



The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

in association with

Hindu Educational Society
and

Carnatic Alchemy Project
presents

Sadbhakti

A Musical Tribute to
M.S. Subbulakshmi

Script and research: Gowri Ramnarayan
(grandniece of M.S. Subbulakshmi)
Vocal: Dr. Deepthi Navaratna
Violin: Mathura Balachandran
Mridanga: Vennilan Vairavapillai

at 6.30 p.m on Friday, 02 December 2016
at the Saraswathy Hall
75, Lorensz Road, Colombo 04



All are cordially invited,
Seating on first come first serve.

Cultural Calendar - December 2016

Sadbhakti

A Musical Tribute to M. S. Subbulakshmi
by Eminent Carnatic Musicians from India
Organized by The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo
in association with Hindu Educational Society and
Carnatic Alchemy Project

Venue: Saraswathi Hall, 75, Lorensz Road, Colombo - 4

2
Friday
6.30pm

8
Thursday
6.00pm

"Conversation with my Hari"
A Bharata Natyam presentation showcasing
various perspectives of the devotee

Bharatha Natyam Recital
by Kiranmayee Madupu from India
Venue: ICC auditorium

Hindustani Vocal Recital
by Pandit Tushar Dutta from India
Venue: ICC auditorium

15
Thursday
6.00pm

17
Saturday
10.00am-2.00pm

Food & Fun Fair
Indian delicacies, handicrafts,
jewellery, mehendi etc.
(Free Entry)
Venue: ICC Lawn

Friday Matinee
Film – Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (Hindi)
(with English Subtitles)
Director: Sooraj R. Barjatya
Cast: Salman Khan, Sonam Kapoor,
Neil Nitin Mukesh & Anupam Kher
Venue: ICC auditorium

23
Friday
3.00pm

Programmes subject to change
Admission to all programmes are on first come first serve basis.
All are cordially invited



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध आयोग

Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo December 2016



Cultural Tapestry

Continued...

Handicrafts of Eastern India BIHAR

Bihar is one of the states of India with a culturally mixed population, which is reflected in their varied crafts. The handicrafts feature an extremely rich tradition of artistry and innovation and are known for their aesthetic value and their adherence to tradition. The beautiful stories of the ancient times are depicted in the exquisite handicrafts of the state.

Stonework



Stonework in Bihar dates back to the pre-Christian era and the state is well-known for its stone images of the Buddha, which are carved with supreme mastery. Stonework had reached its peak in the Mauryan period, when stonework and architecture had become a symbol of the dynasty. Stone craftsmen are seen in the Pathakatti region of Gaya district, in the areas adjoining important Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Most of the stonework depicts just the head of the Buddha, but sometimes the full body of the sage is made out of the lustrous grey-green stone found in the neighbouring hills of Gaya. Images of Ganesha and others deities of the Hindu pantheon are also made following the demands of the buyers. Utensils and tableware made from blackstone are used for ritualistic and religious purposes, like placing offerings before gods and goddesses. The art has been handed down from one generation to the next, through the age-old tradition in the families.

Bangle-Making

Bangles made in Muzaffarpur are known for their brightness and colour. The raw materials required for making the bangles, mainly lac and natural colours, can be obtained from the forests nearby. The bangles are made in bright colours like vermilion,

red, purple and gold. The artisans of Muzaffarpur specialize in the making of a variety of bangles called **lahathi**. These lac bangles are usually yellow or orange in colour with exquisite stripes and adorned with small glass pieces.



Sikki Kala

Sikki is intrinsically connected to the cultural life of Bihar. **Sikki** is a kind of grass-like weed that grows on the banks of the Ganges. **Sikki** craft is the art of converting grass into the most wonderful objects, by the extremely efficient artistry of **Sikki** women of the Mithila region of northern Bihar. The **Sikki** weeds are collected and then dried, by virtue of which they get a lustrous golden hue and a beautiful coarse texture. They are then twisted into ropes and then imaginatively wrought into a variety of articles such as baskets and boxes, human figures, replicas of gods and goddesses, toys, animals, birds and models of chariots and temples. Before being woven, the grass is dyed in bright translucent colours and the shimmering golden grass, glowing through the paint, gives the articles their characteristic luminosity. The coiling technique used in **Sikki** craft is one of the oldest of its kind. The common long grass is coiled and stitched together with **Sikki**, using a thick needle called **Takua**. The form is completely folk in nature and has a style of its own, is environment friendly and exclusive. In olden days, when girls got married, a lot of **Sikki** articles like trays, bread boxes, dolls, etc., were sent as gifts to the bride's new family. Now the craft is more organized and artisans have updated themselves to create different kinds of utilitarian objects suitable for sale in urban areas as well as for export.



JHARKHAND

The handicrafts of Jharkhand are made by its different tribes and portray the rich tradition of art and culture of the state. The various crafts of the state include bamboo-craft, woodcraft, tribal ornaments and stone-carving. The tribal ornaments are unique and special and portray the traditional heritage of the tribal people. Toy-making is another interesting craft of the state.

Wooden Craft

Jharkhand is surrounded by dense forests and wood is plentiful. The artisans of Jharkhand make a variety of wooden articles that include intricately-carved windows and door panels, which are in high demand. Smaller items like wooden boxes, spoons and decorative items also have a good market. The articles are known not only for their durability, elegance and design, but also for having a cultural flavour of the region.



Bamboo Work

The variety of bamboo found in the forests of Jharkhand is of a very good quality – thin but strong and flexible. The tribal communities of the state use this to make a variety of utility goods like fishing baskets and other equipment. These eco-friendly products are light in weight, have a long shelf life and require minimum maintenance. The craft also provides part-time employment to cultivators during the lean season.

Metalcraft

Some tribal communities of the state, particularly the **Malhar** community, have developed expertise in metalcraft. The crafts are created by the deft hands of the tribal artisans who have learnt it as a family tradition

Jewellery

The tribal community of Jharkhand is fond of wearing ornaments. Using gold, silver

and other metals, and alloys like bronze and brass, and combining it with colourful beads, the artisans make simple jewellery that reflect the traditional culture of the region.



Toy-Making

Toy-making is a speciality of Jharkhand. The small village of Tonpadane in Jharkhand is famous for its stunning wooden toys. Bright and lustrous colours are used for painting the toys which are durable and attractive.

MANIPUR

Manipur is a storehouse of a wide variety of crafts. Manipuris put a lot of passion and style into the making of their crafts and handloom products. They are natural craftsmen and their skilled hands create some of the most exquisite handicrafts, which include a range of products unique to the state.

Cane and Bamboo Work

Since cane and bamboo are abundantly available, weaving of baskets has been one of the primary occupations in Manipur. Baskets of different shapes and sizes, in a variety of designs, are made for domestic and ritualistic purposes. The **Heijing Kharai**, **Phiruk** and **Lukmai** are meant exclusively for use at weddings, celebrations of childbirth, or rituals connected with death. The **Likhai**, **Sangbai**, **Chengbon**, **Meruk** and **Morah** are baskets used for domestic purposes. The **Longue** and **Tungbol** are fishing equipment made from bamboo. The **Maring** tribe inhabiting the Chandel district are the main makers of these type of baskets. Many of the other tribes, particularly the **Meitis**, are also involved in the production of baskets.



Pottery

The art of making pottery is very old in Manipur, particularly

in Andro, Nongpok, Sekmai, Oinam, Chairen, Thongjao, Nungbi, and parts of Senapati district. The **Chapka** women are known for their skill as potters and make a variety of pots in different colours like red, dark red and black. There are several varieties of pots which are used for ritualistic and ceremonial purposes and each has a different socio-cultural significance. Many items for use in modern homes are also being made now.

Wood Carving

Wood-carving developed in Manipur out of necessity. Due to the lack of a good communication system, the people of Manipur could neither export their produce to the outside nor bring in necessary items. So they used the wood available to create the different items required in their daily lives.

Chong and Pe Craft

The **Chong** and **Pe** are unique umbrella-like structures made from bamboo and cloth. First believed to have been made in the seventeenth century during the reign of King Bhagyachandra, these are used in ritualistic ceremonies of gods and goddesses, being held over the idols during the prayers. They are also held over kings and other dignitaries, as well as people being felicitated for heroic deeds. Manipuris believe that anything falling on the king's head is a bad omen, and to prevent this from happening, the **Chong** and **Pe** are used. Usually white, the **Chongs** and **Pes** can also be coloured a popular colour is marigold yellow, Lord **Krishna's** chosen colour. Being highly decorative, they are also being used for decoration in recent times.

Kaunaphak

Kaunaphak is a traditional craft of Manipur, associated with the **Meitei** community of the state. **Kauna** is a type of water reed that grows in the wetlands and marshy areas of Manipur. **Phak**, which is the **Meitei** term for the succulent stem of the plant, is yellow in colour and used for making the unique traditional Manipuri double-weave

reed mats. There are two different varieties of **Kauna** in Manipur and about a thousand craftsmen of Imphal valley are engaged in this craft. The reeds used for making the mats are chosen and cut only from the mature plant. The stems are then dried. The drying has to be done very carefully as the **Kauna** is a seasonal plant and if the drying is not done properly, most of it is lost to fungus. A bunch of stems is then woven into mats, using bamboo at regular intervals. The borders of the mats which are usually about an inch wide has interesting patterns. **Kauna** reed mats cannot be washed as the reed spoils with moisture. The mats can be used outdoor as picnic mats, as well as indoors as floor **andyoga** mats. In recent times, the **Kauna** is being used by the imaginative **Meiteis** to make a wide range of innovative products besides the traditional mat. The reeds are shaped by the deft and magical fingers of Meiteis into cushions, handbags, baskets, lamp shades, wall hangings, fruit trays, mobile phone covers, file covers and jewellery boxes.

Chini Chafu

The craft of Chini Chafu is derived from two words — Chini, meaning sugar, and Chafu, meaning a bucket where the sugar can be kept, and from which the children can have their share at the end of their games. Chini Chafu is the art of making dolls and other decorative items using wheat-flour dough. This craft was originally used to make the Chafu in which the sugar is kept and hence the name. Later the scope of the craft was extended, and now the dough is used to make dolls and other objects, including toys. Wheat flour is made into dough and then crafted into the desired shape, which is then dropped into boiling water and kept for about ten minutes, taken out and dried in the sun. Though the process is simple, the objects made are sturdy and attractive. These indigenous dolls are very popular in Manipur.

Source: Rhythms of Life - Folk Traditions of Eastern India by Gouri Basu

to be Continued..