



CCIS Celebrated 46th 'International Hindi Day'

Theme: 'Current Trends of Hindi Language and Literature: A Global Perspective'

12th January 2021



Launching of the CCIS Newsletter 'CONTEMPORARY' - Volume I

[Left to right]: Prof. Prashanthi Narangoda, Dr. Rewant Vikram Singh, Mr. Prasath Herath, Chair Senior Prof. Upul Ranjith, Senior Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, Senior Prof. Nayani Melegoda, Prof. Sandagomi Coparahewa, Dr. R. Senathiraja, Dr. Shashika Manoratne.

The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies [CCIS], University of Colombo under the new Director, Chair Snr. Professor Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage organized its first event for year 2021. A webinar was organized to commemorate '46th International Hindi Day' under the theme 'Current Trends of Hindi Language and Literature: A Global Perspective' in collaboration with, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre - High Commission of India in Sri Lanka, Dept. of Hindi Studies - Centre for Heritage Studies, University of Kelaniya, Dept. of Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Dept. of Languages, Cultural and Performing Arts Studies, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, National Institute of Language Education and Training (NILET) - Ministry of Public Services, Local Government and Provincial Councils, SAARC Cultural Centre and SASANI Music Institute.



His Excellency Gopal Baglay
High Commissioner of India
to Sri Lanka



Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne
Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo



Senior Professor Nayani Melegoda
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo



Professor Sandagomi Coparahewa
founding Director of the CCIS and Head,
Dept. of Sinhala, University of Colombo



Chair Senior Professor Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage
Director, CCIS,
Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo

The event was graced by Snr. Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne (Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo), Snr. Prof. Nayani Melegoda (Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo), Dr. Shashika Manoratne (Director, International Unit, University of Colombo), Dr. Rewant Vikram Singh (Director, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre), Mr. Prasath Herath (Director General), Ms. Ridma Nishadinee Lansakara (Academic and Research Officer) (National Institute of Language, Education and Training) [NILET], Prof. Prashanthi Narangoda (Director, SAARC Cultural Centre), Prof. Sandagomi Coparahewa (founding Director of the CCIS and Head, Dept. of Sinhala, University of Colombo), Dr. Nilanthi Rajapaksha (Senior Lecturer, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura), Mr. Ananda Abeysundara (Head, Dept. of Hindi, University of Kelaniya) and many distinguished guests representing the institutes collaborated in the event. The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka His Excellency Gopal Baglay joined via zoom to share his thoughts and many guests joined from India, Mauritius and Japan via zoom as well.

Highlights of the International Hindi Day Webinar



Keynote Speaker eminent contemporary Hindi Writer
Mrs. Mamta Kaaliyaa delivering her speech



Presenting Saraswathi Vandana via zoom Sangeet Nipun Pamalaka
Manjitha Karunanayaka, Director, SASANI Music Institute, Kegalla.



Prof. Sangeeth Rathnayake



Dr. Rewant Vikram Singh



Prof. Prashanthi Narangoda



Mr. Prasath Herath



Dr. Nilanthi Rajapaksha



Ms. Wathsala Samarakoon and
Ms. Yodunika Seneviratne



Mr. Ananda Abeysundara



Dr. R. Senathiraja



Dr. Shashika Manoratne



Ms. Ridma Nishadinee Lansakara

Keynote speech was delivered by eminent senior Hindi writer Mrs. Mamta Kaaliyaa via zoom. The welcome speech was delivered by Chair Senior Prof. Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage (Director, CCIS, University of Colombo) and the vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Sangeeth Rathnayake (Head, Dept. of Languages, University of Sabaragamuwa). Ms. Wathsala Samarakoon (in Hindi) and Ms. Yodunika Seneviratne (in English) compered the inaugural session.

The main highlights of the day included the launching of the CCIS Newsletter '**CONTEMPORARY**', the session on '**Current Trends of Hindi Language and Literature: A Global Perspective**' and '**Hindi Poem Forum**'. The event was covered by the Media Unit of Faculty of Science [FOS], University of Colombo.



Session Chair
Prof. Devendra Chaube



Resource Person
Prof. Jithendra Srivastav



Resource Person
Prof. Pramod Kowwaprath



Resource Person
Prof. Vinod Kumar Mishra



Resource Person
Prof. Shyamsundar Pandey



Resource Person
Mr. Gulshan Sookhlal

Many scholars locally and internationally facilitated and contributed for the webinar. Prof. Devendra Chaube (Centre for Indian Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India), Prof. Pramod Kowwaprath (Department of Hindi, University of Calicut, Kerala, India), Prof. Jithendra Srivastava (Department of Hindi, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India), Prof. Shyam Sundar Pandey (Department of Foreign Languages, University of Tokyo, Japan), Prof. Vinod Kumar Mishra (Secretary General, World Hindi Secretariat [WHS], Mauritius), Mr. Gulshan Sookhlal (Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius).

(Contd.)

International Hindi Poem Forum



Session Chair
Mr. Leeladhar Mandloi



Snr. Prof. Upul Ranjith



Prof. Sangeeth Rathnayake



Dr. Nilanthi Rajapaksha



Ridma Nishadinee
Lansakara



Wathsala Samarakoon



Prabuddhika Nilangani



Bhagya Ariyavansa



Ceynalie Pathirana



Kalani Vihanga
Panagoda



Pamalaka Manjitha
Karunanakaye



Anjana Isurumali



Gulshan Sookhlal



Prof. Jitendra Srivastav



Prof. Devendra Chaube

The 2nd session was a Hindi Poem Forum. Session Chair was Eminent Hindi Poet Mr. Leeladhar Mandloi and for the very first time Sri Lankans presented their originally written Hindi poems with the native Hindi speakers and poets in this forum. Mr. Leeladhar Mandloi, Senior Prof. Upul Ranjith, Prof. Sangeeth Rathnayake, Dr. Nilanthi Rajapaksha, Ridma Nishadinee Lansakara, Wathsala Samarakoon, Prabuddhika Nilangani, Bhagya Ariyawansa, Ceynalie Pathirane, Kalani Vihanga Panagoda, Pamalka Manjitha Karunanayake, Anjana Isurumali, Mr. Gulshan Sookhlal, Prof. Jitendra Srivastav and Prof. Devendra Chaube.

100 Years of Arts, Science and Library 1921-2021

Centenary Celebrations of University of Colombo



Vice Chancellor lighting the oil lamp



UGC Chairman addressing the gathering



Vice Chancellor offering mementos to Guests of Honour

The centenary inauguration ceremony of the Faculties of Art, Science and the Library of the University of Colombo was held on the 21st of January 2021 at the Senate Hall, College House.

The centenary inauguration ceremony was graced virtually by His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Honorable Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Prime Minister and Honorable Professor G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education. The keynote speaker of the centenary inauguration ceremony was Her Excellency Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, who joined the ceremony online. H. E. Singer-Hamdy's keynote address emphasized the role of education and the importance of universities in steering the enactment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Snr. Professor Chandrika Wijeyaratne warmly welcomed the guests of honor, Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Snr. Professor Kapila Perera, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Snr. Professor Sampath Amararatunge and Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, Snr. Professor Janitha Liyanage who graced the ceremony on-site. Honorable members of the council, the Rector, Deans and Directors, Registrar, Librarian, Bursar, members of the Alumni Associations, selected students representing the Faculties of Arts and Science and a member from the supportive staff added colour to the event by joining in person while other members of the University took part in the event via online, through the live stream.

This formal ceremony marked the inauguration of the centenary celebrations of the University of Colombo which will be followed by a host of events organized by the departments, units, the institutes of the Faculties of Arts and Science and the University Library throughout the year.

To mark the centenary celebration Faculty of Arts opened refurbished 'Support Centre for Students with Disabilities' (SCSD), renovated 'Faculty Boardroom', and 'Exercise Laboratory' of the Dept. of Sociology, and Faculty of Science established the 'Information and Learning Centre' (ILC) as well.

Indian Republic Day Celebrations in Colombo - January 26th 2021

Republic Day is a national holiday in India. It honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26th January 1950 replacing the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document of India and thus, turning the nation into a newly formed republic.

The Constitution was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949 and came into effect on 26th January 1950 with a democratic government system, completing the country's transition towards becoming an independent republic. 26th January was chosen as the date for Republic day because it was on this day in 1929 when the Declaration of Indian Independence (Purna Swaraj) was proclaimed by the Indian National Congress in lieu of the Realm status as a Dominion later instated by the British Regime.

On the eve of Republic Day, the President of India distributes Padma Awards to the civilians of India every year. These are the second highest civilian awards in India after Bharat Ratna. These awards are given in three categories, viz. Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, in decreasing order of importance.

In 2020, two Sri Lankan nationals were awarded Padma Shri Award for their outstanding service. They are **Deshamanya Vajira Chithrasena** and internationally acclaimed Hindi scholar **Professor Indra Dassanayake** who served as Hindi Professor at the Dept. of Hindi Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

The celebration took place in the High Commission of India. High Commissioner, His Excellency Gopal Baglay hoisted the national flag and inspected the guard of honour on the occasion. Teachers and students of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre held three vibrant dance performances.

A new India-Sri Lanka Friendship logo was unveiled at the ceremony. The logo was selected through crowdsourcing by organizing a nation-wide design contest among school children across Sri Lanka. The new logo signifies development cooperation partnership between India and Sri Lanka and shall be used by the High Commission for official purposes.



Padma Shri Vajira Chithrasena



Padma Shri Prof. Indra Dassanayake

Sri Lankan Independence Day Celebrations in New Delhi - February 04th 2021



The 73rd Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka was celebrated at the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 04th February 2021 in a solemn ceremony, with the participation of the Sri Lankan expatriate community in Delhi.

Hoisting of the national flag by the Acting High Commissioner Niluka Kadirugamuwa was followed by multi-religious observances conducted by venerable members of the clergy representing Buddhist, Hindu, Islam and Christian faiths.

Independence Day messages of His Excellency the President, the Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Foreign Minister were also read out by the staff of the High Commission in all three languages.

CCIS Dissertation Grant

CCIS DISSERTATION GRANT

Eligibility Criterion

- * Applicant should be a citizen/permanent resident of Sri Lanka
- * The applicant should be actively engaged in research at a university or research institute in Sri Lanka in various areas of social science, humanities, science and technology, management and finance and medicine.

Minimum Qualifications

- * Final year students of undergraduate/postgraduate

Research topic should be related to Indian context.

To apply Call 011-2591610 or email- directorecis@cmb.ac.lk

Coming up in April ...

A webinar on 'Becoming a Successful Entrepreneur' organized by the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies to promote SME in Sri Lanka...

Owing to Mr. Anuj Agrawal's consistent efforts, 'Gyan' (one of the most successful dairy manufacturers in Uttar Pradesh, India) had access to world-class technology right from day one and ensured the success and profitability of the company in the first year. He is the Chairman of the CII YI (Young Indians) and a member of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'Champions of Change' mission. Mr. Anuj is a regular at several management programmes at Oxford, Harvard, and other leading universities. In 2016, he was honoured with the 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award' at the 'Brand India Summit'.



Coordinated by Mr. Vivek Sharma
(Second Secretary, Economic & Commercial Wing, High Commission of India, Colombo.)

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'The Scholarly Discourse on Indian Literature'

CCIS is organizing

'The Scholarly Discourse on Indian Literature'

as a webinar series which will be participated

by

Sri Lankan scholars

interested in Indian literature in Sri Lanka.

The webinar series will be conducted in

Sinhala medium.

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