Yoga 2016 Indian Cultural Centre in association with Astanka Yoga Mandir organized a Yoga session on 9<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30 a.m.at Viharamaha Devei Open Air Theatre, Colombo 07.

Vajra Yoga- a dynamic Yoga session, which included important Asanas and breathing practices was conducted by Mr. Vyasa Kalyanasunderam, Senior Yoga Instructor of the Indian Cultural centre and the founder of Astanka Yoga Mandir and the members of Ashtanka Yoga Mandir. The programme commenced with the welcome address by the Director of the Indian Cultural Centre, Mrs. Rajashree Behera and followed with simple breathing practices and asanas. At the end of the session some of the senior students of Astanka Yoga Mandir displayed some advanced asanas of Hatha Yoga for the participants. Mr. Kalyugavarathan one of the senior most Yoga expert of Sri Lanka also took part in the session. Around 120 yoga practioners and general public participated in the programme.







## **125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar organized by the High Commission of India, Colombo at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo**

**12 April 2016**

The High Commission of India and the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the Indian Cultural Centre Colombo. A documentary on Dr. B.R.Ambedkar titled Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar a film by eminent film and theatre director Jabbar Patel was screened. The 72 mins documentary is an elaborate and analytical biographical film on Dr. Ambedkar.

The programme commenced with the welcome address by the Director of the Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera and followed by the screening. His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka, The Deputy High Commissioner Shri Arindam Bagchi, officers and officials of the Mission, other distinguished guests and general public attended the screening. Around 80 guests attended the event.



## 22 April 2016

To commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016, High Commission of India organized a a lecture by Dr. Jayadeva Uyangoda, Professor of Political Science at the University of Colombo titled "Ambedkar's Legacy: Critique of religion, Quest for Social Justice and the Paradox of Constitutionalism" at the Indian Cultural Centre Centre auditorium. The programme commenced with garlanding of portrait of Dr. Ambedkar by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha and an introductory remark by His Excellency and followed by the lecture. Around 100 guests attended the lecture.







## 18 April Hindi Certificate Distribution

On 18<sup>th</sup> April the certificates were awarded to the successful candidates for the Hindi examinations conducted by the Kendiriya Hindi Sansthan , Agra, India in 2015. The certificates were presented by the Visiting Professor from Kendiriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra Prof. Chaturbhuj Sahai, Mr.Jogander Singh Meena, from Kendiriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director of Indian Cultural Centre and Dr. Bandara Menike Wijetunge, Hindi Professor University of Sri Jayawardenapura. The students also presented few cultural performances.







## **23 & 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016-HINDI SEMINAR AND EXAMINATIONS**

The Hindi examinations were conducted by the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra through the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> April at the Law Faculty Hall of the University of Colombo. Two examiners were sent from KHS, Agra who conducted a week long seminars at the Centre from 18<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> April to prepare the students for the examinations. 400 students sat for the examinations.





## **28 April      Sinhala Tamil New Year Celebrations organized by the Kathak students of the Centre**

On 24<sup>th</sup> April the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a one day event to celebrate Avurudu, the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The event was organized by guru Moksha Samarasooriya and the Kathak class students of the Centre. The one day event included various activities such as making traditional sweet items, playing rabaan, dances, songs and many games and competitions. Around 150 students and teachers took part in the event.









## 29 April      International Dance Day

To celebrate International Dance Day which falls on 29<sup>th</sup> April every year, Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo organized folk & Bharatha Natyam performances by the students of Natya Kala Mandhi under the guidance of their guru Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran. The students presented a variety of traditional Bharatha natyam performance and folk dances such as Kaavadi dance, Thiruvila dance, Kerala dance, tea cultivation, a dance item for a Hidni song.

International Dance Day was introduced in 1982 by the International Dance Council (CID, Conseil International de la Danse), a UNESCO partner NGO, and is celebrated yearly, on April 29. The main purpose of Dance Day events is to attract the attention of the wider public to the art of dance.

Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran received her initial training in Bharatha Natyam under her mother Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Shanmugampillai and later in India under Padmashri Adyar K.Lakshman. She has been teaching Bharatanatyam at ICC since last ten years.









**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo**  
**Activities of May 2016**

**4 May      Curtain Raiser – International Day of yoga 2016**  
**Hatha Yoga – Conducted by the art of Living, Sri Lanka for the**  
**undergraduates students of the University of Colombo**

Indian Cultural Centre in association with University of Colombo organized a Yoga session - "Hatha Yoga" conducted by The Art of Living, Sri Lanka at the National Art Theatre University of Colombo for the under graduate students on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 3.15 p.m. The Yoga programme was conducted by Mrs. Yasodha Sivaganasundaram, Mr. Senthamil Selvan and Mr. Sri Ram of The Art of Living.

The programme commenced with introduction by Dr. Mahees, the student counselor of University of Colombo followed by the welcome address by the Director of the Indian Cultural Centre, Mrs. Rajashree Behera. The students were explained about the activities of The Art of Living, Sri Lanka and the benefits of Yoga. The session commenced with loosening exercise and continued with some breathing techniques that are useful for the students to have more energy to concentrate on their studies. Around 300 under graduate students participated in the session.







## **6 May      Tagore Jayanti Celebrations - Garlanding of Tagore Bust**

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized garlanding of the Tagore bust at the Main Library of University of Colombo to commemorate the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on 6th May at the Library of University of Colombo.

His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India garlanded the Tagore bust in the presence of the academic community, officers from High Commission and Tagore aficionados. Several eminent personalities were also offered flowers.

The event was jointly organized by the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo and the Indian Cultural Centre. Around 40 guests participated in the event.











## 6 May Tagore Jayanti Celebrations

The Tagore Jayanti celebrations continued at the Centre, Colombo at with screening of "The story of Gitanjali"- a documentary film on Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali, the book that received Nobel prize for literature in 1913 produced by Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, followed by a rendition of Rabindra Sangeet by trained singers and ICCR scholars from Sri Lanka Shasthrapathi Charith Perera , Shasthrapathi Palinda Udawela Arachchi and Shasthrapathi Maduranga Samarasinghe . An evening of music which lasted for an hour enjoyed by the Tagore lovers gathered at the Centre. Around 75 guests attended the event.







**13 May      "Ma you are the Divine"**

**A Bharatha Natyam Recital dedicated to motherhood of the world  
by Thushanthi Velauthan**

Thushanthi Velauthan under the guidance of Ms. Thivya Sujen presented a Bharatha Natyam Recital at the Centre. Her performance showed brilliance in a 30 minutes composition in which she incorporated Raja Yoga.

Thushyanthi learnt Bharathanatyam from her childhood from eminent gurus Rahini Muralitharasarma , Rathika Mahadeva and Nalayini Rajathurai and now practicing and performing at Abhinayakshetra, School of Dance, Colombo. She has performed in various events held in Sri Lanka and abroad. She has performed in productions including Swami Vivekananda charitham, Satyam Shivam Sundaram (The relationships), Sat Chit Anand (Truth Consciousness Bliss), Pancha Kanya etc. Around 70 guests participated in the event.



## **14 May      Lecture - Healing Aspects of Homeopathy by Ms. Shobana Cooke**

On 14 May a lecture titled "Healing aspects of Homeopathy" by Ms. Shobana Cooke (B.sc, C.Hom.) was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in association with A.A.Y.U.S.H. In her talk Dr. Shobana explained about the benefits of Homeopathy. Around 60 guests attended the lecture.





**15 May      Curtain Raiser – International Day of yoga 2016**  
**Yoga Workshop – Inversion Conducted by The Om Space**

Another Curtain Raiser event to I 2<sup>nd</sup> International Day of Yoga was organized by Indian cultural Centre, Colombo in collaboration with The Om Space. Ms. Serena Burgeese, the Director of The Om Space conducted a workshop on "Inversions in Yoga" at the Om Space. The workshop started with simple loosening exercises and breathing techniques followed by practice of Surya Namaskar. She explained the technique and usefulness of inversion techniques in Yoga and 15 enthusiastic Yoga practitioners participated in the workshop.







**20 May      Curtain Raiser – International Day of yoga 2016**  
**Nritya Yoga – Yoga in Kandyan, Bharatha Natyam, Kathak & Contemporary dance forms**

As part of the curtain raiser events for the International Day of Yoga 2016 Indian Cultural centre organized for the first time an experimental event in which dance items were choreographed and presented incorporating Yoga in different dance forms. Four styles were chosen for this and it was presented by eminent dance institutions of Sri Lanka such as Kandyan by Ravibandhu Samanthi Narthana Ayathaneya, Bharatha Natyam by Aru Sri Art Theatre, Kathak by Moksha Art of Dance and Contemporary dance by Mesh Academy of Dance . Around 100 guests attended the event.







## 27 May      Bharatha Natyam Performance by Ms. Abirami Patkunam

Abirami presented a captivating Bharatha Natyam performance at the Centre which captivated the audience. A programme lasted for an hour included five performances. The finale of the performance was Thillana which encompasses all the aspects of dance including pure Nirtha Adavus, beautiful poses, intricate foot work, excellent expressions and appropriate Abinayas. Around 80 guests attended the performance.

Abirami Patkunam has completed her Post Graduate Diploma in Visual Communication at Loyala College, Chennai and Bachelor of Arts (Choreography) at Bangalore University, India. She has been trained by eminent gurus in Bharatha Natyam, Kalaree and Kathak in India. At Present she is pursuing her Masters Degree in Bharatha Natyam at the Madras University. She is also a choreographer and permanent dancer of Aru Sri Art Theatre, Sri Lanka and since 2005 she has taken part in all the productions of Aru Sri Art Theatre.



**28 May      Mosaic Festival - To mark the International Day of Cultural Diversity organized by the Serendipity Trust**

Indian Cultural Centre participated in the Mosaic Festival organized by The Serendipity Trust to mark the International Day of Cultural Diversity at Galle Fort on 28th May 2016. Workshops on Hindi, Yoga, Kathak and Mehendi was conducted by the teachers and students of Indian Cultural Centre.









**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo  
Activities of June 2016**

**1 - 6<sup>th</sup> June SAARC Film Festival at Colombo**

For the SAARC Film festival 2016 two feature films and three short films were nominated from India and India bagged 4 awards this year. Best Feature Film—Masaan, Best Feature Film( Second Runner up)---Goonga Pehelwan, Best Director--Neeraj Ghaywan for Masaan, Special Jury Mention--Benegal's Cinema directed by Iram Ghufra. The awards were accepted by the Director of the Indian Cultural Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera.

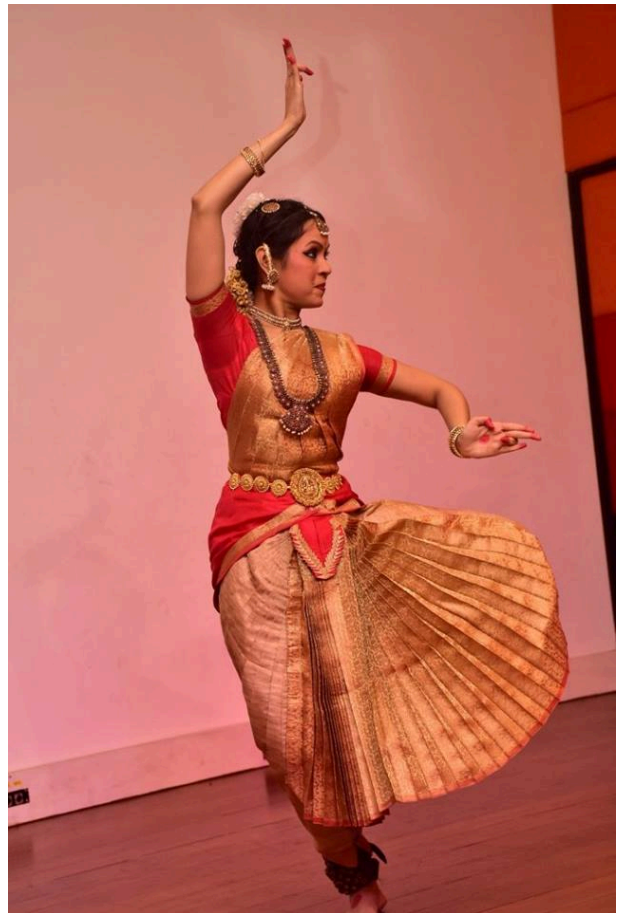




### 3 June      Bharatha Natyam Recital by Ms. Arupa Lahiry

Renowned Bharatha Natyam danseuse Arupa Lahiry presented a brilliant Bharatha Natyam performance at the Centre which kept the audience spellbound. Her power pack performance lasted an hour. The performance was very much appreciated by the audience. Around 70 guests attended the event.

Arupa Lahiry, is a passionate dancer from Kolkata, whose search for excellence in Bharatnatyam took her to study this art form from the legendary Smt. Chitra Visweswaran in Chidambaram Academy of Performing Arts, Chennai. Arupa is a Senior Scholarship holder from the Department of Culture, Government of India. She has gone on to prove her mettle in solo performances at major festivals and sabhas, nationally and internationally.



**4 June      Curtain Raiser – International Day of yoga 2016  
Asanas & Sequences by Mr. Dharmapala Wijesiri of Dharmya Yoga  
Academy**

Indian Cultural Centre in association with Dharmya Yoga Academy organized a Yoga session - "Asanas & Sequences" at the Dharmya yoga academy, Nugegoda. Mr. Dharmapala Wijesiri conducted the session and Mr. Vyasah Kalyanasundaram, Yoga instructor of the Centre also contributed for the Yoga session. In the session simple asanas and the sequence of it was explained and demonstrated. Around 50 members participated in the Session.





**5 June      Curtain Raiser - International Day of yoga 2016**  
**Meditation and special yoga technique conducted by Chamin**  
**Warnakula of Sethsada Yoga Nikethanaya**

Indian Cultural Centre in association with Sethsada Yoga Nikethanaya organized another curtain raiser to IDY at Weli park conducted by Yogacharya Mr. Chamin Warnakula. The programme commenced with the welcome address by the Director of Indian Cultural Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera. Around 200 yoga enthusiasts participated in the event.



## **8 June - 11 June Classical Guitar Workshops & Concerts by Aakash Saha, from India**

India Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with Amarnath Guitar Academy, Colombo and Asian Guitar Federation organized classical guitar workshops and Concerts by Aakash Saha, Bachelor of Music from Chicago College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, USA from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at Colombo and Kandy.

Aakash commenced his tour with a performance at the Overseas International School, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka on 7<sup>th</sup> June. The event was coordinated by the music department of the school.

On 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of June he conducted workshops for the students at the Indian Cultural Centre. There were 4 groups of student's consisting of 20 students in each.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June Aakash Saha presented a classical guitar performance at the Russian Cultural centre. Several guitar music lovers including Sri Lanka's renowned violinist and conductor of state Chamber Orchestra Mr. Lakshman de Saram graced the occasion.

Aakash Saha concluded his tour with a performance in Kandy on 11<sup>th</sup> June at the Chandannda Buddhist College, Kandy for which Ms. Radha Vengatraman, Assistant High Commissioner, Assistant High Commission, Kandy graced the occasion as Chief Guest.











## 10 June      Presentation of musical instruments to Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation

The Indian Cultural Centre presented musical instruments to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation on their request. The musical instruments were presented by the Director of the Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera to the Chairman of SLBC, Nanda Muruttettuwagama for the Tamil Orchestra Unit. The programme commenced with a welcome address by the Chairman of SLBS followed by a musical presentation by the Tamil Orchestra unit. The Director of the Centre, Mrs. Rajashree behera and the Former Chairman and also the present Carnatic Vocal teacher of the Indian Cultural Centre Dr. Arunthahty Sri Ranganathan also addressed the gathering. The musical instruments presented were 3 nos, Mirudangam, 2 Veenas, 1 Sitar, 1 set of flute.



**11 June      Curtain Raiser – International Day of yoga 2016**  
**Yoga for wellbeing by Rekha Krishnamoorthy of Isha Yoga, India**

Indian Cultural Centre in association with Isha Yoga conducted a curtain raiser to IDY 2016 on 11<sup>th</sup> June titled "Yoga for wellbeing". The session was conducted by Ms. Rekha Krishnamoorthy. A documentary on Isha yoga and demonstrations were part of this session. Around 40 members took part in the session.





**17 June      Curtain Raiser - International Day of yoga 2016**  
**"Guided Meditation" conducted by Mrs. Girija Sinha at India House**

Mrs. Girija Sinha, spouse of His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha conducted a Yoga session titled "Guided Meditation" as one of the curtain raiser events of International Day of Yoga 2016. Ambassadors and Spouses of HOMs, Director ICC took part in the meditation session.



## 21 June 2<sup>nd</sup> International Day of Yoga 2016

The Second International Day of Yoga was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka at Viharamahadevi Open Air Theatre on 21st June 2016, organized by High commission of India, Colombo in association with Astanka Yoga Mandhir, Sethsada Yoga Nikethanaya, Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre, Art of Living, Om Kriya Babaji Yoga Aranyam Dhanya Yoga Academy, My Yoga Lounge, Shakthi Aananda Yoga School, Hatha Yoga Centre & Indian Cultural Centre. Programme commenced with messages from Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Hon. External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj followed by a speech by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India. Programme consisted of Yoga Asanas, Pranayama and Meditation sessions followed by Yoga in Kandyan dance showcasing the commonalities of culture between India and Sri Lanka. Around 500 Yoga enthusiasts participated in the event.









## 24 June      Tabla Recital by Amit Bhushan from India

Amit Bhushan from India (Benaras gharana) presented a table recital at the Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Amit's rhythmic wizardry was very well appreciated by the audience. Around 70 guests attended the event.

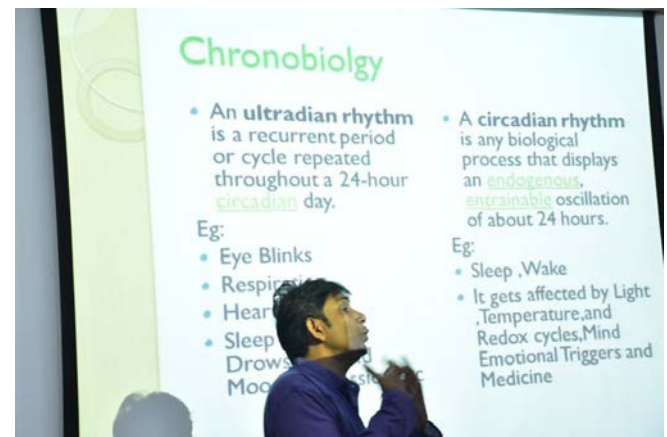
Amit Bhushan is an internationally acclaimed Tabla Player from India. He is one of the finest exponents of Banaras Gharana. He was later trained under the guidance of legendary artist and world renowned Tabla Maestro Padma Bhushan Pandit Samta Prasad. Amit holds "Masters" in Indian Classical Music. He has performed widely in many countries like Lebanon, Singapore, Germany, Qatar, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Egypt, UAE etc.





## 29 June Post event – International Day of Yoga 2016

As a post event of International Day of Yoga 2016, Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo conducted a introductory Yoga session titled "Yoga a Healing System" at the World Health Organization Country Office for Sri Lanka on 29th June 2016. The session was conducted by Mr. Vyasa Kalayanasundaram, Yoga Instructor of Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo was attended by WHO staff, members from UN agencies and other ministries.









## Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo Activities of July 2016

### 1 & 2 July Cellular Awakening - Lecture cum workshop - Life Management through Mind Management by Anurag Chhabra

Mr. Anurag Chhabra from India conducted a two days workshop titled "Mind Management for Life Management" on 1st & 2nd July at the Centre. Several Sri Lankan government officials participated in the two days workshop. Western Province Governor Hon. Mr. Logeshwaran participated in the inaugural day session. Around 30 members took part in the workshop on both the days.





## 8 July      Hindustani Vocal Recital by Prof. Ojesh Pratap Singh from India

Indian Cultural Centre organized a Hindustani vocal recital by Prof. Ojesh Pratap Singh from University of Delhi, India on 8<sup>th</sup> July at its auditorium. He kept the audience spell bound with his beautiful rendition of Hindustani Vocal music. The programme lasted for an hour was very well enjoyed by all. Around 75 guests attended the event.

A young and gifted vocalist, Ojesh Pratap Singh has a melodious and supple voice that can delve into the depths of melody and explore a wide range of notes with its sheer strength of volume. His singing bears the stamp of years of training and dedicated practice, which began at the impressionable age of five.



## 15 July      Flute recital by Hemapala Perera

One of the renowned flautists of Sri Lanka Mr. Hemapala Perera presented a flute recital at the centre auditorium. The performance was very much appreciated by the audience. He played few ragas and bhajans. Around 80 guests attended the event.

Mr. Hemapala Perera, visually handicapped artiste, started learning the flute and the tabla under Guru J. M. Amaranath, one of the most famous musicians of his time. For the next 14 years, in the mandapa of Guru Amaranath, Hemapala Perera gradually mastered five musical instruments: the flute, the tabla, the violin, the mandolin, and the guitar. His music, as the expression goes, became "the sweetest honey poured in to Sinhalese ears". Hemapala Perera's extraordinary music talents together with the subtle knowledge his masters have passed on to him, have enabled him to tame the Western musical instruments such as the guitar and the mandolin, accommodating them to play North Indian classical music; from these, he developed a special love for the flute. Hemapala Perera has visited many foreign nations in carrying out his mission of entertaining and inspiring the world with Hindustani classical music.





## 22<sup>nd</sup> July Kathak Recital by Sankaja Nimantha Pinidiya and Aruni Wimansha Mawela

Upcoming and talented young artistes Sankaja and Aruni presented a scintillating Kathak performance at the Centre. Intricate footwork and spins, as well as abhinaya (the art of expression) were the highlights of their performance. Around 120 guests attended the performance.

Sankaja Nimantha Pindiya has completed Bachelors degree in Kathak from the University of Music and Fine arts ,Khairagarh, India and Aruni Wimansha Mawela has completed her bachelor degree in Kathak from Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairaghar, India. Both the Kathak exponents have performed widely in India and Sri Lanka.



## 25 July      One Day Intensive Hindi Workshop

One Day Intensive Hindi Workshop was conducted for the 15 students who have been chosen under Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra Scholarship scheme to study Hindi for the year 2016-17 conducted by visiting delegates Dr. Kamal Kishore Goenka - Vice Chairperson of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Prof. Nanda Kishore Pandey - Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and Shri Sanjay Vedi - Programme Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo. Workshop was coordinated by Dr. Shirin Qureshi, long term Hindi Chair of ICC.





**25 July      Interaction of the Hindi delegation and students with H.E. Shri.  
Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India**

The delegates from KHS Dr. Kamal Kishore Goenka - Vice Chairperson of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Prof. Nanda Kishore Pandey - Director KHS, Agra, Shri Sanja Vedi, Programme Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Mrs. Rajashree Behera- Director Indian Cultural Centre, Hindi teachers of ICC and the selected students for KHS Agra Scholarship scheme for the year 2016-17 interacted with His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India, of at the High Commission of India on 25th July 2016.



## 27 July      Hindustani Classical Guitar Recital by Shahnawaz Ahamed Khan

Shahnawaz Ahamed Khan from India presented a Hindustani Classical Guitar Recital at the Centre on 27th July at the Centre. The programme lasted from an hour and half was very well enjoyed by the audience. Around 100 guests attended the concert.

**Shahnawaz Ahmed Khan** hails from the musical lineage of the renowned Delhi Gharana, where his cradle was literally surrounded by the stalwarts of Indian classical music. He took his initial *taleem* (musical instruction) under his brother Ustad Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan and his father Ustad Aijaz Ahmed Khan, and has been learning the intricacies of the *Gayaki* (Indian vocal music) under the tutelage of Ustad Sayeed Ahmed Khan and Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan of Delhi Gharana.





## 29 July      Friday matinee – Dil Bole Hadippa

The Centre screened Dil Bole Hadippa , a bollywood Hindi film on 29<sup>th</sup> July at its auditorium,a film directed by Anurag Singh and produced by Aditya Chopra with Rani Mukherjee in the lead role .It is a story about a young woman who pretends to be a man to join an all-male cricket team. It also had Anupam Kher, Dalip Tahil,Rakhi Sawant and Sherlyn Chopra in supporting roles. Around 30 guests attended the screening.



**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo**  
**Activities of August 2016**

**4 August     To commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Gurudev Rambindranath Tagore - International seminar - "Revisiting Rabindranath Tagore's Legacy"**

To commemorate the 75th Death Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) of the University of Colombo in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Colombo organized an International Seminar titled "*Revisiting Rabindranath Tagore's Legacy*" on 4th August 2016 from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm at the Senate Hall, College House, University of Colombo.

His Excellency Mr. Y.K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India graced the inaugural session of the ceremony as the Chief Guest. Mr. Arindam Bagchi, the Deputy High Commissioner of India, Ms. Maleka Parveen, Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Senior Prof Lakshman Dissanayake, The Vice Chancellor | University of Colombo, Prof Nayani Melegoda, Dean | FGS, Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director | Indian Cultural Centre and Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa, Director | CCIS were among the distinguished guests who attended the Seminar. Dr Martin Kämpchen from Santiniketan, India delivered the Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session.

Prof Amrit Sen, University of Visva-Bharati | Santiniketan, Ms. Madhubhashini Disanayaka Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer | University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Mr. Susil Siriwardene (Writer, Critic and Retired SLAS), Mr. Daya Dissanayake (Writer, Critic and Columnist) presented their papers at the academic session. Emeritus Professor K.N.O. Dharmadasa moderated the academic session.











**8 & 23 August**

**Arts of Glory - An all Island Poetry & Art Competition  
Organized by CLEON Academy of Speech Drama and  
Leadership**

The Arts of Glory - An all Island Poetry & Art Competition organized by the CLEON Academy of Speech Drama and Leadership was held at the Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. The competition was held for the ages between 5-19. Around 50 students took part in the competition both days. The Centre was the venue partner of this event.



### **13 August 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrations**

**Sahanartana - Kathak Recital by Pragati Sood Anand, renowned danseuse and her ensemble from India**

To commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India and as part of the ongoing "Sangam: Festival of India in Sri Lanka", the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak recital titled "Sahanartana" by renowned danseuse from India Ms. Pragati Sood Anand and her ensemble at Bishops College Auditorium on Saturday, 13 August 2016. The programme was organized with the support of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi; the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka, and The Gateway Hotel, Colombo.

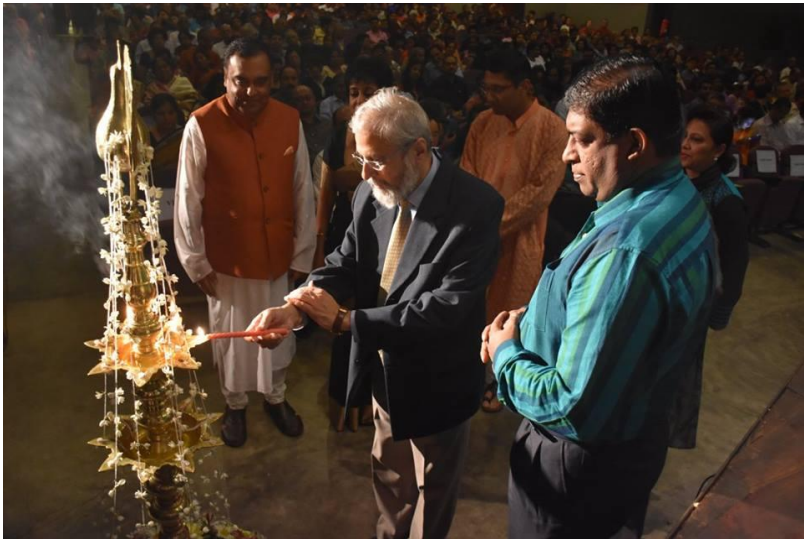
**Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance, Sri Lanka and Mrs. Karunanayake graced the occasion as Chief Guests. His Excellency Shri Y.K. Sinha presided over the function.**

The programme commenced with the lighting of the oil lamp and this was followed by national anthems of both the countries. The video clips made specially to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence day by the Ministry of External Affairs were screened. Following the screening His Excellency Shri Y.K. Sinha and the Chief Guest Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance addressed the gathering. The speeches were followed by an enthralling performance of Pragati Sood Anand and her troupe. Around 700 audiences attend the performance.

The troupe also performed and conducted a workshop at the centre on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016. On 15<sup>th</sup> August a workshop at Sabaragamuwa Provincial Central Library Auditorium, Ratnapura in the morning and a performance on the same day at Sabaragamuwa Provincial Central Library Auditorium, Ratnapura in the evening. On 16<sup>th</sup> August they conducted a workshop at Arakawila Drama Foundation and a performance again on the same day evening at the same venue.























**15 August Performance by ICC students at the Flag hoisting Ceremony on the occasion of 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India**

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented two dance items choreographed by guru Kalasoori Vasugy Jegatheeswaran at the flag hoisting ceremony held on 15 August at the India House.





## **26 August Friday Matinee - The Legend of Bhagat Singh**

As continuation of the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence day of India the Indian Cultural Centre screened a Hindi Film "The Legend of Bhagat Singh" Friday 26 August 2016 at its auditorium.

Legend of Bhagat Singh is a 2002 Indian historical biographical film about Bhagat Singh, a freedom fighter who fought for Indian independence. The film was directed by Rajkumar Santoshi starring Ajay Devgan, Sushant Singh, and D. Santosh. The film got two National Film Awards, including the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi, and three Filmfare Awards, including the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Movie. The Legend of Bhagat Singh shows in detail how Singh came to develop his views on the British Raj and his struggle for Indian independence. Around 30 members attended the screening.

**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo**  
**Activities of September 2016**

**2 September      Kathak workshop by Janaki Patrik**

Renowned Kathak danseuse and disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaja, Janaki Patrik from USA presented a short performance and conducted a workshop at the Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Students from ICC, universities and other institutions along with renowned and established dancers participated in this event. In her workshop she taught bhava, taal syllables. She also shared her experiences in other forms of dances in which she has mastered. Around 75 students and guests participated in the event.







**6 September      Meet the Director - Padmashri Dr. Girish Kasaravalli and eminent cinematographer Mr. Sunny Joseph**

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema) organized a programme, Meet the Director - Padmashri Dr. Girish Kasaravalli and eminent cinematographer Mr. Sunny Joseph on 6<sup>th</sup> September followed by screening of a documentary titled "Life in Metaphors" by O.P. Srivastava on life and works of Padmashri Dr. Girish Kasaravalli.

"Life in Metaphor" is a journey into the world of the master filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli with an urge to understand the language, grammar and the core purpose of storytelling through the medium of cinema. An interactive session was followed after the screening. The event was attended by several eminent personalities in the field of film making in Sri Lanka along with other guests. Around 80 guests participated in the event.







## 10 September      Hindi Workshop by Dr. Vijay K.Malhotra from India

As a part of the Hindi Divas celebrations, the Centre organized a workshop for the Hindi students and teachers of Sri Lanka on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Dr. Vijay kumar Malhotra , ex-Director, Railways, Govt. of India conducted the workshop on use of computer for Hindi Teachers and the Hindi Students. Around 40 members participated in the workshop.



## 10 September Kavi Samelan by Hindi Prachar Mitra Mandal

A "Kavi Samelan" was organized by the **Hindi Prachar Mitra Mandal** of Sri Lanka in which students, teachers and those who are interested in Hindi poetry participated in the event. The participants read out their own creativity as well as the poems by renowned authors. This event was also organized as part of the Hindi Divas celebrations. Around 60 members participated in the Sammelan.







## 11 September Onam Celebrations at the Centre

The Indian Cultural Colombo for the very first time celebrated Onam on 11<sup>th</sup> September at its auditorium. The festival had its own unique events. A variety and colourful dances and songs of Kerala were presented by the students and members of the community. The high light of the event was a kathakali and mohiniattam performance by ICCR scholars. Many Malyalees participated in the event. The celebrations concluded with a reception. The programme was organized in collaboration with Kerala Samaj, Colombo.











## 14 September Hindi Divas at the High Commission of India, Colombo

The Long term Hindi Chair of the Centre and the teachers conducted competitions among the Hindi speaking and non Hindi speaking staff members. Competitions conducted were essay, poetry reading, general knowledge questions and answer rounds in regard to Hindi terms used for official purposes. The Deputy High Commissioner Shri Arindam Bagchi judged the competitions and also gave a speech on importance of Hindi Language. Ms. Esha Srivastava (First Secretary Press, Information & Culture) also was in the panel of judges. Winners were awarded with cash prizes.





**14 September      Hindi Divas at Indian Cultural Centre,  
Certificate distribution and cultural programme**

The Centre celebrated Hindi Divas on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The Centre conducted completions and activities for Hindi Divas for 2 weeks. Various competitions for different age groups were held on different days. There were 9 categories of competitions such as essay, impromptu speech, speech, singing, hand writing, rangoli, dances, fancy dress and poetry reading. His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha graced the occasion as Chief Guest. As Guests of Honour Dr. Vijay kumar Malhotra ( Retired Railway Director, Indian government ) and Prof.Indra Dassanayaka ( Retired Professor of University of Kelaniya) graced the occasion. Welcome address was delivered by the Director of the Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera and was followed by the address of the Chief Guest. His Excellency awarded the certificates and the trophies for the winners of the competitions. The students also presented several cultural performances.



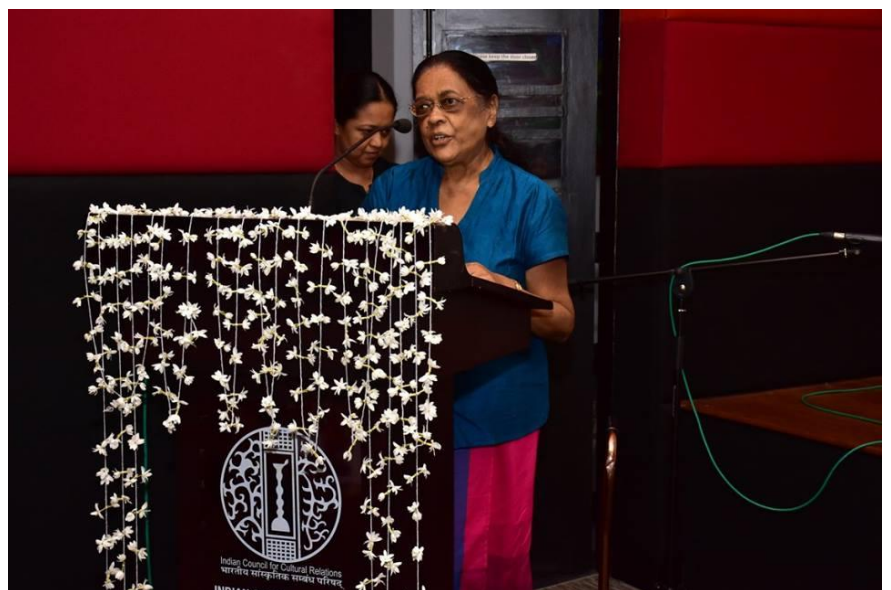












## **15 September      Performance by ICC students DSCSC, Sapukaskanda**

The Kathak dance students of the Centre presented a cultural programme on the occasion of International Day Celebrations at the Defense Services Command and Staff College on 15th September 2016.





**19 September      Presentation of musical instruments to the university of Kelaniya by the Centre**

As per the request made by Dr (Mrs) Prashanthi Narangoda, Head/Visual Arts & Design and Performing Arts Unit, Department of Fine Arts, University of Kelaniya the Director and the staff members of the Centre presented various musical instruments to the performing arts faculty in the presence of Prof. Sunanda Madumma Bandara, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lakshman Seneviratne, Dean of Humanities, Dr. (Mrs.) Prashanthi Narangoda- Head of the Department of Visual Arts & Design and Performing Arts, Prof. Nandadeva - Department of Fine Arts, Mrs. Lanka de Silva - Senior Lecturer. The faculty members and the students presented a cultural performance. The musical instruments presented were 4 nos Mrindangam, 4 nos Shruthi box, 1 no Tanpura, 4 sets of tabla, 1set Flute & 2 nos sitars.







## 23 September      Powerpoint presentation..Baking Therapy - Tamu's Journey to Rajasthan, India

Tamu's founder, Yana Spencer, gave a power point presentation about her innovative baking therapy sessions, with a special focus on her recent trip to Rajasthan. 'Tamu' means 'sweet and delicious' and 'soft and gentle' in Swahili - a suitable name for this a social enterprise which empowers women affected by gender-based violence around the world through the healing power of cake baking. Yana Spencer shared her journey to Rajasthan and her experiences through baking therapy in Rajasthan. She also shared her experiences about her journeys to others countries in brief. Yana Spencer brought a variety of cakes and breads which she has learnt to make through her journeys to various countries. The presentation was followed by an interactive session.

Yana Spencer is an international consultant in gender-based violence currently based in Sri Lanka. She founded Tamu Bakery as a not-profit social enterprise to empower women through the therapeutic power of baking. She draws on her career in human rights and international journalism to campaign and advocate for an end to violence against women.









## 28 September      Lecture - Vastu Sastra for Peace and Prosperity

Master Yuvaraj Sowma delivered a lecture on Vastu and how it benefits and affects in day to day life. Master Yuvaraj Sowma is the first hereditary Vasthu expert in the world to produce a CDROM and VCD on the 5000-year-old ancient science on architecture and construction at the year of 1999. He has travelled many Countries, attended many conferences on Vasthu Sastra and delivered lectures on the subject in Countries like the United States, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, Indonesia besides India.

Mr. Hiralal Jethwani spoke on the aura-chakra. Mr. Hiralal Jethwani though being in business has delivered numerous lectures on Aura-Chakra reading, balancing of Chakras, Scanning the body with EIS software (Electro Interstitial Scan), Pranic healing, detecting Geopathic Stress, Vasthu Sastra, mole reading and numerology all over the world.











**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo**  
**Activities of October 2016**

**2 October Gandhi Jayanti - Commemorating the Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

**Lecture - Gandhi's Buddhism: A critical analysis by Dr. K.P. Shankaran**

**And Bhajans by the students and faculty of University of Kelaniya.**

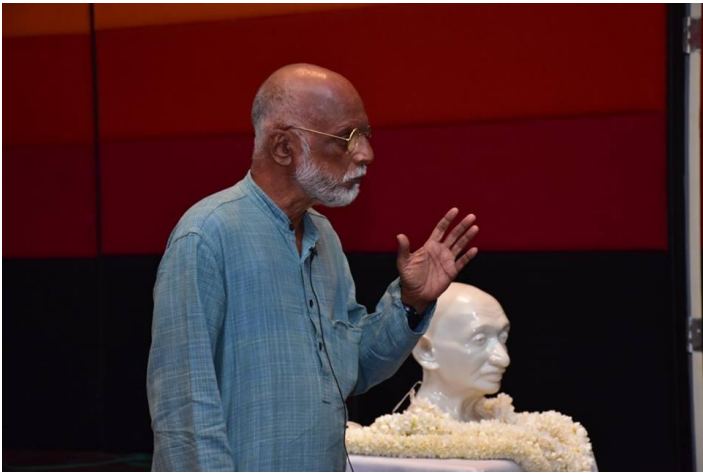
The Indian Cultural centre in collaboration with Sri Lanka India Society commemorated the birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at its auditorium. The programme commenced with garlanding of the bust by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India followed by screening of a video link of the inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra by Hon. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Welcome address was delivered by Mr. Prakash, President of Sri Lanka India Society. Chief Guest His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha addressed the gathering. Lecture titled "Gandhi's Buddhism: A critical analysis" was delivered by Dr. K.P.Shankaran, Professor of Philosophy and an eminent educationist from India.

Bhajans were presented by the Faculty and the students of the Visual arts & Design and Performing Arts Unit, University of Kelaniya. Around 125 guests attended the event









### **3 October Presentation of musical instrument to Shri Buddharakshitha Dharma school**

The Centre presented a sitar on the request made by the Chief Priest of Shri Buddharakshitha Dharma School. The instrument was handed over by the Director of the Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera to the Sitar teacher of the Dharma school in the presence of the Chief priest of the same school and the Sitar teacher of the Centre Dr. Nirmala Kumar Rodrigo.





## 5 October Garba and Dandiya Night

The Hindi class students and teacher of the Centre organized a Garba and Dandiya Night at the Centre. The programme started with Devi puja for the auspicious beginning. The hindi and kathak students of ICC performed some Garba and Dandiya items to begin the evening following which all the members took part in Garba and Dandiya. Around 75 guests from local Indian community, members of High Commission and local community attended the event.







**8 & 9 October    Authored By - a Creative Writing Workshop in  
collaboration with the Good Book Corner**

On 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October a creative writing workshop "Authored by" was held at the Indian Cultural Centre. Authored by is a cross cultural literary initiative by Aparna Raman, Founder of Timbuktoo Young Authored Publishing and Artika Bakshi of the Good Book Corner. Children between 7-16 years got an opportunity to be mentored by Aparna Raman of Timbuktoo Publishing: a creative professional, Kathalaya certified storyteller and workshop facilitator from Bangalore. **Creative Workshop themes were Write to art and song:** Inspired by tunes and melodies that will be played, **Poetry: Secrets of the Sea.** The seas around Sri Lanka have seen it all - history, tragedy, journeys for love and **Write lyrics of a song based on an idea starter sentence.** 15-20 students attended each session.







## 14 October Friday Matinee - Drishyam

Indian Cultural Centre screened Hindi Film "Drishyam" directed by Nishikant Kamat starring Ajay Devgan, Tabu, Shriya Saran, Ishita Dutta on Friday 14 October 2016 at its auditorium at Indian Cultural Centre, 16/2 Gregory's Road, Colombo 7. Around 45 members attended the event.



## 17 October Bharatha Natyam Recital

Renowned Bharatha Natyam exponent Seejith Krishna and Anjana Anandh from India presented a captivating Bharatha Natyam performance at the ICC auditorium. Their expertise in the art form was visible in their presentation.

Sheejith Krishna studied and then taught, at Kalakshetra Foundation, the world-renowned institution for the classical arts in Chennai, India, for 21 years (1989-2010). Now an independent artiste and choreographer, he has learnt Bharatanatyam, percussion, and vocal music from stalwarts as Sarada Hoffman, Vikku Vinayakaram, and S Rajaram.

Anjana Anandh is an independent solo artiste who has performed in major venues in India and abroad. An alumunus of SIFAS (Singapore and Kalakshetra College of Fine Arts, Chennai), she has trained under the Dhananjayans, Ambika Buch, C.K Balagopal and A. Janardanan. Anjana continues to broaden her artistic understanding under the mentorship of Sheejith Krishna. Anjana is a graded artiste of Doordarshan and empanelled artiste of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Around 80 guests attended the event.







**Performance by ICC students at 'Color Splash - 2016' organized by University of Kelaniya.**

ICC students presented cultural performances at 'Color Splash - 2016' a Holi festival organized by the Finance Students' Association, Department of Finance (FINSK) in collaboration with Hindi Department of University of Kelaniya. The Director of the Indian Cultural Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Long term Hindi Chair Dr. Shirin Qureshi, and Teachers of the Hindi class of the Centre attended the event.









20 October

## Dusseera Celebrations by the Ladies Club of High Commission of India

To celebrate Dusseera, Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organised a variety of cultural programmes in association with the Ladies Club of the High Commission of India, Colombo. Programme started with a welcome address by the First Lady Mrs. Girija Sinha. Members of HCI, Colombo Ladies club presented a drama, dance numbers, group Bollywood songs, etc. It was attended by members of the Indian Community in Colombo.











## 21 October Hindustani Vocal Recital by Dr. Wijedasa Bandara

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo organized an evening of Hindustani Vocal Music recital by Dr. Wijedasa Bandara. His recital included bhajans and ragas.

Wijeyadasa Bandara holds a Master's Degree in Music from the Indira Kala Sangeet Viswavidhyalaya, Khairagarh. He also holds Sangeet Visharad & Nipun Degree from Bhatkhande Sangeet 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.



**26 October**

**Nav Pratibha - 2016 - Annual Cultural Day of the  
Performing Arts students of the Indian Cultural Centre**

On 26<sup>th</sup> October the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo presented Nav Pratibha 2016, an Annual Cultural Day of the Performing Arts students of the Centre at the Bishops College Auditorium. His Excellency Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Mrs. Girija Sinha graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The evening commenced with felicitation of the teachers of the Centre by His Excellency and Mrs. Girija Sinha. Sri Arindam Bagchi, Deputy High Commissioner, Mrs Ananya Bagchi and other officers of High Commission of India graced the occasion to encourage teachers and students.

The the first half session of the programme included Sitar recital by the students under the guidance of guru Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo and followed by Carnatic Vocal recital under the guidance of guru Dr. Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan, Violin recital under the guidance of guru Dr. Somasiri Illesinghe, Hindustani vocal recital under the guidance of guru Dr. Premadasa Mudunkotuwa.

The second half session of the programme included Bharatha Natyam recital under the guidance of guru Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan, Kathak recital under the guidance of Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya and concluded with Bharatha Natyam recital under the guidance of guru Ms. Vasugy Jegatheeswaran.

Around 500 guests attended the event.

















## 28 October- Deepa Deepam -Celebrating Diwali

Deepa Deepam a variety dance programme was organized by the Centre in collaboration with the Media Mantha to celebrate Diwali - the festival of lights on 28<sup>th</sup> October at ICC auditorium. Students of Sri Lanka's eminent dance teachers presented this variety programme. Ten dance acts were presented which included Bharatha Natyam, Kathak, folk and contemporary items. Students of Vasugy Jegatheeswaran, Shanthi Ganesharaja, Nirmala Jhon, Shivanandhi Haridharshan, Geethanjali Sutharshan and Moksha Samarasooriya took part in the performance. Around 125 guests attended the event.









## 31 October      Commemorating 141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The High Commission of India, Colombo and the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo commemorated the 141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October 2016 at the Centre. The programme commenced with garlanding the portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha. His Excellency addressed the gathering mentioning the great contribution of Sardar Patel. A Films Division documentary titled "Man of Silence - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" and A Feature Film 'SARDAR' - a biopic on Sardar Patel directed by Ketan Mehta were screened.







## Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo Activities of November 2016

### 1<sup>st</sup> November      Standard English Competition organized by Angunawela Academy

The Angunawela Academy of speech and drama conducted their speech and drama competition at the Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Children from different age group took part in this competition and the topics were on their choice. Mrs. Ananya Bagchi, English teacher and spouse of the deputy High Commissioner graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The competition was judged by Mrs. Ananya Bagchi and Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director of the Indian Cultural Centre. At the end of the competition certificates and shields were awarded to the winners and participants. Programme was conducted by Mrs Angus.







#### **4<sup>th</sup> November      Bharatha Natyam recital by Apeksha Mundargi from India**

Renowned Bharatha Natyam exponent Apeksha Mudargi from India presented a brilliant Bharatha Natyam repertoire which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. She presented Shivakama Sundari a Keertanam in raagam Jaganmohini, Shive Shringaradra a Varnam in raagam Ragamalika, Kona kawada in raagamKafi , KulandeyaGanapati in raagam Hindolamand concluded with Mahishasurmardini Tillana in raagam Revati. Her performance was very well received by the audience. Around 50 members attend the performance.





**8<sup>th</sup> November**      **Lecture on Health, Healing & Harmony by Dr. Vasistha Arun Khodaskar from India followed by Convocation of Teachers Training course in Yoga education for students of Dharmya Yoga Academy.**

Lecture on Health, Healing & Harmony by Dr. Vasistha Arun Khodaskar from India followed by Convocation of Teachers Training course of Yoga education - students of Dharmya Yoga Academy. The event was organized in collaboration with DharmyaYoga Academy at the Centre on 8th November 2016. Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director of the Centre graced the occasion as Chief Guest and awarded the certificates. Around 100 guests attended the event.



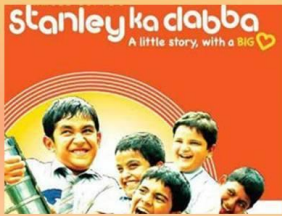




## **11 November      Children's Day Special - Friday Matinee - Stanley kadabba**

Indian Cultural Centre will screened Children Hindi Film "Stanley KaDabba" directed by Amole Gupte starring Divya Dutta, Partho Gupte, Divya Jagdale, Raj Zutshi, and Amole Gupte on Friday 11 November 2016 at its auditorium.

Stanley is the most popular boy in fourth grade, His friends want him around all the time and eagerly share their lunch with him every day since he doesn't bring his own lunch from home. This heart-warming and highly acclaimed film leaves you with a touching message. Partho Gupta who won the best actor award for his role for this film at the Schellingel International film Festival in Germany. Around 50 members attended the screening



The poster features a circular logo at the top left with the text "Indian Council for Cultural Relations" and "संस्कृति सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्" below it. The title "Stanley ka dabba" is written in a stylized font with a subtitle "A little story, with a BIG heart" and a small heart icon. The central image shows a group of children smiling. At the bottom, there are cartoon illustrations of children playing.

**Children's Day Special  
Friday Matinee**

**Stanley ka dabba**  
A Little story with a Big Heart  
(Hindi with English subtitles)

Directed by Amol Gupte

**On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
at 3.00 p.m.  
at Indian Cultural Centre  
16/2, Gregory's road,  
Colombo 07

(Duration - 1 hrs 36 mins)

## 12 November      Shankar's International Children's Competition 2017

The Indian Cultural Centre celebrated children's day, which falls on November 14, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, by hosting a painting, drawing and essay writing competition for children on 12th November. Around 275 children from all over the Island participated in the competitions held at the Centre. 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 2017.







**15 November  
& 16 November**

**The Power of Pranayama by Mr. Satywan from India**

A two day work shop on the Power of Pranayama was conducted by Yogacharya Satywan, disciple of Swami Baba Ramdev from India on 15th & 16th November 2016 at the Centre. The event was organized in collaboration with Astanka Yoga Mandhir. In the workshop he explained about 8 different type of Techniques of Pranayama ,important points of pressure point sand vital pressure points . Around 60 members took part in both days workshop.







## 18 November Lecture by ShriYogacharayaArunKumarji (Guruji) - India

Shri Yogacharaya Aru Kumarji (Guruji) from India and Founder of Pranashakthi, USA presented a lecture on "Techniques to increase the Pranasakthi and Consciousness" at the Centre on 18th November 2016. The lecture was organized in collaboration with the Astanka Yoga Mandhir.

Beginning of life- energy existing in many different forms around consciousness wanting to transmit / transfer and be live, gives a bang to this consciousness and this creates the five elements where consciousness without energy to recreate cannot form into solid matter / 5 elements which are apo, thejo, vayo, patavi, jaal.

Pranashakti is basic mother energy which is also known as universal / cosmic energy amongst many types of energies among us like food, water, sun, air, meditation, divine / God, energy from praying, talking and thinking nice things, exercise nuclear, etc...

Around 115 members attended the lecture.







**18<sup>th</sup> November      NarthanaAaradhana - Lecture demonstration**  
**Changing trends in BharathaNatyam**  
**By Ms.Subashini Pathmanathan**

Ms.SubashiniPathmanathan , renowned BharathaNatyam exponent and also one of the faculty members of the Indian Cultural Centre presented a lecture demonstration on Changing trends in BharathaNatyam. Here lecture was followed by performance in which she presented few items from traditional repertoires. Around 30 members attended the lecture demonstration.





**20<sup>th</sup> November      PranaVidya - A special meditation session by Rev. Padma Devi Sumananda**

PranaVidya - A special meditation session by Rev. Padma Devi Sumananda was held at the Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The session was organized in collaboration with Astanka Yoga Mandhir. Rev. Padma Devi Sumananda Founder & President, Heart Of Living Yoga Foundation, Founder & President, Integral Yoga A.U.M. and Chair, Integral Yoga U.K.

In her lecture she spoke on the science of pranavidya is designed to facilitate the proper distribution of prana throughout the whole body. If there is an excess of prana anywhere, with this science you can balance it. If there is a disease caused by lack of pranashakti, then an excess of prana from another area is supplied to the affected part of the body. This is done by converting prana into magnetic energy and then into a flow of psychic energy. When prana has been converted into magnetic energy it can also be transmitted outside of the body through your fingers, a look, or a thought. It can be transported by a flower.

Around 60 members took part in the session.



## 22 November      Prize Giving Ceremony - Arts of Glory

Prize Giving Ceremony - Arts of Glory - An All Island Poetry & Art Competition organized by CLEON, Academy of Speech, Drama & Leadership held on 22nd November 2016.

Competitions were held at the centre in the month of October, 2016.

Mrs. Rajashree Behera Director of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo graced the occasion as Chief Guest.





## 25<sup>th</sup> November Constitution Day of India Celebrations

To commemorate the Constitution Day of India the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies presented a lecture by Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, Founding Chair, LIRNE Asia on Representation and Stability: Experiences of the Indian and the Sri Lankan Constitutions.







## 25<sup>th</sup> November An evening of Poetry and Prose

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the English Writers Coperative, Sri Lanka presented an evening of Poetry and Prose at the Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Th English Writers Copeperative of Sri Lanka is committed to the enrichment of English creative writing in Sri Lanka. An annual event in their calender is the evening of Poetry and Prose. This year highlighted the work of Late Prof. Ashley Halpe, eminent and upcoming Indian writers and members of the cooperative. Around 50 guests attended the event.







### **30<sup>th</sup> November      Hindi Certificate Distribution**

On 30<sup>th</sup> November the certificates were awarded to the successful candidates for the Hindi examinations conducted by the Kendiriya Hindi Sansthan , Agra, India in 2016. The certificates were presented by Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director of Indian Cultural Centre and Dr. Shirin Qureshi, Long Term Hindi Chair. The Hindi students also presented cultural performances.











## Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo Activities of December 2016

2 December

### Sadbhahti - A musical tribute to M.S.Subbulakshmi

To commemorate M.S. Subbulakshmi Centenary celebration, the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with Hindu Educational Society and Carnatic Alchemy Project presented "Sadbhahti" - A musical tribute to legendary singer M.S.Subbulakshmi at the Saraswathy Hall, Bambalapitiya on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. The Acting High Commissioner H.E. Shri Arindam Bagchi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Script and concept was done by Ms. Gowri Ramnarayan and vocal was presented by Dr. Deepti Navaratna, Violin by Mathura Balachandran and Mirudangam by Vennilan Vairavapillai. The performance which lasted an hour and half captivated the audience gathered at the venue. Around 300 guests attended the event.



**8 December**

**"Conversation with my Hari"- A Bharatha Nataym recital showcasing various perspectives of the devotee**

Renowned BharathaNatyam exponent Kiranmayee Madupu from India presented a brilliant Bharatha Natyam repertoire which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. Her performance showcased various perspectives of the devotee. Around 75 guests attended the event. Her performance was very well received by the audience.

KiranmayeeMadupu is Bharatanatyam dancer and choreographer from India who has carved a niche for herself in the field of Bharatanatyam owing to her training under Guru HemamaliniArni carrying the rare legacies of T. Balasaraswati (Padmabhushan Awardee) and VazhuvoorRamaiahPillai (Padmashri Awardee), both of whom need no introductions in the world of classical dance.





8<sup>th</sup> December - Performance by the Kathak students of ICC at the SAARC Charter Day organised by SAARC Cultural Centre.



## **15 December            Hindustani Vocal Recital by PanditTusharDutta**

Renowned vocalist from India Pt. TusharDutta presented a vocal recital at the Centre. The programme lasted 45 minutes which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre.

PanditTusharDutta is among the most celebrated vocalist of Kolkata. Born in a musical family, he is immensely talented vocalist and has proved his musical prowess which reflects his disciplined and rigorous "Talim" under some of the greatest Gurus of Indian Classical Music.





**17 December      Food & Fun Fair - Indian delicacies, handicrafts, jewellery, & mehendi etc.**

Indian Cultural Centre organized a food & fun fair at the lawns of the centre on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016. An array of delicacies from various parts of India were prepared by the students and volunteers. Indian handicraft items, jewellery, handloom were on display along with mehendi corner . It was a very successful event and to support the initiative of the Centre and students lots of Sri Lankan public visited the fair. More than 300 guests participated in the event.







**23 December**      **Film - "PremRatanDhanPayo"**

Indian Cultural Centre screened the romantic Hindi film titled "PremRatanDhanPayo" directed by SoorajBarjatya and produced by Rajshri Productions, starring Salman Khan and SonamKapoor in lead roles, on 21 December 2016.

Around 40 guests watched the film.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations  
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

*Friday Matinee*

**Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (Hindi with English subtitles)**  
Directed by Sooraj R. Barjatya  
Cast: Salman Khan, Sonam Kapoor, Neil Nitin Mukesh & Anupam Kher

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 at 3.00 p.m.  
at Indian Cultural Centre, 16/2, Gregory's Road, Colombo 07  
(Duration – 2 hrs 51 mins)

