

Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo

Activities in November, 2011

12 November Shankar's International Children's Competition 2012
Painting, Drawing and Essay Competition for Children
coinciding with the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal
Nehru

The Indian Cultural Centre celebrated children's day, which falls on November 14, coinciding with the birthday of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, by hosting a painting, drawing and essay writing competition for children on 12th November. Around 275 children from all over the Island participated in this competition. Boys and girls between the age groups of three and fifteen drew and painted colourful pictures on a wide variety of themes using their imagination. It was interesting to see such enthusiasm among the children. At the end of the day each participant was awarded a certificate for participation. All entries completed at the Centre were sent to India to be adjudged in the Shankar's International Competition 2012.







18 November **Film:** Urdu and Modern India
A Perfect Blend
It's Cricket, No?

23 November **150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore - Performances of Prabhu Amar Priyo Amar, the dance drama based on Shaap Mochan written by Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore**



Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore's dance-drama '*Shaap Mochan*' was choreographed and restaged by Ms. Bimbavati Devi, a well-known Manipuri danseuse and Mr. Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee, a noted Kathak exponent, re-titling it as *Prabhu Amar Priyo Amar* in Colombo as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore. Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management lit the ceremonial lamp as the Chief Guest on the occasion of restaging the dance drama at the Bishops College Auditorium, Perahera Mw., Colombo 03 on Tuesday, 22nd November 2011. H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India presided over the function. The performance was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with India – Sri Lanka Foundation.



Nimal Siripala De Silva, the Minister, emphasised the age-long relationship between India and Sri Lanka and the strong cultural bonds between the countries. He highlighted the contribution of Tagore to Sri Lankan art and culture and spoke on the special relevance of restaging the dance drama that Tagore presented in Sri Lanka when he paid his last visit to Sri Lanka way back in 1934.



Ashok K Kantha, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka stated that this play has a historical and cultural relevance to Sri Lanka because Tagore, with his presence, speeches and performance of Shaap Mochan, could generate a cultural revival in Sri Lanka.

The restaging of the dance-drama is a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, who made a deep impact on the cultural resurgence of Sri Lanka by inspiring artistes, dancers, and singers to his *Santiniketan* to develop their genres to classical forms. Bimbavati Devi, who is famous for her artistic qualities of natural expression, grace, sweetness, clarity, perfection and for her refined sensibilities and subtlety along with Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee, a performer, teacher and choreographer par excellence, experimented with the play Shaap Mochan of Rabindranath Tagore and recreated it in a *jugalbandi* of Kathak and Manipuri styles of dancing. The



choreography of the duo was mellifluous and harmonious and complemented the distinct classical styles without diminishing the qualities of each of the styles. The love story of Saurasen and his beloved Madhusree, their banishment from Heaven and the suffering of Sourosen as the disfigured King Aruneshwar were beautifully presented with dramatic expression and lights.



Galle

The dance drama performance at Galle by the visiting ICCR sponsored troupe led by Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee & Bimbavati Devi combined the dance forms of Manipuri and Kathak was a big success. The performance was held on 23rd November, 2011. Hon. U.G.D Ariyathilake, Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs in the Southern Provincial Government was the chief guest. The hall was full, more than 400 people and was a big success in terms of audience turn out. The Consulate General of India, Hambantota and Governor Secretariat Southern Province made necessary arrangements for the troupe and for the performers.

Kandy

In Kandy the performance of Prabhu Amar Priyo Amar was held at Hindu Cultural Hall, Kandy on 25.11.2011. Mr. Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Governor of Central Province was the chief guest. Shri. R.K Misra, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy, Rev. Udawatte Nanda Thero, Ex. Member of Parliament, Brigadier Kavindha Gunawardhana, Divisional Commander, Pallekelle, Mr. Nihal Samarakoon, DIG, Central Range, Kandy were guests of Honour. The programme was a success which was appreciated by all. Around 350 people including invitees attended the programme. The artists were also very much impressed with Auditorium and other arrangements made by the AHCI, Kandy and Kalyana SLICA, Kandy.

Jaffna

In Jaffna the performance was held at Veerasingham Hall, Jaffna on 28.11.2011. Major General G.A Chandrasiri, Governor of Northern Province was the chief guest. Mr. L. Ilangovan, Secretary, Ministry of Education Cultural Affairs & Sports, Northern Province was the chair person. Mr. V. Mahalingam, Consul General of India, Jaffna and Mrs. Yogeswary Patgunarajah, Mayor, Jaffna Municipal Council were guests of Honour. The programme was a success which was appreciated by all. Around 750 people including invitees attended the programme. The artistes were also very much impressed.

28 November - 1 December Buddhist International Performing Arts Festival

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi organized Buddhist International Performing Arts Festival from 28th November to 1 December 2011 in New Delhi. Artistes from various countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Japan, Korea, Bhutan, Cambodia, and many more participated in this festival. From Sri Lanka Prasanna Ru Dance ensemble was sent to represent Sri Lanka. The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo assisted Prasanna Ru Dance Ensemble's participation at the Dance Festival.