* **SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC)**

The SAARC Cultural Centre is one of the SAARC Regional Centres established based on the decision made by the heads of state or government of SAARC Countries to promote cultural cooperation in order to bring the people of South Asia closer and to project the distinct identity of South Asia.

At the Tenth SAARC Summit (Colombo, 29-31 July 1998), the leaders have decided to establish SAARC Cultural Centre in Colombo, in order to promote the distinguished Art of South Asia. This was a decision taken in recognition of the need to share, preserve and promote the rich and diverse intangible and oral cultural heritage of South Asia which has its roots spanning over a thousand years. The Government of Sri Lanka offered to establish a SAARC Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka to promote the distinctive arts of South Asia. The Centre would be easily accessible to artists, teachers and students from the region.

Accordingly, the SCC was established in 2009 in Colombo. The SCC is intended to function as a major meeting point for the artistic communities of the member states. The Centre will provide the necessary facilities and conditions for individuals and groups in various fields of interest to meet and interact in a conducive environment. It is intended to cater to all forms of art such as performing arts (e.g. Dance, Music, Drama, Theatre, puppetry and folk culture), visual art (e.g. painting, sculpture, film making, photography) and literature as per the provisions made in the SAARC Agenda for Culture.

The SCC organized number of cultural activities annually among Member States of SAARC. To enhance the culture integration among the Member States of SAARC, the SCC organizes events other than annual programs, Competitions, Culture festivals, Short Story/Poem/Novel/Photo collections, etc. Also the SCC publishes SAARC Cultural Journal, SAARC Art Magazine, News letter, SAARC Cultural Calendar.