

Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities - May, 2013

7 May Tribute to Tagore- Garlanding the Tagore Bust

On the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Indian Cultural Centre in association with Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies and Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies the University of Colombo, Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies and paid homage to the Nobel laureate on 7 and 8 May 2013.

On 7 May 2013, P. Kumaran, Deputy High Commissioner of India garlanded the bust of Tagore at 9.30 am at the main Library of the University of Colombo in the presence of the academic community and Tagore aficionados.





8 May Tagore Remembered – Releasing of Tagore and Sri Lanka

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized Tagore Day as a Tribute the Noble Laureate Poet on * May 2013. Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation & Deputy Minister of Finance, was the Chief Guest at the function and he released “Tagore and Sri Lanka”, the 150th Birth Anniversary volume on Tagore, published by the Centre. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, was the Guest of Honour. The programme was organized in collaboration with the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations (LKIIRSS) and Strategic Studies and the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies(CCIS), University of Colombo. H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, presided over the function.

Addressing the audience at the LKIIRSS auditorium, Dr. Sarath Amunugama noted that reconfiguring and rewriting the history of Sri Lanka on the lines of the humanistic approach of Rabindranath Tagore was the need of the hour. He argued that Tagore would continue to remain a major figure as far as Sri Lanka was concerned, as he had played a key role in re-awakening interest and inspiring pride amongst Sri Lankans regarding their own history and culture. He had been able to do this through his own writings and his speeches during his visits to Sri Lanka, when he had interacted with several major Sri Lankan cultural figures and the influence Santiniketan, his educational institution, had on their thinking. The Minister also explored the relationship between Anagarika Dharmapala and Tagore, including the aspect of how Anagarika Dharmapala took cues from Tagore for running the Maha Bodhi Society.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon. Prof. G. L Peiris, the Minister for External Affairs, observed that the major contributions of Tagore were his ideas, personality and institutions. He stated that the ideas of Tagore about an Asiatic cultural tradition and a holistic education created an indestructible people-to-people relationship between India and Sri Lanka. The Minister also recapitulated how a number of major figures like Ediriweera Sarachchandra, Chitrasena, Ananda Samarakoon and many others were influenced by the personality and ideas of Tagore, and how this influence had enabled their efforts to revitalize the Sri Lankan indigenous cultural tradition.

H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, the High Commissioner of India, in his address, recalled that book "Tagore and Sri Lanka" was the encapsulation of the proceedings of the Seminar organized in June 2012, as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Tagore. These events had demonstrated the groundswell of genuine interest in Tagore among the people of Sri Lanka, and had brought out that Tagore continued to elicit an affectionate response 89 years after his last visit in 1934, and 72 years after his demise in 1941. This was due to the tremendous respect for his multi-faceted genius and the fact that he embodied the ethos, aspirations and challenges of his age. The High Commissioner noted that Tagore's simple message encouraging the discovery of the ancient cultural roots of Sri Lanka struck a deep chord; his call for Asiatic unity resonates at a time when Asia was once again finding its identity and its enlarged role in the world.

The event was the culmination of a series of events organized over the past two year as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore in Sri Lanka. Around 200 guests attended the event.







9 May Shri Geeth – An evening of songs to commemorate Talat Mehmood



Shri Geeth, Hindi musical event on Thursday 9 May by Mr. Chandrasiri and his group presented an evening of songs to commemorate the legend, golden vocalist Talat Mehmood at the Indian Cultural Centre. Around 150 guests attended the event.





28 May Odissi Dance Performance by Alpana Nayak



Indian Culture Centre, Colombo organized an Odissi dance performance of Alpana Nayak from India on 28 May at its auditorium. Alpana Nayak, along with her disciple and daughter Ayushi Nayak presented an Odissi dance in the traditional style that was embellished by her gurus such as late Guru Deva Prasad Das and Guru Sudhakar Sahoo.

Alpana and her disciple commenced their performance with Mangalacharana and continued with "Kirvaani Pallavi", "Dashaavataar, and concluded with "Mokshaya".

Alpana has enriched her Odissi style further under Guru Hare Krishna Bahera. Widely travelled Alpana performed Odissi dance in many parts of the world and participated in major cultural festivals. She has taught Odissi and different Indian folks dances in several cities of India, England and Japan. Her Odissi dance disciples include both normal as specially gifted children. She takes special care to train Odissi dance to specially gifted children (physically and mentally challenged) in Indian classical and folk dance forms for their holistic

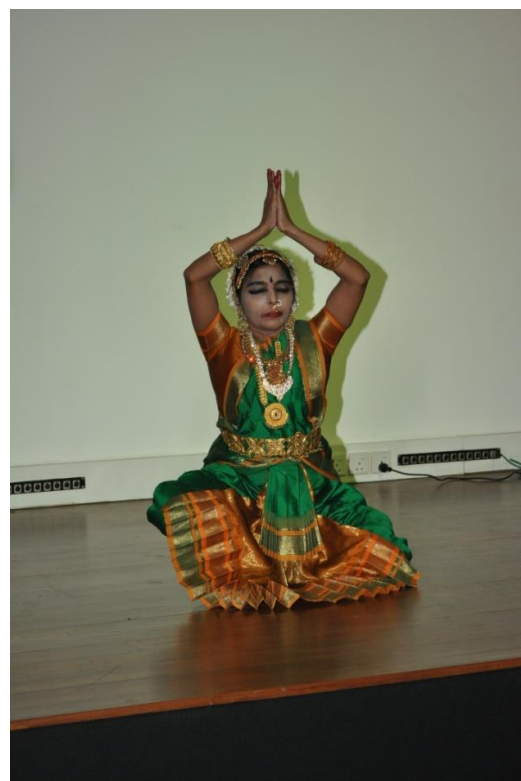
development in the society.

The evening was very well enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre to witness their performance. Around 75 guests attended the event.



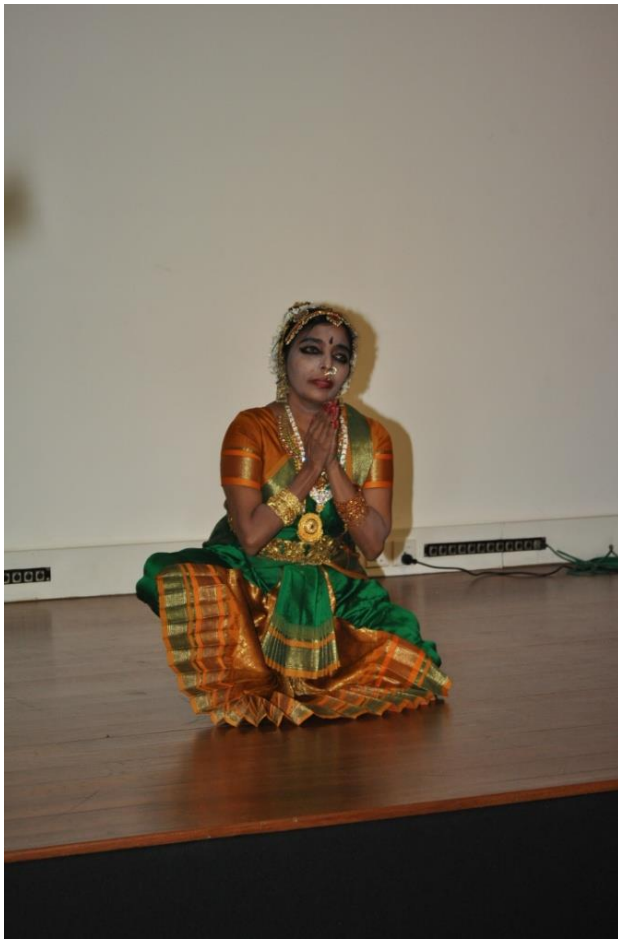


31 May Madhura Shethra – Bharatha Natyam Recital by Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan.



“Mathura Shethra” a Bharatha Natyam Recital by Ms.Subashini Pathmanathan was held at the Indian Cultural Centre auditorium on 31st May 2013.

Subashini commenced her performance with “Thiruthandakam” of Saint Appar and continued with a “Keerthanam”. This was followed by another keerthanam titled” Adputha Chitpi”, a padam titled”Yaradi”, a composition by great tamil poet Bharathi Dhasan “Thunbam nerakaiyil”, a Telegu keerthanam “Brocheva” and concluded with “Thillana”.



Subashini.Pathmanathan studied at the Government College for Women Chandigarh. She graduated and received her Master’s degree from Punjab University. She studied Bharatha Natyam under the great Bharatha Natyam Maestro Padmashree Vazhuvoor Ramiahpillai and completed a Diploma from Vazhuvoorar Classical Bharatha Natya Centre, Mylapore, Chennai. The great Maestro Padmashree Vazhuvoor Ramiahpillai conferred upon her the title ‘Natya Kala Shikamani’. In 1984 she participated in the All India Cultural Festival and won the best performer award for Bharatha Natyam. She also completed a Diploma in Bharatha Natyam and Master of Fine arts in Bharatha Natyam from Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirapalli. Presently, she is pursuing a research for her doctoral degree on Sri Lankan temple sculptures

and archaeological sculptures in relation to Classical dance forms. Being a performing artiste she has performed dance in numerous countries around the globe.

She is a well-known writer on dance and related topics. She has been writing to the foreign and local publications since 1983. So far she has written more than ten books and hundreds of articles. In 1991 she won the Esmond Wickermasinghe award for Journalism.

The performance was very well received and appreciated. Around 75 guests attended the event.