



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) signed 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 researchers, 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 - 2014

H. E. Mr. Y. K. Sinha	High Commissioner of India } Co-Chairs
Dr. W. K. Hirimburegama	Vice-Chancellor }
Mr. Arindam Bagchi	Deputy High Commissioner of India
Ms. Esha Srivastava	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. K.R.R. Mahanama	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	Actg. Director/ CCIS

Annual Report - 2014

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa, the Founder Director of the CCIS completed his two-year term on the 31st October 2013. Dr. Coperahewa was appointed as the Acting Director, until a new Director is formally appointed.

Ms. Lakmali Bhagya Manamperi, was appointed as the Secretary of the CCIS for a term of one year with effect from the 1st February 2014.

Mr. M. V. Premaratne, being the Office Assistant of the CCIS received an extension of his service for a year with effect from 01st August 2014. As decided in the 4th Management Board Meeting, upon the termination of the contract with the K. I. Clean Services, its activities were also affixed to the task list of the Office Assistant with an extra monthly allowance.

CIVIL WORKS AND CCIS OFFICE

The office is fully-operated from 2012. The Centre is in the process of making arrangements to fix two CCIS Sign Boards at the entrance of the Faculty of Education (Block 02) and Main Library/UOC, for the purpose of guiding the guests.

CCIS BOARD MEETINGS

The following meeting was held during the year.

Meetings	Dates
4 th Management Board Meeting	07 th July 2014 at 2.30 p.m. “College House” Board Room, University of Colombo.

VISITS

The following foreign academics, researchers and officers visited the Centre during the year.

- Prof. Charles Hallisay (Harvard University).
- Eviatar Shulman (Postdoctoral Fellow/the Hebrew University of Jerusalem).
- Dr. Shilpagauri Prasad Ganpule (Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of English/University of Pune).
- Ms. Reeli Tushar Joshi (Lecturer/ MIT College, University of Pune).
- Dr. Chalamalla Venkateshwarlu (Assistant Professor/Department of Political Science, University of Osmania).
- Dr. Shweli Singhe (Assistant Professor/ South Asian University).
- Dr. Gitanjali Surendran (Assistant Professor/Jindal Global Law School, Jindal Global University).
- Prof. Abhijit Dasgupta (Head of the Department of Sociology/Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi).
- Ms. Rajashree Behera (Director/Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo).
- Mr. Ravi Pratap Singh (Regional Director (South Asia) – Aide et Action).
- Ms. Sangeeta Ukhade Singh (Former lecturer of English at the Maharaja Syajirao (M.S.) University of Baroda in India).
- Mr. James Klapps (Economic Officer, US Embassy in Sri Lanka).

MONTHLY FORUMS

19th August 2014



A Monthly Forum on *Tagore and Colombo Poets* was conducted by **Mr. Chinthaka Ranasinghe**/Lecturer, Department of Sinhala, University of Kelaniya. The lecture was held at the Dept. of Sinhala Auditorium/UOC.

GARLANDING OF THE BUST OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE

07th May 2014



Garlanding of the Bust of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore to commemorate the 153rd Birth Anniversary was held at the Main Library premises of University of Colombo on 7th May 2014 with the presence of H. E. Mr. Y. K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India, Vice Chancellor and other distinguished guests. This Bust was installed at the Main Library of the University in 2012 to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore.

MEETING WITH THE INDIAN POSTGRADUATE DEGREE HOLDERS

1st August 2014



The CCIS organized a meeting for the UOC academics who have studied in Indian Universities with the objective of providing an intellectual forum for their future work in the field of Contemporary Indian Studies. Academics from the Institute of Indigenous Medicine (IIM) and

other faculties of the University of Colombo participated in this occasion. Ms. Esha Srivastava, the First Secretary (Press and Information) of the Indian High Commission was also among the present.

SYMPOSIUMS

ANAGARIKA DHARMAPALA AND INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

24th September 2014



To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Anagarika Dharmapala (1864-2014) a Symposium on *Anagarika Dharmapala and India-Sri Lanka Relations* was held on 24th September 2014 at the Senate Hall of the College

House, University of Colombo. HE Mr. Y. K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The former Sri Lankan Ambassador to Thailand and the Emeritus Prof. J. B. Disanayaka delivered the keynote address at the inaugural session of this Symposium. In the academic

session of the symposium Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa was the moderator. Prof. K. N. O. Dharmadasa - Editor in Chief of Sinhala Encyclopedia, Dr. K. D. G. Wimalaratne - former Director of Dept. of National Archives, Prof. Asanga Tilakarathna - Pali and Buddhist Studies Unit of University of Colombo and Dr. Gitanjali Surendran - Associate Professor of Jindal Global University, Delhi presented their papers at this Symposium. Dr. Kumara Hirimburegama - Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, academics of the University and other invitees participated in the Symposium. The Centre intends to publish a volume on this symposium proceedings next year.

CCIS STUDENTS' FORUM

DISSERTATION PRESENTATIONS ON CONTEMPORARY INDIA

29th October 2014



The Centre organized a half-day workshop on dissertation presentations for the final year undergraduates of the Department of International Relations, who are currently in the process of writing their dissertations related to Contemporary India. Prof. Amal Jayawardane, Department of International Relations, University of Colombo, Ms. K. L. Surangika Jayaratne, a Visiting Lecturer of the same Department and Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa, Actg. Director of the CCIS extended their expertise as the Resource Persons. This workshop provided an informal forum for the undergraduates to present their work and gain independent evaluation for the successful completion of a good dissertation.

THE LAUNCH OF THE CCIS NEW WEBSITE

11th November 2014



The CCIS new website was launched by H. E. Mr. Arindam Bagchi, the Deputy High Commissioner of India on 11th November 2014 at the CCIS office. Dr. Kumara Hirimburegama, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Mr. K. A. S. Edward, Registrar of the University of Colombo, Ms. Esha Srivastava/First Secretary of the Indian High Commission and the Deans of the Education and Arts Faculties participated in this event.

The CCIS website is updated and linked to several academic institutes devoted to the study of India and South Asia. It also contains new sections on the Tagore collection (both English and Sinhala) and Associate Members.

SPONSORSHIPS

The CCIS decided to sponsor an Indian scholar carrying a perspective towards India, to present his paper at the Faculty of Arts International Conference 2014, *Revisiting Social Responsibility in Context of Crisis: Challenges and Possibilities in Sri Lanka*.

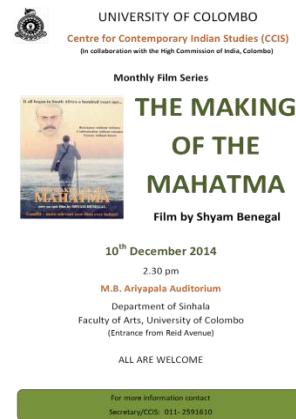


Accordingly, Prof. Abhijit Dasgupta from the University of Delhi delivered the Keynote address titled *A Long Way to Home: Home-coming Narratives of the Displaced* at this Symposium held on the 17th of November 2014. Prof. Abhijit Dasgupta is the Head of the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. During his three day stay in Sri Lanka he made it an opportunity to visit the CCIS and had a meeting with Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa, Director/CCIS on future collaborations between the CCIS and the University of Delhi.

SCREENING OF THE FILM

“THE MAKING OF THE MAHATMA”

10th December 2014



The CCIS commenced its film series by screening the film “The Making of the Mahatma” at the M. B. Ariyapala Auditorium.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CCIS JOURNAL

The Center has received six articles for the *Sri Lanka Journal of Contemporary Indian Studies* and is in the stage of the publication process. The main objective of the journal is to promote research on Contemporary Indian Studies in Sri Lanka and also to provide an intellectual forum for academicians, policy makers and students who are working in this particular field.

VOLUME ON *GITANJALI* CENTENARY (1913 - 2013)

The CCIS has taken the initiative to publish a volume titled *One Hundred Years of Gitanjali* to mark the century of Tagore's Nobel Prize-winning work *Gitanjali* (1913-2013). CCIS has invited

twelve scholars from both Sri Lanka and India to contribute to this volume. The volume is intended to be released in early 2015.

CCIS LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTER



The CCIS Library is now a fully functioning library with over 600 books, both in English and Sinhala in the field of Contemporary India. It has latest additions to the fields of International Relations, History, Sociology, Political Science and Fiction related to India. The library is being utilized by the undergraduates of the university and it also provides internet and photocopy facilities to them. During the year library received a set of books on Rabindranath Tagore from the Vishva Bharati Publications, Kolkata. Now the library maintains a special collection on Tagore works.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Sandagomi Coperahewa'.

Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa

Acting Director/CCIS

12th January 2015