

## **Indian Cultural Centre**

Colombo

### **Activities in October, 2011**

**3 October**

**Tribute to Mahatma**

**Lecture by Ven. Olande ananda**

**Natyollash: Thematic Bharatha Natyam Performance on**

**Peace by Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh**

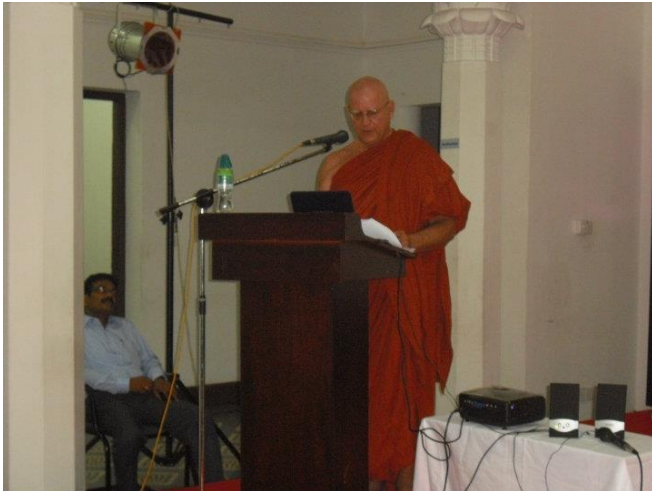
Indian Cultural Centre invited Ven. Olande Ananda to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi. Ven Olande Ananda, spoke about Gandhiji's life at various points such as Gandhiji in London, his arrival from South Africa and Gandhiji as a reformer. He interspersed his talk with a power point presentation. He concluded his talk with a favorite bhajan of Gandhiji Vaishnava Janatho.

Ven Olande Anadanda has been a member of the Buddha's Light International Association from Taiwan/USA. He is Chairman of the non-Chinese speaking Coordinating Committee; also Ven. Ananda has been a member of the INEB - International Network of Engaged Buddhists and attended several of their international meetings. He is also associated with the Tibet House and Advisor on some of their projects.

In addition to the speech on Mahatma, Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh Natyollash, an Bharata Natyam artiste based at Bangalore performed a Thematic Bharata Natyam performance on Peace. The performance of Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh kept the audience spellbound. Some of the items she performed are Navaratna - This number has nine precious verses from the Bhagwad Geeta, Puranas and Vedas with corresponding episodes from legends. Some of them depicted the Mahabharata, Geetopadesha, the Pancha Gargas of Indian Culture. The art of living with faith and brotherhood, imbibing good values from an early age to get rid of various mundane difficulties were the messages in this presentation. Another piece was *Navashakti*: here the nine forms of Goddess Durga who destroys evil forces to reinstate righteousness are portrayed with verses from Devi Mahatmya and Kali Kavutvam, a forte of the Tanjore school of Bharatanatyam. This was a special composition for the Navaratri season. When we talk of peace, we actually reiterate the principle of love. Hence Dr. Padmaja Venkatesh concluded here recital with Vasant Ritu, a piece on Radha and Krishna exemplified as the Jivatma [limited human soul] becoming one with PARAMATMA [the infinite consciousness] respectively. Selfless love and celebration of spring season with fragrant flowers, lush mango trees and the

swinging on tree and spashing colours for the vibrant Holi were beautifully presented by the dancer in this piece.

Around 75 guests attended the event.



**5 October Lecture on the Character of Carnatic Classical Music and Launch of Music Club by Eminent Carnatic Musician Shri T. M Krishna followed by Screening of a documentary film on him "Margazhi Raagam"**

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Lecture on the character of Carnatic Classical Music by the Eminent Carnatic Musician Shri. T. M Krishna on Wednesday, 5 October 2011 at ICC Auditorium. T. M. Krishna explained about various ragas and the occasion and time it is sung. He argued that in Carnatic music the composition and improvisation have to be equally concerned about unlike that of Hindusthani which gives more importance to improvisation. The audience also had an interactive session with T. M. Krishna in which he shared his experience and knowledge. The talk was followed by screening of a Documentary film on him "**Margazhi Raagam**". Around 80 guests attended the event.



## **7 October T. M. Krishna – Carnatic Vocal Music Concerts**

T. M Krishna, one of the major vocalists from the younger generation of Carnatic musicians from Chennai scintillated the audience at Ramakrishna Hall, Colombo with his great command over voice and immense control over sound variations.

His concert was sponsored by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo as part of Navarathri Festival organized by the Department of Religious and Cultural Affairs of Government of Sri Lanka on 7 October, 2011 06 at Ramakrishna Mission Hall.

D. M Jayaratna, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka inaugurated the Festival. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India and M.K.A.D.S Gunawardana, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana and Religious Affairs, were the Guests of Honor on the occasion.

T. M Krishna captured the heart of the audience, that included several Ministers, Member of Parliament and other leading personalities from all walks of life, with his mesmerizing voice. Krishna selected Tamil classical compositions in all his renderings.

The improvisations of the musician were well within the established structure of the concert. His elaboration of the raga "Kalyani" as the major piece in the concert was beautifully followed by "thaniyavarthanam" on Mridangam by Kallidaikurichi S. Sivakumar, on Ghatam by Giridhar Udupa and on Ganjira by Alathur Rajganes. The violin accompaniment of Akkarai S. Subhalakshmi supplemented the renditions of Krishna.

M.K A.D.S Gunawardana, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana honored the musicians. The music concert of T.M. Krishna was followed by Shakthi Samarpanam, a dance recital by the Nirthana Dance School and choreographed by Shivananthi Haritharshan. The dancers were honored by Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India.

The Centre issued Press Releases to English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers and televisions, printed 1500 invitation cards and 500Flyers invitees emailed to 4000 email ids and gave advertisement in three languages (English, Tamil, Sinhala) to publicize the event.

Due to our publicity the attendance of the audience were overwhelming more than 2000. The hall was full for the concert. Rupavahini TV channel interviewed T.M Krishna on 6.10.2011 at 10am to 10.30am and that was a live telecast programme.

Concert was attended by number of press persons, 5 television channels (Rupavahini, ITN, Nethra TV, Derana TV, Shakthi TV).The media and newspapers co-operated much and good publicity was given to the event.

T. M Krishna was invited by the Indian Cultural Centre especially for a concert tour to the North of Sri Lanka to provide some kind of solace to the people who have seen a lot of tragedy in the past.

### **Concerts in North of Sri Lanka**

After more than two decades an eminent musician from India has had concerts in the North of Sri Lanka. The Department of Culture, Northern Province along with the Consulate General of India in Jaffna arranged the concerts of Krishna and his troupe in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya.

#### **Jaffna**

On October 02, 2011, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary day T.M Krishna & the troupe performed in Jaffna. The concert was held at Veerasingham Hall, Jaffna and inaugurated by Douglas Devananda, Minister of Traditional Industries & Small Enterprises Development of Sri Lanka. V. Mahalingam, Consul General of India, Jaffna and Yogeswaray Patgunarajah, Mayor, Jaffna Municipal Council were the Guests of Honor.

The concert was attended by more than 750 cultural enthusiasts. T. M Krishna enthralled the audience with his awe – inspiring voice, strict adherence to grammar in the classical Carnatic Music and awe-inspiring stage presence.

Befitting to the occasion Krishna sang a melodious song praising Mahatma, the great soul and his contribution to the noble principle of Ahimsa. The Concert was a grand success and there were requests for many such cultural programmes from the audience.

#### **Kilinochchi**

The second concert was held on 03 October 2011 at Maha Vithiyalayam Hall, Kilinochchi. M. Chandrakumar, Member of Parliament was the Chief Guest and Mrs. R. Ketheswaran, Government Agent, Kilinochchi was the Guest of Honour. Raghu Ram, Deputy Consul from Consulate General of India was the Chairperson for the event.

The Carnatic concert was the first of its kind to be ever organized in Kilinochchi for many years rekindled the passion for art and culture among the 250 and more audience.

#### **Vavunia**

The third concert was held on 04 October 2011 at Urban Council Hall, Vavunia. G.A Chandrasiri, Governor of Northern Province, graced the concert as Chief Guest. This concert was also a runaway success with participation of more than 500 music fans.









## 12 October      Hindi Rasanjali

Hindi students of the Indian cultural Centre celebrated Hindi Diwas on 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Centre. The evening brought out latent talents of the students through a variety of items in Hindi, such as songs, dances on Hindi numbers, skits, poetry recitals etc. The evening was very well enjoyed by the students and the parents who attended the event. Around 175 guests attended, which included Hindi lovers, parents and well wishers of the students, academics etc.







**14 October Celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore – Kanya – A combination of Sri Lankan and Indian classical and fusion dance by Chandana Wickramasinghe and the Dancer's Guild of Sri Lanka**

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an evening of dance programme "Kanya", a combination of Sri Lankan and India classical and fusion dance by Chandana Wickramasinghe 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Centre.

Chandana Wickramasinghe and the Dancers' Guild of Sri Lanka, the Dance troupe entertained the audience with some traditional, folk, creative and modern dancing based on Kandyan, Low country (Sri Lankan Style) Indian dance and free style dance.

Chandana learned his first steps of dancing from Vajira Chithrasena at the age of 06. At the end of his studies in School, he joined the Sama Ballet troupe, as a dancer when he worked for 8 years.

He went to India in 1994 and joined the prestigious university of Vishva Bharathi Santi Niketan to study Kathakali and Manipuri style of dances.

Kanya is a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, in whose institution Chandana perfected his art of dancing. Around 100 guests attended the event.









## **17 October Mahatma Gandhi Oration**

### **Mahatma Gandhi beyond all the barriers by prof. Sarath Amunugama**

The Sri Lanka India Society organized “**Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration**” on 17 October at the India Cultural Centre.

Prof. Sarath Amunugama, Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya delivered the lecture titled “Mahatma Beyond All Barriers”.

H. E. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. A.T Ariyaratne, Basavashree Award Winner was felicitated at the function.

The programme commenced with the songs by children of Sakthi Illam, Colombo Hindu College, Ratmalana and was followed by a Gujarati Dance by the students of Kalalaya School of Dance and Music choregraphed by Mrs. Rishanthini Sanjeevan. Around 160 guests attended the event.





**19 October Inauguration – The Film South Asia Retrospective hosted by Young Asia Television in partnership with film South Asia Secretariat, Nepal**

The Young Asia Television (YA TV) in partnership with Film South Asia Secretariat, Nepal and the India-Sri Lanka Foundation, Colombo organized “**The Film South Asia Retrospective**” on 19 October at the Indian Cultural Centre.

H. E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest. “The Film South Asia Retrospective” entertained film-lovers of Colombo through a festival of non-fiction films from South Asia. It showcased some of the best South Asian documentaries screened during the past Festivals of Film South Asia, Nepal. The festival took place at the Punchi Theatre, Borella, from the 20-22, October 2011 and was open to the Public free of charge with a lineup of exciting films, giving audiences an opportunity to sample a wide range of topics and themes, presentation styles and techniques. Around 95 guests attended the inaugural ceremony held at the Centre.





