

Celebrating the 66th Republic Day of India

Musical Evening by Pt. Niladri Kumar and his troupe



The Innocence of a four year old plucking at the sitar under the guidance of his father and guru, Sitar Maestro Pt Kartick Kumar, marked the beginning of Niladri Kumar's musical journey. Blessed by the lineage of five generations of Sitar players his first public performance at the tender age of six was only one of the many milestones to follow.

As a result of his numerous years of training, Niladri Kumar's profound understanding of diverse gharana styles and mastery of technical skill gradually began to resonate through the magical touch of his swift, agile fingers.

Today, he is hailed as one of the serious young exponents of Indian Classical Music, who constantly endeavours to infuse interest and respect for his traditional art form in the hearts and minds of the younger generation.

Niladri Kumar is truly a rare instrumentalist with unique repertoire ranging from traditional, classical compositions on the sitar to his innovative, electrifying renditions

on the zitar. Be it at his highly acclaimed Indian Classical Music Recitals or his rave reviewed World Music Concerts, this maverick musician leaves every music lover orthodox or progressive spellbound with his flashes of unparalleled brilliance and his uncanny ability to strike an instant rapport with the audiences transcending all age barriers.

A torch bearer for the future of Indian Music ,Niladri Kumar with his prodigious technique has been bestowed with several prestigious awards and valued titles. Sangeet Natak Akademi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for Hindustani Instrumental Music. The Sanskriti Award, the Jadubhatta Puraskar, the MTV IMMIES Best Classical/ Fusion Instrumental Album –If, Shanmukha Shree, Surmani, GIMA for the Best Instrumental album for AURA.

Nidari Kumar is the chosen Brand Ambassador for reputed international brands AKG by HARMAN to electronic and Sonodyne.

With his inimitable talent featured in over 20 national and international albums and his unparalleled performances across the globe, Niladri Kumar is one of the generations brightest stars with a career that promises to be illustrious and innovative. And more than all of the above with Niladri Kumar's everlasting love and fiery passion for music, it is undoubtedly going to be a captivating and joyful journey every step of the way for music lovers the world over.

Cultural Calendar

January 2015

12

Monday 3.00 pm

World Hindi Day Celebrations
By
Hindi Students of Sri Lanka
Venue : ICC Auditorium

Bharatha Natyam Recital
by **Sathurthiga Sriskanthan,**

Bachelor of Dance from Annamalai
University, India
Venue: ICC Auditorium

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Friday 6.00 pm

Hindustani Vocal Music Recital
By **Pt. Vinod Kumar Dwivedi from India**
Venue: ICC Auditorium

19

Monday 6.00 pm

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Musical Evening by
Pt. Niladri Kumar and his troupe
Venue : Bishops College Auditorium
No.11, Perahera Mw., Colombo 03
(Admission by invitation)

25

Sunday 6.30 pm

29 & 30

Thursday & Friday 6.30 pm

Fundamentals of Hatha Yoga
conducted by **H.H.Swami Divyananda**
(Integral Yoga – USA) and
Mr.Vyasah Kalyanasunderam
(Chief Yoga Instructor -Indian Cultural Centre)
Venue: ICC Auditorium

Programmes subject to change
Admission to all programmes are on first come first served basis except 25th.
All are cordially invited

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Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

January 2015



*Wish you
a very Happy New Year*

Cultural Tapestry

WORLD HERITAGE NATURAL SITES OF INDIA

Kaziranga National Park



In the heart of Assam, this park is one of the last areas in eastern India undisturbed by a human presence. It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.

The site is on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River at the foot of the Mikir Hills. The park contains about 15 species of India's threatened mammals. It harbours the world's largest population of Indian rhinoceros and Indian elephant. Other mammals include capped langur, a small population of hoolock gibbon, tiger *Panthera tigris*, leopard, sloth bear, Ganges dolphin, otter, wild boar, water buffalo, gaur, sambar, swamp deer, hog deer and Indian muntjac.

The numerous water bodies are rich reservoirs of food (including fish) and thousands of migratory birds, representing over 100 species, visit the park seasonally from as far afield as Siberia. There is a grey pelican rookery near Kaziranga Village. Other birds of interest include black-necked stork, lesser adjutant stork, Pallas's fish eagle, grey-headed fish eagle, Bengal florican, swamp partridge, grey peacock-pheasant, great pied hornbill, green imperial pigeon, silver-breasted broadbill and Jerdon's bushchat. The avifauna comprises over 300 species.

By Bus - Guwahati (217 KM, Rs. 200), Jorhat (96 KM, Rs. 70), Nawgaon, Dibrugarh, Tezpur . Get down at Kohora, which is nearly the central part of the park on Guwahati-Jorhat route, would be around 6 hours in bus. If visiting Kaziranga from Arunachal Pradesh, Tezpur is the best destination from which to catch a bus towards Kaziranga.

By Air - Nearest airport is in Jorhat town, which is 96 km away from Kaziranga. Jorhat is connected to Kolkata, Delhi and Guwahati by regular flights.

By Rail - The nearest railway station to Kaziranga is Furkating, which is 80 km away. Furkating is connected by trains from Guwahati, apart from Delhi and Kolkata. Guwahati is the nearest major railway station and is well connected with rest of India by train.



Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

Manas takes its name from the Goddess Manasa. The site is noted for its spectacular scenery, with a variety of habitat types that support a diverse fauna, making it the richest of all Indian wildlife areas. The park represents the core of an extensive tiger reserve that protects an important migratory wildlife resource along the West Bengal to Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan borders. Its wetlands are of international importance. It is also the single most important site for the survival of pygmy hog, hispid hare and golden langur.

The park, which includes part of Manas Reserve Forest and all of North Kamrup Reserve Forest, constitutes the core of Manas Tiger Reserve located in the forest divisions of Kachugaon, Haltugaon, Western Assam Wildlife and North Kamrup.

There is also a considerable variety of aquatic flora along river banks and in the numerous pools. A total of 55 mammals, 36 reptiles and three amphibians have been recorded. Manas harbours by far the greatest number of India's Schedule I mammals of any protected area in the country. Many are typical of South-East Asian rainforest and have their westernmost distribution here.

Mammals include golden langur, a recently discovered endemic restricted to Manas, capped langur, Hoolock gibbon, clouded leopard, tiger (second-largest population in India), leopard, golden cat, fishing cat,



leopard cat, marbled cat, binturong, sloth bear, wild dog, Ganges dolphin, Indian elephant, Indian rhinoceros, pygmy hog, swamp deer, sambar, hog deer, Indian muntjac, water buffalo, gaur, giant squirrel, hispid hare and Indian pangolin.

Over 450 species of bird have been recorded, including the threatened Bengal florican, great pied hornbill, wreathed hornbill and other hornbills. Uncommon waterfowl species include spot-billed pelican, lesser adjutant and greater adjutant. Reptiles include a variety of snakes, gharial and monitor lizard. Assam roofed turtle has recently been recorded.

By Air - The city of Guwahati has the closest airport (176kms).

By Train - The closest railhead is located at Barpeta Road. This is situated around 44 kilometers away from the park. Although it is a nearby railway station, still Guwahati is the best options as it is a big & important station of Assam state with all major facilities and has a very good train connectivity with other important cities and tourist destinations like : Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Patna, Kolkata, Bhubaneshwar, Vishakapatnam, Bangalore etc. Taxis are available from the station to Manas National Park.

By Bus - One can reach the wildlife sanctuary using taxis and buses from the city of Guwahati. Guwahati is the closest major transit center and it is situated 175 kilometers away.

Keoladeo National Park



The site is situated in eastern Rajasthan, the park is 2 km south-east of Bharatpur and 50 km west of Agra. The area consists of a flat patchwork of marshes in the Gangetic plain, artificially created in the 1850s and maintained ever since by a system of canals, sluices and dykes.

The principal vegetation types are tropical dry deciduous forest, intermixed with dry grassland in areas where forest has been degraded. Apart from the artificially managed marshes, much of the area is covered by medium-sized trees and shrubs. The aquatic vegetation is rich in species and is a valuable source of food for waterfowl.

Primates are rhesus macaque and langur. Large predators are absent, leopard having been deliberately exterminated by 1964, but small carnivores include Bengal fox, jackal, striped hyena, common palm civet, small Indian civet, Indian grey mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi*, fishing cat, leopard cat, jungle cat and smooth-coated otter. Ungulates include blackbuck, chital, sambar, hog deer, nilgai and wild boar and feral cattle. Other mammals include Indian porcupine and Indian hare. An estimated 65 million fish fry are carried into the park's water impoundments by river flooding every year during the monsoon season, which provides the food base for large numbers of wading and fish-eating birds. Some 364 species of bird have been recorded in the park, which is considered to be one of the world's finest areas for birds, with a unique assemblage of species.

The park's location in the Gangetic Plain makes it an unrivalled breeding site for

herons, storks and cormorants and an important wintering ground for large numbers of migrant ducks. The most common waterfowl are gadwall, shoveler, common teal, cotton teal, tufted duck, comb duck, little cormorant, great cormorant, Indian shag, ruff, painted stork, white spoonbill, Asian open-billed stork, oriental ibis, darter, common sandpiper, wood sandpiper and green sandpiper. Sarus crane, with its spectacular courtship dance, is also found here.

Among land birds is a rich assortment consisting of warblers, babblers, bee-eaters, bulbuls, buntings, chats, partridges and quails. Grey hornbill and Marshall's iora are also present. There are many birds of prey including the osprey, peregrine, Pallas' sea eagle, short-toed eagle, tawny eagle, imperial eagle, spotted eagle and crested serpent eagle. Greater spotted eagle has recently been recorded breeding here, a new breeding record for the species in India and lesser spotted eagle nested in the park in 1986, the first nesting record for the species in India for some time. Several other threatened avifauna species occur, including Dalmatian pelican, spot-billed pelican, greater adjutant, lesser adjutant, marbled teal, Baikal teal, Baer's pochard, red kite, cinereous vulture and sociable lapwing. Reptiles include water snakes, Indian python, banded krait, green rat snake, turtles and monitor lizard

By Air - The nearest airport is situated at Agra, which is 56-kms from Bharatpur. Delhi is 184 Kms from Bharatpur.

By Rail/ Train - Regular rail services connect Bharatpur with all the major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur and Agra.. The Bharatpur railway station is about 5 Kms from the park/bird sanctuary.

By Road - An excellent network of roads connects Bharatpur to all the major cities of the Rajasthan and the neighboring states like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana. Bharatpur is well connected by road from Agra (56-kms, 1 hour), Delhi (184-kms, 4 hours) and Jaipur (176-kms, 3 hours).

Source : Web