

Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo
Activities - September, 2013

3 September Mandolin Performance and Hindi songs

Chandradasa Bogawatte and well-known Sri Lankan singers presented an evening of Mandolin recital and Hindi songs at ICC auditorium. The music was composed by Madhushanka and the performance was coordinated by Ajith Premlal. Around 75 guests attended the event.





6 September Swaranjali a Tribute to Pyarelal by KesarralalGunasekera

Swaranjali, a musical event was held at ICC on 6 September. The Swaranjali is a programme conceived as a tribute to Pyarelal, the famous Hindi film song composer of the duo Lakshmikant-Pyarelal. The tribute was done by Kesarralal Gunasekera and his troupe on the 73rd birthday of the legendary musician. Over 100 guests attended the event.







14 September Hindi Diwas

On 14th September 2013 Hindi Diwas was celebrated by the teachers and students of Indian Culture Centre, Colombo. Celebrating the occasion ICC organized many competitions such

as speech competition, poetry recital and singing competition for its students. Hindi song competition was held as the main competition on 14th of September 2012 at 10.00 a.m. The Chief Guest was Mr. Rohan, Senior translator and journalist. Lakshmi- singer, Farhana – Hindi Expert, Sanjay – Hindi writer and ICC Hindi teachers participated in the song competition as judges to adjudge the singing.

The programme commenced with welcome address by Ibrahim Khan, Long Term Hindi Chair. In his speech he spoke on the keen interest shown by Sri Lankans to the Hindi language, songs and films. The Director of the Indian Cultural Centre, M. Ramachandran spoke about the Hindi propagation in Sri Lanka. Brezil NagodaVithana, Hindi Teacher, ICC explained the aims and objectives of celebrating Hindi Day. Ms. AthilaKothalawala compeered the events. Ibrahim Khan, Hindi Teacher, ICC delivered the vote of thanks.

The students of the Centre presented a colourful cultural performances included songs, skits, groups songs, group dance, instrumental performances etc., which was highly appreciated. The programme concluded at 3.00pp.m.







14 September

**Bharatha Natyam of SavithaSastry
at Bishop's College Auditorium**



The 'Yudh' a dance theatre that captures the three perspectives, one truth was performed by the celebrated Bharatha Natyam exponent, SavithaSastry in association with the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on Saturday 14 September 2013 at Bishop's College Auditorium.

This unique presentation is structured on the story of a battle of equals. The strategists at this war are equal in their abilities. Their armies equally matched, and the outcomes certain only in their uncertainty. In such a universe, when perspectives are lost, a thousand doubts enhance the human frailty. Yudh tries to explain that perspective we have lost sight of. There are some wars that we fight whether or not we believe in them.

Yudh was brought to the Sri Lankan audience by the same team that presented Soul Cages - The Story of Life, Death and Beyond in 2012. Yudh is an experience that dazzled the viewer with not only the grace of the dance and power of the narrative, but also with stunning audio visual accomplishments that present an experience of a life time. Around 300 guests attended the event.



February 16 Launch of Contemporary Short Stories of the SAARC Region, 2012 and Poems from the SAARC Region, 2012



Two annual anthologies of the SAARC Cultural Centre, Contemporary Short Stories of the SAARC Region, 2012 and Poems from the SAARC Region 2012 were launched on 16 September on the sidelines of the Colombo International Book Fair, 2013. The event was jointly organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre with Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo and VijithaYapa Publications.

In his welcome address, the Director, SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka, Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe mentioned that selection of short stories and poems has been a daunting task given the diverse linguistic landscape of the South Asian region. The works selected however are best representative of all the SAARC Member States; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Mr. M. Ramachandran, Director, Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in his address mentioned that the works fittingly capture the rich lingo-cultural diversity of South Asian neighbors

The role played by VijithaYapa Publishers in bringing out the two Anthologies is commendable and the limited canvass available for the South Asian literati for apt exposition of their thoughts led the VijithaYapa Publishers to come forward to be the joint-publishers of the anthologies for the second consecutive year. VijithaYapa Publications hope to see more and more works of Sinhala and Tamil translations on the ensuing anthologies.

The Chief Guest Mr. S. Amarasinghe, in his address mentioned that South Asia has a literary tradition that resembles so well and that they are hardly distinguishable. He thanked the SAARC Cultural Centre and VijithaYapa Publishers for their joint effort at a time when the cost of printing has dwindled and as a result has become a challenging task.

17 September Screening of the Hindi film “Current” and Meet the Director

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo screened a Hindi film titled “Current” of the well-known Director K. Hariharan. The screening was preceded by a talk by the Director. Mr. Hariharan

shared the experiences he went through in making this film and the difficulties face in making an art film. He also spoke about the technical difficulties involved in preserving the preserving the old films.

K. Hariharan, Director, L.V. Prasad Film & TV Academy, heads the Department of Direction. An accomplished film maker and distinguished scholar, he is a graduate from the FTII in Pune. His feature films include a 3d animation titled *Gulliver's travels*(English), the children's films *Dubhashi*, *Wanted Thangaraj* and *Mudhalai (Crocodile Boy)*, Tamil), *Current* (Hindi), *EzhavathuManithan (The Seventh Man* , Tamil) that received National Award for the best Tamil film and the Afro Asian solidarity award at the Moscow International Film Festival in 1983 and *GhashiramKotwal (Marathi)*. He is currently working on a book titled "Myths and Dreamers in Contemporary Indian Cinema", close study of the various language cinemas and their culture-specific relations with mythology, folklore, & the performing arts. Hariharan has also directed many Documentaries and Short films. He was Visiting Faculty Member at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from 1995 to 2004. Around 75 guests attended the event.





20 September Book Launch *Mirrored Images* and Photography Exhibition *A Collation of Civilizations*

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized the launch of an anthology of Sri Lankan poetry titled *Mirrored Images*, edited by Rajiva Wijesinha and published by the National Book Trust of India on 20 September 2013 at the Indian Cultural Centre.



The collection of poetry showcases the common themes explored by writers in different languages within Sri Lanka, and covers landscapes and love, politics and philosophy. It includes introductions to poetry in the different languages by distinguished academics, ChelvaKanaganayakam for Tamil and AmarakeerthiLiyanage for Sinhala. The book includes work by nearly 100 Sri Lankan poets, and translations are by experts such as Lakshmi de Silva and RanjiniObeysekera and Lakshmi Holmstron and A J Canagaratna.



Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of National Languages and Social Integration and M.A. Sikander, Director, National Book Trust graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. The function was presided over by Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India.



The launch was followed by a recital of poems by the poets S. Pathmanathan (Tamil) AyaduraiSanthan (English) and Anne Ranasinghe (English)'Mirrored Images', edited by RajivaWijesinha, is an anthology of English, Sinhala and Tamil poetry from Sri Lanka.



The National Book Trust of Indian has earlier published 'Bridging Connections: an Anthology of Sri Lankan Short Stories' in the three languages, also edited by Wijesinha. The anthology has been translated into a number of other Indian languages, including Tamil and Marathi. Rajiva Wijesinha, editor of the volume, had taught initially at the University of Peradeniya, before working at other Universities and then heading the Sri Lankan Peace Secretariat. As a Member of Parliament, he is currently Adviser to the President on Reconciliation.



As a parallel event there will also be an exhibition of photographs by Rajiva Wijesinha titled A Collation of Civilisations at the Centre. The photographs display a mosaic of civilisations across the globe.

The Ministry of National Languages, Government of Sri Lanka and Alliance Francaise the Kotte also joined hands with the Indian Cultural Centre to co-host the event in which all art and literary enthusiasts are invited. Around 100 guests attended the event.

