

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities held in the month of January, 2012

Artist Rabindranath Tagore – Digital copies of Tagore Paintings

To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Indian Cultural Centre organized %Artist Rabindranath Tagore+ that features the facsimile copies of Tagore paintings from the collection of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and the exhibition titled Pilgrimages to the East comprising photographs showing the travels of Tagore to eastern countries including Ceylon (Sri Lank) at Hambantota and Kandy in association with Assitant High Commission of India, Kandy and Consulate General of India, Hambantota..

Hambantota 5 – 7 January

The Exhibition was held from 5 . 7 January 2012, at the Mahanaga Hall, Hambantota. It was inaugurated by Mr. R.M.D.B Meegusmulla, District Secretary, Hambantota. About 200 people witnessed the exhibition.

Kandy 17 – 19 January

In Kandy the Exhibition was held from 17 . 19 January 2012, 2011 At E.L Senanayake Childrens Library Auditorium. It was inaugurated by His Worship Tushantha Mahendra Ratwatte, Mayor of Kandy. The local dignitaries who are based in Kandy had also visited the exhibition that included the Chief Custodian of Sri Dalda Maligawa (Tooth Relic Temple). The inaugural function was attended by 100 people. During these three days, between 350 and 400 people had visited the exhibition. Children from many schools had visited the exhibition.

9th January 2012 Talk on wild life "Tigers in the wild"– by Mr. Valmik Thapar

The Indian Cultural centre, Colombo in association with Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies and Ruk Rakaganno organized a slide lecture titled %Tigers in the wild%by Mr. Valmik Thapar on Monday 9 January 2011 at BCIS auditorium, BMICH, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 at 6.30 p.m. Valmik Thapar, an Indian natural historian and a wild life documentary film maker and author of 14 books and several articles talk on the characteristic habits of Tigers and the methodology and approach to preserve them. He had also presented movie clips of Tigers that he captured in this explorations.





10 January World Hindi Day

The Indian Cultural Centre organized the World Hindi Day Celebrations on 10 January 2012 in a grand scale, as Sri Lanka has a huge population of Hindi lovers and lots of students are studying Hindi. The Centre involved the other institutions that teach Hindi in Sri Lanka in the celebrations. Around 15 institutions in Sri Lanka participated in the event. Some of the institutions participated were Hindi Niketan, Samudra Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Galle,



Special event organized by the Indian Cultural Centre on 10th January 2012 at the New Town Hall, Colombo was very well attended. As part of the celebrations, the Centre organised competitions in poetry, speech, essay writing, reading, copy writing and skits for students learning Hindi. During the event Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's message on the occasion of the World Hindi Day 2012 was read. Participants presented a cultural programmes including performances of Bharathanatyam, modern dances, Folk dances and rendition of ghazals and Hindi songs. The winners in different categories of competitions were awarded prizes. More than 350 students participated in the competition.







Rhythm and Sound – Contemporary Dance Performances by Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company

Galle

The dance troupe Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company sponsored by ICCR to visit Sri Lanka in connection with the Indian Republic day celebrations had its first performance in Galle on 21st January, 2012. The programme in Galle was in conjunction with Galle Literary Festival. Mr. Parakrama Dahanayake, Chairman of the Galle Heritage Foundation was the Chief Guest. The event was held at the Halle de Galle and the 500 capacity auditorium was full. About 100 literary festival participants also attended the performance. The Consulate General of India, Hambantota and Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo made necessary arrangements for the troupe and for the performers.

Kandy

In Kandy the performance of Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company was held at Hindu Cultural Hall, Kandy on 23.1.2012. Rev. Udawatha Nanda Thero, former MP was the Chief Guest. Mr. Lakshman Dharmapriya, Secretary, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), Mr. Jayarathna Dissanayake, Member of Central Provincial Council and Brg. K.C Gunawardane, 11 Div.Commander, were guests of Honour. The programme was great success which was appreciated by all. Around 550 people witnessed the dance performance. The artists were also very much impressed with auditorium and other arrangements made by the AHCI, Kandy and Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

Colombo



To commemorate India's 63rd Republic Day, reputed danseuse Aditi Mangaldas and her troupe, presented 'Rhythm and Sound', a contemporary Kathak performance at Bishop's College Auditorium on 25th January 2012. Hon. Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy, Government of Sri Lanka lit the ceremonial lamp as the Chief Guest. **H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function.** The other distinguished guests who honoured the function were Mr. Nandimithra Ekanayake, Deputy Minister of Education and Mr. M.T Hasen Ali MP, Secretary General, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress.



The visit of the 12 member troupe to Colombo was sponsored by the Indian Culture for Cultural Relations, **New Delhi. The performance was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with** the Ministry of Culture of Sri Lanka who provided a nominal financial support and they also arranged the local transportation for the troupe.

Prior to the arrival of dance drama troupe, the Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and televisions, printed 2500 invitation cards and 2500 Flyers, emailed to more than 4000 email ids and gave advertisement in three languages (English, Tamil, Sinhala) to publicize the event. The performance was attended by Members of Parliament, diplomatic community, eminent personalities from the field of art and culture, civil society, media and other distinguished guests. The attendance of the audience was 700. The performance was well received by the audience.







H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presented a gift to the Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy on the occasion. The artistes were honored by souvenirs by Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy.

Indian House

Aditi Mangaldas and her troupe presented a short performance at India House on 26.1.2012. Hon. Rathnasiri Wickramanayake, Senior Minister was the Chief Guest. Around 800 guests attended the programme.

Jaffna

In Jaffna the performance was held at Kailasapathy Hall, Jaffna on 28.1.2012. Prof. Vasanthi Arasarathnam, University of Jaffna was the Chief Guest. The programme was appreciated by the audience, that of appropriate 200 people.

Lecture cum Demonstration

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak Workshop by Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company **at University of Visual and Performing Arts on 30 January 2012.** Prof. Jayasena Kottegoda, Vice Chancellor, University of Visual and Performing Arts was the Chief Guest. **Kathak teachers and around 60 students from the University of Visual and Performing Arts and Indian Cultural Centre participated in this workshop.**





30 January 2012 Martyrs' Day Photo Exhibition on Gandhi, Bhajans and Film

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo paid homage to the great soul Mahatma Gandhi with a photographic exhibition on Gandhi and by singing his favourite bhajans on the Martyrs' Day at the J.D.A.Perera Gallery, 46, Horton Place, Colombo 03 at 5.30 p.m. The bhajans will be presented by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre and it was followed by screening of the film Gandhi by Richard Attenborough.



