

Indian Council for Cultural Relations  
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्

# INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE SÃO PAULO



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Indo-Brazilian Carnival in São Paulo, Brazil – photo by Jorge Sato



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**INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE SAO PAULO**

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## ACTIVITIES REPORT - FEBRUARY 2017

10.02  
18h

Workshop | **VIPASSANA MEDITATION**  
by **Shirlene Lopes**

'Ecos da Paz' (echoes of peace) is a nucleus for contemplative activities created to fill the demand for regular meditation activities in ICC São Paulo, offering experiences in meditation practices from various cultural strata. The group was initially formed by ladies who spread the Gandhian message by organizing lectures, handicrafts workshops and recitals. This years' first activity was a workshop of Vipassana meditation by instructor Shirlene Lopes.

14.02  
19h

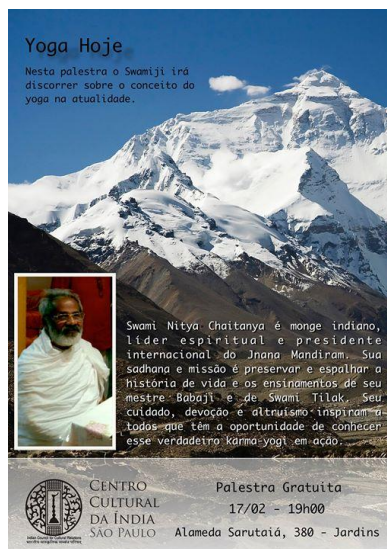
Celebration | **MAHA SHIVA RATRI**  
by **Brahma Kumaris São Paulo**

Of very special significance to yogis of all kinds and all over the world, the sacred pan-Indian festival of Maha Shivaratri was celebrated by the Brahma Kumaris organization at the ICC São Paulo this year. The ceremony consisted of special meditation session and lecturer on the theme of self-perfecting disciplines of meditation through the Raja Yoga point of view and interpretation. The lecture and ceremony were guided by sister Katia Roel, coordinator of the publishing house of Brahma Kumaris Brazil. At the end of the event, all participants received sweet Prasad brought from India especially for the occasion.



17.02  
19h

Lecture | **A SESSION WITH SWAMI NITYA CHAITANYA**  
**Jnana Mandiram International**



Swami Nitya Chaintanya is an Indian monk, karma-yogi and international president of Jnana Mandiram. His sadhana and mission is to preserve and disseminate the teachings and history of his master Babaji and of Swami Tilak. Known for his altruism and his sharp and clear teachings the yogi came to Brazil once again in a tour for meeting his students and lectured at the ICC on the subject of Yoga and related disciplines and philosophies. The Swami had the help of Patricia Romano, pioneer of Indian classical dance in Brazil for translation but also expressed himself many times in Spanish and Portuguese languages for the delight of the audience. In the end the yogi distributed Prasad and spoke to students and visitors.

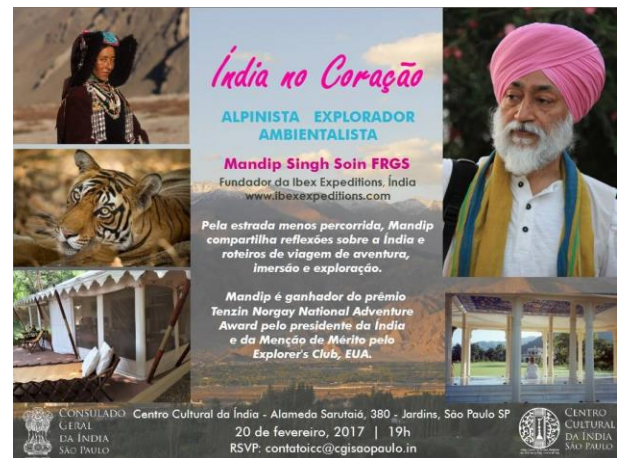


20.02  
19h

Celebration | **INDIA AT HEART**  
with **Mandip Singh Soin**

Another field of Indian tourism promotion was started at the ICC São Paulo with the special lecture on adventure tourism in India by guest speaker Mr. Mandip Singh Soin.

Mr. Soin has been traveling and exploring since his teenage years when he decided to use his passion for the nature and the unexplored landscapes as his profession. He founded the Ibex Expeditions in 1979 and since then offers World Class customized adventure tourism experiences to travelers of all profiles.



Before the lecture, Mr. Soin was interviewed by journalists of local newspapers and tourism magazines that enquired about his lifetime experience and his business vision as an experienced entrepreneur for this segment in Brazil. Smt. Abhilasha Joshi, Consul General, welcomed the guests and Ambassador Shri Sunil Lal gave the opening remarks. Thereafter, the guests listened in rapt attention to the adventure trails of Mr. Mandip Soin, the guest speaker of the day. During his talk, Mr. Soin has shown many of the still unexplored places, landscapes and wild areas of the Indian subcontinent in images captured by his lens all over the years. At the end of the lecture a session of Q&A took place and the speaker had the opportunity to explain many other topics in depth and along with his wife, Mrs. Anita Singh Soin, Director of the Ibex received flower bouquets from the hands of Consul General as vote of thanks.

The special evening was closed by a cocktail reception with Indian delicacies when guests, officials and the speaker had the opportunity to exchange contacts and discuss future projects.









Photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianConsulateGeneralSaoPauloBrazil/posts/1347113555356132>

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianConsulateGeneralSaoPauloBrazil/posts/1347264245341063>

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## MISCELLANEOUS

**25.02**  
**12h**

*Celebration* | **A VERY INDIAN CARNIVAL**  
**By IASP**

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Brazilian Carnival is renown worldwide as the country receives thousands of tourists for the celebrations, parades and the traditional street Carnival, open to all symbol of season of acceptance and joy. The frolic uses all cultures and artistic expressions as themes for celebration and India couldn't be out of the party as street festivals full of drumming are an intrinsic part of Indian culture! The street block called 'Bloco Bollywood' was launched in 2016 by the Indian community of São Paulo and happily embraced by locals. This year's parade started in Rua Augusta and attracted the crowd by offering a blend of Brazilian tunes and pure Indian beats of Bhangra and Bollywood songs!











Bloco Bollywood makes news in The Indian Express, published in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Toronto.

Photos (by Apolo Sales):

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/apolosalesphotographer/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1665458343758542](https://www.facebook.com/pg/apolosalesphotographer/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1665458343758542)

**25.02**  
**12h**

*Visit |* **SHITAL MAHAJAN IN BRAZIL**  
**Padma Shri Awarded Indian Skydiver**

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Padma Shri Shital Mahajan, Skydiver is the first Indian Woman to Skydive on all 7 Continents. She visited Boituva, Brazil in February 2017 to complete her record.

Shital Mahajan Rane, is an Indian extreme sportsperson, skydiver and the holder of five world records and 14 National records in the sport. She is known as the first woman to perform first parachute jump of life without training over the Geographical North pole in minus 37 degree Celsius from 2400 ft, and first accelerated free fall jump without any trials over the Antarctica - South pole from 11,600 feet, in minus 38 degree Celsius the youngest woman to jump over both the North and South Poles, and the first woman jumper to perform it without trials. The Government of India honored her in 2011, with the Padma Shri. She is also the recipient of the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in 2006, besides others.

Shital has done more than 672 parachute jumps, most of them from above 13500ft, few of them from 18,000ft with oxygen & 5 different types of aircrafts and different places like North Pole & Antarctica – South Pole & India, USA, Finland, Spain and Australia.

During her visit to Sao Paulo, she met with Ms. Abhilasha Joshi, Consul General. Together with her skydiver friend Mariana she also participated in the 'Bloco Bollywood' Carnival organized by the Indian Association of Sao Paulo. The Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo wishes Shital Mahajan all the best in her future endeavours.





**Besides, all our regular activities such as Yoga, Odissi, Bharatanatyam and Kathak classes, and Library Services are being conducted as per schedule.**

**Facebook of ICC Sao Paulo:**

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianCulturalCentreSaoPauloBrazil>

**Facebook of CGI Sao Paulo:**

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianConsulateGeneralSaoPauloBrazil/>

**ICC YouTube Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy7sB7JSnUqZqc21aFvax4A>

**Website of CGI and ICC Sao Paulo:**

[www.cgisaopaulo.in](http://www.cgisaopaulo.in)