



Celebrating 69th Republic Day of India

High Commission of India, Colombo
presents

Bollywood & Beyond a musical evening

live in concert

Violin Maestro Padma Bhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam
Renowned Vocalist Padma Shri Kavita Krishnamurthy
Singer, Composer Bindu Subramaniam
& ensemble

at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 17th January 2018
at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall
Buddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07



Invitations can be collected 3rd January 2018 onwards from Indian Cultural Centre,
16/2 Gregory's Road, Colombo 07.

Contact: Tel: 2684698 | E-mail: iccrcolombo2@gmail.com

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Ministry of Internal Affairs,
Wayamba Development & Cultural Affairs



JET AIRWAYS



Cultural Calendar - January 2018

10
Wednesday
4.00 pm

Alok Dhara
World Hindi Day celebrations
Venue: ICC Auditorium

On the occasion of World Hindi Day 2018, as a part of "Alok Dhara",
High Commission of India, Colombo will be conducting

Photography competition with a caption/ title in Hindi on the following topics
1. Nature and Wild life 2. Monuments and Historical places 3. Portraits from daily life

Short video films competition (30 sec max) voice over in Hindi
Topic can be selected by the participant. Please send the entries for both the competitions
to email id: worldhindiday2018@gmail.com on or before 5th January 2018.

1st Prize: LKR 30,000/= 2nd Prize: LKR 10,000/= 3rd Prize: LKR 5,000/=

For further details please contact: 0777 906226 / email: worldhindiday2018@gmail.com
The winners of these competitions will be awarded a certificate and a prize money on
10th January 2018 on the occasion of World Hindi Day celebrations.

19
Friday
6.00 pm

Bollywood Magic
Bhaag Milkha Bhaag

(duration 3hrs 9mins with English subtitles)

Director: Rakesh Omprakash Mehra

Cast: Farhan Akhtar, Sonam Kapoor, Art Malik

Venue: ICC Auditorium

Indian Street Food Festival
Venue: Dutch Hospital Street, Fort,
Colombo 01

27 & 28
Saturday & Sunday
6.00pm

30
Tuesday
6.00 pm

Sattriya-classical dance from Assam
by Dr.Meernanda Barthakur,
renowned Sattriya dancer from India
Venue: ICC Auditorium

Programmes subject to change
Admission to all programmes are on first come first serve basis.
All are cordially invited



Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

January 2018



Happy New Year 2018

SEVENTY-ONE YEARS YOUNG

In August 2017, India marked its 71st Independence Day. Relive the momentous celebrations and let the patriotic fervour run high!



At the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, India, the land of the tricolour, marked its Independence from British rule. The flag has fluttered proudly ever since, and the Independence Day has been a day of great significance for the country, declared as a national holiday to commemorate the event.

As with all previous years, this year too, the Prime Minister delivered a strong, patriotic and inspiring address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi. Like 2015, in the build-up to his speech, he called for suggestions from Indian citizens about the subjects he should address in his speech. About 6,000 suggestions came in via the Namo App and 2,216 from the MyGov.in portal.

The Prime Minister talked about the fact that this year also marks 75 years of the Quit India movement, the call by Mahatma Gandhi asking the British to leave India and a definitive phase in the history of our country.

It was on August 8, 1942, that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) held a meeting in Bombay (now Mumbai), with an agenda to launch a movement urging the British to leave India. Prior to this, in a meeting on July 14 the same year, the Congress Working Committee had declared the “urgent” need for ending British rule in India. Among other things, the declaration stated: “The ending of British rule in this country is thus a vital and immediate issue on which depend the future of



Our resolve, strength and determination remembering the memory of our great patriots will help us to build an India of their dreams by 2022

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

the war and the success of freedom and democracy. A free India will assure this success by throwing all her great resources in the struggle for freedom and against the aggression of Nazism, Fascism and Imperialism.”

Interestingly, in 1942, there had been a fair bit of deliberation when it came to the slogan for the Quit India movement. “Get out” was a suggestion, not favoured by Mahatma Gandhi as he felt it was impolite. His “conscience keeper” (as he called him), C Rajagopalachari, suggested “Retreat” or “Withdraw”, neither of which was selected. Yusuf Meherally, socialist and trade unionist who was jailed eight times during the freedom struggle, suggested “Quit India”, and it stayed! The movement was launched on the midnight of August 9 at Mumbai’s Gowalia Tank, later renamed to August Kranti Maidan (which is also



New India must include that integral humanist component that is in our DNA, and which has defined our country and our civilisation

Ram Nath Kovind
President of India

the place after which a Rajdhani train linking Delhi and Mumbai is named). In his speech to the people at the venue, Mahatma Gandhi had said: “There is a mantra, a short one, that I give you. You imprint it on your heart and let every breath of yours give an expression to it. The mantra is ‘do or die’.”

Other than the Quit India movement milestone, 2017 marks 75 years since the formation of the Azad Hind Fauj (also known as the Indian National Army) by Subhash Chandra Bose. For both occasions, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organised an exhibition of the declassified documents relating to both events for the scrutiny of the citizens of India. The exhibition was titled ‘Kareng Ya Mareng 75 Chalo Dilli’, and was held on the premises of the National Archives of India, New

Delhi, with thousands of declassified files and documents on display. One of the rare documents available on view was a letter by Mahatma Gandhi written on August 8, 1942, where he coins the slogan *kareng ya mareng* (do or die). When it comes to Bharat chhodo (Quit India), the widely-held belief is that this too was coined by Mahatma Gandhi, whereas some of the documents on display prove that the credit in truth (and as described above) goes to Yusuf Meherally.

This year, PM Modi called on Indian citizens to unite their resolve to work for the benefit of the country. He said: “A collective resolve of the citizens was visible during 1942 to 1947 across the country, which forced the British to Quit India within a span of five years. We now have five years before we reach the 75th year of our independence. Our united resolve, strength and determination to work hard remembering the memory of our great patriots will help us to build an India of their dreams by 2022.”

He also called on the youth of the country, mentioning that those born in this century would start turning 18. “For these people, this is a decisive year of their lives. They are going to be the creator of the destiny of our nation in the 21st century. I heartily welcome all these youth, honour them and offer my respects to them. You have an opportunity to shape the destiny of our country,” he said.

Source: Gaurav Nagpal
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GOING DIGITAL

Gallantry awards

On the eve of the 71st Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a special online portal dedicated to the winners of the gallantry awards in India: gallantryawards.gov.in. It contains, among other features, a detailed database of all the awardees from 1950 to 2017, with their names and photographs.

BHIM - Aadhaar

During his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to “adopt BHIM App for transactions and make it a part of our economic activities”.

The BHIM-Aadhaar platform, launched by PM Modi in May this year, is a biometric-based payment system that allows people to make payments through a fingerprint scanner function.

Namo App

The Narendra Modi mobile app, launched in June 2015, is a platform that enables direct interaction between the Prime Minister and citizens of India. Providing updates on the day-to-day activities of PM Modi, the app also enables users to receive messages and emails directly from him and tune into various editions of Mann Ki Baat, among other things.