

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities January 2013

7 January Bharatha Natyam Dance recital by Ganna Smirnova

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized a Bharata Natyam Dance programme by Ganna Smirnova, well known Bharata Natyam exponents from Ukraine at its auditorium.

Ganna Smirnova did her Post Graduate Diploma in Indian Classical Dance (Bharata Natyam) with the ICCR Scholarship from Triveni Kala Sangam under the legendary Guru Jayalakshmi Eswar 1998-2003 and empanelled as an artiste by ICCR since 2004. She is a teacher of Indian classical Dance and Yoga in the Department of Arts and Aesthetic Education in the T.G. Shevchenko National University since 2004 onwards.

Ganna's dance recital commenced with Pushpanjalai and followed by Brahma Kautuvum, Devi Mangalam, Meera Bhajan and concluded with Thillana. Around 75 guests attended the event.





10 January World Hindi day Celebrations

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated World Hindi Day 10 January 2013 with colourful cultural performances and holding a special conference on the subject "The influence of Hindi in Sri Lanka". Mr. P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India was the Chief Guest. Prof. Indra Dassanayake, a well known Hindi literary personality and former Professor of Hindi, University of Kelaniya, Prof. Lakshman Senevirathna, well known Hindi Professor at University of Kelaniya and Mrs. Nilanthi Rajapakse, Lecturer in Hindi at University of Jayewardenepura participated in the conference and made presentations on the Influence of Hindi in Sri Lanka as well as elucidated the emergence of Hindi as a world language.

Prof. Indra Dissanayake recalled her experiences while participating in the World Hindi Conference at Nagpur in 1975 where Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India announced the decision of making January 10 as a World Hindi Day. She underlined the need of teaching Hindi and providing accessibility to more books in Hindi in the field of humanities and culture in Sri Lanka as well as the necessity of more and more translation of literary works from Hindi to Sinhala.

Prof. Lakshman Senevirathna illustrated the need of corrective measures to be taken while teaching Hindi to the Sri Lankan students giving examples from the phonetic systems of the both the languages. He also exemplified the errors that commonly occur to Sri Lankans while they speak Hindi. In his presentation he stressed the necessity of teaching *Manak* (standard) Hindi so that the standardization of Hindi as living language in various parts of the world can happen.

Mrs. Nilanthi Rajapaksa illustrated the age-long cultural relationship of Sri Lanka with India and the development of teaching Hindi in Sri Lanka since 1965. She spoke about the influence of Hindi happened through the Bollywood films and music. She highlighted the need of commencing Post-graduate classes in Hindi in Sri Lankan Universities so that the relationship between the countries will become more cordial.

Listening to the points raised by the scholars in Hindi Mr. P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India informed the audience that the Indian Cultural Centre will be soon commencing its Language Lab and the students of Hindi

can make use of this new facility in the Cultural Centre for developing their skills in correct pronunciation of Hindi.

The students of the Centre made presentations of Hindi songs, dances and skits. 297 students received certificates and prizes for their participation in the Hindi Examination conducted by Centre and for the competitions held as part of the Hindi Diwas 2012. The Centre conducted competitions such as poetry, essay, poetry recital and reading, Hindi speech and singing.





11 January Hindustani Vocal and Violin Recital by Dr. Himanshu Vishwaroop & Mr. Manas Himanshu Vishwaroop

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized a Hindustani Vocal and Violin Recital by Dr. Himanshu Vishwaroop & Mr. Manas Himanshu Vishwaroop, eminent musicians from India on 11 January 2013 at its auditorium.

Born in a cultured and a knowledgably reputed family at Gwalior, which was and has always been the very cradle of Gwalior Gharana of Indian Classical Music, Dr. Himanshu had learnt violin from no less and illustrious Guru than Late Pt. Keshavrao (Dada) Surange for 20 years. He also had the guidance from Pt. Bimlendu Mukharjee & Late Padmashree Ustad Abdul Latif Khan.

His son and disciple Manas inculcated musical instincts very early under the tutelage of his parents, Dr Himanshu Vishwaroop (Violin Scholar and Reader, Bhatkhande University) & Prof. Dr. Veena Vishwaroop (Vocal Dept., Indira Kala Sangeet University and later by Pt. Babanrao Haldankar, renowned musicologist & vocalist of the Agra Gharana, under the guidance of whom Manas is still continuing his quest for musical excellence.

Their dazzling display of rhythmic wizardry was very much appreciated by one and all. The performance proved to be a marvelous exposition of music in true Indian Tradition. The audience numbering 85 comprising of musicians, teachers, students and music enthusiasts were fascinated by their performance.







18 January Screening of Malayalam Film “Kutty Srank” at Indian Cultural Centre

Indian Cultural Centre screened one of the most popular Malayalam Films “Kutty Srank” directed by Shaji N Karun on Friday 18 January 2013 at its auditorium. The Sri Lankan actress Meena Kumari Perera, who plays a major role in the film, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

The film features the South Indian Super Star Mammooty, Padmapriya, Kamalini Mukherjee and Meena Kumari Perera. In the 57th National Film Awards of India “Kutty Srank” emerged the biggest winner with five awards: for Best Film, for Best Screenplay for Best Cinematography for Best Costume Design and Special Jury Award for Editing. Premiered in the Montreal World Film Festival, 2009 the “Kutty Srank” was screened in major International Film Festivals such as Pusan International Film Festival 2009, Mumbai International Film Festival 2009, International Film Festival of India 2009, and Dubai International Film Festival 2009. Around 105 guests attended the event.



26 January Cultural show presented by the Indian Cultural Centre at India House

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented a Patriotic song performances and a dance recital on the occasion of 64 Republic Day Celebration flag hoisting ceremony at India House.





23 January – 2 February Kalarippayattu on the occasion of the 64th Republic Day of India

Celebrating the 64th Republic day celebrations of India the Madhava Madam CVN Kalari, the Kalarippayattu troupe led by R. Ramachandran Nair performed the vigorous martial art form at the Lionel Wendt Auditorium on 25 January 2013. Kalarippayattu, one of the oldest living traditions of martial training in the world that rooted in *Dhanurved* has a ritualistic and spiritual process of learning. This martial training of the ancient warfare system has very strict rules, and winning over the opponent should be according to the principles laid down by the masters of the art. The CVN Kalari Sangam followed the strict tradition of Kalarippayattu in their performance that lasted for 70 minutes. H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India, Sunimal Fernando, Advisor to the President,

Ananda Sankari, former MP, and P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India lit the ceremonial oil lamp on the occasion.

The very first item of the performance was the traditional salutation to the gods of Kalari by the entire troupe members. It was followed by the graded series of exercises starting from the exercises of legs in an unbelievable speed, and body control exercises of various methods that help each competent deep concentration and watchfulness against the opponents and a perfect a neuro-muscular coordination.

The performances of Short Staff and Dagger generated awe among the audience for the rapid movements and precision as well as the imminent danger in using the weapons. Gada another of the traditional weapons that used by people of large structure and great muscular strength in ancient times was used by the two of the performers with great dexterity. The kicking of ball was of another of the items that captured the attention of the audience due to the performer's ability to jump in a height and kick the ball effortlessly. There were also traditional numbers that mesmerized the viewers such as the use of Sword, Shield, Spear and Urumi, the flexible long sword. The use of long sword, Urumi, one of the most fatal weapons in Kalarippayattu, exemplified the agility, deep concentration and dexterity of the members of the troupe in using the weapons.

The troupe consisted of R. Ramachandran Nair, Gowthaman, Venugopalan Nair, Padmakumar, Anil Kumar, Anil Kumar Muthaiah and Karthikaya Kuruppe was deputed by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi. The Ministry of Culture and the Arts, Government of Sri Lanka hosted the performances of the troupe in Colombo. The troupe will be performing in Kandy as well as in Jaffna. IRCON, Lanka IOC, State Bank of India, LIC (Lanka) also supported the event. The performance in Colombo had an overwhelming response from the public and the performances held in front of a packed audience.

India House

The Madhava Madam CVN Kalari, the Kalarippayattu troupe led by R. Ramachandran Nair presented a short performance at India House on 26.1.2013. The performance was ten minutes long and it was part of the reception hosted by the High Commissioner on the occasion of the Republic Day 2013. Hon'ble Ratnasiri Wickremanayake, Senior Minister of Good Governance & Infrastructure, Government of Sri Lanka, Ms. Chandrika Kumarathunga, Former President of Sri Lanka, and a number of Ministers including Senior Minister A.H.M.Fowzi, Minister of Railways and Transport & Petroleum and Petroleum Resources, Members of Parliament, eminent personalities from the felids of art, culture, business, media and civil society

attended the reception along with prominent members of the Indian business community.

Assistant High Commission, Kandy

On the occasion of 64th Republic day, ICCR, New Delhi had sponsored an eight-member Kalarippayattu troupe, led by Shri Ramachandran Nair, to Sri Lanka from 23rd January - 2nd February 2013. During their stay in Sri Lanka, the troupe had also visited Kandy and gave a performance in Kandy on January 28, 2013. The Governor of North-Western Province (Wayamba) Tissa Ballale and Mrs. Ballale; Mrs. Anushia Shivaraja, Minister for Tamil Education and Social Affairs; Chief Secretary of Central Province were among the prominent and eminent personalities attended the programme.

Consulate General of India, Jaffna

The ICCR 'Kalarippayattu' Cultural troupe led by Guru Ramachandran Nair staged its performance on January 31, 2013 at Veerasingam Hall in Jaffna. Some of the noted persons who attended the event were the Major General Mahinda Hathurusinghe, Security Forces Commander in Jaffna and Mayor of Jaffna. Close to 300 persons attended the event.













