

## **Indian Cultural Centre**

Colombo

### **Activities**

**March, 2012**

#### **14 March      Nav Pratibha 2012**

Nav Pratibha – A display of new talents in Indian classical music & dance - performances on Sitar, Violin, Tabla, Carantic vocal music, Hindustani vocal music, Bharatha Natyam & Kathak dance recitals by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre were held at the Bishops College Auditorium, Colombo 03 on 14 March 2012. The event was presided over by the High Commissioner Shri Ashok K. Kantha . Hon. Neomal Perera, Acting Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest Hon. Neomal Perera and His Excellency Shri Ashok K. Kantha felicitated the teachers.

The evening started off with a classical sitar recital in which the students trained by Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo presented an item, "Sitar Sandhwani" based on raag Miyan Ki Malhar and Bahar set to Madhyalaya ek taal and Drut teen taal.

The Sitar recital was followed by Carnatic vocal music recital, the students trained by Carnatic music maestro Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan. The students presented the Keerthanam "Sithi Vinayagam" in raag Mohana Kalyani set to Aathi taal, followed by "Himagiridanaye" in raag Suddha Danyasi and concluded with "Brahma Mokate", an Annamacharya keerthanam.

It was followed by a Hindustani Violin recital by the students trained by their guru Visharadh Somasiri Illesinghe. They presented an item based on raag Bhageshri set to teen taal.

One of the students trained by the Hindustani vocal Guru Dr. Premadasa Mudunkotuwa presented a solo in raag Bageshri set to madhyalaya teen taal and that was followed by a Holi geet and a Bajan presented by the other students.

Next was a Tabla recital by the students of the Centre trained by their guru Visharadh S.W. Randoowa. Many aspects of Tabla percussion were displayed by the students. A Tabla solo and duet were the other performances.

The instrumental and vocal music recitals were followed by dance recitals. The students trained by Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran commenced the dance recital with "Natesa Kauthawam" followed by a dance item for Bharathiyar Paadal. The Kathak dance students trained by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya presented a "Tharana". Thereafter, there was a Bharatha Natyam dance

recital by the students trained by their guru Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan. They started with a dance performance for the song "Sabari Malai" and concluded with a folk song on Lord Shiva.















## 15 March Madhur Sandhya

The Tagore Society in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an evening of music and dance titled Madhur Sandhya at John de Silva Memorial Theatre on 15 March 2012 at 5 p.m. The programme consisted of Santoor Recital by Dr. Karunaratne Kiriwathtuduwa, Esraj recital by Sanjeeva Ranasinghe, Rabindra Geet by Thilini Rodrigo, a Dance based on Rabindra Sangeet by the disciples of Jayawanthi Panibharata and Varsha Mangalya, another Dance based on Rabindra Sangeet by the disciples of Mr. Senaratne Pathirana.











## **16 March      Lecture cum Demonstration – Bharatha Natyam**

Indian Cultural Centre in association with Sri Lanka Foundation and Apasara Arts, Singapore organized a Dance Lecture cum Demonstration on Friday 16 March 2012 at 3.00 p.m. at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, 100, Independence Square, Colombo 07.

The Lecture demonstration on Nirmanika covered in depth details of production including, the unique concept, research, compilation of lyrics, dance choreography, dance technique, music composition and aesthetic elements such as costume design, light design etc. It was conducted by the core creative team of Nirmanika – Aravinth Kumarasamy, Creative Director, Neila Sathayalingam, Artistic Director and Anjana Ananad, Choreographer and lead dancer.

The demonstration was of interest to dancers, students of dance, dancer teachers, choreographers, dance enthusiasts, musicians, researchers, architects and art connoisseurs. In addition there was an opportunity of Q&A, dancers had the opportunity of a “hands-on” session to learn some of the key choreographic elements.





## **14 – 19 March Ghazal Performances by Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe**

The Ghazal performances of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe in Sri Lanka was the result of a suggestion made by Hon. Governor of Western Province, Sri Lanka to highlight the rich Islamic heritage of India during an interaction of the “Friends of Indian Cultural Centre” held in September 2011.

It was in response to the specific suggestions made by the Hon. Governor of Western Province, Sri Lanka, the High Commissioner of India promptly acted on and requested ICCR, New Delhi to send the photographic exhibition “Islamic Monuments of India” and a Ghazal troupe to Sri Lanka.

The Hon’ble Governor, Western Province took initiative in organizing the successful Ghazal performances of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe in Colombo, Galle, Kalmunai and Kandy.

Along with the Indian Cultural Centre and the Office of the Governor of Western Province, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Arts, Western Province, as well as the Governor’s Secretarial Office, Municipal Council and the Department of Culture, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, involved in organizing the Ghazal concerts. The local hospitality including local travel, boarding and lodging, concert arrangements such as venue for the performances, light and sound etc. were taken care of by the Sri Lankan Institutions which were involved in organizing the concerts in Kalmunai and Colombo. In Galle and Kandy the Indian Cultural Centre organized the concerts in association with the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy and the Consulate General of India, Hambantota.

### **Galle**

The Consulate General of India, Hambantota organized a Ghazal concert on the evening of 14.03.2012 at Hall de Galle, Southern Province. The Ghazal performance by Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations was the first performance by Dr. Kumud Diwan in the series of Ghazal concerts in Sri Lanka. The Governor’s Office, Southern Province along with Ministry of Fisheries, Cultural Affairs, Food Supply & Distribution of Southern Province provided assistance in organizing the event. About 400 persons attended the event. The event was one of the most successful events organized by the Consulate so far in Southern Province.

### **Kalmunai**

In Kalmunai the Ghazal concert of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe was held at Santhankeni Play Ground, Kalmunai on 16 March 2012. Rear Admiral Mohan Wijeyawickrama, Governor, Eastern Province was the Chief Guest. The Governor Secretariat Office, Municipal Council along with Department of Culture, Southern Province provided assistance in organizing the event. The programme was great success which was appreciated by all. More than 2500 people witnessed the ghazal performance. The artists were also very much impressed with audience.



## Kandy

The Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy organized the concert of Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe and was held at auditorium of the Bharatiya Kala Kendra of Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy on 17 March 2012. Between 70 - 80 people attended the programme. The concert was highly appreciated by the audience.

## Colombo



Dr. Kumud Diwan and her troupe presented Ghazal performance at Kularathne Hall, Ananda College on 19 March 2012. Hon. Alhaj S. Alavi Mowlana, Governor, Western province was 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 Pt. Amaradeva, well renowned classical musician, Ms. Sujatha Attanayake, singer and Prof. Amara Ranatunga.

The performance was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the Ministry of Culture & Art Affairs, Western Province of Sri Lanka, who provided local hospitality, boarding and lodging, hall, announcer, light and sound.

Prior to the arrival of Ghazal troupe, the Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and televisions, printed 5000 invitation cards, 30 posters and 500 flyers, emailed to more than 4000 email ids and gave advertisement in three languages (English, Tamil, and Sinhala) to publicize the event. The performance was attended by eminent personalities from the field of music. The attendances of the audience were around 600. The performance was well received by the audience.

The artistes were honored by souvenirs by Hon. Alhaj S. Alavi Mowlana and H.E Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India.

The ICCR, New Delhi has efficiently and in a timely manner responded to the request from Colombo to send the exhibition titled "Islamic Monuments of India" and the Ghazal troupe led by Dr. Kumud Diwan to Sri Lanka to highlight the Islamic culture of India.







**14 March Kathak**  
**by Moksha Samarasooriya and her students**





Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak recital by the well known Sri Lankan danseuse Moksha Samrasooriya and her students at 6.30 pm on 27 March 2012 at Lionel Wendt Art Theatre, Colombo 07.

His Excellency Ashok K. Kantha graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The programme included dance items such as the Dawn of Light, the Songs of Katyayani, the Royal Court and many more.

Moksha Samarasooriya, received her Kathak dance training at Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music Govt. of U.P, Lucknow, India. Several of her performances were telecast over television in Sri Lanka. Moksha was awarded Sangeet Pratiyogitha award at the Bhatkhande Jayanti in India in 1997. Apart from running her own dance school Moksha is also working as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Visual & Performing Arts. Moksha has been teaching Kathak at the Indian Cultural Centre since June 2005. Moksha Smarasooriya represented Sri Lanka at the Second International Dance Festival held in the year 2011 at New Delhi.



