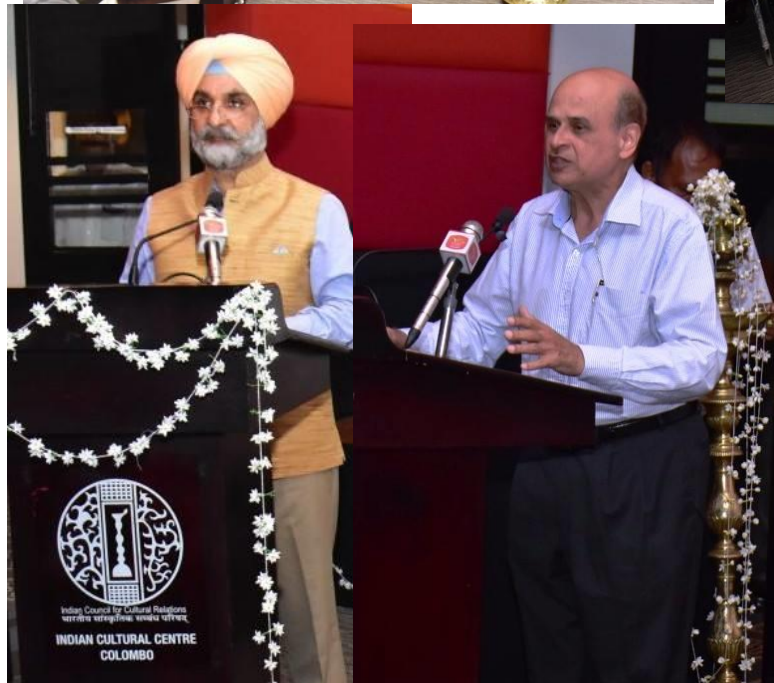


**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of January 2018**

10 January – Pravaasi Bharatiya Divas

Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas celebrated with great fervor in Sri Lanka. High Commission of India in Colombo organized a program in collaboration with GOPIO. New initiatives of Consular wing for Indian community announced.



10 January – Alok Dhara – World Hindi Day Celebrations

To mark the celebration of World Hindi Day on January 10, 2018, an innovative contest “**Alok Dhara**” was conducted by High Commission of India, Colombo. Under **Alok Dhara** an island-wide photography and short films competitions. The winners were awarded certificates and cash prizes. A Cultural event was organized by the Hindi students of the Centre to give away prizes and to launch its second edition of Sri Lanka Hindi Samachar. His Excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu graced the occasion as Chief Guest.





16 January Cultural Performance by ICC students at Ruhuna University, Matara

The students of the Centre presented a cultural performance on the occasion of Southern province best entrepreneur award ceremony held on 16th January at Ruhuna University, Matara. Around 1000 guests attended the event.



17 January Bollywood & Beyond by Dr. L. Subramaniam and renowned singer Kavita Krishnamurthy & ensemble

H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena, Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, a number of Ministers, Members of Parliament, senior officials and diplomats were among the dignitaries who participated in the special cultural event "Bollywood and Beyond" to jointly celebrate 70 years of independence of India and Sri Lanka, popularly termed as "India and Sri Lanka @ 70".

The event was organized by the High Commission of India in Colombo and featured an enthralling performance by Indian violin wizard Dr. L. Subramaniam and renowned Indian singer Kavita Krishnamurthy. The musical evening showcased the beautiful blending of Indian and Western classical music with popular Bollywood songs. The duo was joined by their immensely talented singer composer daughter Bindu Subramaniam. They were accompanied by eminent musicians Tanmoy Bose on Tabla, Frijo Francis and Sanjay Marathe on Keyboard, Alwyn Dominic Fernandes on Guitar, Keith Peters on Bass guitar, Prasad Kulkarni on Octopad and percussion and Satya Sai on Mridangam.

The BMICH auditorium was filled to capacity and more than 1500 music lovers appreciated the performances and melodies of the artistes. The event showcased the shared cultural ethos between India and Sri Lanka and is a reflection of the vibrant cultural connect between the people from both countries.

A special exhibition of musical instruments from both countries was also organized, which was appreciated by the attendees.

Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Taranjit Singh Sandhu recalled the sacrifices made by both countries to attain independence and the successful democratic journeys undertaken since then on the challenging path to socio-economic development. He also highlighted that close bonds between the two countries and reiterated India's continued development assistance to Sri Lanka in line with Sri Lanka's own priorities and requirements.

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka, Lanka Indian Oil Corporation, Jet Airways, India Sri Lanka Foundation, Taj Samudra and MTV MBC partnered for the event.







19th January – Bollywood Magic – Bhaag Milkha Baag

Indian Cultural Centre will be screened Hindi Film "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag" Friday 19 January the Centre . Around 60 guests attended the screening.

Bhaag Milkha Bhaag was released in 2013 is an Indian biographical sports drama directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra from a script written by Prasoon Joshi. The story is based on the life of Milkha Singh, an Indian athlete who was a national champion runner and an Olympian. The film is inspired by his autobiography, titled *The Race of My Life* co-written by Singh and his daughter, Sonia Sanwalka. The film is done with the background of the Partition of India in 1947 which caused chaos resulted in mass religious violence in Punjab in British India, killing the parents of Milkha Singh.

26 January – Cultural performance by ICC students at flag hoisting ceremony – India House

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented two dance items in Kathak and Bollywood style based on patriotic songs choreographed by Guru Moksha Samarasooriya at the flag hoisting ceremony held on 26th January on the occasion of 69th Republic Day of India at the India House.



27 & 28 January - Indian Street Food Festival

As continuation of 69th Republic Day Celebrations an Indian Food Festival was organized by India Sri Lanka Foundation and Fairway Colombo on 27-28 January 2018. High Commissioner Taranjit Singh Sandhu inaugurated the Festival. Indial Cultural Center, Colombo students enthralled the food connoisseurs with Bollywood performance. Around 5000





27 January - Cultural performance by ICC students at Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies

Hindi students of Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo performed Rajsthani folk dance at the language program inaugural ceremony at Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies on 27th January 2018



29 January - Visit of Indian Foreign Service Trainees to Indian Cultural Centre

2017 batch Indian Foreign Service officer trainees visited Indian Cultural Centre. The director of the Centre - Mrs. Rajashree behera explained the activities of the Centre it was followed by a short performance specially choreographed amalgamating Kandyan and Kathak showcasing the commonalities of the dance forms of India and Sri Lanka was presented by faculty of ICC and guest artists.



30 January - Sattriya - classical dance from Assam

Dr. Meernanda Barthakur, talented danseuse from Assam, India captivated the audience with her Sattriya performance. The Centre organized the Sattriya performance for the very first time in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Meernanda Barthakur is a noted Sattriya dancer of India and known for her unique style of presentation on the stage. She has been learning Sattriya from legendary Gurus Padmashree Pushpa Bhuyan and Padmashree Jatin Goswami from the tender age of 8 years.

An A grade artist of Prasar Bharati and an empanelled artist of ICCR, Govt of India, Meernanda has also proved herself in the field of theatre, as lead artist, earning laurels from the critics.

A fellow of Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, Meernanda has a number of treatises and articles to her credit. She has earned bountiful appreciation from the experts and critics alike for her lecture demonstrations in National Seminars organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, National School of drama, SPIC MACAY etc.

Undisputed as the most graceful dancer of Sattriya style, Meernanda is the proud recipient of the highest award under 35 yrs in India, The USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN YUVA PURASKAR, by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi in 2008. She has also received the prestigious 4th Devdasi National Award. As the director of Muktimangal, an institution of Sattriya and allied traditions, Meernanda has devoted herself in training young artists in the Sattriya style.





**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of February 2018**

7 February –Music Beyond Borders

Music Beyond Borders -celebrating India & Sri Lanka@70. Indian Cultural Centre partnered with Sri Lanka Symphony Orchestra to present a melodious musical evening. Members of Bombay Chamber Orchestra sponsored by ICCR, New Delhi collaborated with musicians from Sri Lanka to present a grand musical evening conducted by Viswa Subramanya from USA and eminent pianist Marialena Fernandes from India, attended by 750 music lovers .Prof Maithri Wickramasinghe, spouse of PM of Sri lanka, His Excellency ShriTaranjit Singh Sandhu , High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka graced the occasion.



7 February – Peace is my dream – A concert by Amb. Nirupama Rao

As a part of celebrating India and Sri Lanka@ 70 Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo presented Peace is my Dream- a unique concert by Amb. Nirupama Menon Rao as lead Singer along with Ms. Soundarie David Rodrigo in Piano and Mr. Nieranjan De Silva on Keyboard, bringing together musicians from India and Sri Lanka projecting unity through Music.

Prof. Maithri Wickramasinghe, wife of PM of Sri Lanka, H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India and many other dignitaries and music lovers graced the occasion and enjoyed the musical evening. Around 120 guests attended the event.



16 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 14th Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana, an annual Carnatic music festival paying homage to the great Carnatic music composer Thyagaraja, on 16th February 2018 at the Saraswathie Hall Colombo 04. Shri Arindam Bagchi, Deputy High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

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.

Musicians, vocalists as well as instrumentalists and percussionists from all over Sri Lanka rendered Pancharatna Keerthanas (five songs) of Thyagaraja on this occasion. The choral rendition of the five songs is an integral feature of the Aradhana. In this year's festival new feature "Thiyagaraja Narthanam" was added. Musicians from various institutes of Sri Lanka and India presented keerthanas as groups and for those keerthanas dance pieces were presented. This event was coordinated by Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan, carnatic vocal teacher at ICC.

Around 350 guests participated in this festival.





23 February – Friday matinee – Hindi Film – Jolly LLB

Indian Cultural Centre screened a National Award winning Hindi Film “**Jolly LLB**” on 23 February 2018 at auditorium. Jolly LLB is a 2013 Indian Hindi film (comedy) written and directed by Subhash Kapoor starring Arshad Warsi, Boman Irani, Saurabh Shukla and Amrita Rao in the lead roles. The storyline is inspired by real 1999 hit-and-run case. The film won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi and Saurabh Shukla won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor.

27 February - Lecture on Vaastu-Home Deco'r for prosperity

Mr. S.B.S. Surendran, Vaastu and Feng Sui expert from India delivered a lecture at the Centre titled "Home decor for Prosperity" followed by Q and A session. The event was graced by Mrs Ira Siripala de Silva, spouse of Hon. Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Arindam Bagchi and many other Vaastu enthusiasts.



**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of March 2018**

1st March-Holi Celebrations at Indian Cultrual Centre

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo celebrated Holi, festival of colors with dance, music and fun filled activities on Saturday 11th March with large public participation. The event was organized by the Hindi Class students of the Centre. The crew and actors of Sri Lankan Tamil film "Komaligal" also participated in the celebrations.



8 March - Celebrating International Women's Day - Hindi Feature Film - Mary Kom

To celebrate International Women's Day, Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo screened Hindi Feature Film "**Mary Kom**" at the Centre. Mary Kom is a 2014 Indian biographical sports film depicting Kom's journey of becoming a boxer to her victory at the 2008 World Boxing Championships in Ningbo. Priyanka Chopra won the Screen Award and the Producers Guild Film Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role in Mary Kom.


Celebrating International Women's Day
Mary Kom
Hindi feature film with English subtitles
(A biographical sketch of Indian Woman Boxer MC Mary Kom)
Directed by Omung Kumar
Cast: Priyanka Chopra, Darshan Kumar & Sumit Thapa
On Thursday 8th March 2018 at 3.00 p.m.
at Indian Cultural Centre
16/2, Gregory's road, Colombo 07
(Duration - 2 hrs)
Free entry.....All are cordially invited


march

14 March - Carnatic Vocal Recital by Dharshani Arulanandam from Sri Lanka

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Carnatic Vocal Music Recital by Dharshani Arulanandam on 14th March at the Centre. The recital which lasted an hour was very well enjoyed by the audience.

Dharshani Arulanandam has learnt Carnatic music under "Sangeetha Vidwan" "Sangeetha Rathnam" Guru Jegathambikai Krishnananthasivam, former lecturer of Music at Madras University and also under Guru "Kalabhooshanam" Sathyabama Rajalingam. She has performed Carnatic vocal solos in numerous platforms including performances in both state and private media, which include

Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation (SLBC), Netra TV/Eye Channel and Shakthi FM. Dharshani is scheduled to start her Master's degree in Carnatic music this year at the University of Annamalai, Chidambaram, India. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Colombo and also holds a postgraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Colombo.



16 March Suhana Safar - An evening of old Hindi songs by Lanka Bharathiya Arts & Cultural Foundation

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized A musical evening of old Hindi film songs sung by the all Sri Lankan singers of Lanka Bharathiya Arts & Cultural Foundation on 16th March at the Centre. The performance comprised of all time favourite Hindi film songs to peppy contemporary numbers which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre. Attorney General Mr. Jayanta Jayasurya along with bollywood song enthusiasts graced the occasion. Around 175 guests attended the performance.



19 March Curtain raiser event – IDY 2018

Lecture on Yoga – “Pranayama as therapy” by Manisha Singhania from India

As a curtain raiser to International Day of Yoga 2018, Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India Colombo in collaboration with AAYUSH, Sri Lanka and Astanka Yoga Mandir organized a Lecture-demonstration - “Pranayama as a therapy” by Manisha Singhania from India at the Centre. She spoke about the benefits of pranayama and how it can cure or prevent diseases. The session included practical demonstrations followed by question and answers sessions.

Manisha Singhania trained in Yoga Therapy from Yogarakshanam, Chennai, affiliated to International Yoga Society, has specialized in therapeutic yoga and yoga asanas with chants for the promotion of holistic health and for the prevention of specific diseases. She has received award from Nutrition and Natural Health Sciences Association for her work in Yoga Therapy. She has been conducting Yoga workshops for last 3 years at the India Club of Liechtenstein, as part of India Culture Week organized by Cultural Ministry of Liechtenstein.



23 March Lecture demonstration - "Shrishti"-Relationship of the one act dance drama with BharathaNatyam by Dr. SubashiniPathmanathan

Dr. Subashini Pathmanathan, eminent scholar and danseuse of Sri Lanka presented a lecture cum performance titled "Shrishti"-Relationship of the one act dance drama with BharathaNatyam.

SubashiniPathmanathan 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 Bharatanatya teacher since its inauguration in 1998.



Propagation of Hindi in Sri Lanka

18 March 2018

The Director of the Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera and the Long term Hindi Chair Dr. Shirin Qureshi attended the Holi celebrations organized by the Hindi Sansthan Kurunegala and presented Hindi Books and a set of tabla to the institute as a part of outreach activities of ICC propagating Hindi abroad. Hindi Sansthan Kurunegala has been involved in propagation of Hindi in Sri Lanka since last 18 years.



25 March 2018

The Director of the Centre Mrs. Rajashree Behera and the Long term Hindi Chair Dr. Shirin Quresh visited Hindi Niketan, Kottawa led by Mr. Sharangupt which is actively imparting lessons in Hindi and teaching Hindi film songs and Bollywood dance since last 25 years. Hindi books were presented to the library of the institute.



31 March 2018

The Long term Hindi Chair Dr. Shirin Qureshi visited Suhathra Bhoomi, Panadura, a Hindi teaching institute and presented Hindi books to the institute which will be of immense help to the students .



**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of April 2018 with photographic impressions**

6 April –Arterra – Terracotta jewellery making workshop

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo organized a terracotta jewellery workshop by Deepika Shami at the auditorium and lawns . The workshop gave an introduction to Terracotta Jewellery making covering the basics in types of clay, curing clay, molding, bead making, designer beads etc and other aspects of jewellery making such as firing techniques , tools , exotic terracotta designs, painting, findings and assembling jewellery.

Following a slide presentation a practical session was held where the participants were given hands-on experience. Several artisans from the Sri Lankan Handi Crafts Council as well as general public interested in this art form took part in the session.

Deepika Shami, is an Electronics engineer by qualification with a natural disposition towards fine art. After 20 years in Telecom industry, she is now full time engaged in pursuing her passion of making fine jewellery in Terracotta and wire weaving under Arterra Jewels. She has developed her own techniques in terracotta jewellery which she loves to share with those who are interested in learning about this beautiful wearable art form.





11 April – Bollywood special - Dangal

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo screened Hindi Feature Film "**Dangal**" (with English subtitles) at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 11 April 2018 .

Dangal is a 2016 Indian Biographical Hindi Film depicting Phogat family, telling the story of Mahavir Singh Phogat, an amateur wrestler, who trains his daughters Geeta Phogat and Babita Kumari to become India's first world-class female wrestlers. The film was directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Aamir Khan, under his studio Aamir Khan Productions with UTV Motion Pictures and Walt Disney Pictures India.

20 April –Samarpana – An Odissi recital by Buddhi Edirisinghe, ICCR scholar

Buddhi Edirisinghe captivated the audience with his brilliant Odissi performance. His performance included classical Odissi items and also as an experimental item he performed Odissi dance for well known Sinhala songs as well.

The performance was very well attended by renowned dancers and musicians of Sri Lanka including the legendary Sri Lankan dancer Vajira Chitrasingha and her dancer daughter Upeka Chitrasingha.

Buddhi started her Kandyan dance training at the Chitrasingha School of dance at a very tender age under the tutelage gurus Vajira Chitrasingha, Upeka Chitrasingha and Anjalika Chitrasingha and also learned low country dance under guru J D Gunathunga at the same dance school. She is also a well-trained kandyandrummer under the able guidance of Guru Jayawardana Amarasinghe and Guru K N S Atugoda.

Buddhi availed scholarship from Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Govt Of India to learn Odissi dance at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and got a Bachelor's degree. She continued her rigorous training in Odissi under eminent Gurus such as Guru Aloka Kanungo and Guru Sujata Mohapatra. She has been awarded "Kamarupa Award" for Odissi dance by the government of Assam, India and "Odissi Jyoti", by the Naveen Kalakar, Orissa.





24 April Avurudu - Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations

On 24th April the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized Avurudu- to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The event was organized by ICC teacher 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, Avurudu Queen & King competitions and many games and competitions. Around 100 students, teachers and members of public took part in the event.





27 April Celebrating Maestro Illaiyarajah – An evening of instrumental music by Soundari David Rodrigo & ensemble

Renowned pianist of Sri Lanka Soundari David Rodrigo & her ensemble payed a musical tribute to legendry music composers Padmavibhusan Illaiyaraja. The performance comprised of songs composed by mestro Illayaraja in the 80's. They played around 21songs which was very well received by the audience.

Soundarie David Rodrigo, began her musical career under the guidance of the legendary piano teacher Mary Billimoriaand Ramya De LiveraPerera, subsequently pursued her musical education further at the Royal College of Music in London. As a soloist, Soundarie has performed both locally and internationally with the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka, with the Bombay Chamber Orchestra and completed a series of solo performances in Washington DC for concerts commemorating Martin Luther King. Soundarie is the Founder and Music Director of Sri Lanka's premiere female ensemble 'Soul Sounds,' the first choir in Sri Lanka to perform and win awards internationally .She is also the Sri Lankan representative on the Council for Music Mundi—the International Organization that hosts several celebrated International Choral Festivals and Competitions. She was the Deputy Director at the SAARC Cultural Centre based in Sri Lanka for 6 years and is currently the Director, Programs for the Colombo Cultural Hub. Her awards include the SAARC Woman of Achievement Award, the Zonta Award, and the Bunka Award presented by the Japan/Sri Lanka Association.







Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
COLOMBO
SRI LANKA

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
AT THE
CENTRE DURING THE MONTH OF
MAY 2018

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**Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of May 2018 with photographic impressions**

2 May–Hindi Book Launch

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo supported the publication and release of the first ever Hindi translation of a Sinhala novel W.A.Silva's Kele Handa to Won ka Chand by Ms.Sarasi Ranasinghe, a young talented Sri Lankan Hindi scholar and visiting lecturer at University of Jayewardenepura.



5 & 6 May – KHS,Agra Hindi Examinations

The Hindi examinations were conducted by the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo on 5th & 6th May. Three examiners from KHS, Agra conducted a week along seminars at the Centre from 29th April to 4th May to prepare the students for the examinations. 275 students sat for the examinations in 2018.



7 May – Bharatha Natyam recital by Himanshu Srivastava

Himanshu Srivastava captivated the audience with his brilliant performance including a Rabindra Sangeet held on 7th May at the Centre as a part of Tagore Jayanti celebrations. Himanshu Srivastava is a Delhi based established Bharatanatyam dancer and an accomplished painter. He is a senior disciple of guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan and guru Smt. Rama Vaidyanathan. He is also trained in Odissi under Guru Chitrangada Jain.



8 May – Tagore Jayanti

To commemorate 157th Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore garlanding of the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore by His Excellency ShriTaranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India was held at the Main Library of University of Colombo in the presence of Senior Professor Sri LakshmanDissanayake, 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.



Curtain Raiser - 4th International Day of Yoga

Gearing up to the 4th International Day of Yoga, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, High Commission of India organized a country wide campaign "Yoga for Youth...Yoga for All" with an aim to educate the young minds about the usefulness of adopting Yoga as a part of life. Yoga instructors from eminent Yoga institutes of Sri Lanka travelled throughout the island to major Universities of Sri Lanka conducting Yoga lectures, workshops and demonstrations. The journey connected thousands of young minds, spreading the message of YOGA for well being. This programme was organised in collaboration with Sri Lanka such as Astanka Yoga Mandir, Sethsada Yoga Nikethanaya, Hatha Yoga Centre, AumKriyaBabaji Yoga Aranyam, National Youth Services Council Sri Lanka, Institute of Human Excellence, Brahma Kumari Raja Yoga Centre, The Art of Living, AAYUSH, Sri Lanka, My Yoga Lounge, SakthiAnand Yoga School (Batticaloa).

**HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
COLOMBO**

CURTAIN RAISER

4TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2018

Yoga for Youth... Yoga for All

9TH MAY
Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka
ANURADHAPURA

10TH MAY
University of Jaffna
JAFFNA

14TH MAY
University of Ruhuna
MATARA

18TH MAY
University of Sabaragamuwa
BELIHULOYA

21ST MAY
General Sir John Kotelawala
Defence University
RATMALANA

28TH MAY
University of Sri Jayawardenepura
NUGEGODA

Please join us in Celebrating 4th International Day of Yoga 2018 on Saturday 23rd June at Independence Square Park
Contact: 0112684698 | icccolombo2@gmail.com | facebook.com/IndianCulturalCentre | [Twitter.com/CultureColombo](https://twitter.com/CultureColombo)

SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Education, Religious, Development & Culture Affairs
Astanga Yoga Mandir
Institute of Human Excellence
The Art of Living
Sethsada and Paramahansa Yoga
AAYUSH
National Youth Services Council Sri Lanka
Aum Kriya Babaji Yoga Aranyam
Sakthi Anand Yoga School
Hatha Yoga Centre
My Yoga Lounge







16 May – BharathaNatyam Recital by Divya Ravi

Renowned Bharatha Natyam exponent Divya Ravi presented a captivating recital at the Centre. Her mastery in the art form was visible in her presentations and kept the audience spellbound.

Divya Ravi was initiated into Bharatanatyam at a very tender age and ably trained for 20 years under the guidance of Guru Dr. Soundarya Srivathsa. She had the privilege of being trained in her formative years under Gurus Karnataka Kalashree, Sri Kiran Subramanyam and Smt Sandhya Kiran as well. She has performed in many major national and international festivals



25 – 30 May – Colombo International Theatre Festival workshops

Colombo International theatre Festival conducted 5 days workshop at the 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 held at the Centre.



25 May – ICC students performed at the Award ceremony of Bandaranaike Centre for international Studies

The Bharatha Natyam students of the Centre performed at the Award ceremony of Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies. They presented a Bhangara and classical Bharatha Natyam performance.



28 May – ICC students performed at the Sri Lanka handicraft award Ceremony – Shilpa Abhimani

The Bharatha Natyam students of the Centre performed at the Sri Lanka handicraft award ceremony – Shilpa Abhimani. They presented a traditional Bharatha Natyam repertoire. His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



28 May – Kathak Recital

Dr. Tina Tambe and her disciples mesmerized the audience with their brilliant Kathak performance held at the Centre on 28th May. The nuances of Kathak were beautifully expressed with their performances.

Dr. Tina Tambe, one of the most accomplished kathak dancer from India, holds Nritya Alankar in Kathak from AkhilBhartiyaGandharvaMahavidyalayaMandal, Mumbai and Masters degree from Devi Ahilya University. She has also been conferred with Ph.D in dance.





Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
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**Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of June 2018 with photographic impressions**

6 June JugalBandhi – A duet Kathak Recital by VihangaRukshan and AmaNethmi, ICCR Scholars

Celebrating India and Sri Lanka@70 ICCR Scholars Ama Nethmi, HarshaSulochana&VihangaRukshan, trained in India by Dr. Mitul Sengupta, Rhythmosaic ,Kolkata, presented a splendid Kathak recital at the Centre. Ashan,Kavindu,Tharushi,Yasasmi,Binuki,Dinithi&Harsha students of the Centre and disciples of Nritya Nipun Moksha Samarasooriya also presented few items accompanied by live music rendition by renowned musicians of Sri Lanka Kasun on Guitar, Gayan on Tabla, Lahiru in vocals and Gihan on Sitar.

While studying at Rhythmosaic under ICCR scholarship ,both Vihanga and Ama participated in different international and national festivals and had opportunity to receive training from famous International Jazz Master Mr. JianinLoringett ofOff Jazz Academy, France, Mr. MohomedDirissi of Hong Kong Performing Academy, and many more.





8 June **Curtain Raiser IDY 2018 - Euphonic Yoga**

As a curtain raiser to 4th International Day of Yoga 2018, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre presented "Euphonic Yoga" an artistic arena of performing Arts led by Shruti Chathurlal Sharma and group from India on 8th June 2018 . The evening gave a surreal experience to the audience who gathered to witness this event. Shruti Chathurlal Sharma was accompanied by Taranpreet Kaur in Yoga, Srishti Amitaa Devi in vocal and Raudri Singh in Odissi.

Euphonic Yoga is a beautiful amalgamation of 'Yoga' with 'Indian Classical Music & Dance', bringing together the three performing arts on the same stage. It is a concept that vitalizes and activates the stream of energy system flowing inside the human body, otherwise known as the Chakra system.





**9-10 June Curtain Raiser to IDY 2018-
Yoga for wellness workshops conducted by Astanka Yoga Mandhir
and A.A.Y.U.S.H.**

Yoga for wellness a two day workshop in all three local languages(English,Sinhala, Tamil) was conducted as a curtain raiser event of IDY 2018 by Astanka Yoga Mandhir& A.A.Y.U.S.H. at the Center. The sessions were presented by experts from India, Sri Lanka,U.S.A., Russia & Iran. In total 35 presenters and 43 sessions was held. The sessions included Asana, pranayama and meditation practices.Hundreds of Yoga enthusiasts from all age groups participated.



9 June **Curtain Raiser to IDY 2018**
Yoga session at University of Moratuwa for
Road development Authority, Sri Lanka

As curtain raiser event of IDY 2018 the Centre conducted a special yogaprogramme for the staff members and officials of the Road development Authority, Government of Sri Lanka at their annual conference at the premises of university Moratuwa.



16June Curtain Raiser-IDY 2018
Yoga at National Youth Council, Govt. of Sri Lanka

As curtain raiser event of IDY 2018 the Centre conducted a special advanced yoga session at the programme organized by the national Youth Council, Magaragama Sri Lanka on 16th June



22 June Curtain Raiser to IDY 2018--Yoga for Children

On the eve of 4th International Day of Yoga celebrations the Children Hindi class students of Centre participated in a Yoga session conducted by Yoga expert and Hindi teachers.



23rd June - Mega celebrations held in Colombo for 4th International Day of Yoga

H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena and thousands of yoga enthusiasts celebrated International Day of Yoga at Independence Square in Colombo on June 23 despite rain. President practiced a number of yoga asanas and thanked yoga institutions in Sri Lanka for their excellent efforts. 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.

H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India, welcomed H.E. President. The Yoga celebrations started with a video message from Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. High Commissioner highlighted the global efforts led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to spread awareness about Yoga. "Yoga brings peace by combining the body, mind, spirit and soul. Yoga brings harmony in the family, society, nation and the world", he added. High Commissioner also underlined the interest of H.E. President in health issues and admired the continued whole hearted support of H.E. President and people of Sri Lanka for the healthy practice of Yoga.

The event was organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Government of Sri Lanka, and eminent Yoga institutes of Sri Lanka such as Astanka Yoga Mandir, Sethsada Yoga Nikethanaya, Hatha Yoga Centre, AumKriyaBabaji Yoga Aranyam, National Youth Services Council Sri Lanka, Institute of Human Excellence, Brahma Kumari Raja Yoga Centre, The Art of Living, AAYUSH, My Yoga Lounge, SakthiAnand Yoga School (Batticaloa).







29 June Hindi Vaarta

An interaction with Prof. Ram Mohan Pathak, Member-Rajbhasha Hindi Salahkar Samiti, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India with presence of Sri Arindam Bagchi, Acting High Commissioner. Members of Hindi Prachar Mitra Mandal of Sri Lanka, Heads of Dept, Hindi from different Universities, and teachers and students of Hindi teaching institutes of SL participated in the programme. The Hindi student and teachers of different Hindi institutes of Sri Lanka also presented popular Hindi film songs.







Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
COLOMBO
SRI LANKA

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
AT THE
CENTRE DURING THE MONTH OF
JULY 2018

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High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of July 2018 with photographic impressions**

3 July Dancing Storyteller – A lecture demonstration by Savitha Sastry

Renowned Bharatanatyam exponent from India Savitha Sastry did a lecture demonstration at the Centre with students of Aru Sri Art Theatre, Colombo sharing her experiences on how to appreciate the dance styles and choosing concept for choreography.

Savitha Sastry is amongst the most prominent names in the world of Bharatanatyam. Her lavishly mounted productions such as '*Soul Cages*', '*Yudh*', '*The Prophet*' and '*Chains*' have played across the world and have earned her the affectionate epithet of 'Dancing Storyteller' by the audience and the media.



8 July Dance drama - Sinhabahu

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre supported production of dance drama "The legends of Indian king Sinhabahu" at Lionel Wendt Theatre on 8th July 2018 by presented by talented under privileged children of ARPEGGIO, Sri Lanka an well known Dance company of Sri Lanka directed by Nilan Maligaspe



13 July An experimental journey to the world of music by Colombo Oriental Choir

Colombo Oriental Choir led by ICCR scholarship holders gave a musical treat to the audience gathered at the Centre on 13th July. They improvised on classical ragas and incorporated different genres of music such as bhajans, ghazals and hymns. The evening was very well enjoyed and appreciated by the audience.

Colombo Oriental Choir is an ensemble of young talented well trained Sri Lankan singers cum musicians led by Lahiru Gimahana Komangoda, Lipuri Lekanika Perera, Palinda Udawela Arachchi along with young talented singers Chanika Piyumali, Hemal Wahalathanthri, Isangi Shashikala, Lakme Dassanayake, Mudhushanka Gayashan, Madusha Chamari, Thamaransi Eranthika.

Colombo Oriental Choir is Sri Lanka's first and pioneer ensemble of singers which promotes classical, semi classical & folk musical genres which have been inherited from and strongly bonded to the oriental region of the world. Colombo Oriental Choir not only performs the pieces from authentic sources but also projects them to the audience in an experimental way.





18 July Violin recital by ICCR Scholar G.V.A.C. Nawanjali Silva

An ICCR scholar Nawanjali Silva presented a violin recital at the Centre did captivate the audience with her talent . Here recital commenced with an evening raga and continued with bhajans and other ragas.

Chamindira Nawanjali has completed Degree of Sangeet Nipun in 2015 from Nuwan Sri Megha Satharasinghe Indian Music Academy of Sri Lanka. Currently Chamindra is studying for final year BA music, Hindustani violin at Indira Kala Sangit Vishwa Vidyalaya, Khairagarh, India availing scholarship from Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Govt. of India.



22 July Guitar workshop by guitarist from India Mr. Aditya Gandhi

Aditiya Gandhi, young well known guitarist from India conducted a day guitar workshop at the Centre. Around 25 members participated in this workshop. This was organized in association with guitar association of Sri Lanka



25 July Orientation programme for Hindi scholarship students

An orientation programme was conducted by the Hindi teachers of SVCC for the 18 Hindi scholarship students from Sri Lanka who are selected for Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra for the year 2018-19 at the Centre.



25 July Hindi Students Interacting with High Commissioner

18 Sri Lankan Hindi students from all over the island being selected for scholarship to join Agra Hindi Sansthan for the year 2018-19, had a fruitful interaction with H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka before their departure for India



18 & 25 July- Yoga Workshop At Apeksha Cancer Hospital

SVCC, Colombo in collaboration with Astanka Yoga Mandhir, AAYUSH and Institute of Human Excellence, Yoga institutes of Sri Lanka conducted special yoga sessions at the Apeksha Cancer Hospital, Maharagama for the patients and staff of the hospital led by SVCC Yoga Teacher Mr. Vyasa Kalyanasundaram. The program was initiated and coordinated by Indira Cancer Trust led by Mrs Lanka Jayasuriya Dissanayaka.



26 July Kathak Recital – HoliKeRasiya by Theekshana Liyanage & Nirmani Oruwalage

ICCR Scholars Theekshana Liyanage & Nirmani Oruwalage presented a brilliant Kathak recital at the Centre. Their recital included classical as well as contemporary items. They also presented a dance drama entitled “HoliKerasiya” with their disciples of their own dancing school Kala Vihar Performing Arts Foundation.



30 July Meeting the students of CCIS, University of Colombo

An interaction programme with His Excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India and the students of Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo was held at the Centre in collaboration with CCIS.





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3 August Hindustani Vocal recital by Dr. Wijedasa Bandara, eminent Sri Lankan vocalist

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

Wijeyadasa Bandara holds a Master's Degree in Music from the Indira Kala SangeetViswavidhyalaya, Khairagarh. He also holds SangeetVisharad&Nipun Degree from BhatkhandeSangeetVidyapeeth, Lucknow. He is a retired music instructor of the Department of Education, Sri Lanka and an "A" grade artiste at the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Broad Casting Corporation.



4 August Tejasvini Kriya Series-Pranayama to manage stress

Shri Vyasah Kalyanasundaram, Yoga Therapist and Shobana Cooke, Homeopath (C.Hom) presented a lecture cum workshop titled Tejasvini Kriya Series – Pranayama to manage stress at the Centre. In the workshop various techniques for managing stress were explained and demonstrated.



5 August Performance by ICCR Scholars at SLIS Independence Day celebrations

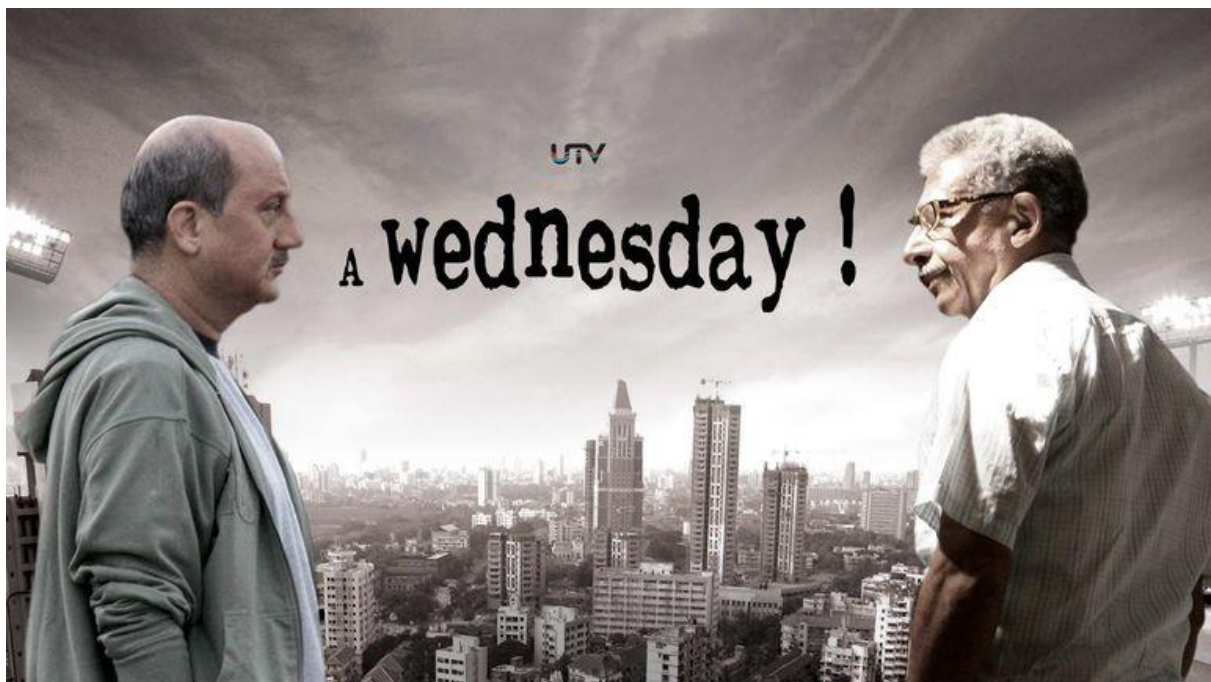
Colombo Oriental Choir led by ICCR Scholars performed on the occasion of Independence day celebrations by Sri Lanka – India Society held at Taj Samudra.



10 August Friday Matinee – A Wednesday

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo screened a Hindi film "**A Wednesday**" on Friday at the Centre's auditorium

A Wednesday! is a 2008 Indian thriller film written and directed by Neeraj Pandey starring Naseeruddin Shah and Anupam Kher. It was the inspiration for Tamil movie Unnaipol Oruvan, Telugu movie Eenadu with Kamal Hassan in the role played by Naseeruddin Shah in the original and Mohanlal and Daggubati Venkatesh playing the role acted by Anupam Kher in the original in Tamil and Telugu respectively, and also the Hollywood movie A Common Man.



15 August Performance by SVCC students at 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 and folk songs choreographed by Guru Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran at the flag hoisting ceremony held on 15 August at the India House.





**15 August Celebrating 71st Anniversary of India's Independence
with Bollywood singing icon Usha Uthup live in concert**

To celebrate 71st Anniversary of Independence of India and conclude ongoing India&SriLanka@70 HCI Colombo organized a performance 'Symphony of Freedom' by Usha Uthup & ensemble at BMICH Colombo. A special exhibition of 100 years of Indian Cinema was also organised in collaboration with @NFAI, India.

Hon. Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, former President Chandrika Bandarnaike-Kumarathunga, Culture Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe His Excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India, Deputy Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senior Government officials, celebrities, corporate gurus & college students enjoyed the unique evening. Jam packed BMICH auditorium was enthralled by Usha Uthup's powerful voice. Sang in local languages too!

This event was organized with the support of Ministry of Higher Education and Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Sri Lanka, Lanka Ashok Leyland, BMICH, Indigo airlines, Taj Samudra and India Sri Lanka Foundation.









31 August

**Book Launch - " Sri Lanka ek Bharathiya ki drishti se"
authored by Dr. Shirin ureshi**

SVCC launched a book titled " Sri Lanka ek Bharathiya ki drishti se" in Hindi written by Dr. Shirin Qureshi, Long Term Hindi Chair of. This is the first book in Hindi published in Sri Lanka which could be very useful as a guide book for the Indian tourist. Hindi professor Dr Lakshman Seneviratne, Deputy Vice Chancellor of University of Kelaniya, Dr. Indira Dassanayake, emeritus Hindi professor attended the event.





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7 September Film screening – Aravindante Athidhikal

Malayalam film title Aravindante Athidhikal was screened at SVCC on 7th September organized by Kerala Samaj, Colombo. *Aravindante Athidhikal* (English: *Aravindan's Guests*) is a 2018 Indian Malayalam-language drama film directed by M. Mohanan and produced by Pradeep Kumar Pathiyara and co-produced by Noble Babu Thomas under the studios Pathiyara Entertainments and Big Bang Entertainments, respectively. The film stars Vineeth Sreenivasan, Sreenivasan and Nikhila Vimal in the lead roles. Shaan Rahman composed the music and Swaroop Philip was the cinematographer. Urvashi and Shanthi Krishna plays other important roles.



**12 September BharathaNatyam performance by SVCC students at
Shilpa Abhimani - 2018**

The students of SVCC performed at the opening ceremony of ShilpaAbhimani – International handicraft exhibition 2018 on 12 September held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference organized by National Crafts Council, Govt of Sri Lanka where number of artisans from India participated. The dancers presented few BharathaNatyam items and were trained by Ms. ThivyaSujen. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High commissioner of India, Hon. Rishad Bahiuddin, Minister and several dignitaries attended the event. The performance were very well received and appreciated.



14 September Hindi Diwas - 2018
Hindi Pakhwada from 31st August to 14th September

Hindi Pakhwada was held at SVCC which included solo singing, group singing competition on 31st August, Slogan making on 1st September, Kavita Paath on 5th September and on 12th September Fancy dress, mono acting and Dhoha recitation competitions for children. Hindi Divas 2018 was celebrated on 14th September with great fanfare with Kendriya Hindi Sansthan certificate distribution, prize distribution to the winners of competitions and performances by Hindi students of the centre. The Deputy High Commissioner of India Dr. Shilpak Ambule graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



14 September Yoga programme for Staff members of the General Hospital in Hambantota

Yoga for wellbeing--SVCC,Colombo conducted a Yoga programme for the staff members of the General Hospital Hambantota in collaboration with Consulate General,Hambantota and Ashtanka Yoga Mandhir.



16 September Folk & Kathak performance by SVCC students at ShilpaAbhimani – 2018

Kathak students of the Indian Cultural Centre performed folk and Bollywood dances at the closing ceremony of Shilpa Abhimani – International handicraft exhibition 2018 on 15th September held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference organized by National Crafts Council, Govt of Sri Lanka where the artisans were awarded for their participation in the exhibition. The dancers were trained by ICC teacher Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya. The performances were very well received and appreciated.



21 September Friday Matinee – Chak de India

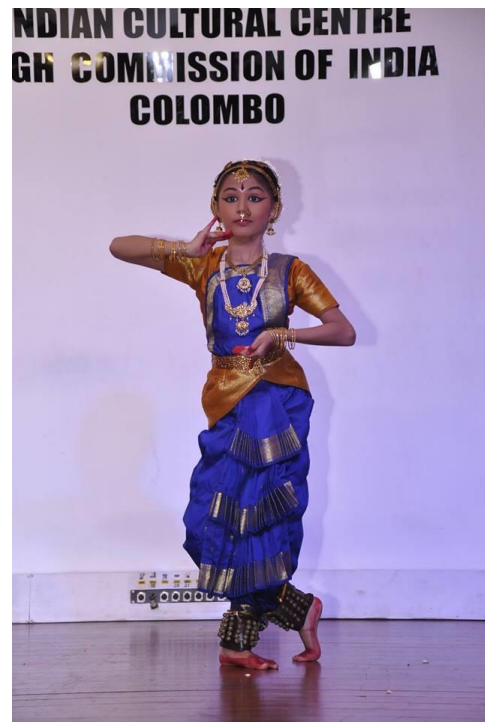
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo screened "Chak de India" a Shah Rukh Khan starrer sports action Hindi film (with English subtitles) on Friday 21st September at SVCC .

"Chak De India" is a 2007 Indian sports film, directed by Shimit Amin and produced by Aditya Chopra with a screenplay written by Jaideep Sahni, sports scenes choreographed by Rob Miller, and music by Salim–Sulaiman. It tells a fictional story about the Indian women's national field-hockey team which was inspired by the team's win at the 2002 Commonwealth Games. The film has bagged many awards including Filmfare Award for Best Actor, National Film Awards for Best Popular Film, IIFA Award for best film and many more. The film was also screened as a part of Independence Day Film festival in 2016 commemorating 70th Independence Day of India.



28 September **NarthanaVandhana – BharathaNatyam 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 Bharatanatya teacher since its inauguration in 1998. Around 75 guests attended the performance



29 September Cultural Performance by ICCR scholars and SVCC students at Hon. Speaker of Sri Lanka's official residence

Students and teachers of SVCC and ICCR scholars presented a cultural show including Kathak, folk dances, bollywood dances and semi classical songs for the handicap soldiers of Sri Lankan Army at the invitation from Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, speaker of SL parliament.



**5th, 12th, 19th
& 26th September Yoga programme for cancer patients at Maharagama**

SVCC, Colombo in collaboration with Astanka Yoga Mandhir conducted a special yoga programme for the cancer patients and staff members of the Maharagama Cancer Hospital "Äpksha" coordinated by Apekshya Cancer Trust. This programme helps in spreading the essence of Yoga which combines physical movements with our breathing and our thoughts. The instructors from SVCC and AYM are making patients aware of the fact that regular practice of Yoga results in multiple benefits and has been used in cancer management around the world and that evidence shows that yoga can be used in the management of pain and fatigue during cancer treatment.





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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
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2 October Commencement of 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi in Sri Lanka

Series of events were held on 2nd October to begin the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena held a special programme to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Presidential Secretariat. High Commission of India has created a special Video “Vaishnav Jana To”, a bhajan liked by Gandhi ji, sung by popular Sri Lankan artists – Bathiya, Santhush and Umara. The video was launched at the event by H.E. President Sirisena. H.E. High Commissioner Taranjit Singh Sandhu gifted a portrait of Gandhi ji to H.E. President Sirisena. H.E. President Sirisena thanked High Commissioner and announced that the Gandhiji's portrait would be permanently displayed at the President's office.

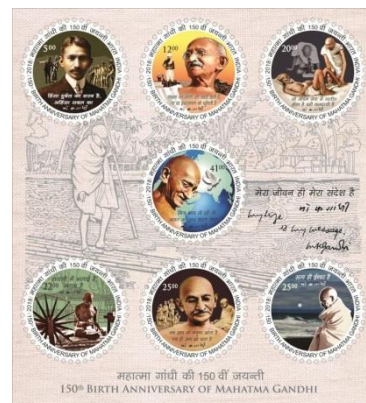
As a tribute to Gandhi ji, special commemorative postal stamps were released by Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at Temple Trees, the official residence of the Hon. PM.

Hon. Speaker Karu Jayasuriya launched a well-researched book in Sinhalese on Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Sri Lanka, written by veteran journalist Mr Sampath Bandara at a function held at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. ICCR scholars from Sri Lanka paid a special tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by singing the favorite bhajans of Gandhiji.

To mark the celebrations a special musical performance by the Violin Maestro Dr. L. Subramaniam and the National Leipaja Latvian Philharmonic Orchestra was held at NelumPokuna auditorium in the evening. The event was attended by Hon. Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Prof. Maithree Wickremesinghe, Hon Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, Hon. Leader of Opposition R Sampath, Governor Hemakumara Nanayakkara, and many other distinguished dignitaries from cultural, professional, academic and business areas. The event was organized in collaboration with ITC.

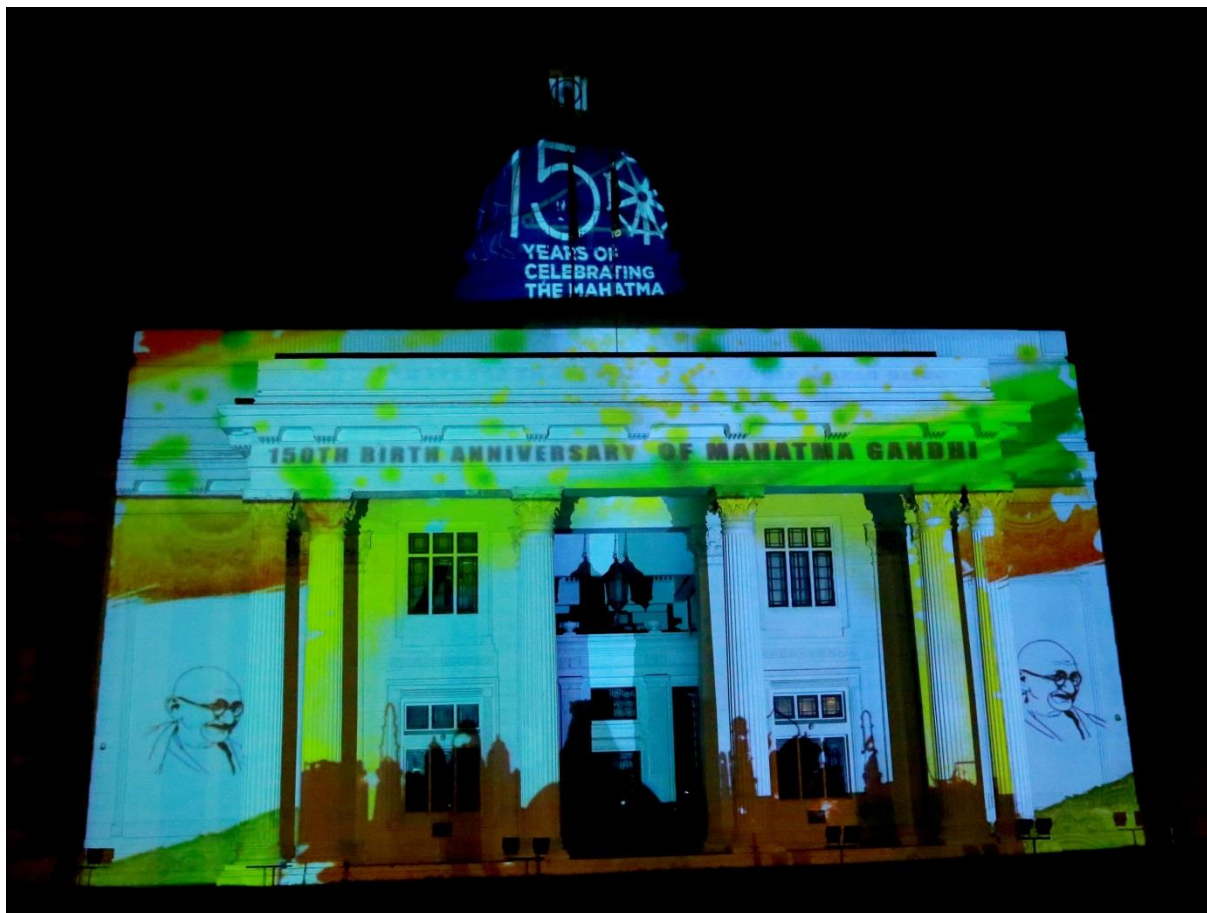
Iconic Colombo Municipal Town Hall was lit with special LED lights to showcase the special video made by Public Diplomacy Division of MEA containing special messages of Mahatma Gandhi through images.











5 October Flute n Feet – Blending of Indian classical art forms

Flute n feet an innovative concept, harmonious fusion of music and dance by immensely talented popular couple Vivek Krishna and Aranya Narain kept the audience spellbound. Each performance was tailored with well known compositions from Carnatic music to authentic Kalakshetrabani dance style. The performances were delightful to watch and catered both traditional and modern aficionados.

Aranya Narain is a very popular name in the field of Bharathanatyam and Vivek Krishna is one of the front ranking and in demand flautist from Bangalore. Aranya Narain hails from an artist family and dance flows in her blood very naturally. Her strong rhythm sense and traditional Kalakshetra style is amazing and beautiful. T. Vishwanathan is one of the most sought after percussionist amongst dancers.



9 October Sitar Recital by Dhrubajyoti Chakraborty

Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chakraborty presented a scintillating sitar recital at the Centre enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre. He provided several classical pieces and improvised it. He was accompanied on Tabla by SVCC Tabla teacher Ranga Perera.

Dhrubajyoti has received his training from great music stalwarts such as Prof. Sunil DevBurman, Prof. Santosh Kumar BandopaddhayUstad Ali Akbar Khan, Pundit Nikhil Banerjee, Pundit Dhrubatara Joshi.



12 October 150 years of celebrating the Mahatma Screening of Oscar Winning Film - Gandhi

As a part of ongoing 150 years of celebrating the Mahatma, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre screened Oscar Winning Film Gandhi (English) on Friday 12 October 2018 at its auditorium

Gandhi is a 1982 epic historical drama film based on the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the leader of India's non-violent, non-cooperative independence movement against British rule on India during the 20th century.

The film covers Gandhi's life from a defining moment in 1893 as he is thrown off a South African train for being in a whites-only compartment and concludes with his assassination and funeral in 1948. Although a practicing Hindu Gandhi's embracing of other faiths particularly Christianity and Islam is also depicted in the film.



16 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 75 guests from local Indian community, members of High Commission and local community attended the event.



17 October Hindustani Vocal recital by ICCR scholar Wageesha Ruwangee

An ICCR Scholar, Wageesha Ruwangee presented a Hindustani Vocal recital at the Centre. The programme was very well received by the audience gathered at the Centre

Wageesha Ruwangee holds a Master's Degree in Music from the VisvaBharati University, West Bengal availing a scholarship from Govt. of India. She also holds Sangeet Visharada from Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapeeth, Lucknow. Presently she is engaged in teaching Hindustani classical music at Preuni International School, Athulgiriya to share her talent and training in India among students in Sri Lanka .



26 October “Swachhta hi Seva”- An interactive session with students of Hindi Class

The Centre organized interactive session with students of Hindi Class as part of the ongoing 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Gandhi ji. The students presented poems and stories of Gandhi ji on the topic given. Dr. Monica Sharma, ICC Hindi teacher along with other Hindi teachers of the Centre conducted the programme.



31 October National Unity Day

The students, parents and teachers at SVCC,Colombo paid floral tribute to the Indians first Prime Deputy Minister SardarVallabhai Patel on his 143rd Birth Anniversary and watched the documentary film on life an works of the Iron Man of India with great enthusiasm.





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29th Oct to 2nd Nov 4th Edition of Ramayana Festival

The Centre facilitated a cultural troupe – Natya Kala Mandhir of Sri Lanka to perform on the occasion of 4th Edition of Ramayana Festival held from 29-31 October in New Delhi. The 10 member troupe performed on 29th at Kamini Auditorium, New Delhi on 31st in Ahmedabad and on 2nd November at Baroda. The troupe was very well received.



CINEMA ON TOUR-150 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA GANDHI

31 October, 4 November & 10 November

On the occasion of 150 years of celebrating the Mahatma, one of the most popular Oscar winning film Gandhi (in English) was screened all over island as a part of Cinema on Tour. The film was screened on 31st October at Swamy Vipulananda Institute, University Batticaloa with the participation of 161 viewers, 4th November at Hotel Princess Rose, Vavuniya Film Club, Vavuniya with 113 viewer and on 10th November 2018 Coop Inn, Women's Development Centre, Ampara with 183 viewers. The participants were from all walks of life.

This year, Cinema on Tour, an initiative by Goethe Institute partnered with the Swamy Vivekananda Cultural Centre, High Commission of India Colombo, Embassy of Switzerland, High Commission of Australia, Embassy of France and Alliance Francaise de Kotte present the second edition of the programme in 6 districts. The Swamy Vipulananda Institute, ChildFund Sri Lanka, Abhimana Organization, Vavuniya Film Club and several women's CBOs supported the initiative, while Agenda 14 coordinated the programme this year.

Batticaloa



Vavuniya



Ampara

CINEMA on TOUR 2018

VAVUNIYA
4th November

HOTEL PRINCESS ROSE
4th Lane, Kurumankadu
Vavuniya

10:00am
WHERE'S MY ROUTE
Sri Lanka / 13' / 2017

RED DOG
Australia / 92' / 2011

1:00pm
CHARISMA OF GOD
Sri Lanka / 14' / 2017

TIMM THALER
Germany / 100' / 2017

3:30pm
WALV
Sri Lanka / 5' / 2017

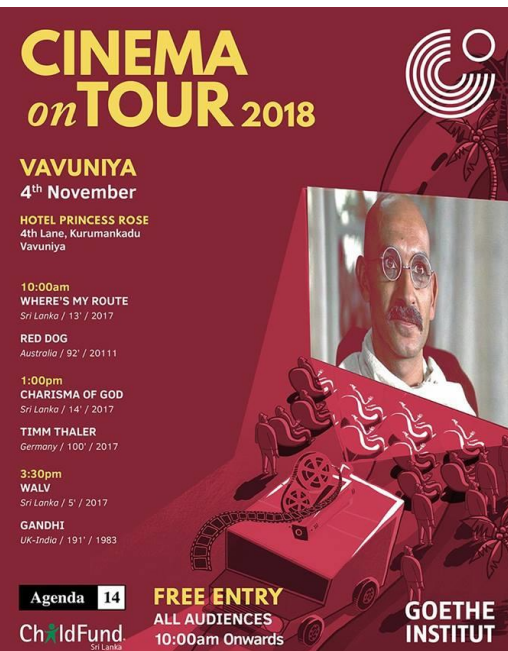
GANDHI
UK-India / 191' / 1983

Agenda 14

ChildFund
Sri Lanka

FREE ENTRY
ALL AUDIENCES
10:00am Onwards

GOETHE INSTITUT



3 & 5 November Diwali Celebrations

High Commission of India celebrated Diwali on 3rd November with music, dance food and fun with presence of H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner , officers, officials and local staff and family members.



Students and teachers of SVCC, Colombo celebrated Deepavali- festival of lights with lighting diyas,dance,music and ladoos connecting us all beyond boundaries. Following the traditional pooja the students presented few cultural items. Director of Russian Cultural Centre, Colombo Ms Anastasia Khoklova attended the event as Chief Guest.



9 November Friday Matinee – 1942 A Love Story

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre screened Bollywood film "1942:A Love Story"(Hindi with English subtitles) on Friday 9 November 2018 at its auditorium .1942: A Love Story is a 1994 patriotic romance film written by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra starring Anil Kapoor, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff, and Anupam Kher, . The film was highly acclaimed for its music, songs, picturization, cinematography, lyrics and received nine Filmfare Awards. Around 50 views attended the screening.



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1942
A LOVE STORY

*Friday Matinee
Screening of Bollywood Film*

*1942 A Love Story
(with English subtitles)*

*Directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra
Cast: Anil Kapoor & Manisha Koirala*

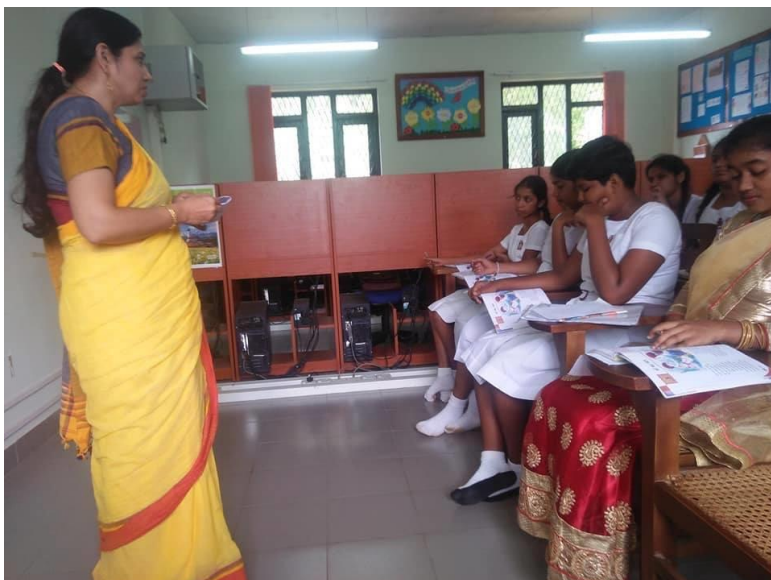
*at 3.00 p.m.
On Friday 9th November 2018
at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
16/2, Gregory's road, Colombo 07
(Duration – 2 hrs 37 mins)*

Free entry..All are cordially invited

Hindi Outreach activities

11 November

SVCC, Colombo Hindi Chair Dr Monica Sharma conducted one day workshop at Swarna Jayanti Maha Vidyalaya, Kegalle in Sabaragamuwa province of Sri Lanka for the Hindi students of the school as a part of our outreach activity and presented Hindi books to the students.



18 November Sadbhavna Walk at Kurunegala organized by Hindi Sansthan Kurunagala



15-22 November Bhasa Sadbhavana Divas with spoken Hindi Students



17 November at Shankar's International Children's Competition-2019

More than 500 young artistes from all over Sri Lanka expressed their talent beautifully through their art work and essays at the Shankar's International Competition organized by High Commission of India at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre on 17th November. As we celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who demonstrated, propagated and insisted on cleanliness for individual and community throughout his life, children painted and wrote essays on the topic "**Cleanliness is Godliness**" giving a clear message for a clean and healthy environment.

H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with the young talented artistes at this prestigious annual Shankar Art Competition. High Commissioner Sandhu expressed his happiness to see large participation in this annual event which is being organized by the Indian Cultural Centre since last 20 years. H.E. Sandhu requested teachers and parents to encourage their children to take part in such events in coming years which strengthens people to people contact between our countries and sent his best wishes for the people of Sri Lanka.







22 Guru Nanak Jayanti – 550th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

The High Commission of India commemorated 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji with a talk, documentary screening and soulful rendition of Kirtan/Ardas by Gyaniji from Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara, Colombo at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. His excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and several members of local Sikh community took part in this event. Mrs. Artika Aurora Bakshi delivered a talk on Guru Nanak ji



Yoga in Sri Lanka

4 November

SVCC conducted rejuvenating yoga & pranayama session at the Badulla Central College in Central Province attended by school students and staff with great enthusiasm organized by radio NethFM as a part as a part of You're a Leader Program. It is a CSR project.



7, 14, 21 & 28 November

SVCC, Colombo and Astanka Yoga Mandhir conducted a special yoga programme for the cancer patients and staff members of the Maharagama Cancer Hospital Āpksha. Evidence shows that yoga can be used in the management of pain and fatigue during cancer treatment and due to this the demand for yoga sessions has increased.



27 November

A special yoga programme was conducted by SVCC, Colombo at Gampaha Cancer Society at Green garden Hotel, Gampaha .





Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
COLOMBO
SRI LANKA

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
AT THE
CENTRE DURING THE MONTH OF
DECEMBER 2018

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**Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo**
Events of December 2018 with photographic impressions

5th December Hindustani Vocal Recital by Lipuri Lesanika Perera

LipuriLesanikaPerera an ICCR Scholar presented a brilliant Hindustani Vocal Recital at the Centre. The programme was very well received by the audience gathered at the Centre. LipuriLesanikaPerera did her Master's Degree in Music from the Indira Kala Sangeet University, Chhattisgarh availing a scholarship from Govt. of India. She also holds Sangeet Nipun diploma from Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapeeth, Lucknow. Lipuri was accompanied in tabla by PrakashSahu from India.



13th December Tabla recital by Prof. Mukund Narayan Bhale

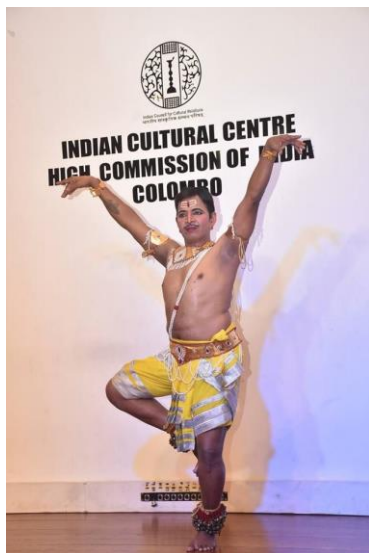
Prof. Mukund Narayan Bhale presented a memorable Tabla recital at the Centre. The programme commenced with a jugalbandhi by his disciples Jay Prakash Sahu from India and Dileepa Dhananjaya from Sri Lanka. Prof. Mukund's performance was organized by his Sri Lankan disciples in memory of his late wife Prof. Sunita Bhale. Prof. Bhale is serving at the Indira Kala Sangeet Mahavidyalaya as a professor in Tabla and Head of the Percussion department.



14th December Andhra Natyam

SVCC, Colombo organized Andhra Natyam by Ms. Chinmayi Arukalawith her Guru Kala Ratna Sri Perini Kumar showcasing Guru Shisya Parampara at the Centre. This was the very first performance of this art form that has held at the Centre. The audience got a glimpse this new art form for the very first time in Sri Lanka.

Guru Kala Ratna Sri Perini Kumar is one of the first disciples of Kalaprapoorna Late Sri Dr. Nataraja Rama Krishna Guru deva, who was the pioneer of both Kuchipudi and Andhra Natyam. Shri Perini Kumar have completed over 35 years of experience in the dance field and trained nearly 2000 students on Andhra Natyam and Perini Natyam. Chinmayi is trained at the institute of Dr Nataraja Ramakrishna under the eminent Gurus Sri Perini Kumar and Sri Kala Krishna. She has performed in many major dance festivals and programmes in USA and India.



15th December

**"Kitchen Chemistry – fruits and herbs for immunity "by
Dr. Vivian Sathiyaseelan**

Dr Vivian Sathiyaseelan, Head of the Department, Unit of Siddha Medicine, University of Jaffna delivered a lecture on the day to day impact of the use of Herbs, spices and vegetables on wellness according to the Siddha Medical system. Dr Vivian Sathiyaseelan has completed her B.S.M (Sri Lanka), M.D (India). The talk was organized in collaboration with A.A.Y.U.S.H, Sri Lanka and Astanka Yoga Mandhir.



15th December

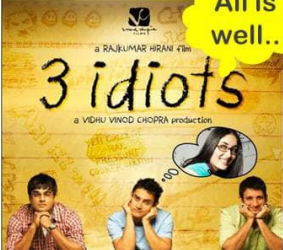
Vegetarian Food Festival celebrating Gandhi@150

A Vegetarian Food Festival with food fun and fiesta organized by Hindi students and teachers of SVCC, Colombo at the lawns. 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.



21st December Friday Matinee – 3 idiots

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre screened Bollywood film "3 idiots"(Hindi with English subtitles) on Friday 21st December 2018 at its auditorium .*3 Idiots* is a 2009 Indian coming-of-age comedy-drama film co-written (with Abhijat Joshi) and directed by Rajkumar Hirani. Starring Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Kareena Kapoor, Boman Irani and Omi Vaidya, the film follows the friendship of three students at an Indian engineering college and is a satire about the social pressures under an Indian education system. Around 60 views attended the screening.



The poster for the movie '3 Idiots' features the three main characters (Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan, and Sharman Joshi) at the bottom. Above them is the title '3 idiots' in a large, stylized font. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a subtle pattern. A yellow speech bubble with the text 'All is well..' is positioned near the top left of the poster.


Indian Council for Cultural Relations
स्वातंत्र्य संग्रहण, विदेशी सहायता

*Friday Matinee
Screening of Bollywood Film*

3 Idiots
(with English subtitles)

Directed by Rajkumar Hirani
Cast: Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Kareena Kapoor, Boman Irani & Omi Vaidya

at 3.00 p.m.
On Friday 21st December 2018
at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
16/2, Gregory's road, Colombo 07
(Duration – 2 hrs 36 mins)

Free entry... All are cordially invited

5,12& 19 December YOGA AT CANCER HOSPITAL

SVCC, Colombo and Astanka Yoga Mandhir continued with the special yoga programme for the cancer patients and staff members of the Maharagama Cancer Hospital Āpksha as a part of Yoga out-reach programme.

