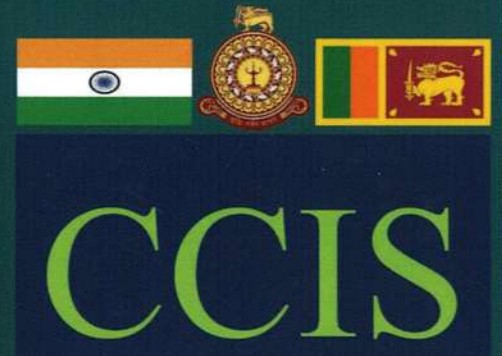


समकालीन CONTEMPORARY සමකාලීන

Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies
Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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100th Anniversary of Faculties of Arts and Science, University of Colombo

The oldest state University in Sri Lanka, 'University of Colombo' celebrates her 100th anniversary of faculties of Arts and Science in this month. The nucleus of the University was formed by amalgamating the Ceylon Medical College founded in 1870 and the Ceylon University College founded in 1921, both of which were incorporated into the University. Therefore, the history of the University goes back to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

'Buddhi Sarvatra Bhrajate' in keeping with its Sanskrit Motto University of Colombo strives to maintain academic excellence in all areas of study. This University has 9 Faculties with 56 Academic Departments, a Campus, a School, 7 Institutes and 8 Centres and Units.

Faculty of Arts



Faculty of Arts is one of seven faculties of the University of Colombo. It conducts both undergraduate and post-graduate degree programs. The largest faculty of the University of Colombo, it is made up of eight academic departments and several teaching units, it undertakes studies and research in areas of humanities and social sciences. The origins of the faculty dates back to 1921, with the establishment of the Ceylon University College, as courses in arts subjects were the first to be started. Upgraded to a faculty in 1942 with the establishment of the University of Ceylon that year, it was moved completely to Peradeniya in the early 1950s. In 1963, a new arts faculty was established in Colombo as part of the University of Ceylon, Colombo campus which continues to function as the current faculty.



Current Vice Chancellor
Senior Professor
Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne

Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science, which is clearly distinguished by its icon the University tower, was formed with the advent of the University College in Colombo in 1913. It continued in the same location with the establishment of the University of Ceylon in 1942. Though a section of the University moved to Peradeniya in 1949, the Faculty of Science continued in Colombo. The Faculty, in 1967, became a part of the University of Colombo, Ceylon, later re-named University of Ceylon, Colombo. In 1972 the Faculty came under the University of Sri Lanka, Colombo Campus and finally in 1978, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.



WELCOME TO SRI LANKA



Newly appointed
High Commissioner of India
to Sri Lanka
His Excellency
Shri Gopal Baglay



Prior to his current assignment as High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, H. E. Gopal Baglay was serving as Joint Secretary in Prime Minister's Office in India since 2017. In a distinguished career spanning nearly three decades in the Indian Foreign Service, H. E. Gopal Baglay has served in various capacities in the Ministry of External Affairs including as the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry, Joint Secretary (External Publicity Division), Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran Division), Joint Secretary (States Division) between the years 2014 to 2017 and as Director of External Affairs Minister's office, Director (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran Division), Director (External Publicity Division) between 2008-2011, Director (United Nations Economic and Social Division) and as Deputy Secretary (Central Europe Division) between 2002 -2005.

An officer of the 1992 batch of the Indian Foreign Service H. E. Gopal Baglay also served as Deputy High Commissioner of India to Pakistan (2011-2014) and as Counsellor-in-Charge of Press, Information and Culture in Embassy of India, Nepal.

H. E. Gopal Baglay began his diplomatic career in the Embassy of India, Ukraine as Third Secretary (1994-1996). Thereafter he served in the Embassy of India, Russia as Second Secretary (1996-1999) and as First Secretary (1999-2002) in High Commission of India, London, UK. A Masters of Science in Chemistry, H. E. Gopal Baglay speaks Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit, English, Ukrainian, Russian and Nepali languages.

Greetings

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER OF SRI LANKA

It is with great pleasure that I convey my sincere and warm best wishes on the occasion of the launch of 'Contemporary', the newsletter of the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo.

This is an important endeavor by the Centre to popularize Indian Studies among the scholars, students and the general public in Sri Lanka. I am certain that it would make a valuable contribution to further strengthen the already flourishing people to people contacts between Sri Lanka and India.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Director of the Centre, eminent Hindi scholar, Chair Senior Professor Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage for this initiative, and wish him every success in the post of the Director of the CCIS to which he has just been appointed.

H. E. Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Acting High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, New Delhi, India.



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

I am happy to extend my warmest greetings to the Director and Staff of the University of Colombo Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies on the occasion of launching its monthly newsletter. The CCIS is a cherished and mature educational facility of our university that personifies the Indo-Lanka regional relations that dates back over 2600 years. The socio-cultural likeness and compatibility of our two countries is so vital in addressing mutually and regionally relevant issues of significance for today's global prerequisites, ranging from health and safety, food security and environmental issues to economic and developmental challenges. I consider the CCIS an important setting for acquiring these attributes by our university community to ensure that these concepts are well addressed and made familiar among our treasured educational outputs.

Despite the multitude of challenges, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, faced by all stakeholders of our university community in 2020, I am touched by your commitment to improve your visibility through a monthly newsletter. I am confident that this new initiative by our incumbent director, Senior Professor Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage, will encourage undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff to engage in multidisciplinary research and scholarly pursuits through the CCIS. I am certain this publication will add colour to the long list of outputs CCIS has collated over the previous 8 years, and pave the way for many more intellectual inputs discussions that strengthen the bonds between our two great cultures.

I note with pleasure that under the able guidance of His Excellency Gopal Baglay and leadership from the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Professor Nayani Melegoda, the Centre can open up fresh avenues through this monthly newsletter. I wish you happy reading and engagement.

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



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

It is with great pleasure I extend a warm welcome to Senior Professor Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage, the new director of the Contemporary Centre for Indian Studies (CCIS) at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo. With the dawn of a new year with expectations of a better year than what we experienced previously, it is my wish that the CCIS too will step forward from establishment, development, experience and now to be a centre of excellence in the study of the contemporary India.

For this, the newsletter to disseminate information about the work of CCIS in Sri Lanka and in South Asia is an important step initiated few years ago. Revival of the newsletter is timely. CCIS since inception under the abled founding Director, Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa was instrumental in bringing the diversity and richness of India to our undergraduate and postgraduate classrooms. Further it cultivated many friends from Sri Lanka and India for the University of Colombo. The research scholars in residence in the past years added value to our academic forums in the dissemination of new knowledge on Subaltern studies.

I wish Professor Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage, all the Very Best.

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



Greetings

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF CCIS

It is with great pleasure that I write this message to the CCIS newsletter. I have cherished memories with the CCIS. As the founder Director of the Centre (2011–2017) I had the initial task of setting up the CCIS at the University of Colombo in 2011.

It is established as 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. The chief function of the Centre is to provide an intellectual forum for scholars and students working in the field of contemporary Indian studies. As the Founder Director, I took an avid interest in organizing various academic and research programmes and publishing edited volumes to promote activities connected with contemporary India.

From an academic point of view, my tenure at CCIS had been a journey of discovery on Rabindranath Tagore's work and legacy. The 150th birth anniversary and 75th death anniversary of Tagore provided an opportunity to commemorate the poet and also to revisit Tagore's contribution to the country. I take this opportunity to thank former Indian High Commissioners of Sri Lanka—especially to His Excellencies Mr Ashok Kantha, Y. K. Sinha and Taranjith Singh Sandhu and other officials of the High Commission and authorities of the University of Colombo for the support extended to me.

I wish all the best for the new Director and future activities of the Centre.

Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa, Head, Department of Sinhala, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.



CCIS Celebrates the 46th World Hindi Day-2021

The CCIS is planning to commemorate the 46th World Hindi Day on the 12th of January, 2021 by organizing an International Hindi Webinar, under the theme 'New Trends in Hindi Language and Literature : A Global Perspective', in collaboration with various Universities, Institutes, Centres in Sri Lanka such as Dept. of Hindi Studies, Centre for Heritage Studies - University of Kelaniya, Dept. of Languages, Cultural and Performing Arts Studies - University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, Dept. of Languages - Sabaragamuwa University, National Institute of Language, Education and Training - Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government, and SAARC Cultural Centre and SASANI Music Institute.

Various resource persons will participate in this webinar, from renowned Professors, to intellectuals and critics of the contemporary field of Hindi Language and Literature, from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Calicut University, Indira Gandhi National Open University and Tokyo University, Japan and World Hindi Secretariat, Mauritius. A 'Hindi Poem Forum' will be held during the second session with original Hindi poems written by Indian and Sri Lankan nationals.

75th Anniversary of Independence of India



The largest democratic country of the world, INDIA, is going to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Independence on the 15th of August this year. Dr. Rewant Wickramsinh, the Director of the Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre (SVCC), High Commission of India in Sri Lanka, exclusively told 'CONTEMPORARY' that according to Indian Government sources, celebrations of the 75th Independence will be held for 75 weeks continuously. He requested the Director, Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) to make arrangements and organize any possible academic forums and other events regarding this great celebration, along with the SVCC.

The CCIS

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 and 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.

Publications of CCIS:



The CCIS maintains a library along with more than 800 books English, Sinhala and Hindi languages, regarding contemporary Indian studies. The library is preserved with the purpose of providing knowledge about contemporary India and in order to further strengthen institutional ties between India and Sri Lanka. The IT based resource system will create an enhanced academic hub that promotes research and knowledge that links scholars, both nationally and internationally.

Memories with Previous Events



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