



Indian Council for Cultural Relations  
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्

# INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE SÃO PAULO



Kathak by Nandini Singh & group – September 2017 – photo by Elza Cohen

SEPTEMBER 2017  
ACTIVITIES REPORT



### **FESTIVAL OF INDIA – TO CELEBRATE INDIA@70**

In commemoration of India's 70 years as a free democratic republic, the Ministry of Culture of the Government of India promoted the 'Festival of India – 70 years of freedom'. In Brazil, the Festival of India was held in Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, with a series of events displaying the diverse aspects of Indian culture. In Sao Paulo, the Festival of India was celebrated from 2-7 September 2017.

**02.09  
20h30**

*celebration |* **FESTIVAL OF INDIA: MUSIC BY C. S. ANUROOP & GROUP  
by CGI/ICC São Paulo**

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The first special performance part of the Festival of India was the music concert titled 'Music of the Gods or Music Divine' by C. S. Anuroop and group held at the theatre of Unibes Cultural, a prestigious cultural center of São Paulo.

Anuroop Choottara Sugathan started studies at the age of 7 under guru Kalakshetram Madhu from Kerala and advanced training on classical violin from guru Sri Tanjavur M. Thyagarajan from Chennai. A constant winner of important Indian musical competitions, C. S. Anuroop received the title of "Top Violin Player" from the All India Radio. His playing style is known as Gaayaki Kharaana. He also specialized in western violin in which he is also a performer, besides fusion music.

C. S. Anuroop was accompanied by the skilled musicians Chander Shekar Mullakkudi Viswanathan (Mridangam) and reputed vocalists Elangovan Govindarajan and Rajagopalan Palakal, all received with a standing ovation from the delighted 275 plus audience.





Photos:

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03.09  
18h

celebration | **FESTIVAL OF INDIA: KATHAK by NANDINI SINGH & GROUP**  
by CGI/ICC São Paulo

Another very special evening of Indian arts was presented to the Brazilian audiences, this time presenting the art of classical dance through the mastery of Kathak dancer and instructor guru Nandini Singh and her Disciples. Nandini Singh was initiated in the universe of dance by her mother while still a child. She learned Kathak with illustrious masters such as guru Hiralal, Guru Ganeshi Hiralal and Pt. Sunder Prasad. From her phenomenal first performance, Nandini has been acclaimed by public and critics as the epitome of elegance combining the lyricism and expression with impeccable technique. The audience was treated to an eclectic, lively and energetic performance by the group accompanied by live music and was acknowledged by the 300-strong audience with a standing ovation.







Photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1554706971248517.1073742155.264620656923828&type=3>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QphJPcQgugk&feature=youtu.be>

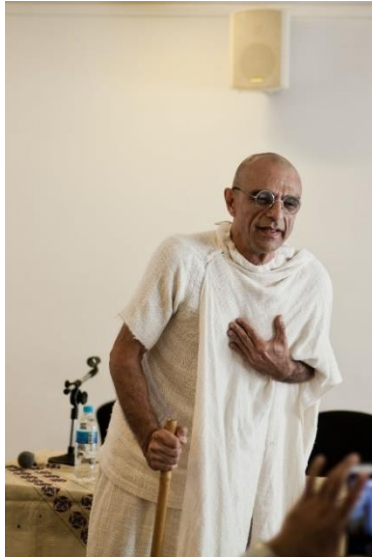
05.09  
10h

*celebration* | **FESTIVAL OF INDIA: LIFE OF GANDHI EXHIBITION**  
by CGI/ICC São Paulo

Continuing the series of special events in celebration of India's 70 years of independence, the exhibition "Gandhi: Life and Times of the Mahatma in Pictures" was inaugurated with a morning event at the Palas Athena association.

The opening ceremony had the welcome address of Prof. Lia Diskin, founding director of Palas Athena, followed by Consul General of India Mr. Vijay Singh Chauhan who spoke about the role of Gandhiji in India's freedom struggle and the continued relevance of his teachings in modern times. Also present on the occasion was a senior representative from the Foreign Office in Sao Paulo Ambassador Mrs. Irene Vida Gala, who spoke about the importance of Indian diplomacy worldwide and in Brazil. A short performance by actor João Signorelli and his Gandhi impersonation closed the formalities with art and recalling the message and legacy of the life of Gandhiji and a message urging all to embrace a culture of tolerance and peace. The day long official exhibition was formally inaugurated and was visited by students from Palas Athena and from other institutions, teachers, photographers and admirers of Gandhian philosophy and friends of India attended the function. The exhibition remained at the Palas Athena till 16 September and is now part of ICC's permanent archive. A quiz on the life of Gandhiji was also prepared for the visitors.







Photos:

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07.09  
16h

celebration | **FESTIVAL OF INDIA: INDIAN LITERATURE**  
by CGI/ICC São Paulo

The Literary Festival held at the prestigious Livraria Cultura on 07 September closed the week of events. Three prominent writers from India - Shiva Reddy, Shafiq Shauq and Mona Lisa Jena spoke on Indian literature with Prof Cielo of University of Sao Paulo chosen as the Moderator. The event opened with the remarks of Consul General Mr. Vijay Singh Chauhan. As the event coincided with the Independence Day of Brazil, apart from speaking on contemporary Indian literature and reading poems in their mother tongue and in English, all three poets read out poems they had composed congratulating Brazil and its people on its Independence Day. The writers also gifted their books to the Livraria Cultura.

Ms. **Mona Lisa Jena** was born in the state of Odisha and is the author of many books in several genres including short-stories, poems, and received the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award in 2007 for translation. **Shafi Shauq** is an acclaimed poet and fiction writer, linguist and critic from Jammu, Kashmir. He has received many awards and participated in book fairs in Peking, Shanghai, Frankfurt and also part of the delegation of Indian writers to the London Book Festival in 2009. He also writes scripts for TV and cinema. **K. Shiva Reddy** is an important voice in the contemporary Telugu poetry. He has published collections of poems from 1973 to 2003 and is the winner of many awards including the Sahitya Akademi award in 1990 for his book Mohana! Oh Mohana! He also acted as an English teacher at the Vivek Vardhini College in Hyderabad for many years recently retiring as its director.







Photos:

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**11.09**  
**19h**

*lecture* | **MEDITATION & CONCENTRATION**  
**by ICC São Paulo**

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As part of the ongoing activities conducted once a month at the ICC by the Brahma Kumaris, the lecture “Meditation & Concentration” by sister Anna Doliani, coordinator of Brahma Kumaris in Lebanon, offered a modern understanding of this practice that comes from immemorial past and still is one of the best solutions for the problems faced by modern our society.

This was the second visit of the international guest sister Anna Doliani to the ICC São Paulo. She has graduated in psychology and philosophy and teaches Raja Yoga for 30 years now

**12.09**  
**15h**

*course* | **INTRODUCTION TO RAJA YOGA**  
**by Brahma Kumaris**

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This extensive free course on Raja Yoga is kindly offered at least once a year by the Brahma Kumaris organization, as an introduction to the practice of meditation to the citizens of São Paulo. The course was conducted by the senior instructors Ms. Sônia Conceição and Ms. Sumiko Namba and is richly illustrated with the aid of videos and photos besides the practice. The two hour classes on the Course was held on 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28 September at the center.

**14.09**  
**19h**

*lecture* | **KRIYA YOGA**  
**by ICC São Paulo**

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Kriya Yoga is largely known in Brazil mainly due to the popularity of Paramahansa Yogananda in the country. The lecture of Yogi Sarveshwarananda Giri was an informal talk to clarify many of the philosophic concepts of this Yogic branch and also a satsang with traditional Indian devotional music.

Yogi Sarveshwarananda Giri (David Vachon), is a Kriya Yoga master from Paris, graduated in literature by the Greboble and Master in Communication by the Sorbone. He was disciple and personal attendant of Swami Hariharananda from 1988 to 2002 and is the founder of São Paulo’s branch of Art of Peace association.

15.09  
18h

workshop | **COOKING CLASS:**  
by ICC São Paulo

The monthly hugely popular Indian culinary workshops of ICC are one of the most sought-after activities of the Centre.



September workshop was the time to feature two South Indian recipes: *Pazham Pori*, made with fried bananas and *lemon rice*, popular in the state of Kerala. The recipes were chosen due to its ingredients which are easy to find in Brazil as to replicate the exact flavor they would have if prepared in India (even the type of banana utilized is the same found there). Preparations were tasted by all participants.

Many thanks to the guest instructor Ms.

Suja.

Photos:

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18.09  
18h30

workshop | **YOGA COACH**  
by Yoga Sri Vivek Brasil

Babi Minamoto (Acharya Prerna), entrepreneur and organizer of the Yoga Shri Vivek Brasil is disciple of the Indian yogi Jivan Vismay, representative of the Vivek Yoga lineage who is based in Barcelona, Spain, and teaches all over the world and visits the ICC when touring in Brazil and Yoga Shri Vivek Brasil institution partners the ICC for the celebrations of International Day of Yoga annually.

In this month's workshop Ms. Babi gave hints of practices that aids the conciliation of an urban life and a yogic life style.

**Coach de Yoga**  
Sabedoria ancestral aplicada à vida moderna

Palestra gratuita e apresentação do curso de formação de Yoga

com acharya Prerna

As atividades e responsabilidades aumentaram muito nos últimos tempos: isso não podemos negar. Nesta palestra, a acharya Prerna mostrará que é possível sobreviver no mundo atual sem gerar stress e explicará como criar disciplina sem ter que lutar contra o tempo e as "obrigações" do dia-a-dia.

Segunda-feira . 18/set . 18:30h  
Centro Cultural da Índia  
(Al. Sarutaiá, 380, Jardins)

Confirmar presença: [yogashrivivekbrasil@gmail.com](mailto:yogashrivivekbrasil@gmail.com)

[www.yogashrivivekbrasil.com](http://www.yogashrivivekbrasil.com)

**19.09**  
**19h**

*workshop* | **AISVARA YOGA**  
**by CGI/ICC São Paulo**

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Workshop and satsang that presents the techniques and philosophies of the Aisvara Yoga, a movement organized by Tathata Vrindham organization.

The movement was started by Swami Śrī Tathāta from Kerala, a natural born meditator whose spiritual inclinations started early in his childhood and has started a world movement on Yoga and great scale Vedic fire rituals (Mahāyāga) around the globe. The lecturer Ms. Andrea Elias is the official representative of Aisvara Yoga for Brazil.

**22.09**  
**19h**

*training* | **WORDS OF PEACE / PREM RAWAT ASSOCIATION**  
**by CGI/ICC São Paulo**

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The training 'Program for Peace Education' of 'Palavras de Paz' (words of peace) was created to promote the works and methods of Peace Culture education from the Prem Rawat Foundation and is often presented at the ICC.

Ms. Ivete Belfort, social worker and organizer of the program, conducts this training in poor and dangerous areas as well as in jails in many Brazilian cities and states.

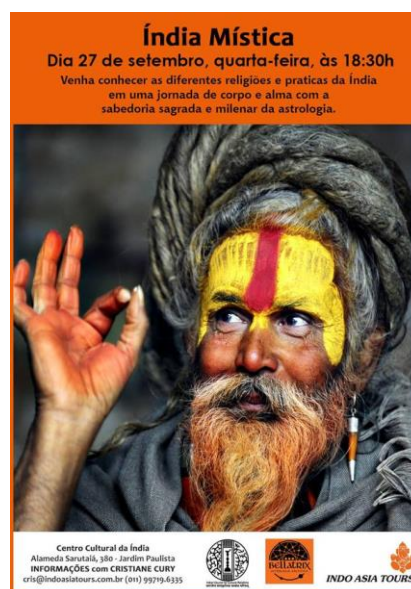
**27.09**  
**18h30**

*tourism promotion* | **A TOUR THROUGH THE MYSTIC INDIA**  
**by CGI/ICC São Paulo**

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Lectures of Indo Asia Tours are regularly held at the ICC as part of its activities on Indian tourism promotion. This next tour presented is 'Mystic India' that will explore the enchantment and culture of some of the worldwide renowned mystic locations and monuments in India and their stories.

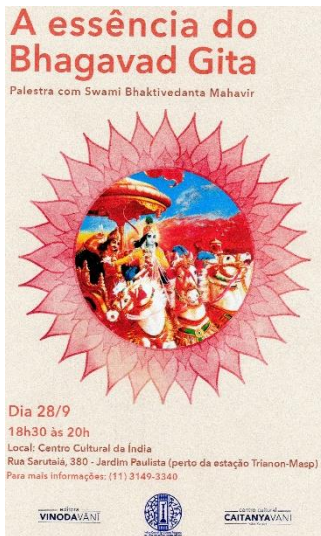
About guest speaker: Cristiane Cury is BA by EAESP - Fundação Getúlio Vargas, specialized in marketing and foreign commerce. As a traveler she visited 40 countries and her contact with Indian culture was fundamental and transformative. From that moment she dedicated her life to Indian studies which led her to live in India for three years and to organize knowledge tours through India and other southern Asiatic countries.



**28.09**  
**18h30**

*lecture* | **THE ESSENCE OF THE BHAGAVAD GITA**  
**by Centro Cultural Caitanyavani**

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Swami Bhaktivedanta Mahavir (Guilherme Tognozzi Borges) was born in the city of Rio de Janeiro and as a student of philosophy decided to move to Pirenópolis in central Brazil where he met the Gaudiya-Vaishnava devotees and his guru Srila Bhaktivedanta Narayana Goswami Maharaja, an important missionary. From that day on he dedicated his life to promote Bhakti Yoga.

In his lecture at the ICC the swami spoke about the deep spiritual and philosophical issues presented by this millenary text that has been praised by religious, philosophers and scientists alike and is regarded as one of the most important philosophic treatises of world history.

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**29.09**  
**19h**

*meditation session* | **VIPASSANA**  
**by Ecos da Paz with Marcio Zalc**

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The 'Ecos da Paz' monthly activity of September was a class on Vipassana meditation and meditation session conducted by the experienced instructor Mr. Marcio Zalc. The lecture attracted practitioners and beginners alike and after the short meditation practice the event was closed by a Q&A session. Ecos da Paz (Echoes of Peace) is a project created to promote contemplative techniques of ancient and modern times originated in many different cultures across the globe.

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**Besides, the regular activities of the ICC 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)