



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
COLOMBO
SRI LANKA

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
AT THE
CENTRE DURING THE MONTH OF
NOVEMBER 2019

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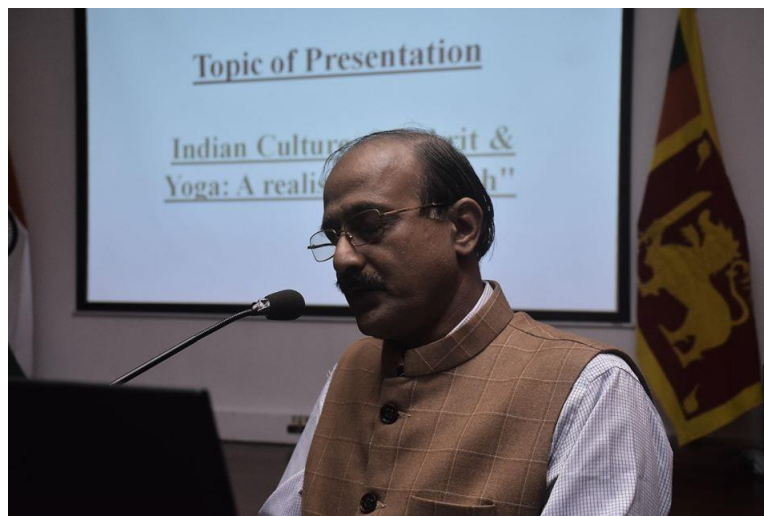
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8th November Lecture – Indian Culture, Sanskrit & Yoga : A Realistic Approach by Prof. N.C.Panda

Prof. N.C.Panda, ICCR Chair Visiting Professor of Sanskrit, Sanskrit studies Centre, Silpakorn University, Bangkok delivered a talk on Indian Culture, Sanskrit & Yoga : A Realistic Approach at the centre. The lecture was attended by many of the Yoga practioners and the event was organized in collaboration with Astanka Yoga Mandhir.

Dr. N.C. Panda is well-known in the field of Indological Research. He combines in him a comprehensive understanding of scholarly issues, impartial judgment and an exemplary clarity of expression. Besides, Dr. Panda is associated with a number of Research Journals in the capacity of an Advisor, Editor and Reviewer in India and abroad.

As an ardent scholar and a successful researcher of Indology, he has contributed more than 112 learned Research papers, attended more than 80 National & International Conferences & Seminars and has written & edited more than 27 Books with *ISBN* Nos.



8th November Diwali Celebrations

High Commission of India celebrated Diwali on 8th November with music, dance food and fun with presence of H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner , officers, officials and local staff and family members.



12 November Guru Nanak Jayanti – 550th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

The High Commission of India commemorated 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji with a talk, documentary screening and soulful rendition of Kirtan/Ardas by Gyaniji from Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara, Colombo at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. His Excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and several members of local Sikh community took part in this event. Mrs. Artika Aurora Bakshi delivered a talk on Guru Nanak ji



21 November

Rang Taal – A Tabla recital by Ranga Perera & his disciples

Ranga Perera along with his disciples presented a classical table recital and fusion music item which kept the audience spellbound.

Mr. Ranga Perera completed his M.A. (Tabla) from Indira Kala Sangeeth University, Khairagharh, India. He has been teaching tabla at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre since 2018. Presently he is a distinguished faculty of the University of the Visual & Performing Arts Colombo 07.



23 November at Shankar's International Children's Competition-2020

More than 500 young artistes from all over Sri Lanka expressed their talent beautifully through their art work and essays at the Shankar's International Competition organized by High Commission of India at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre on 23rd November. Children painted and wrote essays on the topic "Earth is the only home we have, Treasure it" giving a clear message for a saving the natural resources of earth.

H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with the young talented artistes at this prestigious annual Shankar Art Competition. High Commissioner Sandhu expressed his happiness to see large participation in this annual event which is being organized by the Indian Cultural Centre since last 20 years. H.E. Sandhu requested teachers and parents to encourage their children to take part in such events in coming years which strengthens people to people contact between our countries .



26 November Constitution Day Celebrations

A photography exhibition on 'Making of Indian Constitution' was inaugurated by HE Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka on 26 November 2019.

Speaking on the occasion which marked the start of year long celebrations associated with the 70th anniversary of the Indian Constitution, the Deputy High Commissioner Vinod K. Jacob highlighted the importance of the Constitution Day (26 November) and elaborated upon the constitution making process in India leading to the adoption the Constitution, which forms the bedrock of Indian democracy today. The Deputy High Commissioner also emphasized the democratic traditions of India and the significance of the constitution in laying the foundation for a strong, democratic and secular India.

The Exhibition showcases rare photographs of the process of making of the Indian Constitution, meeting of the first Constituent Assembly and its members including Dr B.R. Ambedkar, independent India's first Law Minister and popularly known as Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution.

The inauguration ceremony of the Exhibition was attended by teachers and students of Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS).

The Exhibition was open to public from 26th Novmeber to 28th November at Swami Vivekanada Cultural Centre.





26 November

Kathak Recital by Dumitha Gunawardana

Talented dancer Dumitha Gunawardana captivated the audience with his repertoire. The programme lasted an hour and half was very much appreciated by the audience. Mr. Dumitha Gunawardana disciple of Pt. Rajendra Kumar Gangani of Jaipur Gharana completed his Nipun in Kathak at Bhatkhandhe Sangeet Vidyapeeth, Lucknow, India. He also learnt North Indian Classical Music and Sitar under Prof. Pradeep Ratnayaka, University of Jayawardhanapura.



26 November

Bharatha Natyam Recital by Varisha Narayanan

Upcoming talented young dancer presented a scintillating Bharatha Natyam recital at the Centre. Varisha Narayanan grew up in an atmosphere of music and dance. Her grandmother Smt. Ambika Buch is a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer and teacher and retired senior professor from Kalakshetra Foundation, India. Varisha was initiated into the art by her mother Jyotsna Buch and grandmother Ambika. She later started training under Guru Sri. K M Jayakrishnan, a senior artist and teacher from Kalakshetra Foundation. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Bharatanatyam from the University of Madras.

She has been awarded Best Performer prize from Sri Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha, India, for her performance at their festival for the dance and music season "Bharat Nritya Utsav". Varisha is an integral part of Svanubhava, India. Svanubhava was conceptualized by Smt Bombay Jayashree and Shri T M Krishna with the intention of welcoming the students to the diverse, multicultural world of Indian art and introduce them to the underlying beauty of even the rarest forms.



6,13,20 & 27 November Yoga Programme for Cancer patients

SVCC, Colombo and Astanka Yoga Mandhir conducted a special yoga programme for the cancer patients and staff members of the Maharagama Cancer Hospital Āpksha. Evidence shows that yoga can be used in the management of pain and fatigue during cancer treatment and due to this the demand for yoga sessions has increased.

