

**Indian Cultural centre  
Colombo**

**Monthly Activity Report - March 2016**

**1 & 2 March Visit of Performance audit team from ICCR,  
New Delhi**

A Performance audit team from Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi headed by former Ambassador Mrs. Veena Sikiri along with Prof. Aswini K Mohapatra, Chairperson - Centre for West Asian Studies, JNU; Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Director- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji Research Foundation and Dr. Varun Veer, a leading Yoga exponent visited Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on 1st & 2nd March 2016.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of March the team had an interaction session at the Centre with the staff, teachers and students of the Indian Cultural Centre about its activities and the difficulties faced by the Centre following the interaction the team visited the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo and had a meeting with the representatives of the University. The team also visited the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo and met the Vice Chancellor and the representatives of the University.

The team visited India House and had a luncheon meeting with the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka Mr. Y.K.Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha following which they met the Hindi Department heads from various universities and institutions of Sri Lanka and the Hindi teachers of the Centre. The student of the Centre presented a special cultural programme for the visiting team. The team also had an interaction

with the Sri Lankan academics, cultural personalities and other officials of Government at the reception hosted by the Director of the Indian cultural Centre, Mrs. Rajashree Behera.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> the team had a meeting with Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo.

Interaction with ICC staff and Fine Arts Faculty teachers



Interaction with representatives of the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo





## Interaction with representatives of the University of Visual and Performing Arts



## Interaction with representatives from various University involved in propagating Hindi



## Interaction with ICC Hindi Teachers and students





Meeting with Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo



Lunch hosted by His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha



Dinner hosted by Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director, ICC



**8 March            To Celebrate International Women's Day - "Baawre Mann ke Sapne" (Sound of Dreams)**

The SAARC Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Indian Cultrual Centre celebrated the International Women's Day by presenting "Baawre Mann ke Sapne" (Sound of dreams), a national award-winning all-women theatre production from India by the Creative Arts, India on 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Lionel Wendt Theatre.

The play was attend by His Excelncy Shri Y.K.Sinha, Mrs. Girija Sinha, The Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Arindam Bagchi, Mrs. Ananya Bagchi, Prof. Maitree Wickramasinghe - spouse of Sri Lankan Prime Mninister , Mrs. Radhika Coomaraswamy - Former Chair Person of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission and several other dignitaries and VIPS.

The play was based on the works of Indian women authors like Jhumpa Lahiri, Bulbul Sharma, Abha Iyenger, Irene Dhar Malik and Lalitambika Antarjanam, Baawre Mann Ke Sapne directed by Ramanjit Kaur the cast is made up of Kamal Ahluwalia, Vineeta Abhani, Pragya Gupta, Namrata Manot, Bhavna Gupta, Nandita Daga, Arati Daga, Anita Khandelwal . The play was very well received by the audience. Around 500 guests attended the play.







## 11 March      Lecture - Science of "Indian Vaastu and Feng Shui"

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a lecture on "Science of Indian Vaastu and Feng Shui" focusing on the scientific aspects of the age old practice specifically on "Prosperity through Vaastu and Feng Shui in the year 2016 on 11 March 2016 at its auditorium by Mr. S.B.S.Surendran. He spoke on various aspects and benefits of Vaastu and Feng Shui. His talk was delivered with a power point presentation. Around 80 guests attended the event. Mrs. Girija Sinha spouse of His Excellency Mr. Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka and other invited guests along with 100 more enthusiastic listeners attended the lecture.

S.B.S.SURENDRAN is an Electrical Engineer by profession and pursues his keen interest in Vaastu & Fengshui. He is the first and only Indian to receive accreditation from the international Feng Shui Association (IFSA), Singapore. Apart from integrating the science of Vaastu and Feng Shui his other specialization is "Bio-energetic" adapting the German Physicist Dr Ernst Lecher's method to locate danger zones in a property using "LECHER ANTENNA'.









## 13 March      Lecture "Kitchen Chemistry"

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a lecture titled "Kitchen Chemistry"--the day to day impact on wellness through the use of herbs, spices, vegetables according to the Siddha Medical System by Dr. (Mrs). Vivian Sathyaseelan on 13 March 2016 at its auditorium . Lecture "Kitchen Chemistry" was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in association with A.A.Y.U.S.H . Her talk was delivered with a power point presentation. Around 150 guests attended the lecture.

Dr Vivian Sathiyaseelan is working as Senior Lecturer, Unit of Siddha Medicine University of Jaffna. she has completed B.S.M.S (Sri Lanka), M.D(India). She has worked as a Government Ayurvedic medical officer (1992-94) and as a lecturer for since from1995. Her specialization is in medicinal plants and preparation of Siddha drugs.



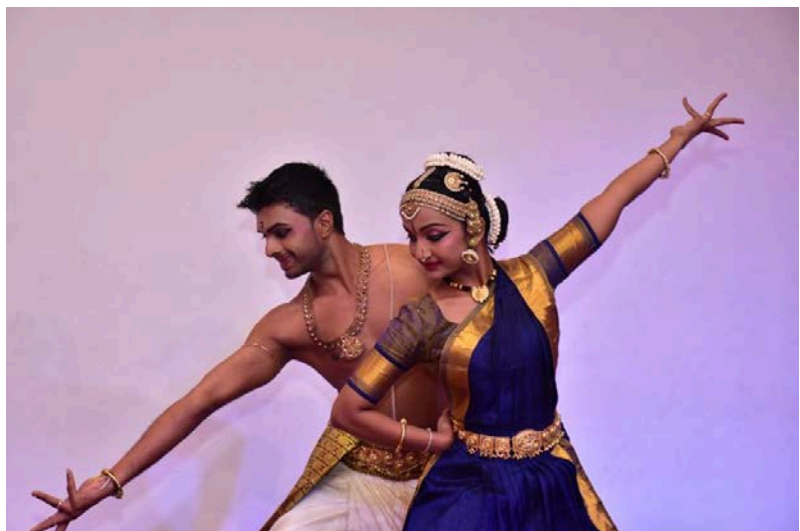




## 14 March      Bharatha Natyam Recital

The dancing duo Parshwanath and Shruti Parshwanath from India presented a spectacular dance performance on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at the Centre. The performance which lasted an hour kept the audience spellbound. The dancers artistic choreography was very much appreciated by the audience. Around 75 guests attend the event.

Shruti and Parshwanath Upadhye are the Artistic Directors of Upadhye School of Dance and Punyah Dance Company Bangalore. The Dance school and Company have made a tremendous mark in the cultural arena in a short span of time. This young couple aspires to approach India's favorite epics with a fresh, young perspective and hope to entertain as well as spark a love for the world's oldest heritage.







## 18 March Flavours of India - Cookery Demonstration

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo organized a cookery demonstration titled "Flavours of India " on 18<sup>th</sup> March. The demonstrations were carried out by Mrs. Luna Bose and Mrs. Manita Aggarwal, who are members of Indian Community in Sri Lanka and High Commission .The audience were given clear instructions on the reparation of each recipe. Members of the audience were treated to a sample of the preparations. The items prepared were Naan, Harabhara kebab, chicken razala and Gulab jamun. Around 50 Sri lankan and Indian guests attended the demonstration.







## 19 March Holi Celebrations

On 19<sup>th</sup> of March Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated Holi in a fun filled manner which was organized by the Hindi class students, teachers and long term Hindi chair. The students of Indian Cultural Centre from Hindi dept. presented a variety of cultural programme including dance, songs and music which was attended by the students, families from High Commission of India with Children and local guests. The Deputy High Commissioner of India Shri Arindam Bagchi and Mrs. Ananya Bagchi also participated in the event. The programme concluded with playing colours. Around 175 enthusiasts participated in the Holi celebrations.











## 29 March Panchkanya - A Bharatnatyam production

The Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Poornam Foundation presented Panchkanya-a **bharatnatyam production** on 29<sup>th</sup> March at its auditorium. Pancha Kanya explored the role of women in public space, examining the stories of five iconic women from Indian epics, through the medium of Indian classical dance. The dance performance was choreographed by Smt. Araty Shetty from India based on the concept developed by Smt. Srilekha Mehta. Around 100 guests attended the event. Mrs. Vijitha Thambinayagam, President of Sri Lanka Tamil Women's Union graced the occasion as Chief Guest.







### **31 March Kathak Recital**

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Kathak recital by Dumith Gunawardana on 31 March 2016 at its auditorium at Indian Cultural Centre. Former Vice Chancellor of the University of Visual and Performing Arts Prof. Jayasena Kottegoda graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The performance lasted for an hour and half.

Dumith Gunawardana started learning Kathak dancing under Prof. Jayasena Kottagoda (Raigarh Gharana) thereafter, he continued Kathak under Ms. Naila Riaz (Jaipur Gharana) in Lahore - Pakistan at Al - Hamra Art Council. Later as per her guidance he started learning under Pandit. Rajendra Gangani (Jaipur Gharana) - New Delhi - India, one of the world famous best Kathak Dancers. He has performed nationally and internationally several times.







### **Scholarships for studying Hindi in India - KHS, Agra**

In the month of March the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called for applications for the Scholarships for studying Hindi in India for Sri Lankan students by issuing Press Releases in various newspapers in the 3 main languages. Applications were received and interviews were held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, after the interviews 15 were short listed and forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi.

### **Performing/Fine Arts Scholarships for studying in India**

In the month of March the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called for applications for the performing/Fine Arts Scholarships for studying in India for Sri Lankan students by issuing Press Releases in various newspapers in the 3 main languages. Applications were received from all over Sri Lanka and interviews were held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, after the interviews 21 applications were short listed and forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi.











## **24<sup>th</sup> February-An evening of Sufi songs from bollywood**

Nimatha Heshan Gamage and his disciples presented an evening of Sufi songs at the Centre. The performance comprising of 15 songs included pure Sufi songs to the Sufi melody film songs. Some of the songs were presented with improvisations. Around 75 guests attend the event.

Nimantha Heshan Gamage learnt many basics of music at the Sangeetha Ashramaya conducted by Sangeeth Visharad Nanda Malini. He made his mark as a juvenile dubbing artiste of the SLBC and did his MA music at Indira Kala Sangeeth University in India. He also performed in many different TV channels and secured favorable responses from audiences. His expertise in singing and playing music instruments paved the way to his becoming a lecturer in Kathak dancing department of the University of Visual and Performing Arts in Colombo. His special talent in voice modulation and voice projection inspired him to found an institution called " Aavaaz - School of Music and dancing " where he aspires to create a group of students trained in his own unique style of singing.









## 27<sup>th</sup> February Workshop/Seminar on Hindi

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a symposium and workshop on "Videshi Chhatron ke liye Pustak ki Bhasa ko Saral and Sahaj Bana ne ke bisya mein Rachnatmak lekh" with professors ,lecturers and teachers of Hindi from all over Sri Lanka on 27th February 2016 at the centre. They established " Hindi Prachar Mitra Mandal" to devise ways of effective propagation of Hindi in Sri Lanka. This event was coordinated by Long Term Hindi Chair Ms. Shirin Qureshi and the local Hindi teachers of ICC.







