



Embassy of India

सत्यमेव जयते

# THE CULTURAL NEWSLETTER



**February 2019**



Indian Council for Cultural Relations  
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

## **THE GANDHI CENTRE THE HAGUE**

**Parkstraat 99 (First floor), 2514 JH, DEN HAAG**

The Gandhi Centre was set up on 2nd October, 2011 with primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening the cultural relations between India and Netherlands. The ICCR has set up such 35 Indian cultural centres in different parts of the world.

The objective of the Gandhi Centre is to promote awareness of India's composite cultural heritage in The Netherlands. The activities of the cultural centre includes showcasing various art forms of India such as dance, drama, music, films and free classes for the public and organising lectures, talks, panel discussions and seminars on subjects related to India. The Gandhi cultural centre functions under the Embassy of India and is established by the ICCR.

# Programme Schedule

You are cordially invited  
for the following:



## Meet and Greet

### Ms. Radikaa Sarathkumar & Mr. R. Sarathkumar (Star Couple & Eminent Indian Film actors / TV personalities)

Embassy of India welcomes you for the Meet and Greet session with the star couple Radikaa Sarathkumar & R.Sarathkumar on 5th February 2019 (Tuesday) from 16:30 hrs to 18:30 hrs.

Ms. Radikaa Sarathkumar is an eminent Indian film and television actress, entrepreneur, and producer who work in the Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam and Kannada film industries. In addition to a career spanning over 300 films, she owns the production company, “Radaan Media works India Ltd,” responsible for some of the most popular Television serials in South India.

Mr. R. Sarathkumar is an Indian film actor, politician, and journalist. He has acted in more than 130 Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada films and has many awards to his acclaim. His early success in the film industry has earned him the title “Supreme star” in Tamil cinema. He was the former member of Legislative Assembly of Tenkasi constituency.

Date : Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Time : 16 30 – 18 30 hrs

Venue: Auditorium

# GLOBAL RAGAS



## Hindustani Classical Recital By

## Global Ragas

The Gandhi Centre invites you for Hindustani Classical Recital (Traditional Winter Ragaas) by Ms. Chetna Sahni Sehgal (Vocal), Ms. Sinta Wullur (Harmonium), Mr. Ganesh Ramnath (Tabla) and students of Global Ragas.

Date : Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Time : 17 00 – 18 00 hrs

Venue: Auditorium



## Kathak Performances By

Ms. Viditha Vishwas  
Ms. Proteeti Bhattacharjee

The Gandhi centre invites you to Kathak dance performances by Ms. Viditha Vishwas and Ms. Proteeti Bhattacharjee.

Ms. Viditha Vishwas is a singer and dancer who learnt Kathak at very young age under the guidance of Mrs. Nirupama and Mr. Rajendra, noted Indian classical dancers. She has performed as solo and in group.

Ms. Proteeti Bhattacharjee is a Kathak dancer and has been groomed under the guidance of well-known Kathak Guru Smt. Vaswati Misra. She has completed Visharad under Guru – Shishya parampara from Pandit Shambhu Maharaj Kathak academy, New Delhi. She has toured with ICCR performing at Bangladesh, Europe and nations of Latin America including performances at 7<sup>th</sup> Vishwa Hindi Sammelan at Suriname.

Date : Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Time : 17 00 – 18 00 hrs

Venue: Auditorium



## Indian Classical Music – A Rich Musical Heritage By

Mehndi Hasan

Mehndi Hasan is known for his Ghazals: Born in a traditional family of great musicians. He grew up listening, learning and singing in his family. He is inspired by the famous Ghazal singer of India 'Ustad Mehndi Hasan' and tries to sing like him. He has performed in middle east countries and several states of India.

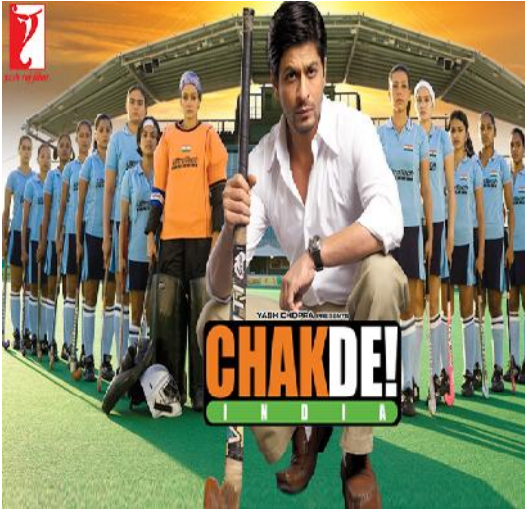
Date : Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019

Time : 16 00 – 18 00 hrs

Venue: Auditorium

# Film Club

## Film: Chak De! India



*Chak De! India* (English: *Go For it! India*) is a 2007 Indian sports film, directed by Shimit Amin and produced by Aditya Chopra.

It tells a fictional story about the Indian women's national field-hockey team, which was inspired by the team's win at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, and explores themes such as feminism and sexism, the legacy of the partition of India, racial and religious bigotry, and ethnic and regional prejudice. The film stars Shahrukh Khan as Kabir Khan, former captain of the Indian men's national field-hockey team. After a disastrous loss to Pakistan, Khan is ostracized from the sport and he and his mother are driven from the family home by angry neighbors. Seven years later, to redeem himself, Khan becomes the coach of the Indian national women's hockey team and aims to turn its sixteen contentious players into a championship unit.

*Chak De! India* won a number of awards, including the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| Date     | : | Friday, 08 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 |
| Time     | : | 14 30 hrs                              |
| Duration | : | 153 Minutes                            |

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## Film: Bang Bang



A young bank receptionist, Harleen Sahni gets mixed up with Rajveer Nanda, a man who has a mysterious background. What ensues is an action packed journey through exotic locations, fast car chases, flying bullets, exploding cars and general mayhem. A slickly packaged film with beautiful visuals, high octane stunts and high production quality, Bang Bang is a quintessential Bollywood action movie and an entertaining watch.

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| Date     | : | Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 |
| Time     | : | 14 30 hrs                              |
| Duration | : | 140 Minutes                            |

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An overview of events held in  
January 2019

# Workshop for Hindi Teachers

05<sup>th</sup> January & 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019



As a part of “World Hindi Day” celebration The Gandhi Centre invited Hindi Teachers from Netherlands for a two day workshop.

Dr. Kanta Rani, Hindi Teacher at The Gandhi Centre conducted the workshop and covered topics like How to teach Hindi Language, Hindi Poetry, Hindi Grammar and Challenges in Hindi teaching.

The workshop was helpful to the teachers.



## Meeting: Urdu – Hindi Poetry Appreciation Club

05<sup>th</sup> January 2019



A Meeting was organized by the Urdu/Hindi Poetry appreciation club.

The members of the club read recited and discussed the poems of Shri. Wasim Barelvi as poet in the guidance of Dr. A Siddiqui, the scholar of Urdu language.

The club was happy to add some new members to the group and would continue to meet.



## Kavi Sammelan (An evening of poetry Part-2)

12<sup>th</sup> January 2019



As a part of “World Hindi Day” celebrations, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of poetry sequence “Sarahadon ke Paar” (Part-2) was organized by The Gandhi Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Mr. Rabin Baldewsingh, Former Deputy Mayor of The Hague was invited as Chief Guest, who also recited his poetry.

Prof. Nirmala Sharma, Director, The Gandhi Centre and Mr. Rabin Baldewsingh felicitated the poets.

## Lecture on Palmistry (What do the shape, fingers and lines in the hands reveal)

12<sup>th</sup> January 2019



The Gandhi centre invited Ms. Francine Rasenberg, an astrologist, palmist and transpersonal therapist to deliver a lecture on Palmistry “What do the shape, fingers and lines in the hands reveal”.

The audiences thoroughly enjoyed the talk and were happy to learn various facets of Palm reading and Vedic Astrology.

Prof. Nirmala Sharma, Director (TGC) felicitated her.

# Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2019

13<sup>th</sup> January 2019



The Indian Diaspora Day (Pravasi Bhartiya Divas) celebrations were held at Diamant Theatre in The Hague on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Over 250 members of the Indian Diaspora participated in the event.

The Indian Diaspora Day was inaugurated by Mr. Manohar Gangesh, C'dA and Counsellor, Embassy of India, Mr. Rabin Baldewsingh, former Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Mr. Ram Lakhina and Mr. Wahid Saleh.

Former Deputy Mayor delivered a talk. Mr. Ram Lakhina and Mr. Wahid Saleh spoke on the event. A documentary film on the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and a short film on the steps taken by Government of India for the welfare of the Indian diaspora were also screened.

It was followed by cultural performances which included Baithak Gana by Mr. Lex Bhola Singh and group, Dance performances by Ms. Keya Kar and group, Ms. Shardha Sheoratan and group and Bollywood dance by Ms. Rajashree and group.

Mr. Manohar Gangesh felicitated the winners of “Bharat ko Janiye” quiz contest.

# World Hindi Day

19<sup>th</sup> January 2019



The Gandhi Centre celebrated World Hindi Day on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Ambassador H.E Sh. Venu Rajamony attended the program and read out the address of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi on World Hindi Day. Over 130 persons attended the program.

The program began with prayer followed by presentation on "Hindi kal aaj aur kal" by Ms. Shivangi Shukla, "Muhavare, lokoktiya and paheli" quiz by Ms. Sonali Shah. The highlight of this year's celebrations was "Antyakshri" by kids in Hindi language which was enjoyed by everyone in the audience. Ms. Keya Kar presented a monoaction sequence named "Jhansi ki Rani."

Ambassador Mr. Venu Rajamony presented certificates to Hindi teacher's workshop and winners of Poetry writing competition. Prof Dr. Nirmala Sharma, Director (TGC) felicitated the participants and performers of World Hindi Day celebrations.

The program ended with "Gabbar aa Jayega" by mimicking the dialogues in different languages of India.

# Republic Day

26<sup>th</sup> January 2019



The Embassy of India celebrated 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India at The India House, Waasenaar in the Netherlands. H.E Ambassador Sh. Venu Rajamony hoisted Flag and delivered the President Ram Nath Kovind's address to the Nation. The Flag Hoisting ceremony was attended by over 600 people.

A Diplomatic evening reception was hosted by H.E Ambassador of India Sh. Venu Rajamony at the Historic Nieuwe Kerk on Dam square, Amsterdam. King's Commissioner of Drenthe, Ms. Jetta Klijnsma and Mayor of Utrecht Mr. Jan Van Zanen attended the reception as the Guest of Honor. Ambassadors to the Netherlands from different countries, prominent members of Indian diaspora and friends of India attended the reception.

A dance performance by Ms. Vaijeyanthi Panchapagesan, Mr. Deodutt Persaud and Ms. Kishori Sakhi enthralled the audience on the theme of "Unity in Diversity of India."

# Regular Classes

The Gandhi Centre organizes regular classes in:

- ) Yoga
- ) Hindi Language
- ) Tabla (Indian percussion instrument)

These classes are open to each and everyone at no cost. The classes are designed to cater to all age groups as well as from beginners to advanced.

## **Yoga Classes**

Yoga is a science and art of healthy living with origins in ancient India. It is a stress management therapy and its practice increases immunity and contributes to overall physical and mental being.

The Yoga Teacher, Mr. Amit Khanna is a Yoga Therapist with 9 years of experience in Yoga. He is also a Physiotherapist. He deals with various medical conditions and life style disorders and suggests exercises to deal with them.



Yoga Class at The Gandhi Centre

## **Hindi Language Classes**

Hindi is the national language of India with origins in the ancient Indian language Sanskrit. It is widely used in both India and Suriname.

Dr. Kanta Rani is an enthusiastic teacher in Hindi language. She has a Masters in Hindi, PhD in education and over 25 years of teaching experience. She has spent several years in teaching Hindi to non-Hindi speakers. She has also taught in ICC Suriname and her publications include three textbooks and one Hindi conversation book.



Hindi Students writing Level 3 exam at The Gandhi Centre



## Tabla Classes

Internationally acclaimed tabla teacher Mr. Heiko Dijker of Dutch origin has been trained under Ustad Faiyaz Khan, the famous Tabla player of India. Along with his public performances, he also teaches in Universities. He teaches Tabla at the Gandhi Centre. The students love him because of his personal attention to every student.



Tabla Class at the Gandhi Centre

**For more details of the classes, kindly visit:  
<http://indianembassy.nl/eoi.php?id=Gandhi>**

Library



The Gandhi Centre library has a rich collection of books on Foreign affairs, Politics, Philosophy, History, Religion, Art, Culture, Dance, Monuments, Autobiographies, Personalities, Yoga, Hindi, Fiction and others. There is a reading room and book issue facilities.

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