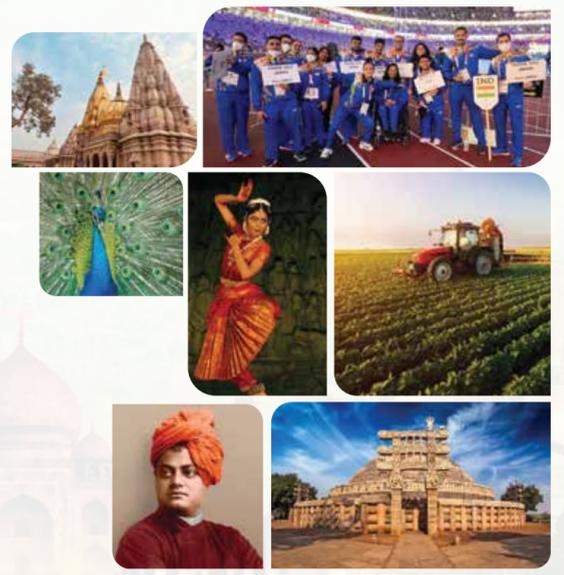




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The gift of 500,000 doses of Covishield vaccines by India in January 2021 enabled roll out of COVID-19 vaccination, ahead of schedule in Sri Lanka.



Virtual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and H.E Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, September 2020.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and H.E President Gotabaya Rajapaksa met on the sidelines of United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, November 2021



Close to 1000 tons of oxygen supplies came from India during the third COVID-19 wave in Sri Lanka.

India: eternal and reliable partner of Sri Lanka



Hon'ble Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar in New Delhi to discuss mutually beneficial economic cooperation, December 2021



External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar met Hon'ble Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris on the sidelines of UNGA in New York, September 2021



National Security Advisor, Mr. Ajit Doval on an official visit to Sri Lanka in November 2020



Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla called on Hon'ble PM Mahinda Rajapaksa during his visit to Sri Lanka in October 2021.

Message from High Commissioner



H.E. Gopal Baglay

I am delighted to convey my warm greetings to the friendly people of Sri Lanka and all Indians residing in this beautiful country on the 73rd Republic Day of India. The world's largest written Constitution came into force in a young and independent India on this day 72 years ago.

Sri Lanka is India's closest maritime neighbour and friend. It occupies a central place in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. The people of the two countries share deep-rooted commonalities in cultural, spiritual, linguistic, commercial and several other spheres, extending back thousands of years.

These unique ties provide a solid foundation for our contemporary and comprehensive bilateral engagement. Today, India and Sri Lanka are taking rapid strides along the Mitratva Magga - the Path of Friendship- guided by leaders in both countries committed to ever stronger relationship for shared progress, prosperity and peace.

This common vision drives India's extensive development cooperation programmes in Sri Lanka. I am happy that its continued implementation saw inauguration of four grant projects in diverse areas such as education and housing during the visit of the Foreign Secretary of India to Sri Lanka in October 2021. A few days ago, celebrating Thai Pongal with the Indian Origin Tamil Community, I handed over 1000 houses built with India's assistance in Central Province.

Even as development assistance remains a key pillar of India-Sri Lanka engagement, bilateral exchanges and institutional mechanisms are being oriented to jointly face the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic. From ensuring early vaccine and immediate oxygen supplies during COVID-19 to being the first responder in mitigating marine disasters, India continues to be Sri Lanka's dependable friend.

The recent economic and forex support from India to Sri Lanka following the visit to India by Finance Minister, H.E Basil Rajapaksa underlines our commitment to stand with Sri Lanka. More support measures are being worked out to meet Sri Lanka's requirements.

At the same time, the High Commission actively encourages stronger trade and investment linkages between India and Sri Lanka, and closer people-to-people ties. We, therefore, are happy to see continued large Indian investments in Sri Lanka and also initiatives such as the inaugural international flight from Sri Lanka to Kushinagar carrying sacred Relics and venerable members of Maha Sangha besides prominent leaders including Hon'ble Minister Namal Rajapaksa.

It was similarly a great privilege and honour to witness the establishment of Sri Lanka-India Parliamentary Friendship Association with record participation of Hon'ble Members of Parliament. This welcome development will reinforce ties between the two democracies and the people's representatives.

As India celebrates her 75th year of Independence, Sri Lanka is also about to reach the same milestone. The two Governments plan to celebrate together the journeys of our two plural and diverse democracies in a befitting manner in the months ahead. Such endeavours will reinforce the lasting bonds of friendship between the peoples of the two countries and propel their cooperation forward with greater momentum.

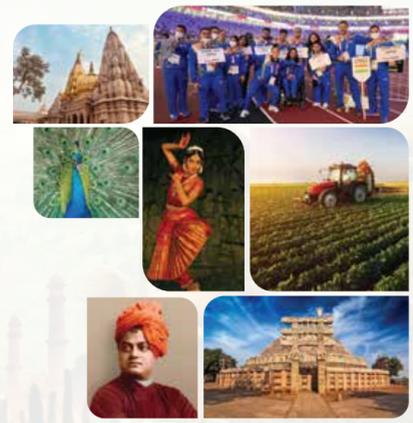
It is in this spirit that I would also like to wish you all a very happy Independence Day of Sri Lanka, little over a week from now.

Namaskar, Ayubowan, Vanakkam!

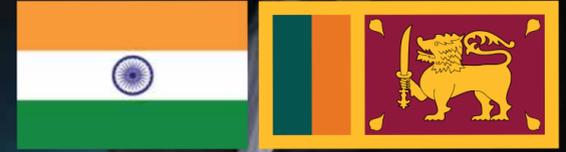


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A COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP: ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL LINKAGES



TRADE

- Sri Lanka's 2nd largest trading partner and 3rd largest export destination.
- USD 3.6 billion bilateral merchandise trade in a pandemic-induced 2020.
- Manifold increase in trade since the signing of the bilateral FTA in 2000.
- More than 60% of Sri Lanka's total exports to India have benefitted from the FTA.
- 5% of India's exports to Sri Lanka have used the FTA provisions.

Investments

- India is one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment in Sri Lanka.
- Presence of a number of leading Indian companies in Sri Lanka.
- FDI from India to Sri Lanka is estimated to be USD 1.7 billion over the last 15 years
- FDI is likely to go up to USD 2.5 billion soon.

Fueling Sri Lanka's economic growth: Indian companies

Adapting to Evolving Circumstances

- Continuous adaptation.
- A recent example is the establishment of vehicle assembly facilities by Indian vehicle manufacturers in the country.



Mahindra & Mahindra vehicle assembly plant in Welipenna, Sri Lanka

Job creation

- Continued creation of jobs.
- Creation of more than a thousand jobs by HCL, a well-known Indian technology company.
- More than 60% are fresh graduates.



Inauguration of the new HCL office in Colombo by High Commissioner of India and Hon'ble Finance Minister of Sri Lanka Basil Rajapaksa

BIG NEWS from the recent past

West Container Terminal (WCT)

- US\$ 650 million in relation to WCT-1 at the Colombo Port.
- An Indo-Sri Lankan JV - Colombo West International Terminal (Private) Limited.
- BOT Agreement was signed in September 2021.



Signing of BOT Agreement between SLPA and CWIT

Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm

- A milestone in energy cooperation.
- Conclusion of various agreements and documents by Lanka IOC with GOSL and CPC for further development of the Tank Farms.



Signing of agreements between GOSL, CPC and LIOC for development of Oil Tank Farm at Trincomalee

Multi-dimensional

Air bubble

- Established in April 2021
- Facilitating travel both sides

JWG on Energy

- Decided to establish a bilateral Joint Working Group on Energy Partnership in October 2021

Nano nitrogen

- Support to Sri Lanka in its priorities related to organic agriculture
- Two Indian Air Force (IAF) heavy lift aircrafts delivered a consignment of liquid Nano Nitrogen fertilizers in November 2021.



IAF aircrafts delivered nano fertilizers in Colombo

INDIAN JUMBO: STORY OF A STRONG ECONOMIC REBOUND

- Four consecutive quarters of growth amidst the pandemic.
- Driven by a revival in services, full-recovery in manufacturing and sustained growth in agriculture sectors.
- Broad-based growth in merchandise exports, despite rising container shipping cost.
- 19 out of 22 High Frequency Indicators (HFIs) crossed their pre-pandemic levels.
- Net FDI reached close to US\$ 20 billion in April to September 2021.
- Forex reserves of US\$ 640.4 billion in November 2021 is sufficient to finance more than a year of imports.
- Significant growth in taxes and stable inflation.
- Recovery is accelerated by the rapid vaccination programme.
- Growth of 8-10% predicted by major multi-lateral and credit rating agencies. Translates to a 1.6% growth over pre-pandemic GDP.
- Reforms are expected to support sustainable growth.

Platforms for deeper business interactions

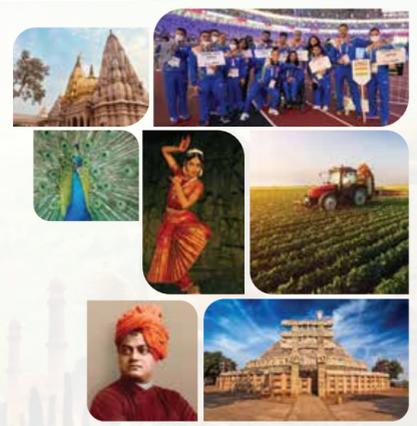
- Participation of Hon'ble Minister Bandula Gunawardana along with his Indian counterpart Piyush Goyal at the Special Ministerial Plenary during the CII Partnership Summit in December 2021.
- Country Session on Sri Lanka at CII Partnership Summit witnessed participation by prominent representatives of business and industry from both countries.
- Secretary, Ministry of Trade Ms. J.M.B. Jayawardhana participated in the online session on Role of Women Entrepreneurs in building a resilient global value chain at the 18th Global MSME Summit in November 2021.
- Hon'ble Bandula Gunawardana was the Guest of Honour at the Special Plenary with Trade Ministers of the Region, held as a part of the Indo-Pacific Business Summit in July 2021.
- A country session dedicated to India was held at the Sri Lanka Investment Forum in June 2021. Several dignitaries including High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and State Minister for Regional Cooperation Tharaka Balasuriya and leading Indian investors in Sri Lanka participated.
- A Digital Conference on Enhancing India-Sri Lanka Economic Relations was held on 12 March 2021 which witnessed the participation of then Foreign Minister Hon'ble Dinesh Gunawardana and High Commissioner Gopal Baglay in addition to other Indian dignitaries and investors.



CII Partnership Summit, December 2021, Special Ministerial Plenary



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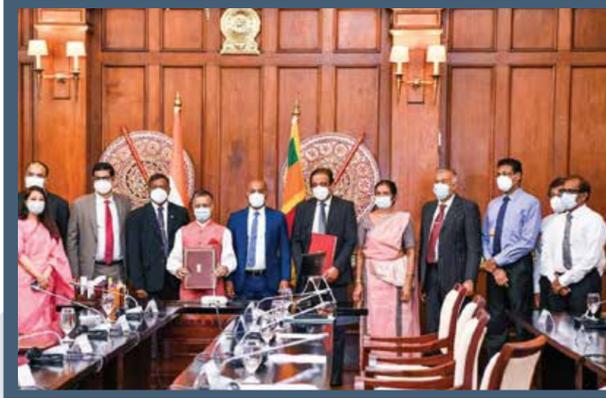


A dependable partner in
DEVELOPMENT OF SRI LANKA:
Infrastructure, livelihood and beyond



India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is driven by the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka and aspirations of its people. At a total quantum of more than USD 4 billion, India has carried out development projects that covers large scale infrastructure and connectivity projects and human-centric projects ranging from health, education, housing, industrial development etc among others. Implementation of these projects contribute vastly to the local economy as they rely mostly on Sri Lankan contractors and labour for execution.

The ongoing five concessional lines of credit cut across areas such as defence, railways, transport, infrastructure development, connectivity, solar etc. Overcoming the challenges posed by the COVID19 pandemic, these projects have achieved considerable progress in the recent past.



Signing of the USD 100 million agreement between Government of Sri Lanka and EXIM Bank of India for solar energy projects in June 2021 underlines the commitment of the two Governments to clean and green energy and also aligns well with the vision of President of Sri Lanka to ensure that 70% of the country's energy requirements are met through renewable energy sources by 2030. The agreement would pave way for financing various projects including rooftop solar photo-voltaic systems for households and government buildings and a floating solar plant for the Parliament building of Sri Lanka.



Train service between Mount Lavinia and Kankesanthurai was launched earlier this month. 2021 witnessed the supply of 120 passenger coaches and 2 fully AC Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) by RITES India Limited. Supply of 750 jeeps for Sri Lanka Police (including 150 jeeps for the Police Special Task Force) and 500 buses for the Sri Lanka Transport Board from India has also been approved.



Phase -III of the Indian Housing Project in plantation areas of Sri Lanka is nearing completion. While 1235 houses were handed over during the visit of Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla in October 2021, over a thousand houses were handed over on the auspicious occasion of Pongal in January 2022. Total of around 50,000 houses have been built across Sri Lanka under this flagship scheme so far. In the next phase, another 10000 houses shall be constructed in the plantation areas.

Testifying to the breadth of India's development partnership with Sri Lanka, Foreign Secretary also inaugurated a Model Housing Village in Vavuniya, a renovated Vada Ladies Central College in Vadamarachi and a multi-purpose hall in Saraswathy Central College in Pussellawa, all of which were implemented through grant assistance by Government of India.

1990 Suwaseriya emergency ambulance has proved to be of great value during the testing pandemic times. Rabindranath Tagore auditorium in Ruhuna University is a state-of-the-art structure and among the largest such facilities in the Southern Province.

The 5000 MT temperature-controlled warehouse in Dambulla, the first of its kind in the country, is expected to be complete soon. This could immensely aid the farming community in Dambulla area and neighbouring Districts by extending the shelf life of their produce. In a unique arrangement, an Indian and Sri Lanka entity joined hands and formed a Joint Venture solely towards the realization of the project.

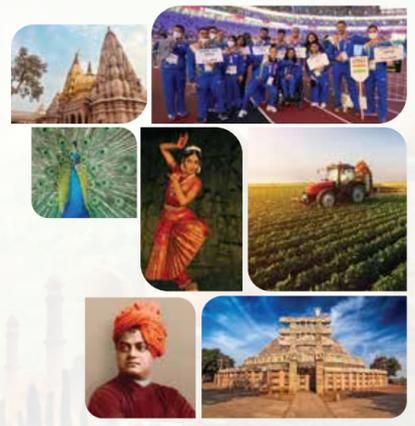


Two Integrated water supply projects in Polgahawela and Aluthgama with a support of US\$ 91.80 million and US\$ 164.90 million respectively are almost 90% complete. They are expected to be commissioned soon. These projects will touch the lives of more than 750,000 people and fulfill their dream of getting safe and clean tap water.

India is associated with more than 80 people-driven grant projects encompassing diverse areas in all parts of Sri Lanka.



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**ALONG THE LAND,
SEA AND SKY:
DEFENCE
COOPERATION**




Multi-faceted nature of defence cooperation between India and Sri Lanka encompasses myriad activities in numerous domains including training, joint exercises, supply of military equipment etc. They are also marked by institutional dialogues at different levels and periodic bilateral goodwill visits by Navy and Coast Guard ships. Sri Lanka has been accorded the status of 'Priority One' partner by India.

Attesting to the deep nature of this engagement, Colombo Security Conclave Secretariat was inaugurated in March 2021 and the consequent Deputy NSA meeting was held in Sri Lanka on 4 August 2021 in order to work towards actionable engagements in tackling common security challenges.

Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army visited Sri Lanka in October 2021 during which he called on the Sri Lankan political and military leadership. He was the Chief Guest at the Gajaba Day celebrations. He gifted two simulators along with training aids and cut models to facilitate quality training imparted by Sri Lanka Army and also provided one upgrade kit for the L-70 anti-aircraft gun to Sri Lanka Air Force to ensure full automation of the gun.

Armies of the two countries conducted Ex Mitra Shakti, which is Sri Lanka's biggest military bilateral engagement. This year saw a monumental enhancement in the exercise from an Infantry Company level to a Combined Arms concept.

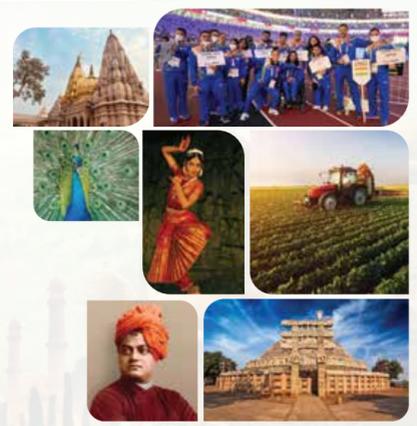
Multi-faceted nature of this partnership and India's commitment towards its 'Neighbourhood First' policy was manifested when Indian Naval Ship Shakti was deployed for delivering 100 tonnes of medical grade oxygen to Sri Lanka during early phases of the third COVID-19 wave in August 2021. Two Indian Air Force C-17 aircrafts were deployed for supplying 100 tonnes of nano fertilizers in November 2021.

Training is a significant and enduring pillar of bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries with India being the largest provider of foreign training assistance to Sri Lankan Armed Forces. This continued despite Covid-19 restrictions and in fact, the courses in India witnessed an increased participation from Sri Lanka in premier defence institutes.

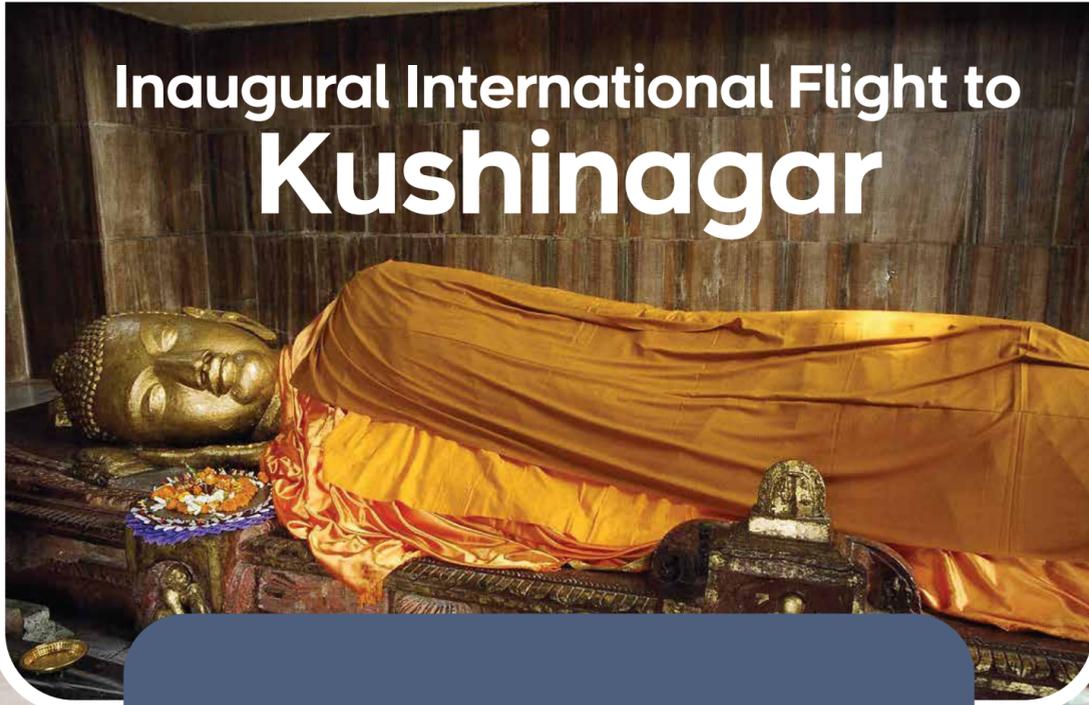
The 1st Training Squadron comprising six ships from Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard visited Sri Lanka from 24-28 October 2021. The visit broadened the horizon of young naval officers about the rich cultural heritage, traditions and social structure of a different country.

The old bonds of defence training establishments was institutionalized with the inauguration of National Defence College (NDC) India Alumni Association in Sri Lanka on 21 October 2021.

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Inaugural International Flight to Kushinagar



A delegation from Sri Lanka, led by Hon'ble Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth and Sports, Minister of Development Co-ordination and Monitoring and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development, and consisting of around 100 senior Buddhist monks belonging to different sects and prominent temples spread across Sri Lanka besides 4 State Ministers and other officials took the inaugural international flight to Kushinagar from Colombo on auspicious Vap Poya Day on 20 October 2021.

Kushinagar has a pre-eminent position given that The Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana here. Kushinagar is considered to be a focal point of the Buddhist Circuit in India and the new international airport, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is likely to strengthen people to people interactions between India and Sri Lanka substantially.

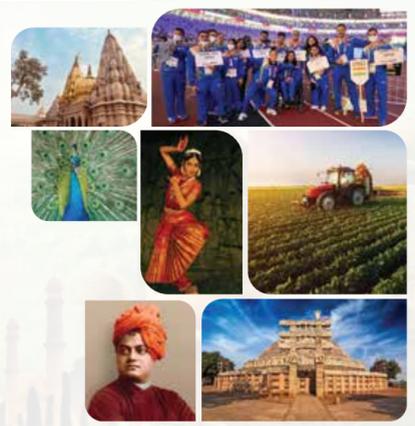
In addition to paying their respects at Parinirvan Stupa and Ramabhar Stupa in Kushinagar, the delegation sought blessings of The Buddha at Mulagandha Kutti Vihara in Saranath and undertook a boat ride in the holy river Ganga during which they also saw the famous 'Ghats' of Varanasi.

The sacred Kapilavastu Buddha relics from the Rajaguru Sri Subhuthi Maha Vihara of Waskaduwa were also ceremoniously brought on board the first international flight to Kushinagar by Most Ven. Waskaduwa Mahindawamsa Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Rajaguru Sri Subhuthi Maha Vihara.

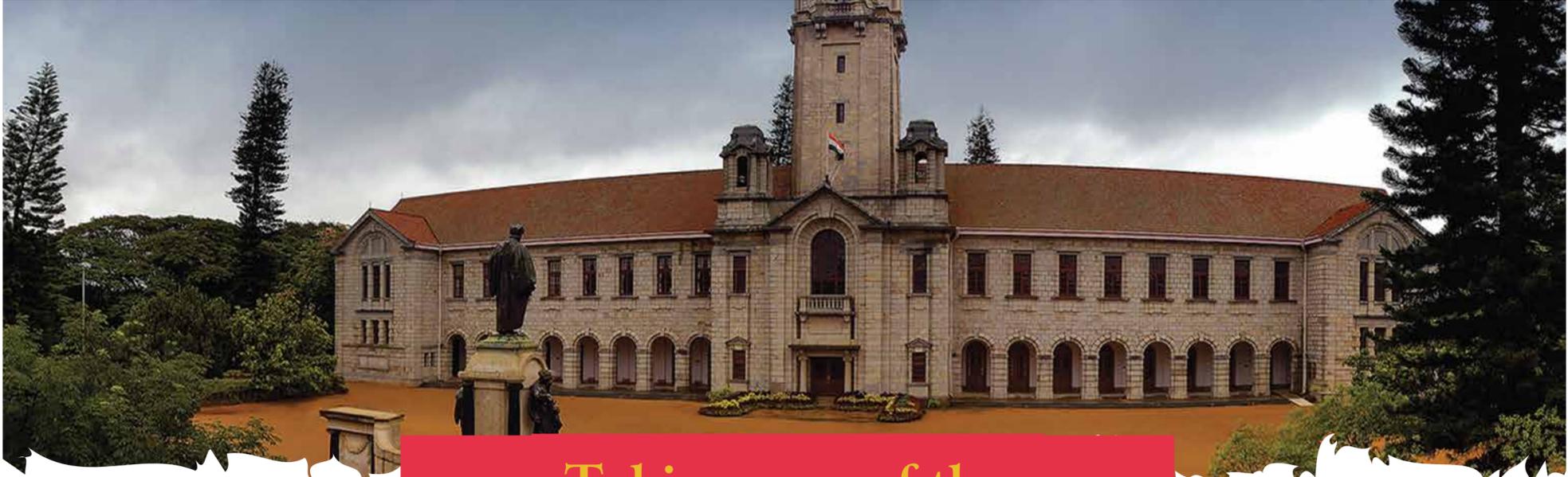


Multicity Exposition of Sacred Kapilavastu Relics of Waskaduwa in India





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Taking care of the
next generation:
Scholarships
for Sri Lankan
students



**Nehru Memorial
Scholarship Scheme**

- ▶ 120 slots every year.
- ▶ Undergraduate studies across streams.
- ▶ Announcements in November - December every year.

**Maulana Azad
Scholarship Scheme**

- ▶ 50 slots for Masters Level Courses.
- ▶ Most streams are available.
- ▶ Preference for science and technical streams.
- ▶ Announcements in November - December every year.

**AYUSH
scholarships**

- ▶ More than 10 scholarships.
- ▶ Traditional medicine like Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha and Unani.
- ▶ All levels - undergraduate to doctoral.
- ▶ Announcements around April every year.

**Scholarship for Children of
Estate Workers**

- ▶ One of the oldest scholarship programmes.
- ▶ Nearly 1000 students benefit from the scheme.
- ▶ 350 students are selected every year.

**Rajiv Gandhi
Scholarship Scheme**

- ▶ 25 slots for pursuing technical and engineering studies.
- ▶ Offered by top-ranked institutes in India.
- ▶ Announcements in November - December every year.

**Commonwealth
Scholarship Scheme**

- ▶ 5 slots every year.
- ▶ PhD Course in most subjects.
- ▶ Announcements in November - December every year.

**Mahatma Gandhi
Scholarship**

- ▶ LKR 60,000 per student.
- ▶ 150 Sri Lankan students, six from each of the 25 districts.
- ▶ Selected scores in the GCE 'O' Level exams.

Please visit our website: www.hcicolombo.gov.in
for more details regarding the scholarships.

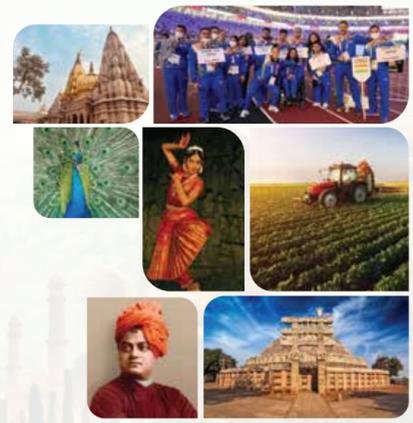


India-Sri Lanka Parliamentary
Friendship Association was
established in the
9th Parliament of Sri Lanka under
the patronage of Hon'ble Speaker,
Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana and
participation of a record number of
Parliamentarians for such an event
in November 2021.





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On the global stage

COP 26 in Glasgow (November 2021)

Displaying India's firm commitment to climate action, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed an ambitious 'Panchamrit' (five nectar elements):

- Take non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
- Meet 50 percent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
- Reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now till 2030.
- By 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of the Indian economy to less than 45 percent.
- By the year 2070, achieve the target of Net Zero.



Non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council

- For the eighth time
- Two-year term
- Presidency in August 2021

Connect between people heart of the bilateral relationship



H.E. PM Mahinda Rajapaksa had the Darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

Bi-directional flow of people

More than 56,000 tourists out of the 200,000 tourists who visited Sri Lanka in 2021 are from India.

More than 5000 Sri Lankan nationals offered tourist visas free of charge to visit India in the last quarter of 2021 alone.



India recognized Late. Professor Indra Dassanayake and Dr. Vajira Chitrasena with Padma Shri Award, one of the highest civilian honours, for their contributions to Indian culture and further strengthening of India-Sri Lanka cultural ties.



Hon'ble MP Angajan Ramanathan marked the New Year with a Darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirupati



Athletes from India and Sri Lanka bagged the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in Men's Javelin Throw at Paralympics Tokyo 2020



A special prayer was organized at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams to mark the first anniversary of H.E. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa assuming office in his current term.



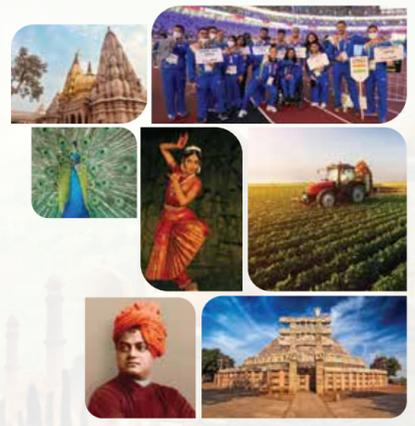
A 15-member cultural delegation from Sri Lanka took part in the grand 5th edition of Deepotsav In Ayodhya .



A special event to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the historic visit by the renowned Swami Vivekananda to Sri Lanka following his world-famous address at the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago.



Yohani - a cultural ambassador for the two nations!



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Abiding
cultural
linkages



Historical, cultural, spiritual, and linguistic ties have interwoven India and Sri Lanka into a common cultural tapestry that dates back more than two millennia.

Makar Sankranti, a festival which marks the transition of the Sun into Capricorn (Makara Raashi) was celebrated with grace and colour in Sri Lanka.

The High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo joined hands with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces to celebrate the 7th 'International Yoga Day' with a special online Yoga session.



High Commissioner offered prayers at the sacred Gangaramaya Temple for the health and well being of the people of Sri Lanka on auspicious Duruthu Poya Day in January 2021.

'Aboorvam', a celebration of the shared cultural heritage of India and Sri Lanka, with Aru Sri Art Theatre.

A special proficiency course in Hindi was launched for Sri Lanka Police during the commemoration of World Hindi Day, which was attended by around 70 senior police officers in Sri Lanka.



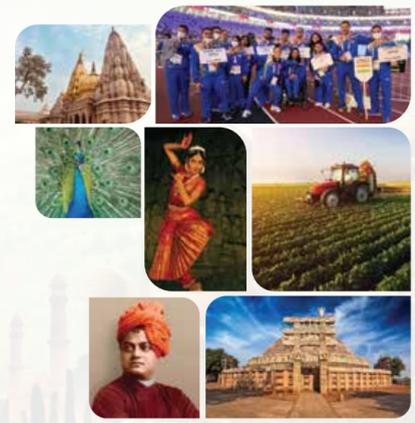
The 3rd round of the International Buddhism Quiz organized by High Commission of India in collaboration with the State Ministry of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas & Bhikkhu Education was held in Colombo.

Marking the death anniversary of Dr. B.R Ambedkar, a special prayer ceremony led by Ven. Banagala Uppatissa Thero was held at the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Rewant Vikram Singh, Director of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), cultural arm of the High Commission of India undertook a three-day Dhamma Yatra to Kadurawewa and Bingiriya villages to commemorate the auspicious Bak Full Moon Poya Day.



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Strengthening people to people connect: INDIA – SRI LANKA FOUNDATION



H.E. Mr. Gopal Baglay, Co-Chairperson of ISLF handing over Cheque of SLR.500,000/- to Sinidu Foundation (2021).



International White Cane Safety Day organized by Sri Lanka Welfare Organization of Visually Impaired Women.



Student Exchange Programme between St. Patrick's College Jaffna and Apeejay School Uttar Pradesh (2019)



"Who was Ashoka? a critical study", Vbook by the Sri Lankan writer Daya Dissanayake (2020)

Since its inception in 1998 as an inter-governmental initiative, the India – Sri Lanka Foundation (ISLF) has been continuously fostering ties between the two countries through economic, education, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. As a result, the ISLF has been instrumental in establishing greater people to people contacts. The specific focus of the ISLF pivots around supporting creative initiatives and bringing together the youth and the civil societies of the two countries. Till date, the Foundation has funded more than 300 projects worth SLR.150 million and currently 20 projects in the areas of research, art & culture, social work, science and technology etc. are in progress. The ISLF has supported youth exchange programmes and has also promoted the pursuit of higher studies as well as research, besides supporting a variety of cultural programmes.

Recently, ISLF has provided a financial assistance of SLR.500,000 to Sri Palee Campus of University of Colombo for setting up the "Guru Dev Rabindranath Tagore Gold Medal" for the best student as well as extended assistance of SLR.500,000/- to the Sinidu Foundation in support of their efforts to meet sanitary needs of underprivileged women in Sri Lanka. ISLF has also funded many social events including the Attorney General's Department, the Legal Officers' Association to organize a fundraiser, "A Ray of Hope" to help the children who lost their parents in the Easter Sunday Bomb attack (2019); donation of 300 white canes, scholarships for 50 students and 100 radios to visually impaired citizens through Welfare Organization of Visually Impaired Women (2019). ISLF will continue to collaborate further for strengthening people to people linkages between both the countries.



Equipping for the future: ITEC

ITEC

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by Government of India in 1964 as an assistance programme. This fully funded Programme, covering airfare, accommodation, study tours, course fee and other allowances, has grown considerably over the years and along with its sister program SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme), 161 countries across the globe are invited to gain from sharing of the Indian developmental experience. Under capacity building, which is an important pillar of ITEC, professionals from these countries are offered tailor-made training courses in both civilian and defence spheres across 24 different streams in reputed institutions in India.

Sri Lanka is among the most important ITEC partner countries and 402 fully-funded slots are offered every year to Sri Lankan Government personnel and other nationals for short-term training programs towards enhancing their skill-set. The courses are spread over a multitude of sectors such as Management & Leadership, International Trade, Tourism, Textiles, Renewable Energy, Petroleum & Hydrocarbon, IT, English language etc. The Programme draws an enthusiastic response in Sri Lanka every year.

The Programme has been modified into e-ITEC due to restrictions on account of Covid. Since then, more than 550 participants from Sri Lanka attended various e-ITEC Programmes in diverse areas. Some of the latest modules extended to Sri Lanka dealt with Petroleum, traditional medicine, law and order etc.



Training Program on Investigation of Allegations of Bribery and Corruption' was organized for 20 Sri Lankan Police officials at Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU), Gujarat. (March 2020)



Major General H. J. S. Gunawardena, Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Army, sharing the Sri Lankan experience and best practices for COVID pandemic; during the e-ITEC webinar on COVID-19-Good Governance Practices in a Pandemic, (June, 2020)



