

**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo
Activities of January 2017**

6th January

**“Dushayanta Shakuntala” – Hindi Drama based on Kalidasa’s
Abhijnanasakuntalam**

As a part of World Hindi Day 2017 celebrations, the Hindi students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented a Hindi Drama titled “Dushyanta Shakuntala” based on Kalidasa’s Abhijnanasakuntalam. The play was very well appreciated by the guests as it was the first attempt by the Hindi students of ICC to do a play and the actors executed their characters very well. Around 100 guests attended the play. The drama was organized and staged at the Panibharatha Auditorium in collaboration with the University of Visual and Performing Arts.



9th January

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017

The high Commission of India, Colombo celebrated Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017 on 9th January 2017 at the Indian cultural Centre auditorium. A documentary film on the theme was screened. Around 60 members of community of Indian origin attended the event. Sri Arindam Bagchi, Acting High Commissioner presided over the function.



10th January World Hindi Day celebrations - 2017

World Hindi Day 2017 was celebrated at Indian Cultural Centre on 10th January 2017. The first ever Hindi magazine of Sri Lanka "Sri Lanka Hindi Samamchar" was released, being published by ICC, Colombo. Eminent Hindi experts from Sri Lanka were felicitated by Hindi Prachar Mitra Mandal for their contribution for propagation of Hindi in the island. Acting High Commissioner H.E Shri Arindam Bagchi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. A 22 member delegation from Sanskritik Sahitik Sodh Parishad, India consisting of Vice chancellors, Hindi professors and lectures participated in the event. Hindi Students and teachers of 20 institutes and universities from all over Sri Lanka presented cultural programmes.





**18th January "Stepping into Prosperity"- a lecture on Zodiac Luck by
S.B.S.Surendran, Vaastu and Feng Sui expert**

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a lecture on zodiac luck of "Stepping into Prosperity" by S.B.S Surendran on prosperity through Vaastu and Feng Shui in the year 2017. He elaborated his talk with a slide show. The lecture was followed by question and answer session. Around 100 guests attended the lecture.

S.B.S.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. He has been a practicing consultant for Vaastu and Feng Shui science for over 16 years now. He also offers consultations to various Industries, Organizations, MNCs, projects, Film Making and Homes for a very long time now in India, South East Asia, Japan and Europe.



25th January 68th Republic day of India Celebrations

As a part of 68th Republic Day Celebrations of India, the Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo organized an Odissi dance recital on Wednesday, 25 January 2017 at 7 pm at Bishops College Auditorium, Colombo. The dance recital, "Taal Taranga", was performed by Rudrakshya Foundation of India, led by eminent Odissi Guru Sri Bichitrnanda Swain from Odisha, India sponsored by ICCR, New Delhi. The programme was organized in collaboration with Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Sri Lanka and Taj Samudra. Hon. Mano Ganesan. Minister for National Co-existence Dialogue and Official Languages graced the occasion as Chief Guest. H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka presided over the function. Several Diplomats, High Commissioners and Secy Culture, Govt of Sri Lanka, Representatives from UN organizations, CEOs, Local Indians and dance lovers of Sri Lanka attended the performance. The performance lasted for one and half hours leaving the audience spellbound.





Rudrakshya group also performed on 26th January at India House, Colombo. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister of special assignments graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Ministers of Sri Lanka, dignitaries, HCI officers, diplomats and special invitees attended the event.



The group also toured to many other places in Sri Lanka to perform for the Republic Day celebrations organized by AHCI, Kandy and CGI, Hambantota. On 27th January the group performed at Wayamba Provincial Council Auditorium Kurunagale, on 28th January at Central Provincial Council auditorium in Kandy and on 29th January at Halle de Galle.

26th January 2017- 68th Republic day of India Celebrations – Flag hoisting ceremony at India House

The dancers of the Indian cultural Centre presented a dance item Vande Mataram-an ode to Motherlandt at the India House on the occasion of 68th Republic Day of India flag hoisting ceremony.



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo Activities of February 2017

9 February Lecture – “What is Pure Love?” based on Vedanta philosophy

The Indian Cultural centre, Colombo organized a lecture titled “what is pure love?” based on Vedanta philosophy by Dr. Janki Santoke, expert on Vedanta and management trainer from India on 9th February . In her talk Dr.Janaki explored human beliefs in love and the philosophical explanations behind love. The lecture was followed by an interactive session. Around 70 members attended the lecture.

Dr. Janki Santoke is a lecturer, author, management trainer, public speaker. In 1988, she joined Swami Parthasarathy's Vedanta Academy located near Lonavla for intensive course in Vedanta. She founded the Vedanta Institute in New Delhi in 1998.



17 February

**Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana
Festival of Carnatic Music – rendering of Thyagaraja
Keerthanams**

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the Hindu Educational Society and the Express Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd organized 13th Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana, an annual Carnatic music festival paying homage to the great Carnatic music composer Thyagaraja, on 17th February 2017 at the Saraswathie Hall Colombo 04.

Hon.D.M.Swaminathan, Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs and Mrs. Swaminathan graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Shri Arindam Bagchi, Deputy High Commissioner of India presided over the function.

Mr. Kumar Nadesan – Managing Director of Express Publications Ceylon Ltd., Mr. Kandaiah Neelakandan – Secretary of the Hindu Educational Society and Kjell Thoreby ,Head of International Affairs Kulturtakrn, Embassy of Norway also attended the event
The festival commenced with welcome address by Smt. Rajashree Behera, Director Indian Cultural Centre followed by a speech by Shri Arindam Bagchi, Deputy High Commissioner of India mentioning the importance of such events to strengthen cultural links.The Chief Guest Hon.D.M.Swaminathan, Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs also delivered a speech about the significance of Thyagaraja Aaradhana.

In this year's festival new feature "Keerthana Mala" was added where each institute presented a keerthanam as a special performance. Keerthanamala commenced with a keerthanam by the students of University of Jaffna followed by the institutes – Veena Nathalaya, Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University Batticalo, Highlands College Hatton, Issai archani, University of Visual and performing Arts, Kavin Kalalaya, Indian Cultural Centre and Sapthaswara Music Centre.

Highlight of the event was from the University of Visual and Performing Arts all students participated were Sinhalese students learning Carnatic Vocal Music at the University. Musicians, vocalists as well as instrumentalists and percussionists from all over Sri Lanka rendered Pancharatna Keerthanams (five songs) of Thyagaraja on this occasion. The choral rendition of the five songs is an integral feature of the Aradhana. This event was coordinated by Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan,carnatic vocal teacher at ICC.

Around 500 guests participated in this festival including musicians, dancers and the music lovers.







18 February

**Lecture by Prof. S.Pathmanathan, Chancellor Jaffna University
and Certificate distribution of Astanka Yoga Mandir**

Prof. S.Pathmanathan, Chancellor of Jaffna university delivered a talk on the scriptures from Ancient times of India and Buddhist scriptures on meditation pertaining to Yoga and life style and this was followed by graduation ceremony of the instructors of Astanka Yoga Mandhir. Around 80 guests attended the event.



**22 February Film screening – Orazhcha (A week)
A Malayalam Film
And Meet the Debutant Director of the film, Ms. Anila S.K.**

The Indian Cultural Centre screened a Malayalam film "Orazhcha" -A week" (with English subtitles, duration-93minutes) along with meeting the debutant Director of the film Ms. Anila S. K. on Wednesday, 22 February.

'Orazhcha'-A week, is a film that told the story of an old, retired, middle class couple in Kerala, India, and their life in a week. The movie, presented social issues through the story of this old couple. Inspired by real life experience, the movie brought out the nuances of old age, loneliness, routine, exclusion and isolation. Treated and filmed in the realistic genre, with live sound recording, the movie told the real life stories of the main cast. The film screening was followed by a brief talk in which the director shared her experiences on making this film and question and answer session. Around 180 guests attended the screening.

Ms. Anila S.K, a development sector professional by career, took to film making a couple of years ago, following her long time passion. She had worked with the government and non-government agencies in and out of Sri Lanka, including the United Nations. Hailing from Kerala, she made her debut film 'Orazhcha' in Malayalam, which was premiered at the Jaffna International film festival in September 2016 and was one of the eight films in competition.





28th February

A musical Evening – Hindi songs from three decades

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized A musical evening-Hindi film songs from 60's,70's and 80's by Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri, Liyanage Himalka Sewwandi Perera and Sanjini Hansika Wijesekera, graduates from Bhatkhande Music University, Lucknow, India and ICCR scholars on 28th February. The performance comprised of melodies to peppy numbers which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre. Around 175 guests attended the performance.

Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri, an ICCR scholarship holder in the year 2010 has done Masters in Performing Arts from Bhatkhande Music University Sanjini Hansika Wijesekera has completed her Bachelors in Performing Arts(vocal) from Bhatkhande Music University. Himalka Sewwandi Perera holds a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts from Bhatkhande Music University and she is teaching music under Darshini Chandrasena at Music Academy Sarasavipaya.





**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo
Activities of March 2017**

2 March- Sitar recital by Swedish sitar player K.G Westman

Mr. K.G.West , Sitarist from Sweden presented a Sitar Recital at the Centre on 2nd March. He was accompanied on Tabla by well known Tablist from India Mr. Rahul Pophali and on Tanpura by Ms. Amanda from USA. Around 75 guests attended the event.

K.G. Westman is a Swedish sitar player, specializing in north Indian classical and semi-classical music. Originally a Guitar player , he is one of few with understanding of both Indian and Western music due to training in both systems. He is trained under the guidance of Pandit Rabindra Narayan Goswami from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.





8th March-Lecture by Ms. Suganthini Mahendran on the occasion of International Women's Day

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Astanka Yoga Mandhir organized a lecture by Ms. Suganthini Mahendran on Sacred Architecture of South India Temples to celebrate the International Women's Day on 8th March. Around 35 guests attended the event.

Ms. Suganthini Mahendran is an extensive traveler and has been exploring the inner aspects of the temples and understanding through various books. She shared her experience and knowledge about the Temples of Tamil Nadu.





10th March Bharat Natyam Recital by Neha Khaitan

Indian Cultural Centre organised a Bharathanatyam recital by Ms Neha Khaitan, danseuse from India, disciple of Guru Smt. Hemamalini Vijayraghavan Arni on Friday, 10th March 2017. Here recital lasted for an hour kept the audience spellbound. Around 75 guests attended the event.

Ms Neha Khaitan has been trained under the able guidance of Guru Smt. Hemamalini VijayRaghavan Arni, the prime disciple of Padmabhushan T. Balasaraswati and Padmasri Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillais in the Vazhuvoor style, since last ten years. Neha surpasses most artists of today because of her ability to become the character she aims to portray in her dance. She is deeply inspired by her Guru and yet, she believes in having a style of her own be it in her Nritha or Abhinaya.





11th March Holi Celebrations at Indian Cultural Centre

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo celebrated Holi with dance, music and fun filled activities on Saturday 11th March. The event was organized by the Hindi Class students of the centre. Around 100 guests and students took part in the celebrations.





14th March- Interaction with Indian Foreign Service 2016 batch

A briefing session about India Sri Lanka cultural relations, role of Indian Cultural Centre was held for Indian Foreign Service 2016 batch officers on 14th March 2017 at ICC auditorium. Eminent dancer and percussionist of Sri Lanka Mr. Ravibandhu Vidyapathi did a presentation showing influence of Indian dance and music traditions on Sri Lankan culture. A short programme including Kandyan dance and Sri Lankan drums was presented by the students of Mr. Ravibandhu Vidyapathi.





17th March-Friday Matinee- KAHANI(Hindi Film)

Indian Cultural Centre screened one of the most popular mystery thriller bollywood film "Kahaani", featuring Vidya Balan. Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Parambrata Chatterjee in lead roles, screenplay and direction by Sujoy Ghosh and music by Vishal- Shekhar on Friday 17 March 2017 at its auditorium. Around 75 guests attended the screening.

The film is noted for its deft portrayal of the city of joy. The story of Kahaani revolves around a poison gas attack in a Kolkata Metro Rail compartment.



24th March-26th March- Palette of Colours – A joint exhibition of paintings

Palette of Colours-a joint exhibition of paintings by eminent artist of Sri Lanka Mr R. Kouwshigan and his students Mrs Ananya Bagchi, Mrs Jaya Thakur, Mrs Reuben and Ms Kowsiga was inaugurated on 24th March 2017 at Lionel Wendt Memorial Art Centre supported by Indian Cultural Center, Colombo.

Hon'ble D.M.Swaminathan, Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation and Hindu Religious Affairs and H.E. Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the Chief Guests and inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of other distinguished guests. The exhibition continued till 26th March 2017.







31st March International Day of Yoga-2017-Curtain Raiser

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized the first curtain raiser event of International Day of Yoga- 2017 at BMICH on Friday 31st March from 6pm to 7pm as a part of National Festival Thirasara Lanka-2017(Sustain Lanka-2017) an educational, cultural and trade exhibition hosted by Presidential Secretariat and Strategic Enterprise Management Agency. The yoga session was conducted by yoga instructor of Indian Cultural Centre Sri Vyasa Kalyanasunderam, instructors from Astanka Yoga Mandir and youth council of Sri Lanka.





**Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo
April 2017**

27th March to 2nd April Hindi seminar & Examinations 2017-

The Hindi examinations were conducted by the Kendiriyā Hindi Sansthan, Agra through the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on 1st & 2nd April at the Law Faculty Hall of the University of Colombo. Three examiners were sent from KHS, Agra who conducted a week long seminars at the Centre from 18th April to 22nd April to prepare the students for the examinations. 400 students sat for the examinations.



7th April Curtain Raiser - International Day of Yoga-2017

Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo organized curtain raiser event to International Day of Yoga- 2017 with Yoga demonstration at the World Health Day celebration by WHO, Sri Lanka at Independence square Arcade on 7th April 2017 in the presence of Hon'ble Dr Rajitha Senarathne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India, Dr. Jacob Kumaresan, WHO representative to Sri Lanka, Ms. Una McCauley, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Anoja Weerasinghe, film actress and other distinguished guests. The yoga session was conducted by yoga instructor of Indian Cultural Centre Sri Vyasa Kalyanasunderam with demonstrations of Hatha yoga and Pranayama with special reference to mental health, and depression pertaining to the theme of World Health Day Celebration. Around 100 members participated in the session.





5th April to 9th April -Colombo International Theatre Festival - Workshops

Colombo International Theatre Festival conducted 4 days Workshops at Indian Cultural Centre. Dramatists from various countries such as India, Sweden, Armenia, Belarus and Sri Lanka conducted these workshops. Various theatre groups as well as upcoming dramatists took part in the workshops. Around 20 students participated in each session of the workshop. The festival was organized by the Inter act art Black Box Theatre House.



21st April Gurukul Sandhya by the Hindi students of Gurukul Language Centre

The Hindi students of Gurukul Sandhya presented a cultural evening at the Indian Cultural Centre . The evening included a variety of items such as songs,dance, drama, instrumental recitals. The even concluded with a felicitation ceremony to the Long Term Hindi Chair Ms. Shirin Qureshi. Around 120 guests attended the event.





25th April Curtain Raiser - International Day of Yoga-2017

Yoga Therapy workshop for children with special needs was conducted by Ms. Jyoti Jo Manuel from UK. The workshop was organized in collaboration with Astanka Yoga Mandhir and Institute for Human Excellence on 25th April 2017.



26th April A musical evening - Hindustani & Instrumental by Kalinga Ekanayake

Sangeet & Vadya Nipun Kalinga Ekanayake presented an evening of Hindustani Vocal & Instrumental recital at the Centre. His performance was very well appreciated by the audience gathered at the Centre. Around 75 guests attended the event.

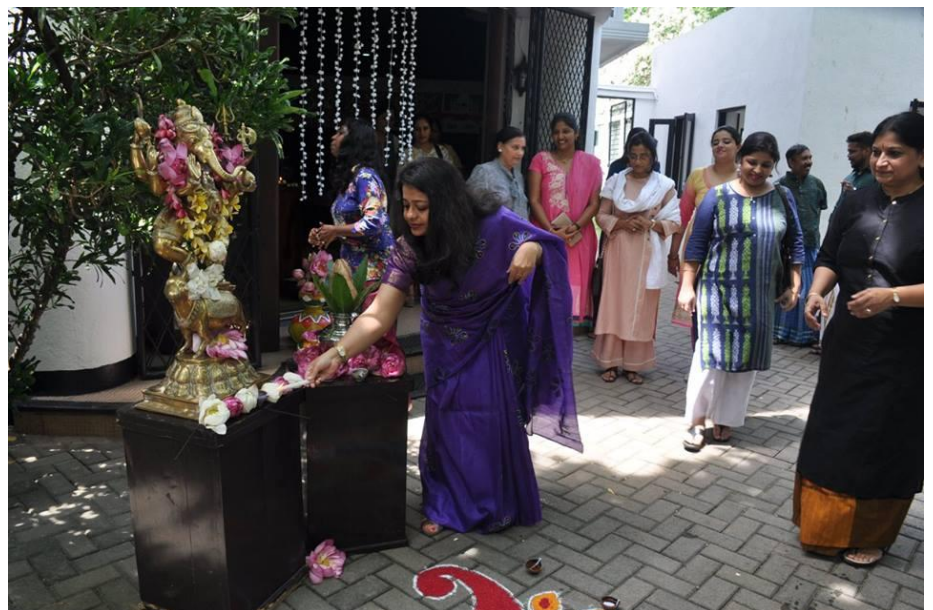
Kalinga Ekanayake is an eminent Sri Lankan Classical musician who has achieved two Nipun degrees for vocal and Instrumental from "Bhathkhande Sangeet Vidyapeeth Lucknow, India in 2007 & 2010. He is a stunning Vocalist, and also plays instruments like Violin, Harmonium, Tabla ,Sitar , Esraj , Flute, Guitar , Organ. He is currently teaching at his own institute Sathsaranee Sangeetha Kalayathanaya at Maharagama. He has been awarded a special appreciation for his talent in the Year of 2012 by the Maharagama Pradeshiya Saba.





27th April -Avurudu--Sinhala Tamil New Year Celebrations

On 27th April the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized Avurudu to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The event was organized by Moksha Samarasooriya and the Kathak class students of the Centre. The one day event included various activities such as traditional rituals, making traditional sweet items, playing rabaan, dances, songs and many games and competitions. Around 100 students and teachers took part in the event.







Indian Cultural centre
High Commission of India
Colombo

Report of activities - May 2017

8th May Celebrating Rabindra Jayanti

To commemorate 156th Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, on 8th May 2017 at 9.30am, garlanding of the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore by His Excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India was held at the Main Library of University of Colombo in the presence of Senior Professor Sri Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo, other faculty members and Tagore aficionados. The event was organized by the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.





13th May Nrityanali - "Niravana" - Life of Buddha

On the occasion of 14th International Vesak Day Celebrations in Sri Lanka, , Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo presented Nrityanali - "Niravana" depicting life of Lord Buddha through an amalgamation of two Indian classical dance styles Kathak and Bharatnatyam at Nelum Pokuna organized by the Ministry of Culture, Govt of Sri Lanka on 13th May 2017. H.E. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal graced the occasion as Chief Guest and H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, Hon'ble Wijayadasa Rajapaksha, Hon'ble S.B.Nawinne and other dignitaries graced the occasion. This cultural pageant was also participated by artistes from China, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.





13th May Curtain Raiser to 3rd International Day of Yoga

A lecture on **YOGA AND ANCIENT SCRIPTURES** by Mr. Dinesh Kashikar, Senior member of Yoga Faculty Art of Living, India was organized **on 13th May 2017** at Saraswathi Hall, Colombo in collaboration with Art of Living Foundation , Sri Lanka.



20th – 25th May THE YOGA ROAD SHOW--20th-25th May

As a curtain raiser to IDY-2017, the first ever Yoga Road show, organized by Indian Cultural Centre, the High Commission of India, Colombo travelled throughout the island covering eight major cities of Sri Lanka such as Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Kataragama, Galle, Jaffna and ended the journey at Colombo with an aim to spread awareness to make YOGA a part of life for healthy living.

35 Yoga instructors from eminent Yoga institutions of Sri Lanka such as Indian Cultural Centre, Ashtanka Yoga Mandir, Institute of Human Excellence, Sethsada Yoga Niketanaya, Dhamma Yoga Akademi, Students Council, Art of Living and Brahma Kumari carried on this journey connecting thousands of minds, conducting Hatha Yoga demonstrations, Pranayama and Meditation sessions including Yoga at Schools, Yoga for people with special needs, Yoga at Office, lectures on Ayurveda and Siddha medicine covering different aspects of YOGA, strengthening common cultural heritage between India and Sri Lanka.

at the world heritage site of Sigiriya rock



At the ruins of Polonnaruwa



at the Trincomalee beach



At the Eastern University, Batticaloe



at the Buddhist temple Kiri Maha viharaya, Kataragama



at the Galle Fort



at the Siddha medicine unit, University of Jaffna



Office Yoga at Bank of Ceylon, Colombo



**Indian Cultural centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Report of activities - June 2017**

12th June Sitar Recital by Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo & her disciples

Renowned Sitarist of Sri Lanka and ICC teacher Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo and students of Indian Cultural Centre presented a Sitar recital at the Centre. The evening commenced with observing a minute silence for the demise of veteran flautist of Sri Lanka Late Mir. Anil Mihiripenne. The programme started with a vocal recital in which students presented a sargam and tarana. This was followed by solo performances by Dr. Nirmala Kumari and her disciple Uthpala Gajamanne. The evening concluded with a group performance by guru and her disciples. The evening was very well appreciated by the music enthusiasts gathered at the Centre.





14th June Bharatha Natyam Recital
by the Disciples of Guru Mahalakshmi Karthikeyan from India

The disciples of Guru Mahalakshmi Karthikeyan from India presented a brilliant Bharatha Natyam repertoire which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. Their performance lasted for an hour and half and was very well received. The guests attended the recital. Around 75 guests attended the performance.

Guru. Smt. Mahalakshmi Karthikeyan is trained under the able guidance of Guru Dr. Uma Anand and Sri. Madurai R. Muralidharan. She founded LASYA Performing Arts Centre at Walajapet in 2009 in Vellore District, India for dance imparting training in Bharathanatyam dedicated to the promotion of art and culture through performance, teaching, experimentation and preservation of classical traditional ideals.





17th June 3rd International Day of Yoga

3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in a grand way on 17th June 2017 at Independence Square ,Colombo.

H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena joined thousands of yoga enthusiasts at Independence Square in Colombo on June 17 to celebrate the International Day of Yoga 2017. He performed a number of yoga asanas and encouraged yoga institutions in Sri Lanka to continue their good work. The event was attended by a number of Sri Lankan Ministers and officials, apart from public at large, including professionals, doctors, academicians and cultural personalities, cutting across all religions and ethnicities. Messages from Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj were telecast.

Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu highlighted the efforts led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the United Nations declaring June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, and the world now recognizes yoga, as a human treasure - a key to good health. High Commissioner underlined the interest of H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena in health issues and admired his support to promote yoga, as a powerful tool for both, preventive and curative healthcare.

The event was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with eminent yoga institutions of Sri Lanka such as Astanka Yoga Mandir, Institute of Human Excellence, Sethsada Yoga Institute, Dhamma Yoga Academy, Hatha Yoga Centre, Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre, Aum Kriyababaji Yoga Aranyam, My Yoga Lounge, Sudasuna Yoga Yathanya, Shakthi Ananda Yoga School and Saddharshi Yoga.

This event was preceded by weeks of yoga activities across Sri Lanka, including the first ever Yoga Road Show, a unique event that saw dozens of yoga instructors travel by bus to various locations across Sri Lanka including Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Kataragama, Galle, Jaffna and Colombo to promote, popularize and teach yoga. The journey connected thousands of minds, spreading the message of yoga for well-being.









World Music Day Celebrations

Indian Cultural Centre celebrated World Music Day with a series of musical programmes with visiting artistes from India.

21st June

Folk and Semi classical vocal recital

Ms. Sarita Saaz, an eminent vocalist from the famous Bhikari Thakur legacy presented a melodious evening of folk & semi classical songs, appreciated by a full house of music lovers. Around 100 guests attended the recital

Ms Sarita Saaz, a well known classical Vocalist from India, hold a Sangeet Prabhakar degree from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad, is trained by Maya Mishra and belongs to Beetiah Ghatrana. She learned folk songs from 100 years old BHIKHARI THAKUR REPOTARY, mastered in songs like poorvi, kajari, nirgun and currently working to promote Bhikhari Thakur legacy as a permanent member of BHIKHARI THAKUR REPOTARY.

She has performed in several national and international programs such as Faiz Ahmad Faiz poetry, Kabir songs, Adam Gondvi songs and Bhikhari Thakur songs in Karachi and Lahore, Pakistan, Folk songs in the different programmes of Sangeet Natak Academy, Delhi, NATAYA SMAGAM in Tripura, folk songs and Gazals in SANJHI VIRASAT, Allahabad, Thumri, Dadra and folk songs in different musical and theatre festivals in Jawaharlal Nehru University, Rang Mahotsav, Delhi University, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, and many more.



23rd June

Violin recital by Dr. Swarna Khuntia

Dr. Swarna Khuntia renowned violinist from Benaras Hindu University of India presented a violin recital at the Centre for the music aficionados. The programme commenced with a vocal and flute recital by Shubha Kanth. Around 75 guests attended the event.

Dr. Swarna Khuntia got her initial training in Violin from guru Sri. Prafulla Kumar Ray and advanced training under from the world Famous Violinist Padmabhushan Dr. N. Rajam. Dr Khuntia served as a Lecturer in violin at Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh, Chhattishgarh five years and presently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Instrumental Music at Banaras Hindu University. She has performed in several International programmes such as at Atul Smirti Gurukul, Pashupatinath, Kathmandu, Nepal, solo Violin concert and conducted violin workshop at Sangitshri School of Music, Phoenix, Arizona, USA and World Music Festival "TÈME FESTIVAL VIOLONS CHANTS DU MONDE" at Calais, France.





30th June

Sitar & Tabla Recital

Renowned Sitarist Pt. Birendra Nath Misra and his son Abhishek Misra from Benaras Hindu University of India presented a Sitar & Tabla Recital at the Centre. The programme was very well attended and appreciated by the music enthusiasts of the city.

Dr. Birendra Nath Mishra, a well-known artist in the field of Sitar, belongs to the great musician family of 'Benaras Gharana' of Pt. Dargahi Mishra, Pt. Bikku Maharaj fame. He got his training under the guidance of his father Pt. Surendra Mohan Mishra. He is one of the versatile Sitar players who can play both the "Tantrakari" and "Gayaki Ang" on Sitar.

Eminent percussionist Abhishek Misrae is one of the leading upcoming table players from the great Benaras Gharana. He has performed tabla solos with most of the great artists. He performed in various music festivals national and International levels such as Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan, Saptak Festival, Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroh, Ganga Mahotsav, Bhatkhande Sangeet Samaroh, Cite de -la Musique Paris Norway Opera, Spirit of Unity concert Austria and Stern Studio Golden Jubilee Ceremony Switzerland.





**Indian Cultural centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Report- July 2017**

6 July Orientation programme for Hindi scholarship students

An orientation programme was conducted by the Hindi teachers of ICC for the 20 Hindi scholarship students selected to go to Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra for the year 2017-18 at the Indian Cultural Centre.



6 July Hindi Students Interacting with High Commissioner

Twenty Sri Lankan Hindi students from all over the island being selected for scholarship to join Agra Hindi Sansthan for the year 2017-18, had a fruitful interaction with H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka before their departure for India.



7 July Friday matinee - Queen

Indian Cultural Centre screened the Hindi film titled **"Queen"** directed by Vikas Bahland produced by Anurag Kashyap, Vikramaditya Motwane, and Madhu Mantena starring Kangana Ranaut, Rajkumar Rao and Lisa Haydn in lead roles, on Friday 7th July at its auditorium. Around 60 viewers attended the screening.

10- 14 July Ayurveda week Celebrated in Sri Lanka/ India – Sri Lanka cooperate to fight kidney disease through Ayurveda

Two eminent Ayurveda experts from India visited Sri Lanka to conduct workshops and seminars at different Ayurveda Institutes of Sri Lanka from 10th to 15th July 2017 as a part of the extended celebration of the **3rd International Day of Yoga**, as Ayurveda, like Yoga is one of the important element of common cultural heritage between India and Sri Lanka.

Dr. Asit Kumar Panja, Asst. Professor, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and Dr. Vittal Huddar, Associate Professor, All India institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi interacted with the Sri Lankan doctors and scholars at Bandanaik Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute and Ayurveda teaching Hospital. Discussions focused on topics of common interest like **"Ayurveda for chronic Kidney disease"** and **"Development of Ayurveda Management for Non-communicable diseases"**. Dr. Panja and Dr. Huddar also delivered lectures on interesting areas of Ayurveda applicable to conditions in Sri Lanka and interact with students and faculties at Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute, University of Kelaniya and Institute of Indigenous medicine, University of Colombo. An interactive session with Yoga and Ayurveda experts from India and Sri Lanka was also organized at Indian Cultural Centre on **Lifestyle Management through Yogic intervention and Ayurveda**. They also participated at a function organized by The Ayurveda commission of Central province, Pallekelle, Kandy on 15th July 2017. Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Govt. of Sri Lanka extended the necessary local cooperation for the visit.





19 July Anugamana - the ongoing journey
An Odissi Dance production by renowned Odissi danseuses from India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia

Indian Cultural organized Odissi dance production "Anugamana-an ongoing journey" by Odissi danseuses Leena Mohanty, Nritta Ganesh Manoharan and DaisygaranVijayakumar 19 July 2017 at Russian Cultural Centre. Anugamana the ongoing journey was an offering of Odissi Dance in the style of Guru Deba Prasad Das who's style of Odissi is known for its pristine qualities and immaculate compositions. His fascination for exploring and deriving inspiration from tribal dance movements gave Deba Prasad Das's style a special vigour and verve.

Leena Mohanty, one of the leading exponents of Odissi dance is disciple of Guru Deba Prasad Das and Guru Durga Charan Ranbir, who is the torch bearer of this style. **Nritta Ganeshi Manoharan** has been named a "Wonder kid of Asia" for her academic performance and her excellence in Odissi who made her initial foray into the dancing arena in her early childhood. **Daisyga rani Vijayakumar** has been involved in Bharata Natyam and Odissi dances for the past 30 years.

Hon. R. Sampanthan, Opposition Leader, Government of Sri Lanka and the Deputy High Commissioner of India Shri Arindam Bagchi graced the occasion as Chief Guests. The evening was very well attended and enjoyed by the audience. Around 200 guests attended the event.





**22 July Performance by the Hindi students of the Centre on the occasion of
Launch of foreign Language course at Bandaranaike Centre for
International Studies**

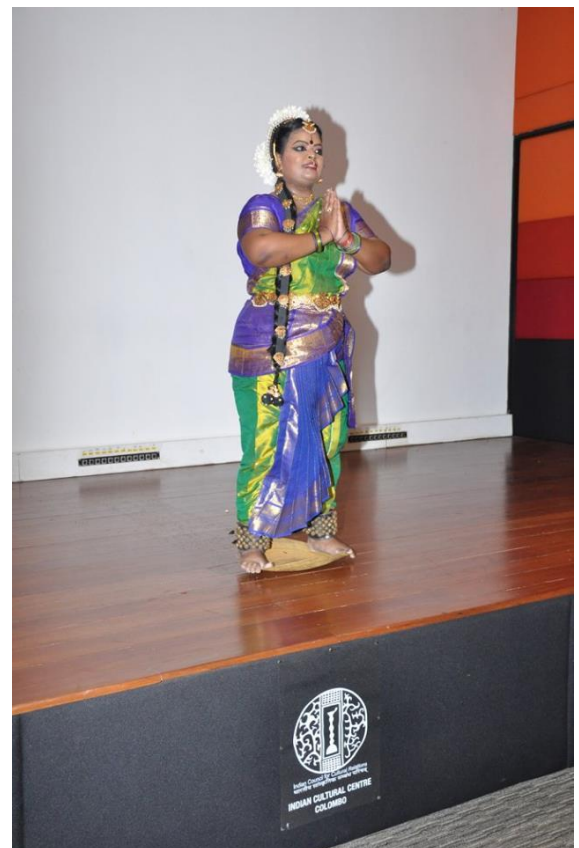
The Hindi class students of the Centre presented few dance items to famous bollywood songs at the launch of Beginners Course for Hindi as a foreign Language at Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies. The course will be conducted by the Long Term Hindi Chair of the Centre and by the other local teachers who are teaching at the Centre.



25 July Kuchipudi dance recital by Jeyatheepa Sakthivel

Jeyatheepa Sakthivel presented a **Kuchipudi dance recital on 25th July at the Centre.** **Her performance which lasted for an hour was enjoyed by the audience presented.** **Around 75 guests attended the event.**

Jaystheepa Sakthivel has completed her M.F.A (Masters in Fine Arts) in Bharathanatyam from Bharathidasan University, India. She has mastered different dance forms of Indian Classical dances such as Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi and Kathak during her studies in India.



28th July Carnatic vocal recital by Thenuka Karunakaran

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Carnatic Vocal Music Recital by Thenuka Karunakaran **on 28th July at the Centre.** Thenuka Karunakaran has completed M.A in Music from University of Madras, Chennai. She has participated in many carnatic music programmes in India and in Sri Lanka. Presently she is working as a music teacher in Ladies College, Colombo.



**Indian Cultural centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Report- August 2017**

8 August Bharatanatyam dance recital by Krishna Zivraj-Nair

Indian Cultural Centre organized a Bharathanatyam recital by Krishna Zivraj Nair based in UK, disciple of Guru Smt. Padma Murali, Bangalore on 8th August at the Centre. Krishna is an Indian classical dancer, choreographer, trained in the Pandanallur style of Bharatanatyam under the guidance of Natya Ratna Guru Smt. Padma Murali. Her versatile expressions and uncanny ability to crawl under the skin of the character enthralled the audience. Her performance lasted an hour was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Around 75 guests attended the event.



15 August Flag hoisting ceremony at India House

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented two dance items in Bharatnatyam and folk style based on patriotic songs choreographed by Guru Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran at the flag hoisting ceremony held on 15 August at the India House.



15 August Celebrating India@70-Cultural programme

To celebrate 70 years of independence of India - **India@70** – the High Commission of India organized a special event on August 15 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall featuring performance by legendary percussion maestro Pandit Bickram Ghosh and his fusion band Rhythmscape.

The evening commenced with the welcome address by His Excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India. H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Government of Sri Lanka Karu Jayasuriya, H.E. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Former President of Sri Lanka, Ministers and dignitaries graced the occasion. Around 1600 guests attended the event.

One of world's greatest Tabla maestros, Pandit Bickram Ghosh has been nominated for Oscar and many Grammy awards. The event will also feature other celebrated artists such as Pandit Subramaniam Sekhar on Mridangam, Pulak Sarkar on keyboard, Ambarish Das doing vocals, Abhisek Mallick on sitar, Satyajit Mukherjee on drums and Shamik Guha Roy on percussion. Through a variety of musical instruments, Rhythmscape will explore the journey of ancient classical Indian music to the world of contemporary fusion music.

The performance 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; India Sri Lanka Foundation and Taj Samudra.

The group also performed on 17th August at Town Hall, Kegalle, 19th August conducted a Workshop at University of Ruhuna, Matara, 20th August at Fisheries and Marine Science & Technology Auditorium, University of Ruhuna, Matara and on 21st August at open Air Hambantota beach park stadium









18August Performance by Kathak students at William Angliss Institute

The Kathak students of the Centre under guidance of Guru MokshyaSamasooriya presented Kathak and Bollywood dance numbers at an event **Prasthaan -A street food festival with touch of India** organized by William Angliss Institute, Colombo Academy of Hospitality Management on 18th August. Around 600 guests attended this event.



23 August Children with special needs from India and Sri Lanka to join hands for a musical evening as part of India@70 celebrations

Shankar Foundation, India in association with Sunera foundation, Sri Lanka presented an evening of Dance and Music featuring "Jugunu" based on Jonathan Livingston Seagull – A musical play by gifted children with special needs from India and Sri Lanka at Lionel Wendt Memorial Theatre. The children commenced their performance by singing national anthems of both Sri Lanka and India. This was followed by A musical play and a vocal performance by children of Shankar Foundation and concluded with a Kandyan dance and drumming performance by the children from Sunera Foundation. Around 300 guests attended the event. This programme is supported by Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo to strengthen the cultural cooperation between the two countries.









25 August kathak workshop by Shasthrapathi M.P. SadaraSupathumPeriris

A Kathak Workshop was conducted by SadaraSupathumPeirison on 25th August at the Centre. Around 30 Kathak students took part in this workshop. He explained more about the basic nuances in Kathak dancing.

SadaraSupathumPeirisholds a Masters Degree from the Indira Kala SangeetVishvavidyalaya, India under the guidance of his Prof. Mandhavi Singh. He has also learnt Kandyen and fusion dance under Guru ChandanaWickramasinghe.



29 - 31 August Workshops & performance by Santiniketan Friends

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized workshops and performances by Santiniketan Friends on 29th, 30th and 31st August 2017

Drama workshop by Thilini Munasinghe - M.A. Drama, VishvaBharati, Santiniketan on 29th August, Art and Music Workshop by Anusha Wijesinghe, B.Fin.Hon, Textile Designer, VishvaBharati, Santiniketan & Thilini Rodrigo, M.Music, Hindustani Classical Vocalist, VishvaBharati, Santiniketan on 30th August and Cultural Program by Chandana Wickramasinghe, Renowned Dancer and Choreographer and his students, VishvaBharati, Santiniketan on 31st August.

Santiniketan friends is a collective vision of ex-students of Santiniketan, VishvaBharati passionate about displaying the rich art and culture of Santiniketan to Sri Lankan audience.







**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Report- September-2017**

3 September-Onam Festival

The Indian Cultural in collaboration with Malayalee Women Association, Colombo celebrated Onam-the harvest festival of Kerala on 3rd September at its auditorium. A variety of colourful dances and songs of Kerala were presented by the students and members of the community. Members of Indian community along with Sri Lanka students and teachers of ICC participated in the celebration which concluded with a reception served by the Malayalee Women Association with mouth watering dishes from Kerala.



Hindi Divas – 2017

Hindi Pakhwada from 6th to 14th September

On the occasion of Hindi Diwas 2017 Hindi Pakhwada was held at Indian Cultural Centre which included all island Hindi essay competition on 6th Septmeber , Hindi speech competition on 7th September, , fancy dress and speech competition for Hindi children class on 8th September, Kabita Sandhya song and dance competitions f on 9th September, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan certificate distribution on 14th September and many other programmes.





13 September -Hindi Diwas-2017 was celebrated with “Indo-Lanka Hindi Sammelan” at University of Kelaniya

On the occasion of Hindi Divas 2017, **Indo–Sri Lanka Hindi conference on E-learning : Identity and possibilities** was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo in collaboration with the Hindi department of the University of Kelaniya on 13 September 2017.

H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka and Prof. D.M. Semasinghe, Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya graced the occasion.

High Commissioner appreciated the efforts of University of Kelaniya and other institutions to help learning of Hindi in Sri Lanka. He also stressed upon the relevance of E- learning in Hindi in today’s world and appreciated the first ever e-magazine in Hindi – “E-Prayas” by Indian Cultural Centre which would connect the readers all over the world. High Commissioner appreciated the increasing demand for learning Hindi in Sri Lanka and said that it would be very useful especially in the hospitality and tourism sector, as large number of tourists speak Hindi. Prof. D.M. Semasinghe, Vice Chancellor of University of Kelaniya expressed his gratitude to the Indian High Commission for establishing Long Term Hindi Chair at the Hindi department and gave his best wishes for the success of the conference.

Indo Sri Lanka Hindi Sammelan also featured renowned Hindi scholars from both the countries who presented the papers on the seminar topic. Hindi translation of Sinhala book of Senior Prof. Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage, Head, Dept. of Hindi Studies, University of Kelaniya was also released on this occasion. Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Lakshman Seneviratne, Emeritus professor Mrs Indra Dassanayake, Dr. Vijay Malhotra, Hindi academicians, students and teachers from all renowned Universities and institutions from all over the island participated in the programme.





8 September- Bharat Sanskriti Yatra
A concert of Indian Classical music & dance by Hindusthan Art & Music Society, India

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo presented an evening of Indian Dance and Music (classical and Folk) by renowned artistes of Hindusthan Art & Music Society, India. Hindusthan Art & Music Society was established in the year 2010 by the great maestros of Indian Music with a view to popularize and teach Indian Classical and folk music amongst the masses in India.

The evening consisted of performances by well renowned artistes from different parts of India. Programme commenced with Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi and Kathak dance numbers by Guru Dr. Rakhi Roy and group, a musical trio Performance of Bhajan by Pt Balwant Puranik, Santoor by Prof. Chandan Mandal and Tabla by Pandit Prosenjit Poddar followed by Folk Dances of India by Suman Mandal. Around 75 guests attended the event.



9 September-Award Ceremony of Institute of Human Excellence &Astanka Yoga Mandhir

Award Ceremony of Institute of Human Excellence &Astanka Yoga Mandhir held at Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium. Astanka Yoga Mandir introduced another batch of Hatha Yoga Instructors and Yogic Life Counselors in the year 2016 /2017 and the certification ceremony was held at Indian Cultural Centre. Dr.V.Selvanathan, Consultant Physician, National Ayurvedic Hospital Sri Lanka graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



16 September- Tabla& Violin Workshop

A Violin workshop by Padma Bhusan Prof. N.Rajam was conducted at the Centre on 16th September 2017 in collaboration with P.V.NandasiriKalakendraya at the Centre. Around 50 students participated in the session



22 September- NatyaUtsava – Bharatanatyam Recital

The students of Dr. Subashini Pathmanathan presented an evening of Bharatanatyam recital at the Centre. The programme which lasted an hour and half enjoyed by all. Subashini Pathmanathan graduated from the Government College for Women in Chandigarh, India and received her master's degree from the Punjab University. She has completed two diplomas in Bharatanatyam from Vazhuvoorar Classical BharataNatya Centre, Chennai and from Bharathidasan University Thiruchirapalli respectively. She joined the Indian Cultural Centre Colombo as the first Bharatanatyam teacher since its inauguration in 1998. Around 75 guests attended the performance



22nd September- Release of commemorative postage stamps on Ramayana.

In a special ceremony at the Indian Cultural Centre, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, released commemorative postage stamps on Ramayana. A special copy was presented to Mr. Kaushik Udeshi, President of GOPIO, Sri Lanka. A cultural programme on the occasion added colour to the event.



25th September- 100th Birth Anniversary of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay

The High Commission of India celebrated 100th Birth Anniversary of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay with great fervor and participation of Indian community. High Commissioner Taranjit Singh Sandhu highlighted Governments efforts to realize vision of Pt Upadhyay through economic empowerment of the underprivileged.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo
Monthly Activity Report for September - 2017

S. No	Date	Description	Exhb.	Conf. & Seminar	Perf. Arts	Nos. of Artists	Name of Chief Guest/Guests of Honor	Nos. of Guest / Audience	Media Coverage	Exp. Incurred in INR 1INR = SLR 2.3617	Revenue Collected	Remarks
1	3 September	Onam Celebrations	-	-	-	-	-	150		19906.00	-	Organized in collaboration with Malayalee Women Association, Colombo
2	6 September	Island wide essay competition	-	-	-	-	-	-	Publicity was given in local newspapers, electronic media, ICC monthly newsletter and ICC face book.	Special sanction	-	-

3	6 September	KHS, Agra Hindi certificate Distribution Ceremony	-	-	-	-	-	-	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	9316.00	-	-
4	7 September	Hindi speech competition for ICC students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Special sanction	-	-
5	8 September	Bharat Sanskriti Yatra - A concert of classical music and dance	-	-	Yes	25	-	75	Publicity was given in local language papers, electronic media, ICC monthly newsletter and through ICC, Colombo face book .	6775.00	-	-

6	8 September	Competition of ICC Hindi students - Children class	-	-	-	-	-	-	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	Special sanction	-	-
7	9 September	Poem & Hindi song competition for ICC students and Geet sandhya	-	-	-	-	-	-	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	6288.00	-	-
8	9 September	Award Ceremony - Institute of Human excellence & Astanka Yoga Mandhir	-	-	-	-	-	75	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	-	-	-

9	13 September	Indo-Lanka Hindi Sammelan in collaboration with University of Kelaniya	-	Yes	-	-	His Excellency Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and Vice Chancellor of University of Kelaniya Prof. D.M. Semasinge	300	Publicity was given in local language papers, electronic media, ICC mostly newsletter and through ICC, Colombo face book	Special sanction	-	Organized in collaboratio n with University of Kelaniya
10	14 September	Cultural programme & Prize distribution for the competition winners	-	-	-	-	-	200	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	Special sanction	-	-
11	16 September	Violin workshop by Prof. N.Rajam	-	Yes	-	-	-	50	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	1694.00	-	Organized in collaboratio n with P V Nandasiri Kala Kendraya

<u>Indian Council for Cultural Relations</u> <u>Indian Cultural Centre (Colombo)</u> <u>Monthly Activity Report for September 2017</u>							
S.No	Particulars / Description	New Registration	Number of Students fees paid	No. of Classes Weekly	Total No. of Classes during the Month	Registration Fees Collected SL.Rs	Fees Collected SL.Rs
1	Hindi Classes	15	65	16	64	1,350.00	5,400.00
2	Instrumental Classes (Sitar)	5	10	1	4	250.00	1,500.00
3	Instrumental Classes (Violin)	4	12	1	4	250.00	2,100.00
4	Instrumental Classes (Tabla)	3	13	2	8	750.00	2,000.00
5	Vocal Music Classes (Carnatic)	5	14	2	8	-	-
6	Vocal Music Classes (Hindustani)	0	0	0	0	250.00	1,000.00
7	Dance Classes (Bharathanatyam)	1	20	4	16	250.00	7,000.00
8	Dance Classes (Kathak)	2	10	2	8	250.00	1,000.00
9	Yoga Classes	6	24	8	32	500.00	12,000.00
	Total for the month = SL.Rs 35,850.00 = (I.Rs 15,180.00)	(September 2017)				3,850.00	32,000.00
	Total upto previous month = SL.Rs 331,050.00 = (I.Rs 140,174.00)	April 2017 - August 2017)					
HCI Colombo, Official Exchange Rate for September 2017		I.Rs 1.00 = SL.Rs 2.3617					
		US \$ 1.00 = I.Rs 64.8200					

**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
MRE- October-2017**

4-8 October-Performances by ICC students at ShilpaAbhimani - 2017

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre and ICCR scholars performed at the ShilpaAbhimani – International handicraft exhibition 2017 from 4-8 October held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference organized by National Crafts Council, Govt of Sri Lanka where number of artisans from India participated. A Bharatanatyam performance was presented by the students under the guidance of their guru KalasooriVasugyJegatheeswaran, Kathakali and Mohiniyattam was presented by ICCR scholars Mr. Madhushanka & Ms. Nishali and 8th a Bolloywood - Kathak fusion performance was presented by the students under the guidance of their Guru Moksha Samarasooriya. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Maithripala Sirisena and several dignitaries attended the event. The performances were very well received and appreciated.



6 October-Garba and Dandiya Night

The Hindi class students and teacher of the Centre organized 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 Garba and Dandiya items to begin the evening followed by participation of public and members of Indian community. Around 150 guests from local Indian community, members of High Commission and local community attended the event.



12 October Dussera Celebrations by the Ladies Club of High Commission of India along with members of Indian Community

Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with High Commission of India Ladies Club celebrated Dussera Festival at the Centre with a variety of cultural programmes presented by the members including drama, dance numbers, group Bollywood songs, etc. It was attended by members of the Indian Community in Colombo.



13 October Friday Matinee

Indian Cultural Centre screened Hindi film titled "Manjhi- The Mountain Man" directed by Ketan Mehta and produced by Nina Latha Gupta and Deepa Sahi starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Radhika Apte in lead roles.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्

FRIDAY MATINEE

MANJHI – THE MOUNTAIN MAN (HINDI)

DIRECTED BY KETAN MEHTA
CAST: NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI, RADHIKA APTE, TIGMANSHU DHULIA AND URMILA MAHANTA

ON FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2017
AT 3.00 P.M.
AT INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
16/2, GREGORY'S ROAD,
COLOMBO 07
(DURATION – 2 HRS)

Entry free...seating first come first serve basis. All are cordially invited.



MANJHI
THE MOUNTAIN MAN

21ST AUG

THE STORY OF A MAN WHO MADE A MOUNTAIN FOR LOVE

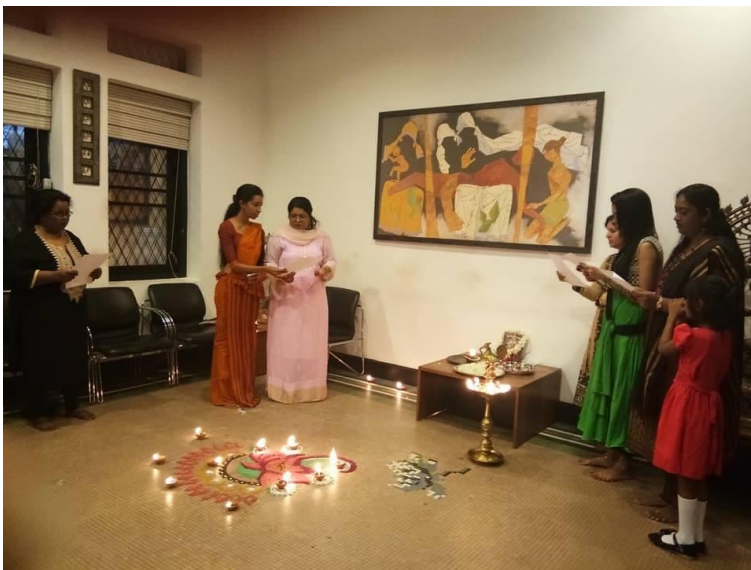
18 October Diwali Celebrations

The Mission celebrated Diwali on 18th October in a grand manner at Taj Samudra. The programme commenced with an address by the high Commissioner His Excellency Taranjit Singh Sandhu and followed by a magic show and few games for children and adults.



19 October Diwali Celebrations at ICC

Students and teachers of Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated no cracker pollution free Deepavali at the Centre. The celebrations commenced with a pooja and followed by Cultural activities.



20 October Hindustani Violin and Vocal Orchestral performance

Disciples of Dr. Somasiri Illesinghe captivated the audience with their brilliant orchestral performance. The performance included five compositions of Dr. Illesinghe on violin and two vocal performances. The evening was very well enjoyed by the audience. Around 80 guests attended the performance.

Dr. Somasiri Illesinghe obtained his Visharada degree from the Bhatkhande University, Lucknow, India and has been trained under eminent guru Prof. G. N. Goswamy. Mr. Illesinghe has served in the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation from 1966 to 1982 and at the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation from 1982 to 1999 and retired as the Director of Music. Mr. Illesinghe has been teaching Violin since 1999 at the Indian Cultural Centre.



23 October Mahatma Gandhi Oration

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with Sri Lanka India Society and Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies organized Mahatma Gandhi Oration on 23rd October at BCIS auditorium. Amb.NirupamaRao, Former Foreign Secretary of India and former High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka delivered Mahatma Gandhi Oration - "Mahatma Gandhi: The Ageless Life" .

His Excellency ShriTaranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India and several dignitaries from various stratagraced the occasion. The event commenced with offering flowers to the Gandhi bust and followed by welcome address by the President of Sri Lanka India Society Mr. T.Prakash. This was followed by an introduction to the guest speaker - Amb. NirupamaRao by Mr.Tilak de Soyza and vote of thanks was given by Secretary SLIS Mr. SaravananNeelakandan.





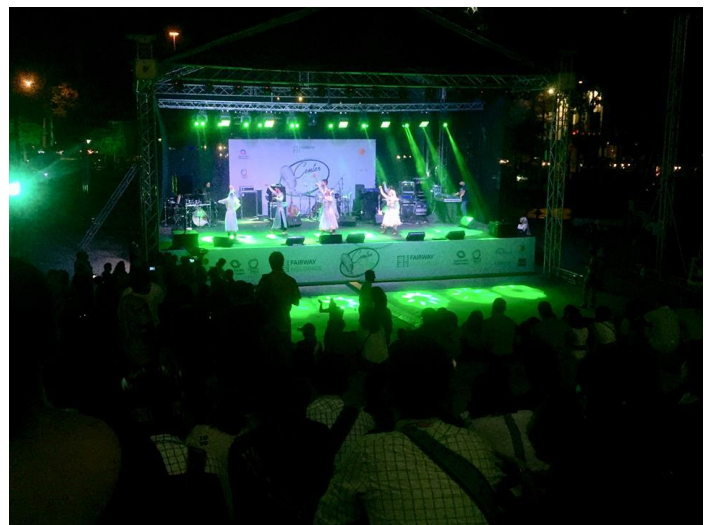
23-28 Asia Pacific Choir Games Workshops

The workshops of the Asia Pacific Choir Games were held at the Centre from 23-28 October organized by Colombo Cultural Hub Trust and Interkulturel. 64 Choir groups from all over the world including eight renowned groups from India participated in the event and workshops.



25 October Kathak Performance at Asia Pacific Choir Games by ICC students

Kathak students of ICC performed at the Centre Stage at Neelam Pokuna as a part of Asia Pacific Choir Games directed by ICC teacher Ms Mokshya Samarasooriya.



31 October Celebrating National Unity Day-2017

142nd Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India was celebrated on 31st October 2017 with the gracious presence of Hon.Dr. Harsha de Silva, Deputy Minister of National Policy and Economic Affairs, Govt. of Sri Lanka and H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the High Commissioner. A photographic exhibition on life and times of Sardar Patel was held at the Centre which was inaugurated by Hon.Dr. Harsha de Silva, Deputy Minister of National Policy and Economic Affairs, Govt. of Sri Lanka and H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the High Commissioner. Documentary films on life of Sardar Patel were screened. Students of Indian Cultural Centre presented a cultural segment with attires from different states of India showcasing India's Unity in diversity. This programme was organized in collaboration with GOPIO, Sri Lanka.









Indian Cultural Centre (Colombo)

S.No	Particulars / Description	New Registration	Number of Students fees paid	No. of Classes Weekly	Total No. of Classes during the Month	Registration Fees Collected SL.Rs	Fees Collected SL.Rs
1	Hindi Classes	18	64	16	64	2,700.00	12,800.00
2	Instrumental Classes (Sitar)	3	21	1	4	750.00	6,300.00
3	Instrumental Classes (Violin)	1	2	1	4	250.00	600.00
4	Instrumental Classes (Tabla)	1	7	2	8	250.00	2,100.00
5	Vocal Music Classes (Carnatic)	0	12	2	8	-	3,600.00
6	Vocal Music Classes (Hindustani)	0	0	0	0	-	-
7	Dance Classes (Bharathanatyam)	1	8	4	16	250.00	4,000.00
8	Dance Classes (Kathak)	2	8	2	8	500.00	4,000.00
9	Yoga Classes	31	124	8	32	7,750.00	62,000.00
	Total for the month = SL.Rs 107,850.00 = (I.Rs 45,678.00)	(October 2017)				12,450.00	95,400.00
	Total upto previous month = SL.Rs 336,900.00 = (I.Rs 155,394.00)	(April 2017 - September 2017)					

HCI Colombo, Official Exchange Rate for October 2017	I.Rs 1.00 = SL.Rs 2.3611
	US \$ 1.00 = I.Rs 64.8000

Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo
Monthly Activity Report for October - 2017

S. No	Date	Description	Exhb.	Conf. & Seminar	Perf. Arts	Nos. of Artists	Name of Chief Guest/Guests of Honor	Nos. of Guest / Audience	Media Coverage	Exp. Incurred in INR 1INR = SLR 2.3611	Revenue Collected	Remarks
1	4-8 October	The students of the Indian Cultural Centre and ICCR scholars performed at the ShilpaAbhimani - International handicraft exhibition2017 held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference organized by National Crafts Council, Govt of Sri Lanka	-	-	Yes	-	H.E. Maithripala Sirisena inaugurated the festival.	3000	-	31,765.00	-	Organized by the Government of Sri Lanka

2	6 October	The Hindi class students and teacher of the Centre organized Garba and Dandiya Night at the Centre	-	-	-	-	-	150	Publicity was given in local newspapers, electronic media, ICC monthly newsletter and ICC face book.	5082	-	-
3	12 October	Dussera by the Ladies Club of High Commission of India along with members of Indian Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,397.00	-	Collaboration with Ladies Club of high Commission
4	12 October	Screened Hindi film titled "Manjhi-The Mountain Man" directed by Ketan Mehta	-	-	-	-	-	60	Publicity was given in local newspapers, electronic media, ICC monthly newsletter and ICC face book.	-	-	-

5	18 October	The staff members and their families of the Mission and ICC celebrated Diwali	-	-	-	-	-	260	-	14,743.00	-	-
6	19 October	Students and teachers of Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated no cracker pollution free Deepavali	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-

7	20 October	Hindustani Violin and Vocal Orchestral performance by disciples of Dr. Somasiri Illesinghe	-	-	Yes	-	-	80	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	9,952.00	-	-
8	23 October	Mahatma Gandhi Oration - Amb. Nirupama Rao, Former Foreign Secretary of India and former High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka delivered Mahatma Gandhi Oration - "Mahatma Gandhi: The Ageless Life".	-	Yes	-	-	His excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India	170	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, invitations and ICC face book	47,433.00	-	In collaboration with Sri Lanka India Society and Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies

9	23-28 October	The workshops of the Asia Pacific Choir Games were held at the Centre	-	Yes	-	-	-.	Each session nearly 100 members	Publicity was given in, ICC monthly newsletter and through ICC, Colombo face book	-	-	Organized in collaboration Colombo Cultural Hub Trust and Interkulturel
10	25 October	Kathak Performance at Asia Pacific Choir Games by ICC students	-	Yes	-	-	-	1000	-	10,588.00	-	Organized in collaboration Colombo Cultural Hub Trust and Interkulturel
11	31 October	Celebrating National Unity Day-2017 - 142nd Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India was celebrated	-	-	-	-	Hon.Dr. Harsha de Silva, Deputy Minister of National Policy and Economic Affairs, Govt. of Sri Lanka and H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the High	100	Publicity was given in ICC monthly newsletter, and ICC face book.	30,922.00	-	Organized collaboration with GOPIO, Sri Lanka

**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of November 2017**

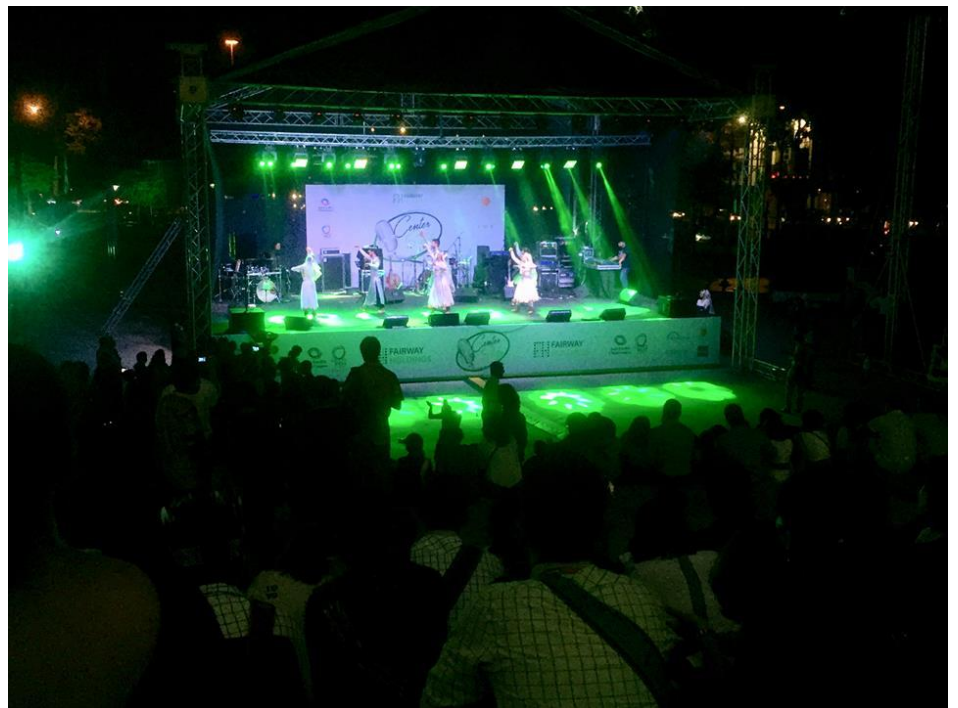
**1 November- Presentation of Hindi books to Sri
RahulaBalikaVidyalaya**

Indian Cultural Center donated Hindi books to Sri Rahula Balika Vidhyalaya, Malabe for the students learning Hindi in O and A level students where Hindi is being taught since last 7 years. Dr Shirin Qureshi, Long Term Hindi Chair distributed the books.



2 November-Kathak performance by ICC students at Asia Pacific Choir Games

Kathak students of ICC performed at the Centre Stage at Neelam Pokuna as a part of Asia Pacific Choir Games directed by ICC kathak teacher Ms Mokshya Samarasooriya. Around 1500 guests participated in this event.



10th November- Crafts revival in sri Lanka

Cane and metal workshop by Indian expert Mr. SonamTashi from Sikim with Sri Lankan artisans held at the Centre. The event was organized in collaboration with Hands of Sri Lanka – National Crafts Foundation. The workshop held from 10th to 23rd of November at the Centre.



11November- Celebrating Childrens' day – Shankar's International Children's Competition 2018

The Indian Cultural Centre celebrated children's day, which falls on November 14, coinciding with the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, by hosting a painting, drawing and essay writing competition for children on 11th November. Around 350 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. His Excellency Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner graced the occasion and interacted with the talented budding artists.

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 2018.







14 November- Artist Talk with Prof. JogenChowdhury

The Indian Cultural Center, Colombo in collaboration with Santiniketan Friends organized an interaction session and a Lecture on "Contemporary Indian Art" by world renowned Indian Painter Jogen Chowdhury from Santiniketan on 14th November at its auditorium . He shared his thoughts and experiences. He also presented a power point presentation of some of his works. The talk concluded with an interactive session. Around 75 guests participated.

JogenChowdhury is an eminent Indian painter of 21st century India. He is known for his ability to successfully marry traditional imagery with the zeitgeist of contemporary painting, in a skillful blend of an urbane self-awareness and a highly localized Bengali influence.



Punjabi Folk dance and music performance by troupe from Ministry of Culture, Government of India

17th November

Artistes from North Zone Cultural Centre, Punjab, India presented a vibrant and colorful Punjabi folk dance performance on 17th November at the Viharamaha Devi Open Air theatre.

Hon.S.B.Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment, welfare and Kandyan Heritage, MrsDissanayake, H.E. Taranjit Sigh Sandhu, High Commissioner inaugurated the event. Punjabi folk Dance and Music group sponsored by Dept. of Culture, Govt of India gave a thrilling colorful performance at the inaugural event which was much enjoyed by the Sri Lankan public. Around 600 guests attended the event.

19th November at Hall de Galle

The troupe also performed on 19th November 2017 at Hall De Galle. Mr. Tharaka Nanayakkara, Private Secretary to the Honorable Governor of Southern Province, Ms. Radha Venkatraman, Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy, Mr Wernon Perera, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural & Youth Affairs - Southern Province, Mr. A.U. Welarathne, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Industrial Development- Southern Province, Mr. GaminiWeerawickrama, Acting Chief Secretary- Southern Province, other local dignitaries including Principals/Vice Principals/teachers of leading schools in Galle and around 300 local residents participated in the event. The audience at Galle thoroughly enjoyed the rustic Punjabi Folk Dance & Music on display which included Bhangra and other dance forms integral to Punjab's culture and was accompanied by live singing in real folk tradition. The audience joined in with the artistes for a dance together at the end of the programme.

21st November at Pollonnaruwa

The Punjabi Folk Dance and Music group gave an enthralling performance at Polonnaruwa with gracious presence of Hon.Wasantha Senanayake, State Minister for Foreign Affairs. School children and public enjoyed jamming with Bhangra.





17th,18th& 19th November- UTSAV- a cultural extravaganza

Celebrating India@70, Indian cultural Centre organized a 3 day cultural festival from 17-19 Nov at ViharaMahadevi Open Air theatre. The festival was inaugurated with a colorful Punjabi folk dance and musical evening with the gracious presence of Hon.S.B.Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment, welfare and Kandyan Heritage, MrsDissanayake, H.E. Taranjit Sigh Sandhu, High Commissioner, H.E. Atul Keshap, US Ambassador and many other dignitaries. On 18-19 it showcased popular Indian culture through Yoga practise sessions, Panel Discussions on AYUSH, Indian cuisine and Cookery show, Antakshari and fashion shows by Hindi students, Bollywood Dance and Music show, Hindi movie shows,handicraft, jewelery and Mehndi stalls.The festival was attended by more than thousand of SL people and Indian Community strengthening people to people contact.

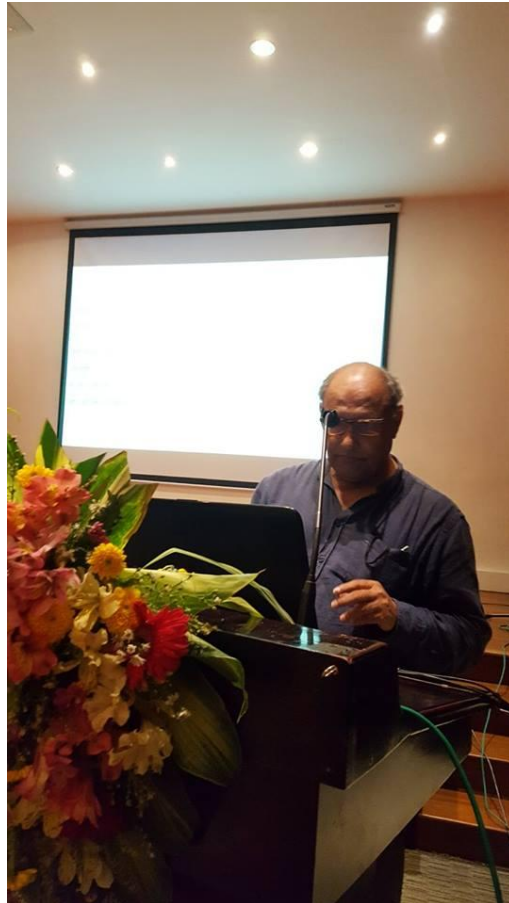






20th November – Workshop on spoken Hindi through e-learning

Dr. Vijay Malhotra, expert from India conducted a workshop on Spoken Hindi through E- Learning at the Centre on 20th November. Around 60 Hindi students and teachers from different institutions participated in the workshop.



22nd November – Lecture on Yoga

Dr. Manjunath Nandi Krishnamurthy, Director Research and International Affairs, S-VYASA University, Bangalore, India delivered a talk on Preserving Vitality through Yoga on 22 November. The lecture was organized in collaboration with Astanka Yoga Mandir & A.A.Y.U.S.H. Around 120 guests attended the lecture.



24th November- BharathaNatyam Recital

BharathaNatyam recital presented by "Nrithya Kala Rathna" Chinnamanur J. Krishna Kumara Bharatanatyam dancer from India captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. The programme which lasted an hour included the traditional repertoire of BharathaNatyam. Around 100 guests attended the recital.



25th November – Screening of documentary film “Heal”

Director Kelly Noonan Gores' documentary “HEAL” featuring Dr. Deepak Chopra, Dr Joe Dispenza, Anita Moorjani, Bruce Lipton, Marianne Williamson, Dr. Michael Beckwith, Gregg Braden, Anthony William the Medical Medium, Dr. Kelly Turner and many more, was screened at Indian Cultural Centre auditorium. The film takes us on a scientific and spiritual journey where we discover that our thoughts, beliefs, and emotions have a huge impact on our health and ability to heal. This film shows how a new understanding of the miraculous nature of the human body is an extraordinary healer within us all. Around 120 guests attend the screening. Event was organized in collaboration with Deva residency and A.A.Y.U.S.H



25th November – Lecture on Siddha medicine

Lecture on Siddha Medicine by Dr R.S. Ramaswamy, DG, Central Council Research in Siddha Medicine, Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India held on 26th November was organized at the ICC Auditorium in association with AYM and AAYUSH Sri Lanka. Around 120 guests attend the lecture.



**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of December 2017**

8 December- Uma – An evening of Kathak

Nrithya Visharadha Umesha Samarasooriya and her disciples along with the students of Leluma Kalayathanaya presented an evening of brilliant Kathak performance. The programme consisted of nine items which lasted for an hour. They commenced with a welcome dance and this was followed by Ganesha vandana, Pakeezah Tarana, A musical interlude on table and Violin, Tarana, Tarana in raag Malcounse, Tumri, classical item and concluded with Thaksath Tarana. The performance was very well received by the audience. Around 100 guests attended the performance





12 December- Sitar Recital by Yasindhu Devpahan Perera

Dev Pahan Perera, an ICCR scholarship holder captivated the audience with his Sitar performance. The programme last for an hour and half kept the audience spellbound. He was accompanied on Tabla by Vadya Nipun Peshala Manoj. He commenced with Madhuwanthi raag and improvised it and concluded with a Bhairavi raag Dhun. Around 120 guests attended the event.

Devpahan Perera has completed his Bachelor and Master of Music in Sitar at Banaras Hindu University, India and also has received Visharadha degree at Bathkande Sangeeth Vidyapita, Lucknow. He is currently serving as sitar teacher and conducting Bathkhande Music examinations at various parts of Sri Lanka. He has performed widely in many places in Sri Lanka.



15 December- Bharathanatyam recitals by Sahana Balasubramanya

Sahana one of the most promising young artists of today kept the audience spellbound with her brilliant performance. The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized her performance on 16 December at its auditorium. She commenced her performance with Trimatha Gowthwam and followed by Om Namo Narayana, Purantharathasa Kriti, Tulsidas Bhajan and concluded with a Thillana. Her performance which lasted for an hour was greatly appreciated by the audience.

Sahana has been trained at Ganesa Natyalaya, Delhi, under the able guidance of renowned Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan for twelve years in the Tanjavur style of Bharatanatyam. She is a senior dance faculty member at Ganesa Natyalaya and also a member of her guru's troupe and has danced at major festivals both in India and abroad. She has performed widely in India and abroad.



22 December- Sitar Recital by Ramprampanna Bhattacharya

Sitar virtuoso Ramprapanna Bhattacharya, worthy disciple of Arvindbhai, mesmerized the audience with his rendition. His style was a good blend of emotion and skill. Bhattacharya, who also holds a senior position in the IT sector, etched a brilliant profile of his guruji. Around 75 guests attended the performance.

Ramprapanna Bhattacharya is a next generation Sitar virtuoso, teacher and performer. He is representative of the younger generation of the famous Etawah Gharana. He was initiated to Sitar by his father Sri Ram Udar Bhattacharya and received intense guidance from eminent Gurus such as Sri Soumitra Lahiri, Late Pt. Kashinath Mukherjee and currently he is undertaking talim from Pt. Arvind Parikh.

