



CCIS

Centre 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 – 2016

H.E. Mr. Y. K. Sinha	High Commissioner of India} Co-Chairs
Senior Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake	Vice Chancellor } Co-Chairs
Mr. Arindam Bagchi	Deputy High Commissioner of India
Ms. Esha Srivastava	First Secretary (PIC)
Dr. Ranjan Hettiarachchi	Rector Sri Palee Campus
Prof. Athula Ranasinghe	Dean Arts
Prof. Nayani Melegoda	Dean Graduate Studies
Prof. W. Chandradasa	Dean Education
Mrs. W.I. Nanayakkara	Dean Law
Dr. R. Senathiraja	Dean Management & Finance
Prof. K.R.R. Mahanama	Dean Science
Prof. Jennifer Perera	Dean Medicine
Mr. Rajan Asirwatham	Council Nominee
Prof. Savithri Goonasekara	Council Nominee
Prof. S.A. Nobert	Senate Nominee
Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa	Director CCIS

Annual Report - 2016

APPOINTMENTS

Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa, the Founder Director of the CCIS continued his tenure during the year and completed his two-year term on 31 December 2016.

Ms. Chathurika Karunanayake was re-appointed as the Secretary of the CCIS for a term of one year with effect from 1st August 2016.

Mr. M. V. Premaratne, being the Office Assistant of CCIS received an extension for a one year with effect from 01st August 2016.

VISITING PROFESSORS | SHORT TERM CHAIR



Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Associate Professor of Political Science at Satyawati College, University of Delhi assumed the duties as the Short-term Visiting Chair of CCIS on 1st March 2016. During his stay he took part in academic activities such as meeting students at Department of International Relations, Department of History and Faculty of Graduate Studies both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He also delivered multiple lectures for the students of Department of International Relations and Faculty of Graduate Studies. He also compiled a collection of essays titled “Contemporary India” for the reference purpose of the students who are studying Contemporary India Courses.

ACADEMIC VISITORS

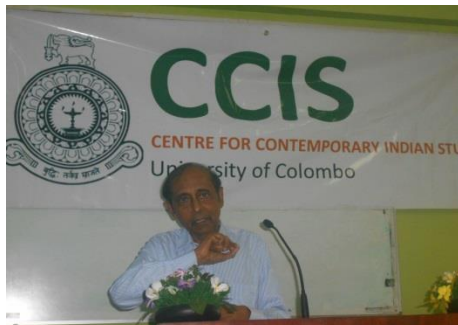
The following foreign academics, researchers and officials visited the Centre during the year:

- Long Xingchun; Centre of Western Studies, China West Normal University.
- Professor Wimal Dissanayake; Academy for Creative Media, University of Hawaii.
- Professor Radha Chakravarthy; Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi.
- Dr. S.N. Subba Rao; the Founder Director of National Youth Project (Gandhi Peace Foundation).
- Professor Neil DeVotta; Associate Professor of Political Science, Wake Forest University, USA.
- Dr. Arvind Singh Tejawat; Central University of Haryana, Haryana, India.
- Professor Ananda Abeysekara; Department of Religion and Culture, Virginia Tech, USA.
- Dr. Martin Kampchen; Santiniketan, India.
- Prof H.M. Maheswariah; Vice Chancellor | Central University of Karnataka.
- Mr. Santosh Kumar; Special Correspondent, All India Radio.
- Mr. Tridivesh Singh Maini, Jindal School of International Affairs, Sonapat, Haryana.

MONTHLY FORUMS | GUEST LECTURES

GUEST LECTURE ON “ALTERNATIVE MAPPINGS: THREE INDIAN CULTURAL THEORISTS”

11th March 2016



CCIS Guest Lecture on “Alternative Mappings: Three Indian Cultural Theorists” was conducted by **Professor Wimal Dissanayake**, Academy for Creative Media, University of Hawaii at the M.B. Ariyapala Auditorium of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

GUEST LECTURE ON “A MANY COLOURED WORLD: RABINDRANATH TAGORE AND THE IDEA OF DIFFERENCE”

27th May 2016



CCIS Guest Lecture on “A Many Coloured World: Rabindranath Tagore and the Idea of Difference” by **Professor Radha Chakravarty**, Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi was conducted at the Seminar Room of Department of English, University Of Colombo.

Senior Professor Neloufer De Mel, Head | Department of English, Mrs Rajashree Behera, Director | Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Mrs Girija Sinha, First lady of Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and other academics of the University of Colombo were among the distinguished guests who attended the Lecture.

MONTHLY FORUM ON “INDIA – SRI LANKA CULTURAL RELATIONS”

5th July 2016



CCIS Monthly Forum on “India – Sri Lanka Cultural Relations” was conducted by **Dr. Arvind Singh Tejawat**, Department of Hindi and Indian Languages, Central University of Haryana, India at the CCIS Meeting Room. Prof Upul Ranjith Hewawithanagamage, Head of the Department of Hindi, University of Kelaniya, Dr. Riaz Ahmad,

the Short – term Visiting Chair | CCIS and Prof Sandagomi Coperahewa, Director | CCIS also attended to the forum.

GUEST LECTURE ON “INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE: POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTIES”

20th July 2016



Dr Riaz Ahmad, the Short-term Visiting Chair | CCIS conducted a guest lecture on “India after Independence: Politics and Political Parties” to the Final year undergraduates of the Department of History, University of Colombo. The event was organized in collaboration with the Department of History, University of Colombo.

MONTHLY FORUM ON “THE IMPORTANCE OF STATES IN INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY”

27th October 2016



Mr. Tridivesh Singh Maini, A New Delhi based Policy Analyst and Assistant Professor, the Jindal School of International Affairs, Sonapat, Haryana conducted a monthly forum on ” The Importance of States in Indian Foreign Policy” at the CCIS Meeting Room. Students of Masters in International Relations (MAIR) programme were among the participants who participated in the forum.

WORKSHOPS

CCIS WORKSHOP ON “CONTEMPORARY POLITICS OF INDIA”

4th July 2016



Professor Neil DeVotta, Associate Professor of Political Science, Wake Forest University, USA conducted a workshop on “Contemporary Politics of India” to the Final year undergraduates of the Department of International Relations, University of Colombo. The event was organized in collaboration with the Department of International Relations, University of Colombo.

SEMINAR ON “CONTEMPORARY INDIAN LITERATURE”

17th March 2016

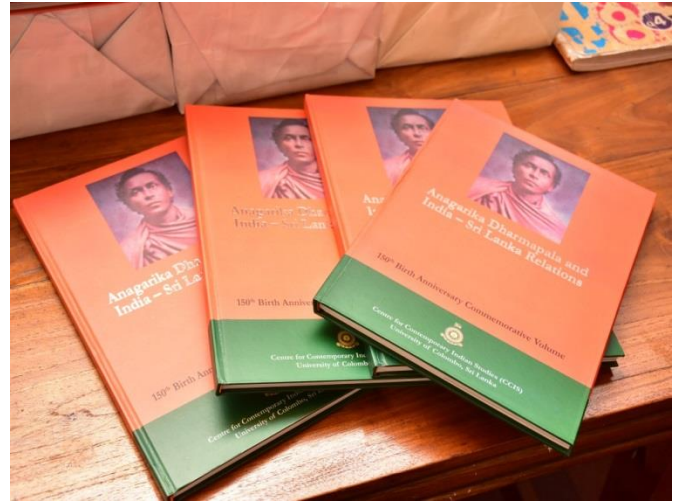


The Centre in collaboration with the Department of Hindi Studies, University of Kelaniya organized a seminar on “Contemporary Indian Literature” at the National Library and Documentation Services Board, Colombo to launch the two books titled “Iskole Mattaya” and “Godse@Gandhi.com” translated to Sinhala from Hindi Language by **Prof.**

Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage, Head, Department of Hindi Studies, University of Kelaniya.

LAUNCH OF THE VOLUME TITLED “ANAGARIKA DHARMAPALA AND INDIA - SRI LANKA RELATIONS”

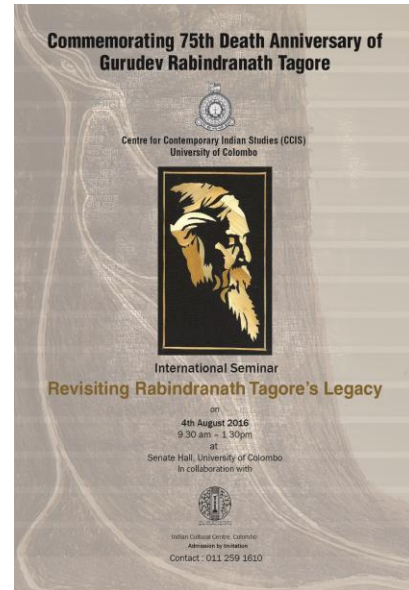
11th February 2016



The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) of the University of Colombo launched the volume titled “Anagarika Dharmapala and India – Sri Lanka Relations” edited by Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa, Director | CCIS. **Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama**, the Minister of Special Assignments graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. **Mr. Arindam Bagchi**, the Deputy High Commissioner of India presided over the function.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON “REVISITING RABINDRANATH TAGORE’S LEGACY”

4th August 2016



The Centre in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Colombo organized the International Seminar on “Revisiting Rabindranath Tagore’s Legacy” to commemorate the 75th Death Anniversary of Rabindranath

Tagore. **H.E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha**, the High Commissioner of India graced the inaugural session of the ceremony as the Chief Guest. Dr Martin Kämpchen from Santiniketan, India delivered the Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session. Prof Amrit Sen, University of Visva-Bharati | Santiniketan, Ms. Madhubhashini Disanayaka Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer | University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Mr. Susil Siriwardene (Writer, Critic and Retired SLAS), Mr. Daya Dissanayake (Writer, Critic and Columnist) presented their papers at the academic session. Emeritus Professor K.N.O. Dharmadasa moderated the academic session.

CONSTITUTION DAY OF INDIA

25th November 2016



To commemorate the Constitution Day of India, a lecture by **Prof. Rohan Samarajiva** was held at the Senate Hall, University of Colombo. His Excellency Mr. Y.K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India was the Chief Guest of the event. Academics of the University of Colombo, officials of the High Commission of India, other invitees, students attended the event and it was the last official function of His Excellency Mr. Y.K. Sinha as the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka. Appreciating his contribution to the CCIS and University of Colombo, the Vice Chancellor presented a token of appreciation to His Excellency. The event was organized by the CCIS in collaboration with the High Commission of India, Colombo.

SPONSORSHIPS

- On the request of the Rector, Sri Palee Campus, the Centre sponsored the undergraduates of Sri Palee Campus to visit and perform in Santiniketan at Rabindra Utsav – 2016.
- On the request of the Dean | FGS, the Centre sponsored **Professor Kavitha A. Sharma**, the President of South Asia University, New Delhi, the keynote speaker at the Annual Research Symposium of the FGS, held on 14th October 2016.

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

The Centre in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) of the University of Colombo took steps to advertise the Certificate Course in Contemporary India to call for applications.

OTHER EVENTS | VISITS

A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION FROM THE INDIAN CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR)

1st March 2016



A High Level delegation from the Indian Centre for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi visited CCIS. The team comprised of Ambassador Mrs. Veena Sikri (Leader), Prof. Aswini K. Mohapatra, Chairperson | Centre for West Asian Studies, JNU, Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Director | Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji Research

Foundation and Dr. Varun Veer, Leading Yoga Exponent. Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director | Indian Cultural Centre also took part in this meeting. Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa, Director | Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, Prof. Nayani Melegoda, Dean | FGS, Dr. Nirmali Wijegoonawardena, Head | Department of History, Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Visiting Short Term Chair | CCIS and few undergraduates of the University of Colombo also attended the meeting. The team discussed about the past activities and future plans of the CCIS and shared views with the academics and undergraduates.

GARLANDING OF THE BUST OF NOBEL LAUREATE RABINDRANATH TAGORE

7th May 2015



To commemorate the 155th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, H. E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India garlanded the bust of Rabindranath Tagore at the Main Library of the University of Colombo in the presence of the academic community and Tagore aficionados. Senior Professor Lakshman

Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor | University of Colombo, Mr. Arindam Bagchi, Deputy High Commissioner of India, Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director | Indian Cultural Centre, Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa Director| CCIS, Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the Departments, other academics and other invitees participated for the event.

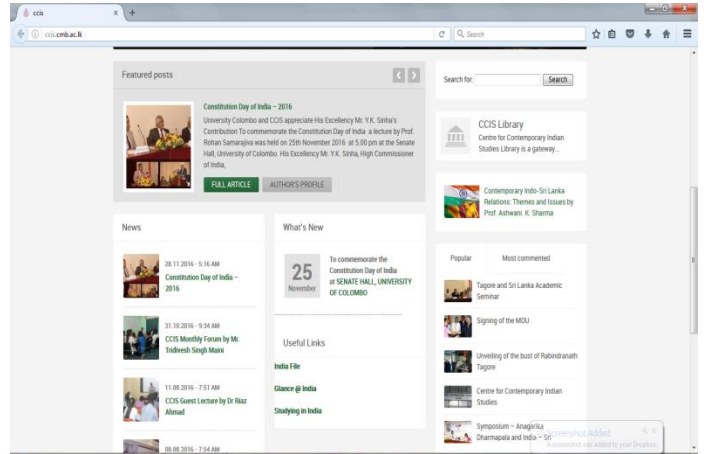
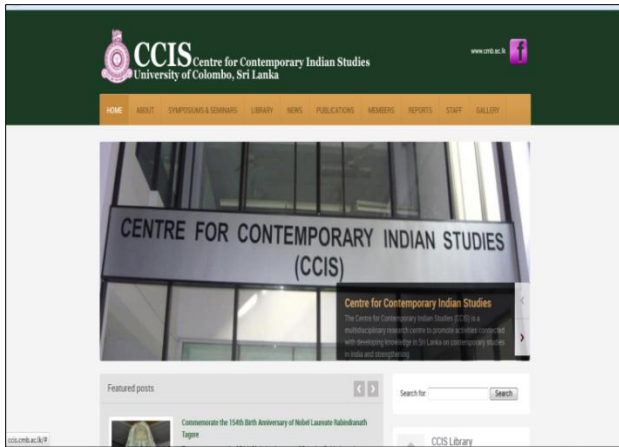
A DELEGATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

8th June 2016



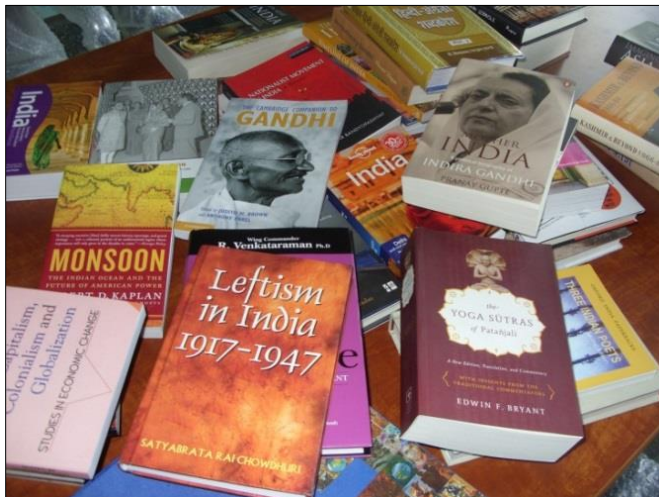
A delegation from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi visited the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) of the University of Colombo. The team included six members from the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

CCIS WEBSITE



The CCIS new website which was launched on 11 November 2014 by H.E. Arindam Bagchi is now updated regularly with all the events related to CCIS. It is also linked to several academic institutes devoted to the study of India and South Asia.

CCIS LIBRARY



The library of the Centre continued to provide resources for undergraduates/postgraduates who are studying on Contemporary India. It has over 600 books in both English and Sinhala in the field of Contemporary India. It also provides internet and photocopy facility.

Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa

Director | CCIS