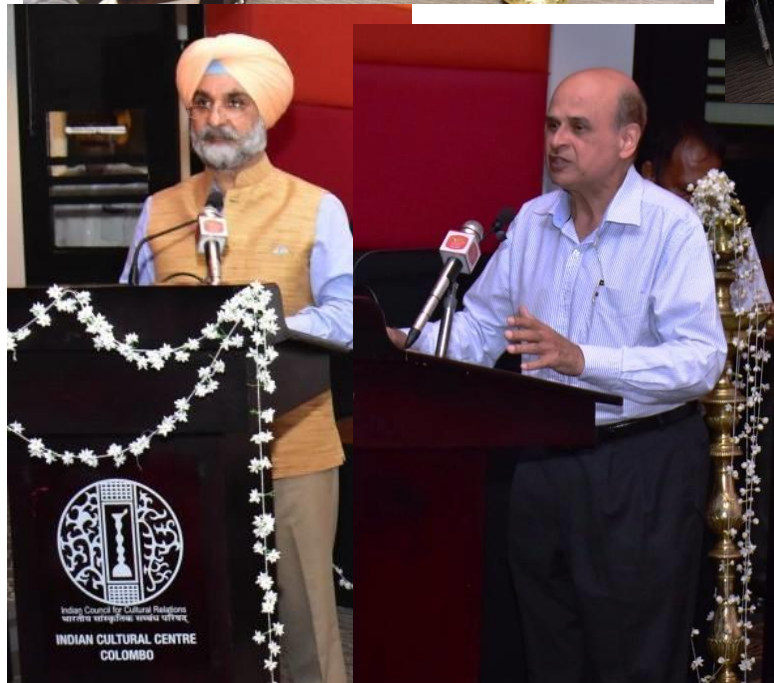


**Indian Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of January 2018**

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.



