

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities - January, 2014

3 – 7 January

My Passion with Colours – an exhibition of paintings by Meena Passy and Photographic exhibition of Rajat Passy

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo organized a Photographic Exhibition by Rajat Passy and Painting Exhibition by Meena Passy at the Indian Cultural Centre from 4 to 7 January 2014. The inauguration was held on 3rd January 2014. Chandragupta Thenuwara, renowned artist, has graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Around 12 paintings of Meena Passy and 18 photographs of Rajat Passy were on display. Around 100 art lovers, critics and students visited the centre to view the exhibition.







10 January World Hindi day Celebrations

To celebrate the World Hindi Day which falls on 10 January every year, the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo conducted an Essay Competition on 4 January. The competition was held under following topics and for the age groups:

Ordinary Level Hindi students – “Mera Praya thiyohar” (My favourite Festival) – Max words 100

Advanced Level Hindi students – “Sri Lanka mai Hindi ki sthithi” (Position of Hindi in Sri Lanka) – Max words 150

Above 19 years – “Sri Lanka Me Hindi prachar prasar kisprakar kiya ja saktha hai” (How to develop Hindi in Sri Lanka). Max words 200

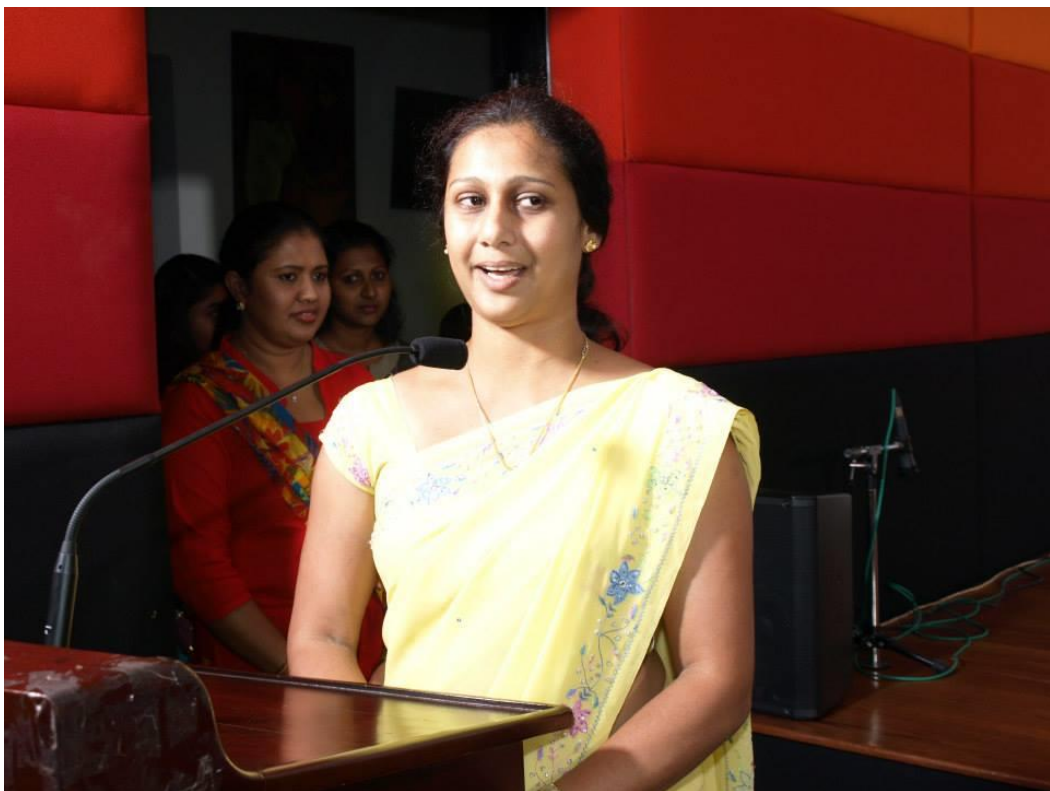
On 10th January 2014 the Centre organized an event to present the certificates of the candidates who have successfully completed the Hindi examinations. The event commenced at 2 pm. From 2 – 4 pm. the students from various other institutions in Sri Lanka that are involved in propagating Hindi presented cultural items. 4 pm onwards certificates were distributed by the Guests of Honour Mrs. Eesha Srivastava, First Secretary (Press & Information) and Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia, First secretary (Political) of the High Commission of India, Colombo. The certificate distribution was followed by cultural performances by the Hindi students of the Indian Cultural Centre and a small reception. Around 80 students participated in the competitions.











16 January Special screening of the feature film “Sri Siddhartha Gautama”

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a special film screening of the feature film Sri Siddhartha Guatama directed by Saman Weeraman for a selected audience on the invitation of His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha. Including Gagan Malik who appeared in the lead role of the film, several Ambassadors and important cultural personalities were present on the occasion. The event commenced with a welcome address by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha. Around 70 guests attended the event.





17 January Sarangi: classical music and Ghazals by D.D.Gunasena

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized “Sarangi” an evening of classical music and Ghazals by the well-known Sri Lankan musician D.D Gunasena on Friday, 17 January at the Centre. Around 120 guests participated in the concert.

D. D. Gunasena is a violinist, vocalist and musical composer. He is arguably Sri Lanka’s best violinist with 50 years of professional experience. He has been awarded “Kala Bhushana”, an award given to the artists who have contributed to the development of Sri Lankan Music. He has composed music for both TV and movies, such as, 'Akunu Pahara' and 'Reroo'. D. D. Gunasena is a senior member of both the Sinhalese and Tamil Orchestras for the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.







26 January

**One World- One Voice – Spiritual Symphony
by Sonam Kalra and her Sufi Gospel Project**

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a musical evening titled One World- One Voice – Spiritual Symphony by Sonam Kalra and her Sufi Gospel Project with the support of the India-Sri Lanka Foundation, the Ministry of Culture and Art, Government of Sri Lanka, and Hotel Taj Samudra, in Colombo. The renowned spiritual vocalist Sonam Kalra and her Sufi Gospel Project from India mesmerized the fully packed audience at the Bishop's College Auditorium with their mellifluous virtuosity in their songs that sung. Her performance in Colombo was part of the 64th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice was the Chief Guest on the occasion and Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India, presided over the function. Several Ambassadors and cultural personalities attended the event.

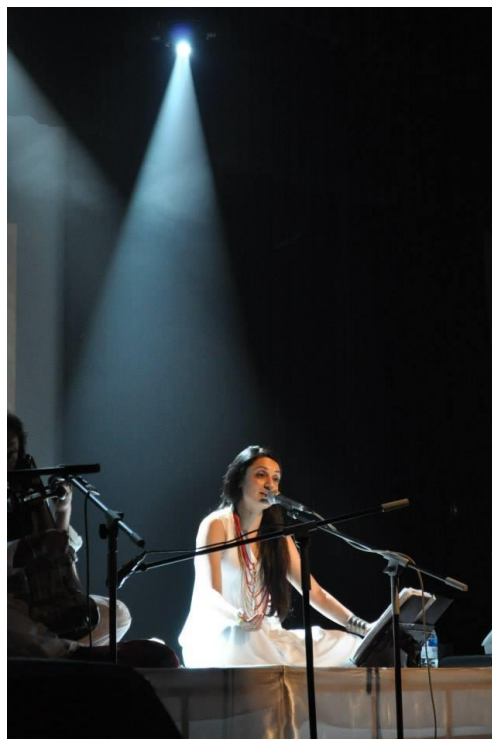
Known for her powerful yet sensitive voice and her ability to blend styles, Sonam Kalra and her troupe justified their talents with their brilliant performance. The performance commenced with an invocation that could traverse the people through various belief systems to reach the subliminal spirituality that is the absolute aim of all religions.

Assimilating the nuances of spirituality of the Persian, Western and great Indian traditions were the core features of her compositions. One could hear the blending of Christian hymns with that of Kabir verses and the trance-effects of the Sufi ways of singing along with the Hindustani style to which she often resorted to.

Though born as a Sikh, Sonam, with her innovative ideals of singing and devotion to the absolute, came up with a style of singing that underlines that the path towards God, whatever may be the route one takes reaches, is that of faith and of universal truth.

Her popular numbers “Man Manam, Na Man Manam, Halleluiah, Chal Buleyya and In the Gardern have given an extra ordinary feel to the audience. She concluded her recital with the highly popular Rajasthani hymn “Mast Kalandar”

The artistes who performed were Anil Chawla on keyboard, Rajesh Prasanna on flute, Ahsan Ali Khan on Sarangi, Amaan Ali Khan on Tabla and Tarit Pal on percussion.









26 January

Cultural performance by the students of ICC

The students of the Indian Cultural Centre presented a cultural performance on 26 January at the flag hoisting ceremony at India House. Classical and folk dance items under the guidance of their guru Kalasoori Vasugy Jeggatheeswaran and patriotic songs under the guidance of Ms. Manjula Seneviratne were presented.



