

**Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Center
Embassy of India
Moscow
– 2019 –**

With a view to promote and further strengthen cultural ties between India and Russia, cultural troupes of both countries visited each others' country for performances.

In 2018, three groups from Russia – **'Reverse' Musical theater production by Moscow Musical Theater, Quintet 'Timofei Dokshizer New Life Brass' and Vainakh Chechen State Dance Ensemble** – visited India. These groups gave enthralling performances in New Delhi, Chennai, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Kolkata and Hyderabad. People of India got the opportunity to witness their performances.

Similarly, four Indian groups - **'Drishtikon'. a Kathak Dance Group, Hindustani Kalari Sangam, a martial art group, Bollywood Dance Group and Shehnai Group** visited Russia. These groups performed in Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Veliky Novgorod, Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Sochi, Krasnodar, Gelendzhik, Yessentuki and Kislovodsk.

Indian groups gave spectacular performances that were highly appreciated by the Russian audiences.

Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company – the Drishtikon Dance Foundation, a group of Indian Classical Dance and Contemporary dance based on Kathak, was established with a vision to look at tradition with a modern mind, to explore the past to create a new imaginative future. The dance company aims to achieve excellence and virtuosity in the rich classical Indian dance form of kathak, as well as encourage the spirit of innovation. In doing so, Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company seeks to challenge established norms and develop the courage to dance their own dance, while at the same time being informed about the heritage, cultures, influences and language of other dance styles and forms, viewpoints and ideas.

Aditi Mangaldas is a leading dancer and choreographer in the classical Indian dance form of Kathak. With extensive training under the leading gurus of Kathak, Guru Kumudini Lakhia and Pandit Birju Maharaj, Aditi is today recognised for her artistry, technique, eloquence and energy. Besides dancing and choreographing classical productions, both solo and group, she has broken new ground by using her knowledge and experience of Kathak as a springboard to evolve a contemporary dance vocabulary, infused with the spirit of the classical.

The Drishtikon Dance Foundation performed in Khabarovsk and Vladivostok in the framework of Namaste Russia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpjIXN5y-xo&feature=youtu.be> - Video of the performance by Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company, Vladivostok, September 6, 2019



H.E. D. Bala Venkatesh Varma, Ambassador of India to Russia (second from left) and Mr Pavel Stepanov, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation (third from left)



Indian Classical dance - Kathak
by Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company –
the Drishtikon Dance Foundation, India,
in Vladivostok,
Primorsky Stage of the Mariinsky Theatre





Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company –
the Drishtikon Dance Foundation, India
Indian Classical dance - Kathak,
Khabarovsk



Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company –
the Drishtikon Dance Foundation, India
in Vladivostok, Russky Island



Hindustani Kalari Sangam performed at Veliky Novgorod, Saint Petersburg and Moscow in October 2019 in the framework of Namaste Russia.

Hindustani Kalari Sangam is a traditional Kalaripayattu training center established under the patronage of Guru Veerasree Sami Gurukkal in 1950. Hindustani Kalari Sangam imparts authentic training in Kalarippayattu with an in-depth value system rooted in spiritual and traditional values of the tradition. The Center also offers training in healing practices of Ayurveda and Kalari marama treatment programs all over the world. Hindustani Kalari Sangam functions as a resource centre for learners from different parts of the world who are interested in ancient Indian scientific heritage, Indian culture, and aesthetics.

The Hindustan Kalari Sangam Center performs Kalarippayattu art all over the world.



Hindustani Kalari Sangam performance at Veliky Novgorod



Hindustani Kalari Sangam performance at Veliky Novgorod



Mr Deepak Miglani, Consul General of India in Saint Petersburg

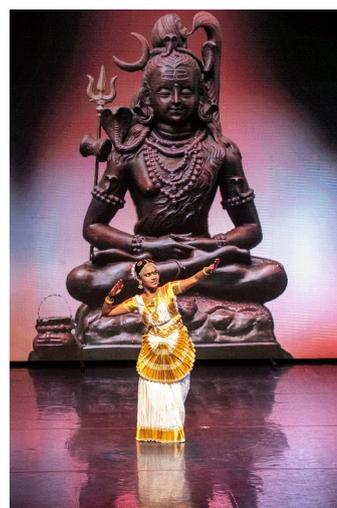


Hindustani Kalari Sangam performance in Saint Petersburg





Hindustani Kalari Sangam performance in Moscow



Teamwork Arts, India, visited Gelendzhik, Krasnodar and Sochi in November 2019 in the framework of Namaste Russia and presented a Bollywood based show.

Teamwork Arts is a highly versatile entertainment company. Its expertise includes conceptualizing and developing visual and performing arts around the world which embody both a classical and contemporary India. For over 30 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers and visual artists in the cultural and art space in India and abroad.

Every year, its musical extravaganza, Bollywood Love Story – A Musical continues to tour the world with sold-out shows everywhere it is held.



Teamwork Arts in Gelendzhik



Teamwork Arts in Gelendzhik



Teamwork Arts in Krasnodar



Teamwork Arts in Krasnodar



Teamwork Arts in Sochi



A Hindustani instrumental Shehnai group performed in Yessentuki, Kislovodsk and Moscow in the framework of Namaste Russia marking the closing of the Indian Cultural Festival. The two main artists included the talented brothers Sanjeev and Ashwani Shankar. As torch-bearers of the precious Gayaki Ang (Vocal Style) of the Banaras Gharana, their scintillating performances are the perfect platform to immerse oneself in this rare vocal style.

The Shehnai is a traditional North Indian wind instrument with a 300-year history and extremely popular in the North of India as a very auspicious instrument.

Sanjeev and Ashwani Shankar are considered innovators, whose efforts have widened the repertoire of Shehnai manifold. Hailed as one of the foremost and serious young musicians in India today carrying the 300 years old family tradition and the art of Shehnai playing forward to a new level, Sanjeev and Ashwani's music represents an unparalleled blend of traditional classical music with a modern approach, an incomparable combination of tradition with a modern flavour.

Sanjeev and Ashwani are recipients of the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the year 2010-2011 in the Hindustani Music Instrumental category.



Shehnai group performance in Yessentuki



Shehnai group performance in Kislovodsk



Shehnai performance by Sanjeev and Ashwani Shankar in Moscow

