

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo Activities of February 2017

9 February Lecture – “What is Pure Love?” based on Vedanta philosophy

The Indian Cultural centre, Colombo organized a lecture titled “what is pure love?” based on Vedanta philosophy by Dr. Janki Santoke, expert on Vedanta and management trainer from India on 9th February . In her talk Dr.Janaki explored human beliefs in love and the philosophical explanations behind love. The lecture was followed by an interactive session. Around 70 members attended the lecture.

Dr. Janki Santoke is a lecturer, author, management trainer, public speaker. In 1988, she joined Swami Parthasarathy's Vedanta Academy located near Lonavla for intensive course in Vedanta. She founded the Vedanta Institute in New Delhi in 1998.



17 February

**Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana
Festival of Carnatic Music – rendering of Thyagaraja
Keerthanams**

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the Hindu Educational Society and the Express Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd organized 13th Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana, an annual Carnatic music festival paying homage to the great Carnatic music composer Thyagaraja, on 17th February 2017 at the Saraswathie Hall Colombo 04.

Hon.D.M.Swaminathan, Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs and Mrs. Swaminathan graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Shri Arindam Bagchi, Deputy High Commissioner of India presided over the function.

Mr. Kumar Nadesan – Managing Director of Express Publications Ceylon Ltd., Mr. Kandaiah Neelakandan – Secretary of the Hindu Educational Society and Kjell Thoreby ,Head of International Affairs Kulturtakrn, Embassy of Norway also attended the event
The festival commenced with welcome address by Smt. Rajashree Behera, Director Indian Cultural Centre followed by a speech by Shri Arindam Bagchi, Deputy High Commissioner of India mentioning the importance of such events to strengthen cultural links.The Chief Guest Hon.D.M.Swaminathan, Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs also delivered a speech about the significance of Thyagaraja Aaradhana.

In this year's festival new feature "Keerthana Mala" was added where each institute presented a keerthanam as a special performance. Keerthanamala commenced with a keerthanam by the students of University of Jaffna followed by the institutes – Veena Nathalaya, Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University Batticalo, Highlands College Hatton, Issai archani, University of Visual and performing Arts, Kavin Kalalaya, Indian Cultural Centre and Sapthaswara Music Centre.

Highlight of the event was from the University of Visual and Performing Arts all students participated were Sinhalese students learning Carnatic Vocal Music at the University. Musicians, vocalists as well as instrumentalists and percussionists from all over Sri Lanka rendered Pancharatna Keerthanams (five songs) of Thyagaraja on this occasion. The choral rendition of the five songs is an integral feature of the Aradhana. This event was coordinated by Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan,carnatic vocal teacher at ICC.

Around 500 guests participated in this festival including musicians, dancers and the music lovers.







18 February

Lecture by Prof. S.Pathmanathan, Chancellor Jaffna University and Certificate distribution of Astanka Yoga Mandir

Prof. S.Pathmanathan, Chancellor of Jaffna university delivered a talk on the scriptures from Ancient times of India and Buddhist scriptures on meditation pertaining to Yoga and life style and this was followed by graduation ceremony of the instructors of Astanka Yoga Mandhir. Around 80 guests attended the event.



**22 February Film screening – Orazhcha (A week)
A Malayalam Film
And Meet the Debutant Director of the film, Ms. Anila S.K.**

The Indian Cultural Centre screened a Malayalam film "Orazhcha' -A week" (with English subtitles, duration-93minutes) along with meeting the debutant Director of the film Ms. Anila S. K. on Wednesday,22 February.

'Orazhcha'-A week, is a film that told the story of an old, retired, middle class couple in Kerala, India, and their life in a week. The movie, presented social issues through the story of this old couple. Inspired by real life experience, the movie brought out the nuances of old age, loneliness, routine, exclusion and isolation. Treated and filmed in the realistic genre, with live sound recording, the movie told the real life stories of the main cast. The film screening was followed by a brief talk in which the director shared her experiences on making this film and question and answer session. Around 180 guests attended the screening.

Ms. Anila S.K, a development sector professional by career, took to film making a couple of years ago, following her long time passion. She had worked with the government and non-government agencies in and out of Sri Lanka, including the United Nations. Hailing from Kerala, she made her debut film 'Orazhcha' in Malayalam, which was premiered at the Jaffna International film festival in September 2016 and was one of the eight films in competition.





28th February A musical Evening – Hindi songs from three decades

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized A musical evening-Hindi film songs from 60's,70's and 80's by Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri, Liyanage Himalka Sewwandi Perera and Sanjini Hansika Wijesekera, graduates from Bhatkhande Music University, Lucknow, India and ICCR scholars on 28th February. The performance comprised of melodies to peppy numbers which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre. Around 175 guests attended the performance.

Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri, an ICCR scholarship holder in the year 2010 has done Masters in Performing Arts from Bhatkhande Music University Sanjini Hansika Wijesekera has completed her Bachelors in Performing Arts(vocal) from Bhatkhande Music University. Himalka Sewwandi Perera holds a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts from Bhatkhande Music University and she is teaching music under Darshini Chandrasena at Music Academy Sarasavipaya.



