



Vision

To enhance National Security of Sri Lanka through excellence in research education and networking

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) is the premiere think tank on national security in Sri Lanka established under the Ministry of Defence

INSS Launch its Latest Publications; Defence Review and National Security Papers

Owing to the security situation in the country, the Institute of National Security Studies launched its latest publications in a simple ceremony at the office of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence on 09th August 2022. Subsequently, initial copies of both the Defence Review 2021 and National Security Papers Volume I and Volume II were presented to General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd.) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence by Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc Acting Director General of INSS.

Defence Review is a double blinded peer reviewed annual publication of INSS which includes scholarly articles. The aim of this international journal is to provide a research platform on defence and security studies with a priority to enhance the understanding of national, regional, international



security and geopolitics. It encourages research relevant to scholars, academicians, professionals and military officers engaged in the fields of national security. The 2021 Defence Review contains papers written by scholars and professionals from Sri Lanka and abroad. This is a publication where researches residing both locally and abroad could take the opportunity to get their researches related to national security published on gratis basis.

National Security Papers is a compilation of valuable academic work produced by the staff of INSS during their tenure of employment at the INSS over the years. This includes papers written to newspapers, journal articles and other research work on national security which has been presented and published on various occasions. The aim of this publication is to build awareness on pressing national security issues and threats challenging Sri Lanka and propose recommendations to decision makers and public leaders addressing those challenges as viewed by the authors of each paper. This publication was initiated and introduced by Prof. Rohan Gunaratna during his tenure as the Director General of the institute.



Actg. Director General Addresses the First Course of NDC Participants at National Defence College, Colombo

Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Director (Communications and Publications) and Acting Director-General, INSS was invited by the Commandant of the National Defence College to deliver a lecture to the inaugural batch of student officers who were following the National Security and Policy module on 02nd August 2022. The



lecture was titled 'The role of the Institute of National Security Studies' where the context of national security in the 21st century was also explained in brief for the benefit of the participants. The lecture concluded after an extensive Q and A session and was one of the first in the series of lectures that are being conducted on capacity building on the role and task of the INSS.

INSS Organize a Round Table Discussion on “Organized Crimes and the Growing Imbalance of Discipline within the Society”

Institute of National Security Studies organized a Round Table Discussion titled “Organized Crimes and the Growing Imbalance of Discipline within the Society” on Tuesday, 23rd of August 2022, from 1400 hrs to 1530 hrs (IST) via Zoom. The three esteemed guest speakers of the event were former Senior DIG Priyantha Jayakody, Crimes, Criminal Intelligence & Organized Crime range, Sri Lanka Police, Deshabandu Professor M. A. D. J. S. Niriella, Dean, Faculty of Criminal Justice, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and Professor W. M. Dhanapala Wijesingha, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University Sri Jayewardenapura. The moderator for this informative and timely session was Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP** RSP VSV USP nswc psc hdmc, Director (Communications & Publications) and Acting Director General, of the Institute of National Security Studies. The audience consisted of ministry officials, academicians, researchers, representatives from Sri Lankan armed forces, think tanks and academia.

The moderator commenced the proceedings along with the elaboration of how organized crimes within the current society have aroused with the direct impact of the crisis and how it has brought uncertain times for the community with the growing imbalance of discipline.

The event kicked off with former Senior DIG Priyantha Jayakody, who made the first presentation and spoke under the theme, “Organized criminal gangs in Sri Lanka and its

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
ON
ORGANIZED CRIMES & THE GROWING IMBALANCE OF DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE SOCIETY

Speaker
Former Senior DIG Priyantha Jayakody (Retd.)
Crimes, Criminal Intelligence & Organized Crime Range
Sri Lanka Police

Speaker
Deshabandu Professor M. A. D. J. S. Niriella
Dean
Faculty of Criminal Justice
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Speaker
Professor W. M. Dhanapala Wijesingha
Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenapura

Moderator
Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena
RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc
Director (Communications & Publications)
Acting Director General
Institute of National Security Studies

Date : 23rd August 2022
From : 1400hrs to 1530hrs (IST)

zoom

impact to national security”, portrayed a wide array of information from the late 1990s to date. He emphasized as to how the Criminal gangs were formed and all relevant aspects aligned with it, along with the negative impact it has on society as well as national security in the long run. Following up, he also mentioned a few of his very own experiences in dealing with such gangs and provided the audience with the underlined concerns of how organized criminal gangs have taken an upper hand in the increase of crimes and robberies in the present day.

Deshabandu Professor M. A. D. J. S. Niriella, brought out a clear insight on the area, “Impact of rising murder rates on human security”. Within her speech she elaborated how the increasing murder rates have created insecurity within the community, while bringing out the essence

through the aspect of law.

The title given to the final speaker, Professor W. M. Dhanapala Wijesingha, was “Disciplinary issues in the society of Sri Lanka”. He explained the overall negative impact of organized crimes within the Sri Lankan society where he connected the dots of what was mentioned by the previous speakers and spoke about the disciplinary issues within Sri Lanka and how it can be mitigated by effective and pragmatic approaches.

The session concluded after several timely related questions were discussed as posed by the audience in the Q and A segment. This Round Table Discussion was organized by Mr. Thusitha Bulathgama, Research Assistant at INSS.

INSS Investigate the Latest Security Trends in the Indo-Pacific Region through “AUKUS and QUAD; Ramifications for Sri Lanka”

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
SECURITY SALON ON
AUKUS AND QUAD: RAMIFICATIONS FOR SRI LANKA

CHAIR
Major General K. R. P. Rowel (Retd.)
RWP, VSV, USP, ndu, psc, USACGSC
Director General
Centre for Defence Research and Development (CDRD)

GUEST SPEAKER
Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage,
RSP, VSV, USP, FNI, rcds, psc
Former Secretary
Foreign Ministry

MODERATOR
Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena
RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc
Director (Communications and Publications)
Actg. Director General, INSS

Date : 18th August 2022
Time : 1400hrs -1530hrs (IST)

held virtually via
zoom

Recent developments on the Australia, UK and US (AUKUS) agreement for cooperation on Australian acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs) has created a controversy in the Indian Ocean Region. In this regard, INSS organized the Security Salon titled, “AUKUS and QUAD; Ramifications for Sri Lanka” to examine the fallout resulting from the AUKUS and determine how Sri Lanka along with other nations in the Indian Ocean Region could safeguard sovereignty, protect economic and maritime interests, promote balanced diplomatic relations, and counter emerging threats to

national security.

The event was held on Thursday, 18th August 2022 from 1400hrs – 1530hrs via Zoom. Major General K. R. P. Rowel (Retd.) RWP VSV USP ndu psc USACGSC, Director General, Centre for Defence Research and Development (CDRD) graced the event as the Chair, representing General Kamal Gunaratna (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The guest speaker of the event was Admiral (Prof) Jayanath Colombage, RSP, VSV, USP, FNI, rcds, psc, Former

Secretary, Foreign Ministry. This timely discussion was moderated by Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc Director (Communications and Publications) & Actg. Director General, INSS. The audience comprised of academics, representatives from Sri Lankan armed forces, Police, intelligence agencies, Coast Guard and think tanks.

The guest speaker approached the topic by discussing the current power dynamics in the Indian Ocean. Expressing thoughts on AUKUS and its implications on regional security, he elaborated that due to the greater threat posed by China, a sudden eruption of such a security alliance had taken place. He further mentioned that the nuclear submarines are for power projections, not solely for patrolling purposes. Moreover, these power projections will happen through enhancing hypersonic missile capabilities, cyber tech, and artificial intelligence. In this power game Sri Lanka needs to strengthen its economic stability to stand as a non-aligned or a neutral state to protect its national security. To face high militarization by AUKUS, QUAD, China and other state presence in the Indian Ocean Sri Lanka needs to shape her foreign policy, while stabilizing the economy. The event was successfully concluded subsequent to a productive Q and A session and a discussion. This event was organized by Ms. Gayanga Dias, Research Assistant at INSS.

INSS Contributes in the Consultative Meeting on Improving Health Security Through Public Health Collaborations



Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Acting Director General and Ms. Kalpani Gunathilake, Research Assistant were invited for a consultative meeting on improving health security through public health collaborations by the World Bank Health, Nutrition and Population, South Asia Team which was held on 30th of September 2022 at the World Bank premises from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. It was organized to conduct a fruitful discussion on how to improve the health security of the Sri Lankan community during the pandemic environment. The meeting was attended by experts representing various sectors including the heads of organizations that take action for health security such as the Ministry of Health (MOH), academics from universities, representatives from Central Environment Authority and the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), representatives from non-governmental organizations, academicians and policy makers in to one platform. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Deepika Attygalle, Senior Health Specialist, World Bank who also welcomed all invitees and explained the meeting objectives, followed by the team of experts from World Bank South Asia and Director General, Health Services, MOH who briefly explained their role in the discussion on securing the health of the community. Many experts in the field actively contributed to

the discussion by explaining different aspects of health security including human health, environmental health and animal health as well as the issues and challenges they are facing in securing these health aspects highlighting the importance of implementing the “whole -of-Government approach” and the way forward. Finally a moderated discussion and interactive session were held with representatives from academia and policy think tanks. Rear Admiral D C Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Acting Director General, Institute of National Security Studies contributed to the session by delivering his thoughts on health security and how it relates to national security and briefly explained the contribution made by INSS in facilitating health-related awareness programs and research in improving health security in Sri Lanka

and forwarding policy recommendations in the field of health security for implementation as deemed necessary by the Ministry of Health. When questioned on the progress of the follow up on such policy recommendations the Acting Director General stated that approximately 10-15% of recommendations have been incorporated into the planning processes by the respective Ministries but feedback for the majority of policy recommendations forwarded by INSS is yet to be received from the MOH. During the session, other representatives also shared their insights and recommendations for improving health security in Sri Lanka. The meeting was concluded successfully with the support of all the participants which was followed by lunch.



INSS Bids Farewell to Three Members of the Research Department

Mr. Madushan Seneviratne joined INSS as a research analyst to the Institute of National Security Studies on 09th of April 2021. He was the overall supervisor of the research assistants and was responsible for planning and organizing events in the research department as per the approved action plan for the year. He also represented INSS in NESA Senior Executive Seminar (SES 01-22) which was conducted from 15th -19th November 2021 on zoom and a few national forums. He was also responsible for preparation of forecast activity plans /action plans / progress reports of the Research Department whenever requested by the Ministry. Furthermore, he was the secretary to the editorial board of the Defence Review, the annual international journal of INSS. Mr. Madushan bid

farewell to the institute on 31st of August 2022, to pursue his goals in higher studies. INSS wishes him good luck in his future endeavors.

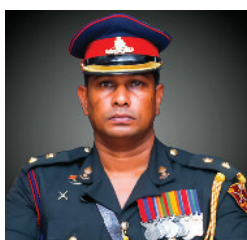
Lieutenant Colonel WASM Wijayalath RSP psc IG SLA was appointed as a Military Research Officer (Army) to the Institute of National Security Studies on 06th September 2021 and contributed by organizing, coordinating and participating in national security discussions, and in research pertaining to national security. He coordinated and liaised with the Ministry of Defence and Sri Lanka Army whenever assistance was required from these two organizations to the institute. He bid farewell to the institute in order to take

over duties as the Commanding Officer of 15th UAV Regiment of Sri Lanka Artillery on 18th of July 2022. INSS wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Bodhana Perera joined INSS as an Intern (research) at the Institute of National Security Studies on 17th of August 2020. Later, in 23rd March 2021, he was promoted as a research assistant and he continued to serve in the research department representing INSS in several forums. He contributed to the institute by supervising, organizing and participating in national security discussions. Mr. Bodhana bid farewell to the institute on 30th of September 2022, to pursue his goals in higher studies. INSS wishes him good luck in his future endeavors.



Mr. Madushan Seneviratna
Research Analyst



Lt. Col. WASM Wijayalath
RSP psc IG
Military Research Officer (Army)



Mr. Bodhana Perera
Research Assistant

INSS Organized a Security Salon on “India, China and the Threat of CBRN Weapons; A Forecast Analysis Mapping the Threats to the Region”


INSS hosted a virtual Security Salon on “India, China, and the threat of C.B.R.N. Weapons; A Forecast Aanalysis Mapping the Threats to the Region” on Wednesday, 31st August 2022 from 1400 hrs to 1530hrs (IST) via Zoom. The chair for the event was Major General B K G M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG, Commandant, Defence Services Command and Staff College; representing General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd.) WWV, RWP, RSP, USP, ndc, psc, MPhil the Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The Guest Speaker for the event was Dr. Sanath De Silva, Senior Lecturer Department of Strategic studies, Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. The moderator of the event was Rear Admiral D. C. Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Director (Communications and Publications) and Acting Director-General, INSS. The audience comprised of Ministry officials, policymakers, researchers, representatives from academic institutions, Sri Lankan armed forces and Sri Lanka Police.

Dr. Sanath De Silva delivered a brilliant presentation on the current understandings of regional nuclear players and the threat atmosphere presented

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
SECURITY SALON
ON
INDIA, CHINA AND THE THREAT OF C.B.R.N. WEAPON; A FORECAST ANALYSIS
MAPPING THE THREATS TO THE REGION



Event Chair
Major General B. K. G. M. L. Rodrigo
RSP psc IG
Commandant
Defence Services Command & Staff College



Guest Speaker
Dr. Sanath De Silva
Senior Lecturer
Department of Strategic Studies
Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University



Moderator
Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena
RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc
Director (Communications & Publications)
Acting Director General
Institute of National Security Studies

Date : 31st August 2022
From : 1400 hrs to 1530 hrs (IST)



with C.B.R.N. developments in the region. The significance of nuclear deterrence and nuclear conflict management was eloquently described by the guest speaker, sharing both conceptual and pragmatic narratives. The question- and-answer session was moderated by Rear Admiral D.C. Gunawardena brought forth an interesting array of perspectives into the issue; engaging the audience with professionals and practitioners in the field. The

discussion was later followed by the concluding remarks by the Chair of the Event, Major General B K G M L Rodrigo presenting his valuable remarks on the timely discourse. The discussion provided valuable strategic and policy suggestions to generate a pertinent forecast analysis, mapping C.B.R.N. threats to the region. The discussion was organized by Mr. Bodhana Perera, Research Assistant at INSS.

INSS Deliberates on “Combating Human Smuggling at Sea: an Escalating Threat to National Security”

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
ON
“Combating Human Smuggling at Sea: An Escalating Threat to National Security”



Moderator
Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena
RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc
Director (Communications & Publications)
Acting Director General
Institute of National Security Studies



Speaker
Rear Admiral Pujitha Vithana
USP, ndc
Deputy Director General
Sri Lanka Coast Guard



Speaker
Commander Rangana Athukorala psc,
MSc (D&SS), MPS, BNavalSt
(Maritime Warfare),
Senior Staff Officer (Operations),
Sri Lanka Coast Guard



Speaker
Lieutenant Commander W. C. Rodrigo
Legal Officer
Sri Lanka Coast Guard

Date : 21st September 2022
From : 1400 hrs to 1600 hrs (IST)



This Round Table Discussion titled “Combating Human Smuggling at Sea: An Escalating Threat to National Security ” was held on Wednesday, 21st of September 2022, from 1400hrs to 1600hrs (IST) via Zoom. The Guest Speakers of the event were Rear Admiral Pujitha Vithana, USP, ndc, Deputy Director General, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, Commander Rangana Athukorala, psc, MSc (D&SS), MPS, BNavalSt (Maritime Warfare), Senior Staff Officer (Operation), Sri Lanka Coast Guard and Lieutenant Commander WC Rodrigo, Legal Officer, Sri Lanka Coast Guard. The moderator for this timely session was Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP** RSP VSV USP nswc psc hdmc, Director (Communications & Publications) and Acting Director General of INSS. The audience comprised ministry officials, academics, researchers, policy

makers, representatives from Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Sri Lanka Police, Sri Lanka Coast Guard and Civil Security Department.

The moderator commenced the proceedings by explaining how human smuggling has spread as a crime around the world and why people engage in smuggling activities which is a non-conventional maritime security threat. Furthermore, he discussed human smuggling operations during the post-war period as well.

Rear Admiral Pujitha Vithana commenced his presentation by giving a brief introduction of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG). Accordingly, he discussed what the Coast Guard is, its role and functions in combating human smuggling at sea.

Commander Rangana Athukorala brought out a clear insight on the area “Operational aspect of Sri Lanka Coast Guard on combating human smuggling at sea” and discussed the anti-smuggling operations conducted by them to ensure maritime security and future plans of the SLCG in combating human smuggling. He presented statistical data on apprehended illicit emigrants from 2009 to 2022 by gender and nationality. Thereby, he asserted that illicit migration was recorded high during the periods of 2011-2013 and 2021-2022 and Tamil and male counterparts were higher among them. Furthermore, he pointed out the tactics of human smugglers, dangerousness of the voyage and the measures that they have taken for countering smuggling activities in Sri Lanka.

The final speaker, Commander WC Rodrigo presented the legal aspect of combating human smuggling at sea. He explained the legal provisions on human smuggling in Sri Lanka Coast Guard Act No. 41 of 2009 and the Immigration and Emigration Act. Furthermore, he highlighted that trafficking and smuggling protocols are yet to be ratified by Sri Lanka. Consequently, an interesting and interactive Q and A session took place, where Captain Nirmal Silva, Harbor Master, Sri Lanka Ports Authority too contributed to the session by sharing on how the merchant Navy could assist the Coast Guard. He also shared his own experience on illegal migration using containers in merchant ships. This discussion was organized by Ms. Kalpani Gunathilake, Research Assistant at INSS.

INSS Staff Participates at the Inaugural NDC Research Symposium 2022



National Defence College extended an invitation to a few of the research staff at INSS to participate in their inaugural Research Symposium 2022 under the theme 'Exploring Multimodal Security Dynamics' that took place on 17th August 2022, at the auditorium, of the Faculty of Graduate studies KDU. The event was exclusively designed to promote defence research culture and create an environment to explore research ideas related to the discipline of National Security and Strategic Studies. INSS staff including Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardene, Acting Director General of INSS, Ms. Nilmini Ulluwishewa, Director (Administration) and five members of the research staff of INSS participated in the thought-provoking event. The Chief guest for the event was General Kamal Gunaratne, (Retd.) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc Mphil, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and the key note address was delivered by Mr. Lalith Weeratunge, former Secretary and Senior Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka.



Dealing with Malnutrition Amidst the Current Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka

INSS organized a Threat Lens on "Dealing with Malnutrition Amidst the Current Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka." on Wednesday, 28th of September 2022, from 1400hrs to 1600hrs (IST) via Zoom. Guest Speakers of the event were Dr. H.S.R. Perera, Deputy Director General (Public Health Services) II, Ministry of Health and Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Head of the Department of Nutrition at Medical Research Institute. The audience comprised representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security, National Food Promotion Board, UNICEF Sri Lanka, university academics, think tanks, officers from Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Sri Lanka Police, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard.

The event was chaired by Dr. Priyangani Amarabandu, Chairperson of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board. representing General Kamal Gunaratna (Retd.) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence. The moderator, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardane RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc Director (Communications and Publications), Acting Director General of INSS, commenced the discussion by providing an overview on malnutrition and the prevailing socio-economic condition of the country.

Dr. Renuka Jayatissa elaborated on the existing issues related to malnutrition and food security in Sri Lanka by drawing attention to the recent statistics with reference to the prevailing economic crisis.



Further, she explained the methods to tackle malnutrition with minimum requirements available in the country. In supporting the points highlighted by Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Dr. H.S.R. Perera focused on the policy directions available and in effect with regard to the malnutrition status of the country. She stressed the fact that multi sector stakeholders need to collaboratively take part in the implementation of suggested coping mechanisms to combat malnutrition in Sri Lanka. The insightful presentation of the two speakers was followed by a thought-provoking Q and A session, which provided an array of notable methods to grapple with malnutrition amidst the current economic crisis in the country. The event was organised by Ms. Dilmini Abeyrathne, Research Assistant of INSS.

INSS Contributes in Developing a Standard Operating Procedure for Special Aircraft and Seaborne Vessels

Institute of National Security Studies was informed to nominate a representative for this effort for a subcommittee and Ms. Gayanga Dias, Research Assistant was nominated by the Acting Director General accordingly. Ms. Gayanga Dias was appointed as a nominee by INSS for a special subcommittee that was appointed to develop a standard operating procedure for special aircraft and seaborne vessels, chaired by the Chief of National Intelligence (CNI) Major General J. R. Kulathunga (Retd) RSP upon the direction of H. E. the President Ranil Wickramasinghe. She was also appointed in the study group to study the current procedures followed by different stakeholders such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, SL customs, Civil Aviation Authority, SL Coast Guard, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission etc. whenever a special aircraft or vessels is due to in Sri Lanka.



Maiden Graduation Ceremony of the Prestigious National Defence College (NDC)



Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, the Acting Director General of INSS was invited for the above ceremony which was held at the premises of the NDC in Colombo 3rd on 14th September 2022. The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance, Hon Ranil Wickramasinghe graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



The President declared about the Indian Ocean regions' influences and the strategic position of the Hambantota Port in addition to the importance of the non-alliance policy, especially from Super Powers in his address. The state minister to the Ministry of Defence and a member of Parliament Hon. Pramitha Bandara Thennakoon, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Foreign High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Attaches, Members of the Board of Management of NDC, members of the academia, senior officers of the tri service and the police and spouses of the graduates were among the distinguished guests. Special awards were conferred to the most outstanding graduates from the three services and the police who have excelled in academics with vital analytical skills and demonstrated ability to perform, achieve, and excelled in scholastic approach, during the ceremony by the Chief Guest.

USA Delegation from US Defence Security Cooperation - the Institute for Security Governance Agency (ISGA) Visits INSS

Institute of National Security Studies welcomed a delegation from the Institute for Security Governance on 22nd September 2022. The Actg. Director General of INSS welcomed the delegation and gave an introduction about the role and responsibilities of the institute. Later, he elaborated on the research work and other events conducted by INSS. Delegates from the Institute for Security Governance Agency discussed the challenges and limitations for developing the Institutional Capacity Building Initiatives (ICBI) and potential subjects. Further they discussed mutual interests and how both the institutes can collaborate in achieving them. At the end of the discussion tokens of appreciation were exchanged. The delegation included, Mr. Ashley Mathew (military background) and Professor Oscar De Sato (foreign service background) from the Institute of Security Governance Agency.



New Faces Onboard Admin Staff



Mr. H.W.M. Meril Manchanayake is a retired Master Chief Petty Officer from the Information Technology branch of the Sri Lanka Navy who has been called to active duty under the Regular Naval Reserve. He has more than 18 years of experience and service in the field of Information Technology in his 22 years of naval service. He has successfully completed the Basic IT course at SLIT and has completed many courses from various universities and public and private educational institutes and is an NVQ level 4 certified computer hardware technician, network and database administrator, GIS and applications, expert of Microsoft Windows and Office applications, video and graphic editing, website design, mobile application development and cyber security. Before joining INSS as an IT officer on 29th August 2022, he worked in a private organization for nearly 5 years as a IT, Payroll, HR and Administration Management Officer and finally as the General Manager.



Mr. S.H.J Alponsu is a retired Master Chief Petty Officer from the Logistics branch of the Sri Lanka Navy who has been called to active service in the Regular Naval Reserve. He has more than 18 years of experience and service in secretariat duties in the Navy and retired from naval service after 22 years. He joined the Navy in 1999 and had his basic training from the prestigious Naval and Maritime Academy in Trincomalee. During his naval career, he has served in many naval establishments and has undergone training by attending many local courses and a foreign course. He joined INSS on 29th August 2022 as the Administrative officer.

Intern Batch of 2022 Presented their Individual Research

The intern batch of 2022 presented their individual research on 13th September 2022, at the Conference room of the Institute of National Security Studies. As a mandatory requirement of their internship, which is of six (6) months duration, interns are expected to engage in research connected to National Security and come up with suitable recommendations to address these challenges. Ms. Dulakshi Ariyaratne presented her research on 'Psychological motives leading towards drug abuse: new trends of drug abuse among youth through peer pressure', while Ms. Pansilu Pussadeniya and Ms. Prasansa Gunawardane presented on 'An analysis on how to overcome youth frustration and ensure human security in Sri Lanka's present-day context' and 'Catastrophic controversy of cybersecurity strategy: A comparative analysis on Sri Lanka and Singapore' respectively.

INSS Staff Present Papers at KDU International Research Conference (IRC)

The staff of INSS presented their research papers at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University International Research Conference which was held on 29th and 30th of September 2022 at the auditorium at the Faculty of Graduate Studies within the KDU premises. Ms. Charani Patabendige, Research Assistant, Acting Research Analyst and Honorary Associate Research Fellow of INSS presented two paper on 'Sri Lankan Perspectives on "Fighting the Lie": Criminalizing Online Falsehoods' in the Law session and 'LTTE and Disinformation: Is Sri Lanka Ready to Win the Intangible War?' at the Defence and Strategic Studies session.



Ms. Prasansa Gunawardana, Intern (Research) and Ms. Pansilu Pussadeniya, Intern (Research) presented papers titled 'Role of the International Community in Sri Lanka's Redemption from the Economic Crisis' and 'Relationship Between the Political Literacy of Youth and Economic Development in Sri Lanka: A Historical Overview since 2000-2020' respectively stating their affiliation to the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies at KDU.



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Apex Threats to National Security

Guilt, sadness, repentance, and accountability are futile matters to a terrorist or an extremist. Social media is widely used by many, to deceive and manipulate the community. Social media is a haven for terrorists as well as extremists to deliberately harm the social, moral, and public order. At present, it is important to realize that modes of war have changed. Unlike in the past, war is not always militaristic. It can also be by way of information. Information warfare is done by the creation and dissemination of false information, misinformation, disinformation as well as hate speech. One single word, a picture, or a video can create restlessness in society. Hence, it is imperative to criminalize online falsehoods and manipulations. Moreover, it is pivotal to abide by laws, by thwarting the suppression of freedom of expression and freedom of publication. Thus, it is now high time to introduce legislation to criminalize online falsehoods and manipulations.

Legislation

The rationale behind introducing and executing a law, relating to online falsehoods and manipulations is to preserve moral, public, and social order. The law will furnish a safeguard to society to cherish harmony by dissuading deliberate hatred. In addition, the Act will criminalize profit-driven individuals, entities, terrorists, extremists, and people with prejudices. Furthermore, victims of malicious acts must be compensated. This will bestow the judiciary with the power to penalize the perpetrators. Therefore, the Act must provide calibrated remedies. On the other hand, it is crucial that the accused have the right to explain. The Act should not be an undue influence by the Government. Besides, there needs to be room for judicial review. In addition, to judicial remedies, it is important to

correct the false statement imminently and in the case of an inherently deliberate false statement, it must be taken down. The Act must be precise and free of ambiguities. It must be focused with great oversight.

Freedom of Speech

Now the question occurs as to whether it will denigrate the right of freedom of expression and freedom of publication which are fundamental rights of the Sri Lankan Constitution. The Constitution is democratic in nature, giving prominence to the public interest. The rights, as well as duties stipulated in the Constitution, are for the enhancement of the life of individuals in the country. What is important to identify is the Act will not prevent constructive criticism. Therefore, determining whether the conduct is acceptable or not is completely dependent on the motive and the conduct of the individual or the entity. Looking at the trends around the world and the emerging as well as the existing threat of falsehoods, it is understandable what free flow of information is competent of. What is important to identify is, that the Act will not forbid free speech or publication, but it will only impede acts that are inconsistent with the public interest.

Raising awareness

With that being said, it is crucial to accept such legislation. The Government must educate the public on the threat of online falsehoods and manipulations. As long as people are unaware of the existing threat, they will not take any action swiftly to prevent or counteract it. Being ignorant of the threat is disastrous compared to knowing the risk. Therefore, the Government is duty-bound to take essential actions to educate society. There are many benefits of the Act from a public perspective. The Act will act as a safe point to prevent privacy violations



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and defamation by penalizing the perpetrators meanwhile taking down the false content. The Act provides a reporting mechanism to the public to lodge complaints against falsehoods and manipulations.

Thus, it is crystal clear that online falsehoods and manipulations are detrimental. Introducing an Act to criminalize will aid the justice process. As the Government is the custodian of the public, the interests of the public must be given precedence. Due to that reason, the Government must instill information literacy in people to give society the proficiency, to find, evaluate, organize, use, and communicate information in all its various formats. Moreover, it is important to strengthen data protection in order to prevent data privacy violations. Fact-checking is an important step that will prevent online falsehoods. All the stakeholders must verify the source, motive, context, and other surrounding facts of the piece of information before reacting to the content and disseminating it.

Read the full article at
<https://archive.ceylontoday.lk/news/apex-threats-to-national-security>

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