



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
COLOMBO
SRI LANKA

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES HELD
AT THE
CENTRE DURING THE MONTH OF
OCTOBER 2018

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**Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Events of October 2018 with photographic impressions**

2 October Commencement of 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi in Sri Lanka

Series of events were held on 2nd October to begin the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena held a special programme to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Presidential Secretariat. High Commission of India has created a special Video “Vaishnav Jana To”, a bhajan liked by Gandhi ji, sung by popular Sri Lankan artists – Bathiya, Santhush and Umara. The video was launched at the event by H.E. President Sirisena. H.E. High Commissioner Taranjit Singh Sandhu gifted a portrait of Gandhi ji to H.E. President Sirisena. H.E. President Sirisena thanked High Commissioner and announced that the Gandhiji's portrait would be permanently displayed at the President's office.

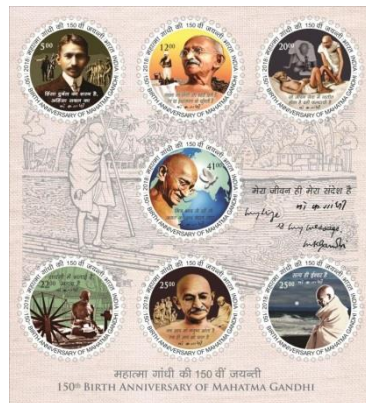
As a tribute to Gandhi ji, special commemorative postal stamps were released by Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at Temple Trees, the official residence of the Hon. PM.

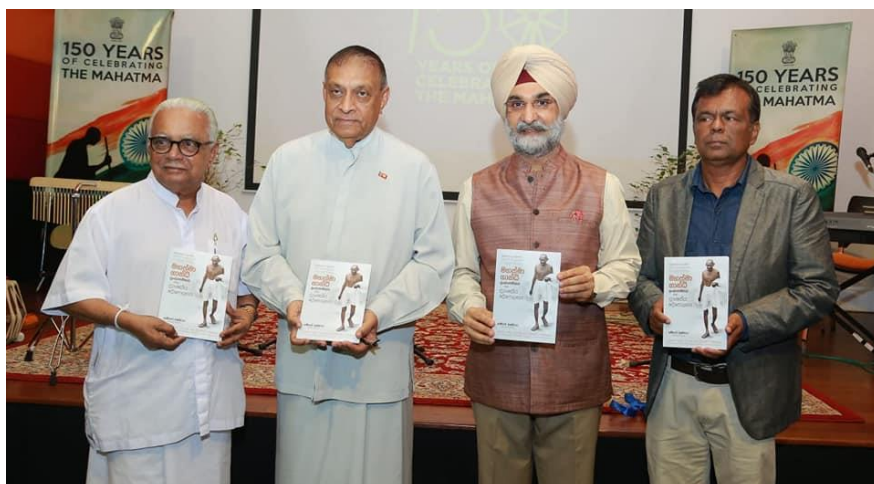
Hon. Speaker Karu Jayasuriya launched a well-researched book in Sinhalese on Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Sri Lanka, written by veteran journalist Mr Sampath Bandara at a function held at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. ICCR scholars from Sri Lanka paid a special tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by singing the favorite bhajans of Gandhiji.

To mark the celebrations a special musical performance by the Violin Maestro Dr. L. Subramaniam and the National Leipaja Latvian Philharmonic Orchestra was held at NelumPokuna auditorium in the evening. The event was attended by Hon. Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Prof. Maithree Wickremesinghe, Hon Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, Hon. Leader of Opposition R Sampath, Governor Hemakumara Nanayakkara, and many other distinguished dignitaries from cultural, professional, academic and business areas. The event was organized in collaboration with ITC.

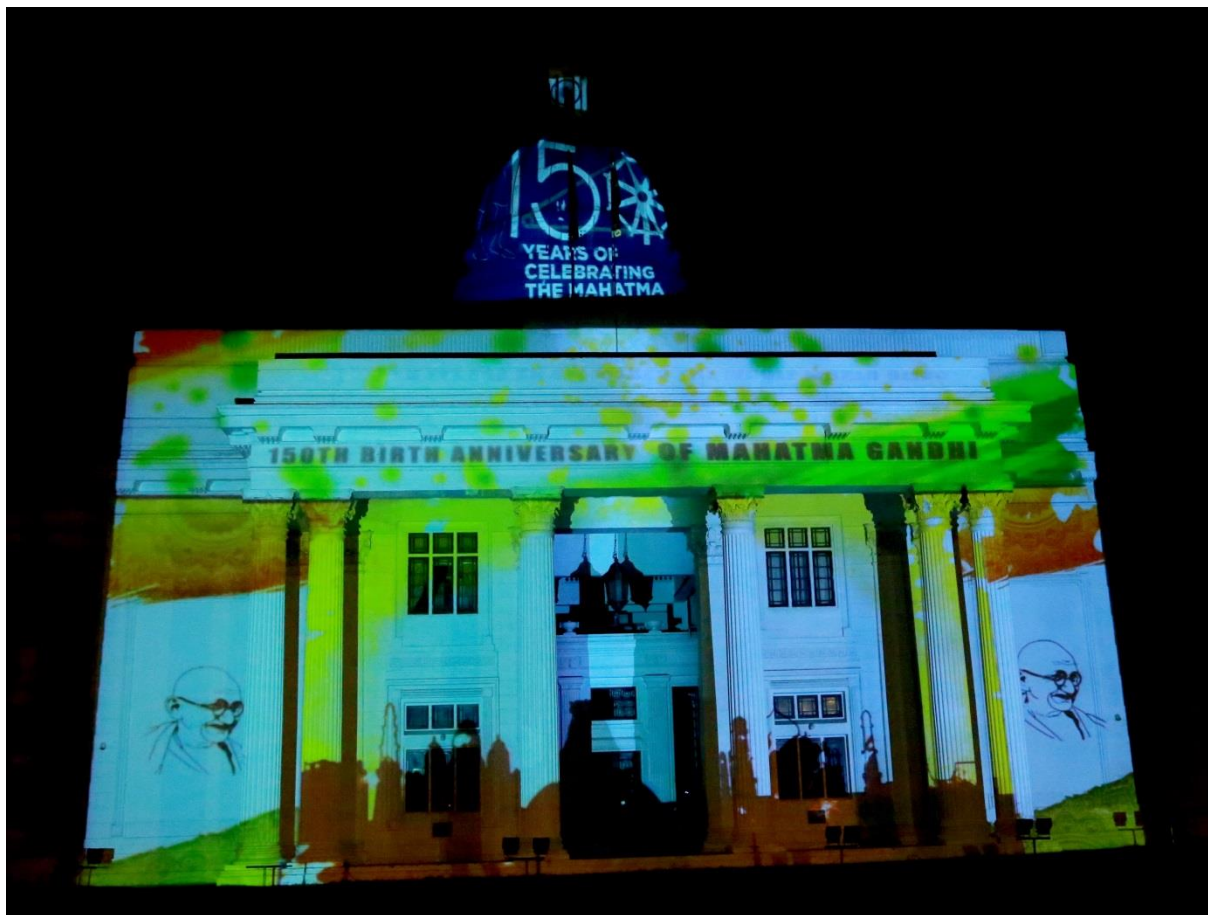
Iconic Colombo Municipal Town Hall was lit with special LED lights to showcase the special video made by Public Diplomacy Division of MEA containing special messages of Mahatma Gandhi through images.











5 October Flute n Feet – Blending of Indian classical art forms

Flute n feet an innovative concept, harmonious fusion of music and dance by immensely talented popular couple Vivek Krishna and Aranya Narain kept the audience spellbound. Each performance was tailored with well known compositions from Carnatic music to authentic Kalakshetrabani dance style. The performances were delightful to watch and catered both traditional and modern aficionados.

Aranya Narain is a very popular name in the field of Bharathanatyam and Vivek Krishna is one of the front ranking and in demand flautist from Bangalore. Aranya Narain hails from an artist family and dance flows in her blood very naturally. Her strong rhythm sense and traditional Kalakshetra style is amazing and beautiful. T. Vishwanathan is one of the most sought after percussionist amongst dancers.



9 October Sitar Recital by Dhrubajyoti Chakraborty

Dr. DhrubajyotiChakraborty presented a scintillating sitar recital at the Centre enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre. He provided several classical pieces and improvised it. He was accompanied on Tabla by SVCC Tabla teacher Ranga Perera.

Dhrubajyoti has received his training from great music stalwarts such as Prof. Sunil DevBurman, Prof. Santosh Kumar BandopaddhayUstad Ali Akbar Khan, Pundit Nikhil Banerjee, Pundit Dhrubatara Joshi.



12 October 150 years of celebrating the Mahatma Screening of Oscar Winning Film - Gandhi

As a part of ongoing 150 years of celebrating the Mahatma, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre screened Oscar Winning Film Gandhi (English) on Friday 12 October 2018 at its auditorium

Gandhi is a 1982 epic historical drama film based on the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the leader of India's non-violent, non-cooperative independence movement against British rule on India during the 20th century.

The film covers Gandhi's life from a defining moment in 1893 as he is thrown off a South African train for being in a whites-only compartment and concludes with his assassination and funeral in 1948. Although a practicing Hindu Gandhi's embracing of other faiths particularly Christianity and Islam is also depicted in the film.



16 October Garba and Dandiya Night

The Hindi class students and teacher of the Centre organized Garba and Dandiya Night at the Centre. The programme started with Devi puja for the auspicious beginning. The Hindi and kathak students of ICC performed Garba and Dandiya items to begin the evening followed by participation of public and members of Indian community. Around 75 guests from local Indian community, members of High Commission and local community attended the event.



17 October Hindustani Vocal recital by ICCR scholar Wageesha Ruwangee

An ICCR Scholar, Wageesha Ruwangee presented a Hindustani Vocal recital at the Centre. The programme was very well received by the audience gathered at the Centre

Wageesha Ruwangee holds a Master's Degree in Music from the VisvaBharati University, West Bengal availing a scholarship from Govt. of India. She also holds Sangeet Visharada from Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapeeth, Lucknow. Presently she is engaged in teaching Hindustani classical music at Preuni International School, Athulgiriya to share her talent and training in India among students in Sri Lanka .



26 October “Swachhta hi Seva”- An interactive session with students of Hindi Class

The Centre organized interactive session with students of Hindi Class as part of the ongoing 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Gandhi ji. The students presented poems and stories of Gandhi ji on the topic given. Dr. Monica Sharma, ICC Hindi teacher along with other Hindi teachers of the Centre conducted the programme.



31 October National Unity Day

The students, parents and teachers at SVCC,Colombo paid floral tribute to the Indians first Prime Deputy Minister SardarVallabhai Patel on his 143rd Birth Anniversary and watched the documentary film on life an works of the Iron Man of India with great enthusiasm.

