

**High Commission of India
Windhoek**

Press Release

The Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in Windhoek organized 'India Week' in Namibia from October 17-24, 2016.

During the 'India Week', the Cultural Centre organized several activities including classes on Indian cuisine and henna, and sessions on yoga /meditation. Some popular Bollywood movies were also screened. The classes on Indian cuisine were very popular and the participants got to learn the intricacies of making some simple Indian dishes, such as samosas, gulab jamun, chapati, tea, and of course the popular chicken curry.

The crowning jewel of the 'India Week' celebrations was an Indian classical dance troupe which performed at the National Theatre of Namibia (NTN) on October 21 and in Swakopmund on October 23. Besides, they did a dance workshop at the College of the Arts in Windhoek on October 22 and a lecture demonstration at the Culture Centre of the High Commission of India on October 24. Their performances and workshops received high acclaim everywhere.

Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Namibia Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila inaugurated the dance performance at NTN on October 21. Speaking at this occasion, Honourable Prime Minister of Namibia welcomed the Indian dance troupe to Namibia and highlighted the important role that exchange of cultural troupes play in increasing people- to- people contacts and in strengthening ties between the two countries.

The Indian classical dance troupe consisted of six dancers and was led by Ms. Purnima Roy Chowdhury, one of the fine young exponents of 'Kathak' -a popular dance form of India. Apart from Kathak, Ms. Roy Chowdhury is also trained in several other dance forms such as folk, Chhau, etc. In India, she has been a regular performer at Delhi's prestigious Shri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra. She is also an experienced choreographer.

The Kathak dance of North India is said to have evolved from an ancient story telling tradition. The performer narrates myth and religious poetry using subtle hand gestures and facial expressions. Kathak --literally means 'story' in Hindi. It became a full fledged hereditary art as it evolved over hundreds of years. It is particularly characterized by brilliant footwork and rapid spins /pirouettes. The visit of Indian dance troupe to Namibia took place under the bilateral Cultural Agreement. Both sides are working together to strengthen the pace of cultural exchanges.



Prime Minister of Namibia Inaugurating Indian Dance performance



Some Pictures of Indian Dance Performance



Yoga and Meditation Sessions



Classes on Indian Cuisine



Henna Classes