



## Call for Papers

Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies  
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

### **Perspectives on India-Sri Lanka Relations in the 21st Century**

Book (Edited)

#### **Concept Note**

Relations between India and its southern neighbour Sri Lanka are friendly and somewhat cordial, building upon a rich legacy of historical linkages, shared cultural values and strong economic development partnership that have been forged in recent years.

Over six decades ago, India and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations when the latter achieved its independence nearly six months after India. They have since successfully cooperated in facing the challenges of global development. Both countries have taken a similar trajectory in international relations, having emerged from colonial subjugation and oppression. Though, compared to India which had to fight for her independence through a non-violent mass movement, Sri Lanka achieved independence from Britain relatively easily with a brief political activity. In the present, both the nation states have pledged to enhance and establish long term extensive cultural, commercial, strategic and defence ties to establish a common sphere of influence in the region adopting a policy of non-alignment.

There are many issues, however, which dominate and influence the state behaviour of India and Sri Lanka in their bi-lateral relations that need to be addressed and resolved. The condition of the mostly Tamil civilian population, which is enmeshed with the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and is viewed to be the most crucial domestic factor that impacts the state behaviour towards each other in their relationship.

The fishermen's issue, energy policy, transport action plan, comprehensive economic and security policies are some of the other issues which also need to be discussed and are being discussed and addressed in different ministerial and in the high level delegation meetings with an understanding and respect for each other.

Now that the wheels are set in motion, casting aside mutual suspicions and apprehensions of each other's motives, the two countries need to work together to lay a firm foundation for closer and mutually beneficial cooperation in many fields, particularly in areas such as security, trade, education, health, culture etc. As the two countries will obviously need to face and overcome more onerous challenges, this would ensure peace and prosperity for the people of both countries.

Regionally, India and Sri Lanka both participate in several multilateral organisations such as South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), South Asia Co-operative

Environment Programme, South Asian Economic Union and BIMSTEC. All these organisations aim to enhance their commerce and economic good will.

Further, the Indo –Sri Lanka Free Trade Association (ISFTA) gave a strong fillip to economic cooperation between both countries. The estimated trade between both countries as of 2014 was UDS 4.6 billion. Exports from India to Sri Lanka were US\$4.1 billion (up by 2.1%), while exports from Sri Lanka to India were US\$645 million (up by 3.2%). Sri Lanka's trade with India forms almost 45% of its total trade. Efforts are also going on in upgrading the India-Sri Lanka FTA to a new trade pact called the Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement (ETCA), which is expected to be signed in near future. The ETCA is proposed to enhance Sri Lanka trade in services, investments and technology cooperation with India.

A strong political mandate in the 2014 election and a pragmatic approach to foreign policy gave Prime Minister Narendra Modi some room to push for restructuring of ties with Sri Lanka. Modi's 'Neighbourhood First' policy is in essence about promoting regional integration. The Prime Minister unfolded this vision on the very day he took over office and met with SAARC leadership. Prime Minister Modi has rightly placed SAARC and Indian Ocean on track as India's integral reality and security imperative.

The decision of President Maithripala Sirisena to visit India in early 2015, (with the change in government in Sri Lanka) on his first overseas trip signifies the renewal of India-Sri Lanka relationship and signals a fresh burst of activity in our mutual relations.

A series of high level visits during the course of 2016 have formed the basis of attempts to re-set Indo-Lanka bi-lateral relations. There have been an exchange of visits involving Lankan President Maitripala Sirisena, Prime Minister Modi and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Mangla Samarawera.

Further a recent back to back visit of Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe and Prime Minister Modi in April and May 2017, respectively, re-affirms the two neighbourly country's commitment to strengthen a long steady partnership that seeks to enhance all round prosperity and development.

Today, India-Sri Lanka relationship is strong and poised for a quantum jump by building on the rich legacy of historical and cultural linkages and strong economic partnership that have been forged in recent years.

The aim of this proposed edited Book is to review the bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka in general and India's response to the issues of post conflict in Sri Lanka in particular.

The CCIS, University of Colombo, Colombo invites research papers /articles for its forthcoming edited volume entitled, '**Perspectives on India-Sri Lanka Relations in the 21st Century**'. Contributions are invited from policy makers, scholars of arts, science and humanities with scientific approach and objective methodology. The articles and research papers should be objective, analytical and critical as well as original in nature.

Contributors are required to focus on areas of interest and relevant fields for intensive and in-depth research studies that would generate ideas and explore ways to strengthen the

relationship between our two countries. Through this edited volume we earnestly intend to give innovative recommendations and complement official efforts at strengthening India Sri Lanka bi-lateral relationship.

**Suggested themes:**

1. Indo-Sri Lanka relation: Economic, Political, Social and Strategic relations
2. Resource Potential of the Region: Human, Physical and Scientific
3. India –Sri Lanka Trade: Exploring Connectivity through SAARC
4. Strengthening Bonds through Human Resource Development
5. Lines of Credit (LoCs): Role in Promoting Economic and Commercial Linkages between India and Sri Lanka
6. Media and Press as a Bridge in Generating Awareness
7. Role of Religion, Culture, Art and Literature in Promoting Understanding
8. Education and Knowledge Sharing
9. Agricultural Sector –Emerging as a Connectivity hub
10. Conflict Transformation and Peace Making

**Note:** Contributors are also encouraged to select other themes apart from the above listed topics.

**For Contributors:**

Abstract along with the research paper/article must be submitted in English language containing the following:

1. Title of the research paper
2. Author(s) full name
3. Designation, name of the organisation and contact details with email.

Abstract may contain around 250 words and the research paper /article should range in between 6000-8000 words in Times Roman –size 12 format. For reference APA/ Harvard Style format be adopted. End Notes and references are to be placed at the end and not in the footer.

All research articles will be subject to editorial scrutiny.

**Date for Submission of Paper:**

All Research Papers and Articles (both soft and hard copy) must be submitted on or before **10<sup>th</sup> October 2017**. Research Paper/Article may kindly be mailed to

Director, Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies,  
NILIS Building (Ground Floor)  
University of Colombo, P.O.Box 1490, Sri Lanka.  
Tel/fax: 0112591610, Email:directorccis@gmail.com

In case of any query / clarification, please feel free to contact undersigned.

## **Brief on Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies**

‘Promoting Research and Knowledge on Contemporary India’

The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) is a multidisciplinary research centre to promote 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 is the only research institution in Sri Lanka dedicated to the study of contemporary India. The CCIS 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 to several centuries. However, it is realized that significantly less importance has been placed on the study of contemporary developments and changes in India. By realizing that such research and study undertaken at a 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, this Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies will serve to deepen the understanding of contemporary India in Sri Lanka.

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 provide a base for research both for its members and in collaboration with other institutions. 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. Information about the Centre’s activity is provided via a regularly updated website and a mailing list.

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Acting Director  
Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies