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Performance of Kalaripayattu on the occasion of 64th Republic Day Celebrations of India

To mark the occasion of celebrations of the 64th Republic day of India, performance of Kalaripayattu, a martial art form from Kerala, has been organized at 6.30 pm on 31 January 2013 at the Veerasingam Hall, Jaffna. The Kalaripayattu troupe led by Gurukkal R Ramachandran Nair accompanied by the Madhava Madam CVN Kalari Sangam will be showcasing an awesome performance with real weapons in the traditional style. **Major General Mahinda Hathurusinghe, Security Forces Commander, Jaffna will be the Chief Guest and Mr. V. Mahalingam, Consul General will preside over the function.**

Kalaripayattu, is one of the oldest living traditions of martial training in the world, having its roots in the *Dhanurveda*, the ancient Indian science of warfare. Martial training and self-disciplining through a ritualistic and spiritual process of learning is synthesized in the Kalaripayattu tradition that found its roots in Kerala, the southernmost state of India. Gurukkal Ramachandran Nair learnt the art of Kalaripayattu at the age of 14 under the martial art experts like late Velayudhan Nair Gurukkal, late Govindankutty Gurukkal and Balan Nair Gurukkal. Along with Kalaripayattu, he also learnt the traditional Ayurvedic cum Siddha treatment and Marma chikilsa. Marma Chikilsa is a specialized branch of Ayurvedic treatment and is also an integral part of Kalaripayattu. In 1969 he ventured to set up his own institution named Madhava Madam C.V.N Kalari at his village at Kollamkode. He also started a sister concern at Pappanamcode in Trivandrum, Kerala, to broaden his teachings to aspiring cosmopolitan people as well as those from overseas.

The troupe's visit is sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Arts, Government of Sri Lanka. The performance is show-cased for the benefit of Art lovers of the Northern Province and all are welcome to witness the show.

N.B. Please be kind enough to carry this press release in your Daily.