



Embassy of India

THE CULTURAL NEWSLETTER



March 2020



THE GANDHI CENTRE THE HAGUE

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

The Gandhi Centre was set up on 2 October, 2011 with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations between India and Netherlands. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations has set up 36 Indian cultural centers 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 include showcasing various art forms of India such as dance, drama, music, films, talks and seminars on subjects related to India. The centre also teaches Yoga, Tabla and Hindi. It has a library with a rich collection of books on history, art, culture, political affairs and fiction. The Gandhi Centre functions under the Embassy of India and is established by the ICCR.

Programme Schedule

You are cordially invited
for the following:



Kathak Workshop

by

Riya Yawalkar

Riya Yawalkar has been trained in the art of Kathak from a very tender age. She mastered the style with great dedication and sincerity. She is a student of renowned Kathak Guru Dr. Mrs. Vaishali Dudhe. Her notable performances include: - Diwali performance on DoorDarshan, Television broadcaster founded by the Government of India, Kathak presentation at 85th summit of Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Natya Parishad, in the presence of renowned Indian Bollywood actor Mr. Amitabh Bacchhan. She has received Sangeet Visharad in Kathak from Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal in 2006. She is the founder of Riyaaz Dance Academy, Mumbai.

Date : Saturday, 7 & 14 March 2020

Time : 11 30 – 13 30 hrs

Venue: Auditorium



**The Gandhi Centre
Embassy of India
The Hague**



**Visit of India's World Bicycle Traveller
to Holland on his Mission:**



Wheels on Green
(Film and Discussion)

Dr. Raj Phanden (Cycle Baba)

***"In the past 3 years and 7 months he has travelled
51110 km on his Bicycle to create awareness on
Global Warming, Climate Change and a Greener
World"***

Date: Saturday 14 March 2020

Walk in: 16.30 Hrs, Program: 17.00 - 18.00 Hrs

**Venue: The Gandhi Centre
First Floor, Parkstraat 99,
2514 JH The Hague**



Presentation

by

Dr. Raj Phanden (Cycle Baba) - Wheels for Green

Dr. Raj Phanden is on a mission titled - **Wheels for Green | World Bicycle Traveller**. He started back in 2016 from India on a Bicycle only to travel across the Globe to create awareness on Global Warming, Climate Change and its effect on the human race, encourage plantation and promote Ayurveda and Indian Culture.

He is an Ayurvedic doctor (M.D) by Education and had practiced almost for a decade. He has covered almost more than 51110 kms in a time period of 3 years and 7 months on a Bicycle only. He has cycled to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Timor, Brunei, Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, S. Korea, Hong Kong, Macau, Oman, UAE, Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Italy, Vatican city, San Marino, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, France, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Wales, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and India.

Date : Saturday, 14 March 2020

Time : 17.00 - 18.00 hrs

Venue: Auditorium





**THE GANDHI CENTRE
EMBASSY OF INDIA
THE HAGUE**



Cordially invites you to a

Bharatanatyam Workshop

by

Niharika Sharma

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

WORKSHOP: 11.30 - 13.30 HRS

VENUE: THE GANDHI CENTRE, FIRST FLOOR

PARKSTRAAT 99 , 2514 JH , THE HAGUE

Bharatanatyam Workshop

by

Niharika Sharma

Niharika Sharma is an Indian classical dancer from Bengaluru. She has received Bharatanatyam training from Vidushi Divyashree Guruprasad, at Siri Nritya Loka, Bengaluru. She is also trained under Dr. Nandini Esver and Dr. Rohitha Esver, at Raasavrunda, Mysore. Niharika has also Kathak trained for two years under Dr. Nandini Esver and Dr. Rohitha Esver, at Raasavrunda, Mysore. She is currently teaching the Junior and Senior batch at Siri Nritya Loka. She has completed Post-Vidwath Examination conducted by Karnataka Secondary Education Board in May 2019.

Niharika Sharma secured First place (Senior - Solo) at the International Dance Festival, conducted by Nrityanjali in Delhi. She has performed at the International Dussehra festival in Mysore.

Date : Saturday, 21 March 2020

Time : 11 30 – 13 30 hrs

Venue: Auditorium



Kathak Workshop and Performance

by

Proteeti Bhattacharjee

Proteeti Bhattacharjee was initiated into Kathak at the tender age of 4 and has been groomed under the able guidance of well-known Kathak Guru Smt. Vaswati Misra. She has successfully completed eight years of Diploma from the prestigious Kathak Kendra, New Delhi and has been recipient of merit scholarship throughout her period of training. She has also completed Visharad under Guru-Shishya parampara from Pandit Shambhu Maharaj Kathak Academy, New Delhi. Graceful movements and subtle expressions elegantly blended with strong command over technique are hallmarks of Proteeti's performances today.

Date : Saturday, 28 March 2020

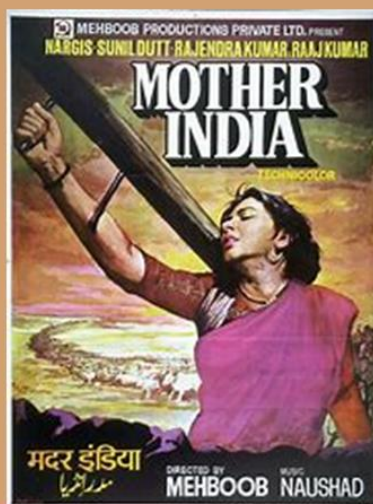
Time : 17 00 – 18 00 hrs

Venue: Auditorium

Film Club

Movie Screening : International Women's Day Special

MOTHER INDIA (Subtitles in English)



Mother India is a 1957 [Indian epic drama](#) film, directed by [Mehboob Khan](#) and starring [Nargis](#), [Sunil Dutt](#), [Rajendra Kumar](#), and [Raaj Kumar](#). It is the story of a poverty-stricken village woman named Radha (Nargis), who in the absence of her husband, struggles to raise her sons and survive against a cunning money-lender amidst many troubles. *Mother India* became a definitive cultural classic and is regarded as one of the best films in Indian and world cinema. The film won the [All India Certificate of Merit for Best Feature Film](#), the [Filmfare Best Film Award](#) for 1957, and Nargis and Khan won the Best Actress and Best Director awards respectively. It was also nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film](#), becoming the first Indian film to be ever nominated.

Date: Friday, March 6, 2020

Time: 14.30hrs

Venue: The Gandhi Centre, First Floor, Parkstraat 99, 2514 JH The Hague

Movie Screening : PADOSAN



Padosan (transl. Lady Neighbour) is a 1968 [Indian Hindi-language comedy](#) film directed by [Jyoti Swaroop](#) and produced by [Mehmood](#), N. C. Sippy and written by [Rajendra Krishan](#). The film stars [Sunil Dutt](#) and [Saira Banu](#). [Kishore Kumar](#), [Mukri](#), Raj Kishore and [Keshto Mukherjee](#) played the supporting roles. It was considered as one of the best comedy films made in Hindi film history. [Kishore Kumar](#)'s character of a comical theatre director was also well received. *Indiatimes Movies* ranked the film amongst the "Top 25 Must See Bollywood Films". A laugh-riot 'Padosan' also boasts of super-hit songs. Music was composed by [R.D. Burman](#) and was a huge success. [Kishore Kumar](#) sang for himself while Manna Dey sang for [Mehmood](#).

Date: Friday, March 27, 2020

Time: 14.30hrs

Venue: The Gandhi Centre, First Floor, Parkstraat 99, 2514 JH The Hague

An overview of events held in February 2020

Talk on Gita and Stress Management 1 February 2020



The Gandhi Centre organized a Talk on “Gita and Stress Management” by Mr. Girish Lad. It was two-hour session on how stress affects our daily walk of life. Mr. Lad connected today’s scenario to the Mahabharata times giving practical insights to control stress. This was followed by a thought-provoking Question & Answer session from the audience.

Prof. Dr. Nirmala Sharma, Director, The Gandhi Centre felicitated the speaker.

Bharatanatyam Recital 8 February 2020



The Gandhi Centre organized a Bharatanatyam Recital by Ms. Niharika Sharma. The choice of songs, her movements and expressions were interesting. The highlight of her performance was the “Thillana” which enthralled the audience.

Prof. Dr. Nirmala Sharma, Director, The Gandhi Centre felicitated the artist.

Panel Discussion on “Constitution of India and Fundamental Duties” 18 February 2020



The Embassy of India, The Hague and Foundation for Critical Choices for India, FCCI organized a Panel Discussion on “Constitution of India and Fundamental Duties”. The speakers were Shri Rabin Baldewsingh, former Deputy Mayor of the Hague, Shri Badri Madan, former Chairman, IBC, Shri Aniel Pahladsingh, Lawyer at the Council of State, Dr. Yamini Singh, Joint Secretary, FCCI & Urban Planner and Dr. Nirmala Sharma, Director, The Gandhi Centre. Dr. Luther Rangreji, Counsellor (Legal), Embassy of India was the moderator of the Panel Discussion.

The speakers made insightful presentations on the topic which was followed by an interesting Question and Answer Session.

Shri Jasbir Singh, President of FCCI and Dr. Luther Rangreji made closing remarks on the Panel Discussion. They hoped that there would be more such discussions, focusing on each one of the eleven Fundamental Duties in the Constitution of India.

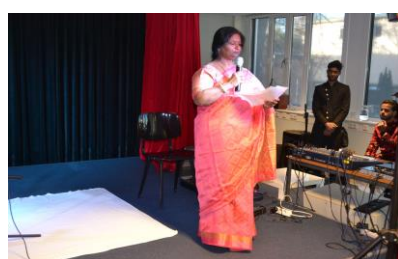
Shivaratri Celebrations 22 February 2020



On Shivaratri, The Gandhi Centre had performances on the theme 'Shiva'. A Carnatic Vocal Performance by Smt. Vijayalakshmi Kannan accompanied on Mrindangam by Shri Abhinand Pusuluri and Violin by Shri Akarsh Kidiyur Sathish, which was followed by Bharatanatyam by Shri Amarnath Ghosh and Ms. Shraddha Subramani. The performances were soul touching in praise of Nataraja, the Lord of Dance – Shiva.

Prof. Dr. Nirmala Sharma, Director, The Gandhi Centre felicitated the artists.

Ghazal Concert 29 February 2020



The Gandhi Centre organized a Ghazal Concert by Mehndi Hasan. Mehndi Hasan gave a splendid concert singing to Ghazals, thumris and popular numbers and was supported by Salim Hasan on Tabla and Shekhar Shivprasad on the Guitar. The auditorium saw a jam-packed audience who at the end of the concert requested their personal favorite songs to be sung, which the artist smilingly obliged.

Prof. Dr. Nirmala Sharma, Director, The Gandhi Centre felicitated the artists.

Regular Classes

The Gandhi Centre organizes regular classes in:

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

These classes are open to each and every one 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 increase immunity and contributes to overall physical and mental being.



Yoga Class at The Gandhi Centre

Hindi Language Classes

Hindi language has its origins in the ancient Indian language Sanskrit. It is widely used in both India and Suriname. Large number of students study this language at The Gandhi Centre.



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 his classes because of his personal attention.



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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