

Indian Cultural Centre

Colombo

Activities held in the Month of February, 2012

8 February Maya Krishna Rao's Lecture cum Demonstration



The well known theater personality from India, Maya Krishna Rao conducted a Lecture cum Demonstration on "Contemporary Theatre Practice as influenced by Classical Tradition" at the auditorium of the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo. In her lecture cum demonstration she explained how the traditional dance form of Kathakali is helping her in all her contemporary productions. Here lecture was followed by a screening of one of her productions. Maya Krishna Rao is known for her solo as well as group creations. She has had training in Kathakali in Delhi and Kerala.





Photographic Exhibition "Islamic Monuments of India"
8-13 February 2012 at J.D.A Perera Gallery, Colombo 7





The exhibition titled "Islamic Monuments of India", curated by Dr. Neeru Misra consisting of 45 photographs of Mr. Benoy K. Behl and Abinav Atris was inaugurated on 8 February 2012 at J.D.A Perera Gallery, Colombo 7 by Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister for Justice. H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function. The other dignitaries who attended the inaugural function include Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha, MP, H.E Anwar Al Agaha, Ambassador of Palestine and Mr. Kumar Nadesan, Managing Director, Virakesari and several writers, painters and musicians. The inaugural function was attended by more than 80 people. The exhibition was on view from 9 to 13 February 2012 at the Gallery. More than 500 people visited during the six days of the exhibition.



Hon. Rauff Hakeem in his inaugural address appreciated the High Commission's initiative to bring the exhibition to Sri Lanka, which he said would help in creating greater understanding in Sri Lanka about the long history of Islam in India, its architectural beauty and its vividness. The Minister pointed out the diverse cultural elements in India and the role Islam played in making it robust. In his remarks, H.E Ashok K. Kantha, highlighted the spread of Islamic heritage in India from the 7th century AD onwards and its role in creating a syncretic culture, combining elements of local traditions, resulting in a rich architectural diversity.

23-25 February 2012 at Zahira College, Maradana, Colombo 10

The exhibition "Islamic Monuments of India" was again exhibited at Zahira College, Colombo also. It was inaugurated by H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India on 23 February 2012 at 3.30 pm. The exhibition has been organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in association with the Zahira College. Zahira College, one of the leading schools in Sri Lanka established in 1892 is celebrating 120 years. Zahira College had the privilege of hosting many great Indian leaders who visited Sri Lanka in yesteryears like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu and Dr. K.G. Seiydeen. The exhibition was on view on 24 and 25 February 2012.

10 February Odissi Dance Recital and Lecture cum Demonstration by Alpana Nayak



Indian Culture Centre, Colombo in association with the University of Visual and Performing Arts organized an Odissi dance recital of Alpana Nayak from India at the auditorium of University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo 7.



Alpana Nayak presented Odissi dance solo in the classical style that was embellished by her gurus late Guru Deva Prasad Das and Guru Sudhakar Sahoo. She has enriched her Odissi style under Guru Hare Krishna Bahera. She takes special care to train Odissi dance to specially gifted children (physically and mentally challenged) in Indian classical and folk dance forms for their holistic development in the society. Alpana Nayak also conducted a Lecture cum Demonstration of Odissi dance at the University of Visual and Performing Arts.

17 February Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Hindu Educational Society organized its annual event "Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana" – Carnatic Music Festival on 17 February at the Saraswathi Hall, Bambalapitiya. Musicians from various parts of the Island gathered at the Centre to sing as a chorus to pay homage to the great composer and musician. As per the tradition they sang the Pancharatna Kritis of Thyagaraja. The event provided a chance to the Carnatic musicians of Sri Lanka to come together and exchange ideas on music. Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Renganathan conducted and coordinated the music festival.







23 - 25 February Photographic Exhibition “Islamic Monuments of India”

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an exhibition of photographs of Benoy Behl and Abhinav Atris titled “Islamic Monuments of India” at the Zahira College, Maradana, Colombo. His Excellency Ashok K.Kantha inaugurated the exhibition. Several dignitaries, students of Zahira College, others schools and general public viewed the exhibition.