



CCIS

Center for Contemporary Indian Studies

University of Colombo

Introduction

The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) is a multidisciplinary research centre which promotes activities connected with developing knowledge in Sri Lanka on contemporary studies in India and strengthening Indo-Lanka relationship through an institutionalized network between the two countries. It was established in 2012 under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka and the University of Colombo. The Centre functions under the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) for academic and administrative matters and it is also linked with other faculties through its Advisory Board and Management Board. India and Sri Lanka are connected through social, religious, linguistic, cultural, economic and strategic ties that date back several centuries. However, less importance has been placed on the study of contemporary developments and changes in India. By realizing that such research and study undertaken at Sri Lanka's seat of higher learning will play an important role in guiding and strengthening the social and economic development of the country and existing bonds of friendship between India and Sri Lanka, the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies serves to deepen the understanding of contemporary India in Sri Lanka.

Vision of the CCIS

To evolve and grow as an academic hub for promoting research and knowledge on contemporary India.

Objectives

The chief function of the Centre is to provide an intellectual forum for academic staff and postgraduates working in the field of contemporary Indian studies and offer a base for research for its members in collaboration with other institutions. It hopes to nurture a new generation of interdisciplinary scholars, and to provide a forum for public dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities. Therefore, the Centre aims to serve as a focus for lectures, seminars and other research events in the field, including collaborative research projects. The CCIS welcomes links with other scholars, nationally and internationally.

Advisory Board of the CCIS - 2013

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| H.E. Mr. Y K Sinha | High Commissioner of India } Co-Chairs |
| Dr. W K Hirimburegama | Vice-Chancellor } |
| Mr. P. Kumaran | Deputy High Commissioner |
| | High Commission of India |
| Mr. Gaurav Ahulwalia | First Secretary/High Commission of India |
| Dr Tudor Weerasinghe | Rector/Sri Palee Campus |
| Prof. Athula Ranasinghe | Dean/Arts |
| Prof. W Chandradasa | Dean/ Education |
| Prof. Sunil Chandrasiri | Dean/ Graduate Studies |
| Mr. V.T. Thamilmaram | Dean/Law |
| Prof. H.D. Karunaratne | Dean/Management & Finance |
| Prof. Rohan Jayasekera | Dean / Medicine |
| Prof. T.R. Ariyaratne | Dean/ Science |
| Mr. Rajan Asirwatham | Council Nominee |
| Mrs. Leisha de Silva Chandrasena | Council Nominee |
| Prof. M.D.P. De Costa | Senate Nominee |
| Prof. Sumanapala Galmangoda | FGS Nominee |
| Mr. Sunimal Fernando | FGS Nominee |
| Mr. Thirikumar Nadesan | FGS Nominee |
| Dr. M.A. Nuhuman | FGS Nominee |
| Mr. S. Sandrasegaram | FGS Nominee |
| Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa | Director/ CCIS (till 31 st October 2013) |

Annual Report - 2013

Appointments

Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa, the founder-Director of the CCIS completed his two- year term on 31st October 2013, and he was appointed as the Acting Director of the Centre for a period of three months.

Ms. Jayani Fernando, Secretary of the CCIS. Her service period was extended for a one year with effect from 27th August 2013.

Mr. M.V. Premaratne, Office Assistant of CCIS. His service period was extended for a one year with effect from 01st August 2013.

Civil Works and CCIS Office



The refurbishment of the premises was completed and office is fully-operated from Jan 2012. Carpeting of the Centre was completed in February 2013.

CCIS Board Meetings

The following meetings were held during the year.

| Meetings | Dates |
|--|---|
| 3 rd Advisory Board Meeting | 14 th October 2013 at 3.00 pm “College House” Senate Hall |
| 3 rd Management Board Meeting | 03 rd May 2013 at 3.00 pm ‘College House’ Board Room |

VISITING PROFESSORS



Dr. Smruti S. Pattanaik, Research Fellow at Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi, worked as the Short-term Visiting Chair at the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo from 15th July 2013 to 15th October 2013. She took part in the academic activities conducted by the CCIS such as meeting students of Department of International Relations both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Apart from this she guided students writing their dissertations on India. She also conducted a Workshop on Contemporary India, jointly organized by the CCIS and the Department of International Relations, University of Colombo for the undergraduates of Department of International Relations.

VISITS

The following foreign Academics and Researchers visited the Centre during the Year:

Dr. Madhukar G. Appaji (Project Director, Mysore Heritage Project)

Dr. Subrata Mukherjee (Assistant Professor in Commerce, Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya)

Dr. Manoranjan Das (Assistant Professor in Sanskrit and Head Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya)

Dr. Mavar Vaskar (Assistant Professor in Commerce)

Dr. Sujit Sivasundaram (Faculty of History, University of Cambridge)

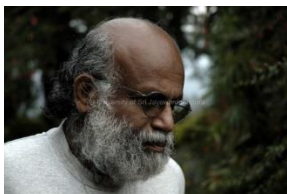
MONTHLY FORUMS

20th February 2013.



Monthly Forum conducted by **Mr. Susil Siriwardena** (a retired SLAS officer and a writer) on Lakhan Meherotra's (former Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka) *My Days in Sri Lanka*

11th July 2013.



Monthly Forum conducted by **Mr. Daya Dissanayake** (a bilingual writer, poet and columnist) on *Revisiting Ramayana in Contemporary India*

10th December 2013



Monthly Forum was conducted by **Dr. Smruti S. Pattanaik**, (Research Fellow at Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi) on *Democratic Transition in India and Foreign Policy*

CCIS STUDENTS' FORUM

CCIS Students' Forum was started in 2013 as a step to initiate students association with the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo. In connection with this Mr. Susil Siriwardena suggested that Students should organize a forum collaborating with the CCIS where they will be able to discuss the contemporary issues related to the India- Sri Lanka relations. The CCIS Students' Forum is organized by the students' and CCIS facilitates them with providing the venue and other facilities.

25th March 2013

CCIS Student Forum on *Approaches to Contemporary Indian Political and Economical Issues*. Conducted by **Mr. Lynn Ockersz** and **Mrs. Gnana Munasinghe**. Students from the Dept. of International Relations organized this forum.

31st July 2013

CCIS Student Forum on "*The Thirteenth Amendment and the Indo - Sri Lanka Relations*". Conducted by **Mr. H.A. Menaka** Senior Lecturer / Faculty of Law. Students from the Dept. of International Relations and Dept. of Political Science organized this forum.

WORKSHOPS

30th Aug 2013

A half day Workshop on 'Contemporary India' was organized in collaboration with the Dept. of International Relations. **Dr. Smruti S. Pattanaik** conducted this workshop for the fourth year students mainly focusing on Dissertation Writing.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

In year 2013, CCIS offered two student internships on the request of Dept. of International Relations, University of Colombo for two undergraduates of the Department. **Mr. D.V.E. Priyadarshana** (09/BA/16309) and **Mr. K.A.M.V. Abhayasinghe** (09/BA/15928) Special Degree students from the Department of International Relations, University of Colombo They completed a one month Internship programme at the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) University of Colombo from 17th January 2013 -17th February 2013. They assisted the activities of the CCIS and helped to organize events conducted by the Centre.

OTHER EVENTS

07th May 2013

Garlanding of Bust of Tagore

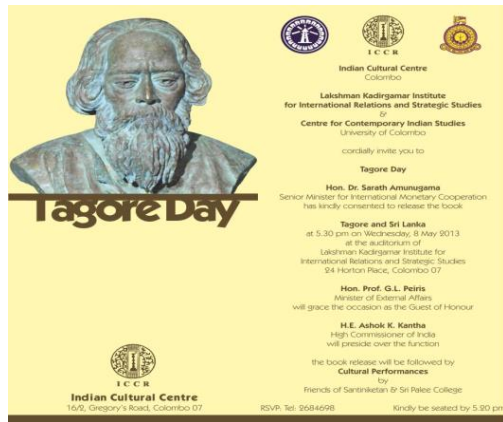


In 2012, a Bust of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled by Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs in the presence of H.E. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India and the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo at the Main Library of the University of Colombo.

Garlanding of Bust of Tagore to commemorate the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was held at the main Library premises of University of Colombo on 07th May 2013 at 9.30 am in the presence of Deputy High Commissioner Mr. P. Kumaran, Actg. Vice Chancellor, other University officials and other distinguish guests.

8th May 2013

Tagore and Sri Lanka book launch



Tagore and Sri Lanka book launch was held at the Lakshman Kadiragamar Centre Auditorium with the collaboration of Indian Cultural Centre and LKIRSS. This Volume is the outcome of a seminar organized by Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the CCIS and Lakshman Kadirgamar Centre for Strategic Studies (LKIRSS). The Anniversary Volume has eleven articles from selected writers. It also includes the Inaugural addresses of former Indian High Commissioner H E Ashok K Kantha and Hon Minister Sarath Amunugama on the Seminar on “Tagore and Sri Lanka” held in June 2012. Director/ CCIS contributed a chapter on ‘Tagore visits to Sri Lanka’ for this volume.

LINKS WITH OTHER RESEARCH CENTERS

Director/ CCIS had discussions with the SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo to organize a joint conference in 2014.

CCIS also had discussions with the SAPRI Sri Lanka on the possibilities of creating a joint project.

CCIS JOURNAL

During the year the Center received following articles for the *Sri Lanka Journal of Contemporary Indian Studies*:

- India’s Development Experience during the Post- reforms Period: Some Observations
Dr. Apurba Kumar Chattopadhyay (Department of Economics & Politics, Visva Bharati University, India, Former CCIS Visiting Chair.)
- Urban Poor in India and Sri Lanka: Questions on Urban Development

Dr. N. Chandrasiri Niriella (Senior Lecturer in Sociology & Urban Studies, Dept. of Sociology)

- The Sinhala Radio Opera and the Indian Cultural Imagination
Dr. Garret Field (School of Music, Ohio University, USA)
- Combating Terrorism Through Regional Integration: BIMSTEC
Ms. Dilini Vithanage (Lecturer, Dept. of International Relations, University of Colombo)

These articles have been reviewed by the panel of selected reviewers.

CERTIFICATE COURSE

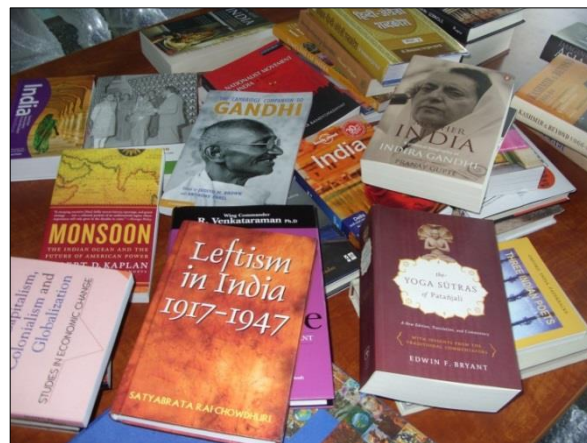
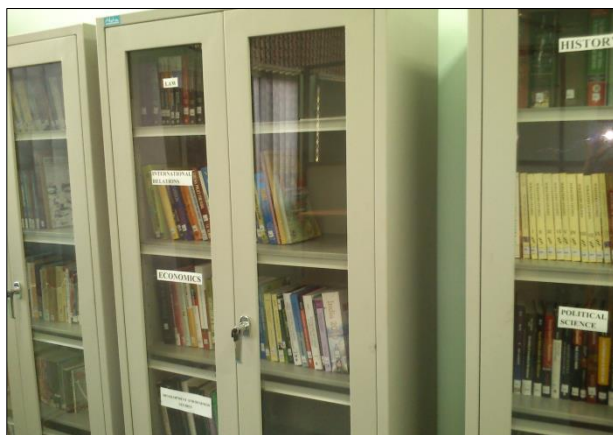
The CCIS drafted a syllabus on **Certificate Course in Contemporary India** as a step to deepen the understanding of the dynamics of the tremendous transformation that is taking place in India and its implications to the South Asian region, particularly for Sri Lanka. It is designed to provide an introduction to the field of contemporary Indian Studies and interdisciplinary research addressed to India's development, achievements and problems.

The applicants for the Certificate course in Contemporary India were interviewed and the selected list of applicants was sent to the FGS for the Faculty Board approval.

VOLUME ON *GITANJALI* CENTENARY (1913 - 2013)

The CCIS is planning to publish a volume on Sinhala translation of *Gitanjali* to mark the centenary of winning the Nobel Prize (1913-2013). CCIS has invited twelve scholars to contribute to this volume.

CCIS LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE



CCIS Library is now a fully functioning library with over 600 books both in English and Sinhala in the field of Contemporary India. The library provides internet and photocopy facilities to the undergraduates. Undergraduates from the Departments of International Relations and Political Science are now utilizing this library as a resource centre.

During the year CCIS received books donations from the following institutions:

SAARC Cultural Centre- Colombo

Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) – Colombo

Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) - New Delhi

CCIS WEBSITE



CCIS website is updated and linked to several academic institutes devoted to the study of India and South Asia. The site has updated news about the Centre. The following address provides the link to the site. <http://ccis.cmb.ac.lk>

Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa
Acting Director/CCIS

13th January 2014