



## MESSAGE BY THE CHIEF GUEST

Dr. Harini Amarasuriya,  
Chairperson of the Council of Regents, NCAS  
Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher  
Education, and Vocational Education



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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to all participants, presenters, and organizers of the 7th International Research Symposium in Humanities and Social Sciences (IRSHSS) 2025, organized by the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS).

Over the years, IRSHSS has served as an important platform bringing together scholars and practitioners from around the world to reflect critically, share insights, and explore emerging directions in Humanities and Social Sciences research.

Research in these disciplines is grounded in interpretative and critical traditions that help us understand the complexities of human life, culture, and society. Through methodologies such as ethnography, phenomenology, hermeneutics, discourse analysis, critical theory, and participatory inquiry, they emphasize the diversity and interconnectedness of human experience. In a rapidly changing world shaped by digital transformation and global interdependence, their role in fostering critical perspectives remains vital.

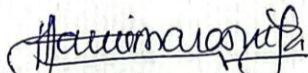
This year's theme, "*AI in Higher Education*," is both relevant and forward-looking. Artificial Intelligence is reshaping how knowledge is produced, shared, and applied. Its growing influence calls for careful consideration of its ethical, cultural, and philosophical dimensions. The Humanities and Social Sciences are essential in ensuring that AI serves as a tool for empowerment—enhancing human potential while safeguarding the values that define our shared humanity.

The symposium provides a timely opportunity to discuss how AI can be integrated into teaching, learning, and research while upholding creativity, empathy, and intellectual freedom. I hope it will also generate critical reflections on AI and its rapid deployment in society.

Such dialogue is critical for guiding higher education toward a future that is technologically progressive, ethically sound, and socially responsive.

I commend NCAS for its sustained commitment to advancing academic and research excellence. IRSHSS 2025 reflects that commitment. I am confident that the discussions and collaborations emerging from this year's symposium will contribute meaningfully to the growth of scholarship and practice in our universities and beyond.

I extend my appreciation to the Director, the organizing committee, and all scholars and participants for their contributions to this important academic forum. I wish IRSHSS 2025 every success in fostering new ideas and productive dialogue that will shape the future of higher education in the age of AI.



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