



# India & Sri Lanka

A PARTNERSHIP THAT TRANSCENDS TIME





सत्यमेव जयते

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



**Mr. Y.K. Sinha**

High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka

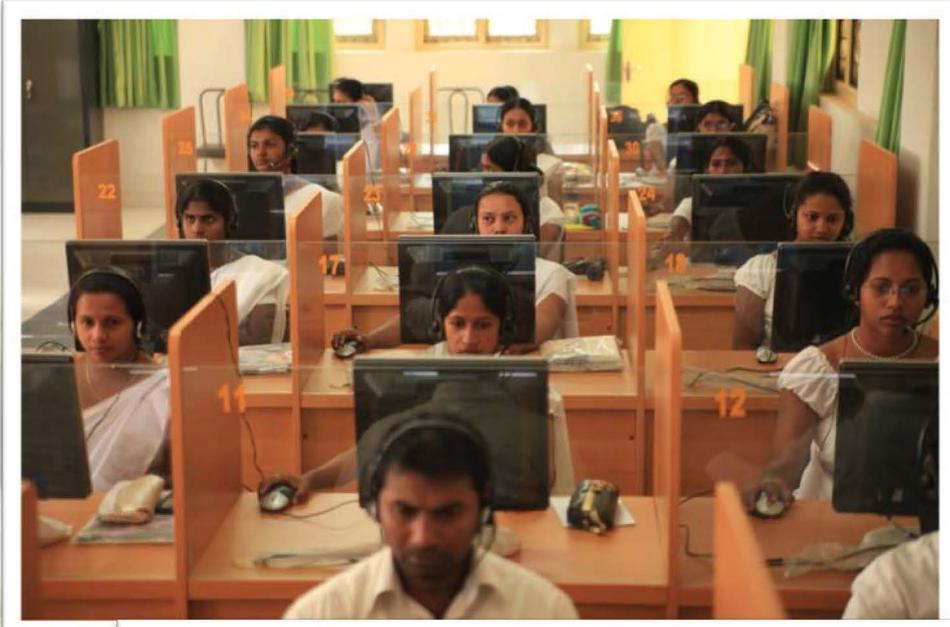
Sri Lanka is India's nearest, and in many ways, dearest neighbour. As such, a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with Sri Lanka remains at the core of India's neighbourhood policy. Our bilateral relations, built on a rich legacy of civilizational, cultural, religious and linguistic interaction, have today grown to encompass all areas of contemporary relevance. The relationship is marked by close contacts at the highest political level, growing trade and investment, burgeoning infrastructural linkages, cooperation in the fields of development, education, culture and defence, as well as a broad understanding on major issues of international interest.

More than 30 years of internecine conflict in Sri Lanka has taken a heavy toll and has ruptured the socio-political fabric of the country. As Sri Lanka stakes its claim to a peaceful future, the Government and the people of India are committed to assisting her in her endeavour for rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation. Our vast assistance programme in Sri Lanka has been appreciated for its timeliness and phased approach. It is based on a consultative approach that takes into account the ground situation and the immediate needs of the people at any given time, the priorities set by the host government and cooperative implementation by working together with agencies of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The nature of India's assistance, which commenced in 2008 even before the armed conflict came to an end, has evolved from emergency relief assistance, to rehabilitation and resettlement, to livelihood restoration, to the longer-term needs of housing, reconstruction and development. Accordingly, India's portfolio of development projects now encompasses virtually all major sectors of the economy, including housing, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, fisheries, industry, handicrafts, culture and sports. We have devoted a lion's share of our resources for our Housing Project involving construction of 50,000 houses and with a commitment of over US\$ 270 million, thereby making it the flagship project of our grant assistance to this country. The current focus is on capacity building, human resource development and infrastructure support. The next stage of India's assistance involves enhancing regional connectivity and opportunities for trade and investment with India, to build on the progress achieved in the earlier stages of our assistance cycle and take our economic engagement to the next level.

India's assistance programme, estimated at US\$ 1.3 billion, has been described by some analysts as a mini-Marshall Plan! However, the extent and scope of our assistance is not as well known as it should be, especially in the context of illustrating how neighbouring countries, though developing, can work together in the true spirit of South-South cooperation. This brochure is a modest effort to provide a glimpse of our substantial assistance programme, to a larger audience in Sri Lanka, India and indeed the rest of the world.







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**INDIA**

India-Sri Lanka Friendship

இந்திய-இலங்கை இன دوستி  
இந்திய-இலங்கை நட்புறவு

## A RICH LEGACY OF THE PAST



Sri Lanka has a special place in Indian hearts, given the time-tested bonds, going back almost to the very beginning of recorded history in the subcontinent. The bilateral relationship is built upon the strong foundations of a shared cultural and socio-economic heritage and extensive people-to-people interactions over millennia. It is marked by close contacts at the highest political levels, growing trade and investment, intensive cooperation in the fields of development, education, culture and defence, as well as a broad understanding on major issues of mutual interest.

After decades of armed conflict, as Sri Lanka stakes its claim to a peaceful future, the Government and the people of India are committed to assisting them in their endeavours for rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation. India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is unique in that it is built on foundations of political understanding, a historic past, geographic realities and socio-cultural empathy. India has been one of Sri Lanka's foremost development partners since the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka in 2009. In recent years, India has emerged as the largest trading partner and a leading investor in Sri Lanka. It is also the source of the largest number of tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka.



## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

India's developmental assistance projects are entirely based on the priorities set by the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. They have been widely appreciated for the value they generate per unit of assistance provided, their transparent approach and timely implementation through recourse to local material and manpower, in a manner that supports local economies. Indian Developmental Assistance to Sri Lanka is guided and inspired by the rationale of South-South Cooperation and focuses specially on capacity-building, human resources development, uplifting of weaker sections as well as infrastructure development.



Although Indian assistance to Sri Lanka commenced before the end of the armed conflict, when IDPs started pouring out of the conflict zone, the main impetus for stepping up of India's development assistance thereafter flowed from the commitments made during the visit of H.E. President of Sri Lanka to India during June 2010, when the then Prime Minister of India announced a Development Package for Sri Lanka. This included construction of 50,000 housing units, rehabilitation of the Northern Railway lines, wreck-

removal and rehabilitation of the KKS Harbour, establishment of Vocational Training Centres, construction of a Cultural Centre at Jaffna, setting up a 500 MW coal power plant at Sampur, restoration of Thiruketheeswaram Temple, establishing an Agricultural Research Institute in the Northern Province, expanding the scholarship program for Sri Lankan students to pursue their higher studies in India, setting up Centres for English Language Training and providing technical assistance for the National Action Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka. India has moved with a sense of purpose and urgency to redeem a substantial number of these commitments, despite the various practical challenges faced during implementation. A large number of projects undertaken with India's assistance have been on schedule and some, including the railway projects, are ahead of schedule.

A significant feature of a number of Indian projects is that they were enabled by a MoU signed with the Government of Sri Lanka to implement Small Development Projects. The purpose was to work around procedural delays for projects of value less than SLR 300 million. Through this template, it was possible to expedite approvals, thus making the overall implementation process more compact.

## EVOLUTION OF INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

India's assistance to the Sri Lankan people, appreciated for its timeliness and phased approach, has evolved taking into account the ground situation and the immediate needs of the people at any given time. Even before the armed conflict came to an end, India took the initiative to send emergency relief assistance in November 2008 for the IDPs who were pouring out of the conflict zone. This assistance was in the form of family packs comprising daily use items such as clothing, utensils, essential food packets, personal hygiene items etc. To meet the urgent medical needs of these IDPs, India set up an Emergency Field Hospital at Pulmoddai in March 2009, which was later shifted to Chettikulam, to provide emergency treatment.



Once the armed conflict came to an end, the Government of India's focus shifted to rehabilitation and resettlement of the IDPs. This included providing temporary shelters to the IDPs, supply of corrugated roofing sheets and cement bags. The next priority was livelihood restoration. In order to quickly revive farming activities in the North, India supplied agricultural implements and seeds to farmers. It also provided tractors to agro-centres across the five districts of the Northern Province. To help facilitate movement of the people and their early resettlement, India contributed seven

demining teams. To supplement this anti-mine action, artificial limb-fitment camps were organised to address the needs of the victims of mines and other unexploded ordnances.



Once the emergency and short-term needs were catered to, India's attention shifted to the longer-term needs of housing, reconstruction and development. Capacity-building is an integral part of the assistance strategy for this phase. Accordingly, India's portfolio of development projects now encompasses virtually all major sectors of the economy, including housing, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, fisheries, industry, handicrafts, culture and sports. During

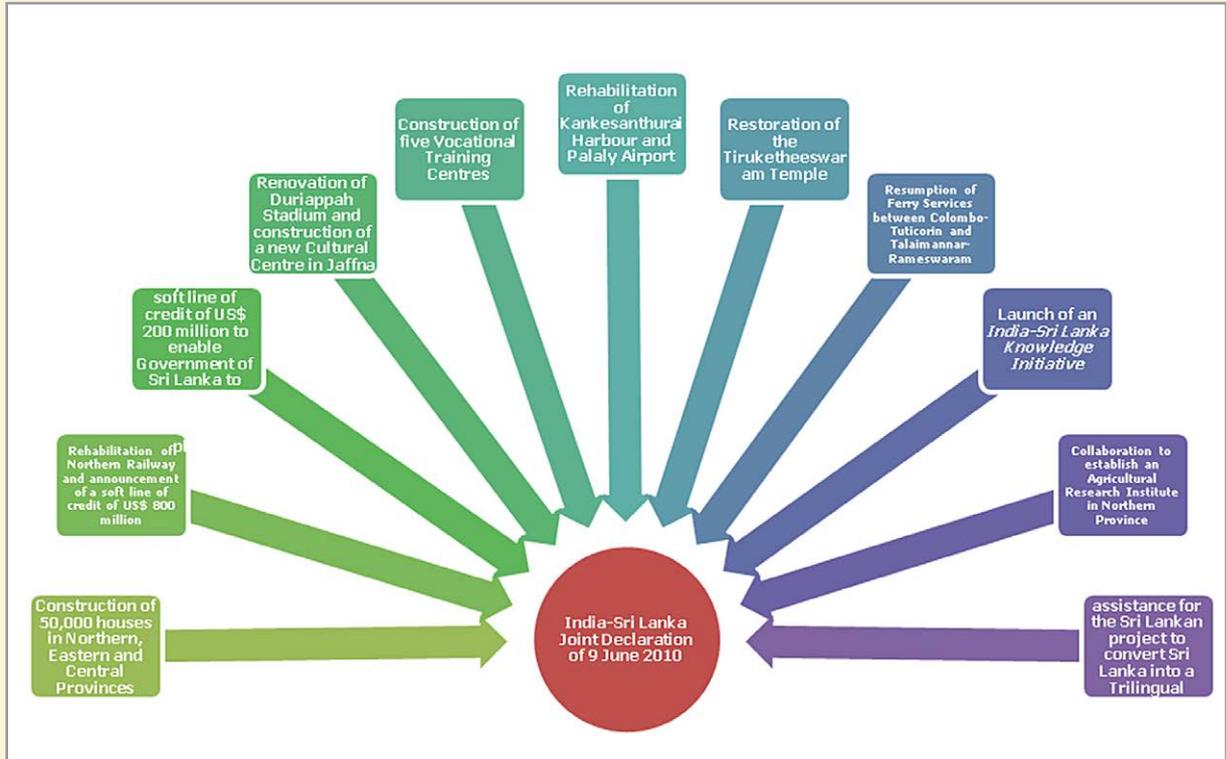
the last four years alone, the Government of India has implemented Projects worth SLR 25 Billion.



The next stage of India's assistance involves enhancing opportunities for trade and investment with India. This will help build on the foundation laid in the earlier stages of the assistance cycle and help the conflict-affected areas realize their full economic and human potential. India participated in the Jaffna International Trade Fair 2013 as the Partner Country for the fourth consecutive year. More than 40 Indian companies participated either directly or through local representatives. State bank of India and Indian Bank

have already opened branches in Jaffna, to facilitate financial transactions. The Life Insurance Corporation of India, through its Sri Lankan subsidiary, has expanded its network in the Northern Province with the recent addition of a branch in Kilinochchi. The restoration of the ferry service, the revival of the KKS Port and enhanced regional air connectivity, as outlined elsewhere in this

publication, will no doubt provide further stimulus to the traditional trade and economic links between India and the Northern Province.

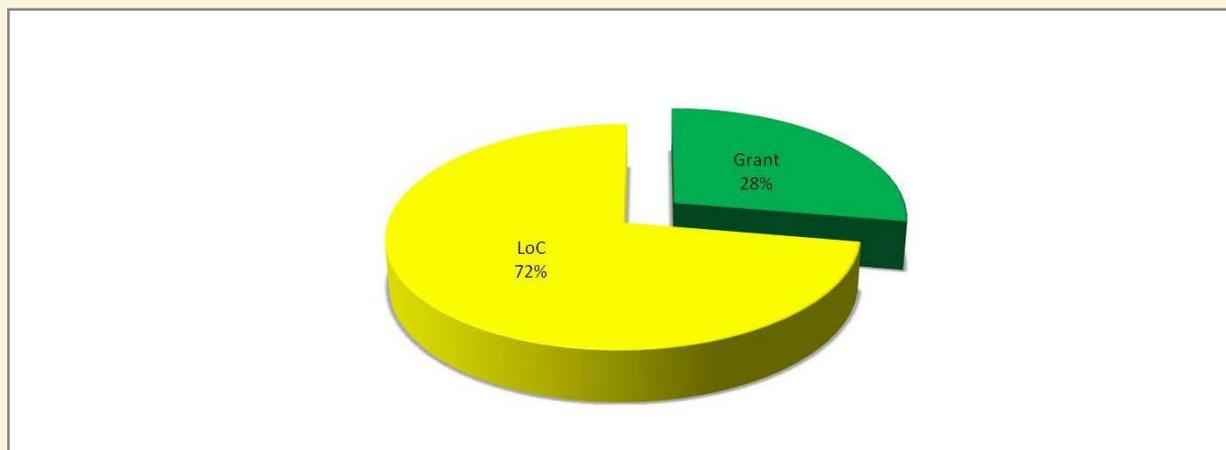


### SOME KEY STATISTICS

The following tables and the charts provide the broad break-up of India’s assistance to Sri Lanka. The figures cover ongoing projects and those already completed, in addition to commitments made by the Government of India for projects in the pipeline.

Type	Assistance, Including Commitments	
	SLR Billion	INR Crore
Grants	48.00	2000
Lines of Credit	168.00	7000

### Indian Assistance Including Fund Commitments

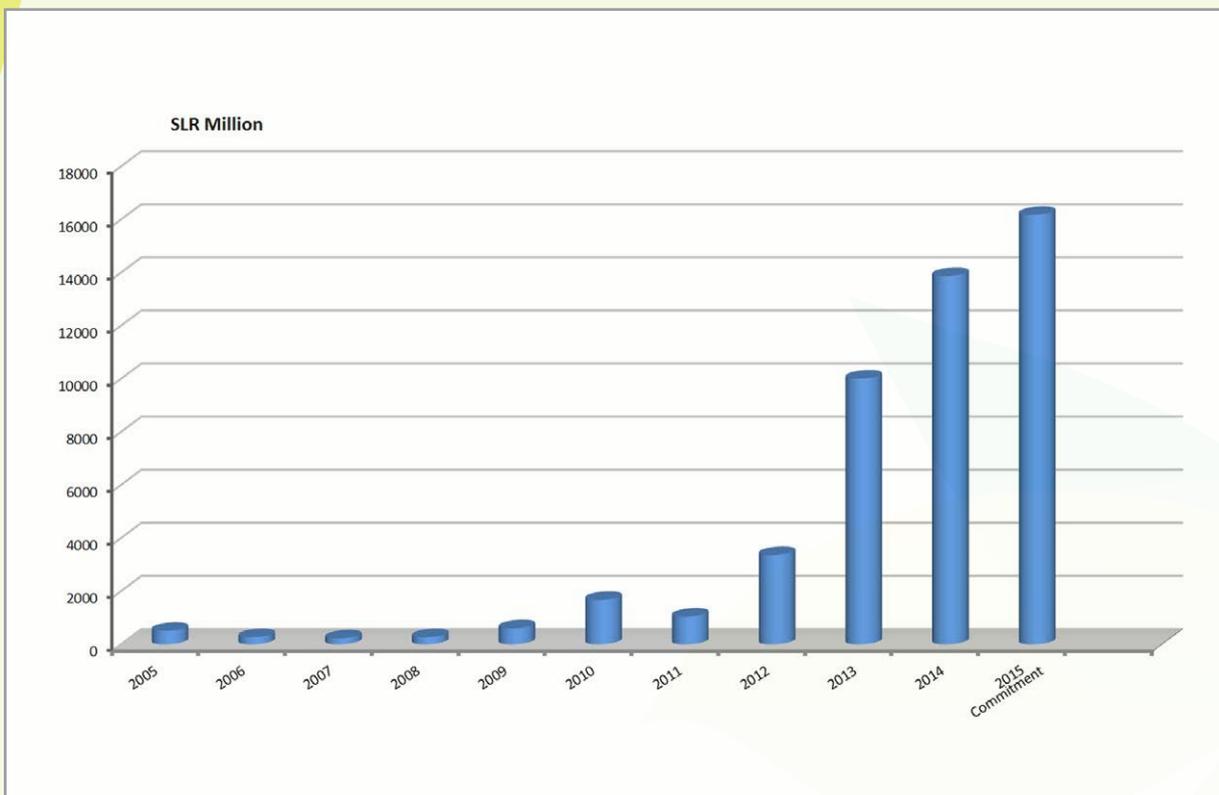


India's assistance grew from a modest SLR 507.1 million in 2005 to the current level of SLR 5672 million. The figures continue to climb until 2015, up to which commitments have been made, including for the Housing Project.

The chart below illustrates the impressive annual growth during this period:

Year	SLR Million	INR Crore
2005	507.1	23.05
2006	267.28	10.97
2007	221.6	9.15
2008	266.52	10.98
2009	601.4	24.85
2010	1673.2	69.3
2011	1041.68	43.57
2012	3363.92	138.08
2013	10008	417
2014	13873.4	578.05
2015 Commitment	16175.9	675
<b>Total</b>	<b>48000</b>	<b>2000</b>

### Year wise Fund Distribution

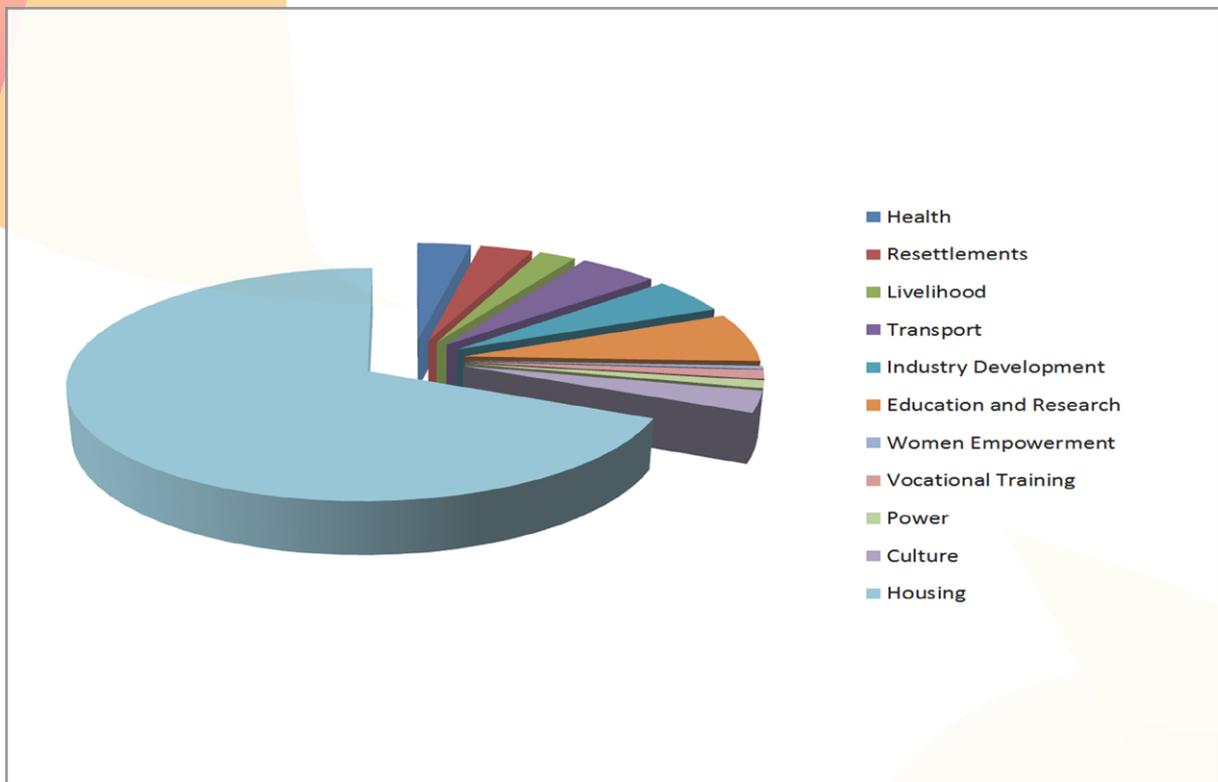


The sectoral coverage of India’s assistance is captured in the chart below:

### Sector wise Grant Distribution

S.N	Sectors	SLR Million	INR Crore
1	Health	1584.48	66.02
2	Resettlements	1572.26	65.57
3	Livelihood	1108.91	46.63
4	Transport	2376	99
5	Industry Development	2376	99
6	Education and Research	3315.19	137.76
7	Women Empowerment	198	8.34
8	Vocational Training	599.92	24.58
9	Power	516.4	21.1
10	Culture	1440	60
11	Housing	32912.84	1372
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48000</b>	<b>2000</b>

### Sector wise Fund Distribution (Including LoC)



# MAJOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN SRI LANKA BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDER DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

## Pan Island

- Completed**
- 110 Buses to educational institutions & estate people (147 Million)
  - Language Labs in each of the nine provinces (84 Million)
- Ongoing**
- Scholarships for students for higher education in Srilanka / India(2.5 Billion)

## Northern Province

- Completed**
- 2.6 lakh family packs for IDPs (1 Billion)
  - 10 MT roofing sheets for IDPs (1.3 Billion)
  - 4 lakh cement bags for IDPs (200 Million)
  - 1000 houses (Pilot project) for IDPs (1.2 Billion)
  - 95,000 starter agril. packs for IDPs (840 Million)
  - 500 tractors for agro centers (780 Million)
  - 10,000 bicycles for IDPs (67 Million)
  - 175 boats + fishing nets for IDPs (71 Million)
  - Repair of 79 schools (188 Million)
  - Palmyrah Research Centre, Jaffna (70 Million)
  - Medical Equipment to Hospitals at Jaffna, Mullaitteevu, Kilinochchi (230 Million)
  - Artificial limb refitment (33 Million)
  - Removal of Wrecks & dredging of Kankesanthurai Port Project(2.2 Billion)
  - Renovation of Palaly Airport Runway (436 Million)
  - Demining of Residential areas(1 Billion)
  - Fishnet Factory at Jaffna (166 Million)
  - Assistance to repair 1230 small business premises(70 Million)
  - Industrial Estate at Atchchuveily in Jaffna (220 Million)

- Ongoing**
- Housing Project (40,000 Houses) (22.4 Billion)
  - Railway Project (252 km) (USD 800 Million - LOC)
  - Handicraft Village at Jaffna(20 Million)
  - 200 bed ward complex at Vavuniya (200 Million)
  - Renovation of Duraiyappa stadium (250 Million)
  - Faculty of Engineering at Kilinochchi (300 Million)
  - Faculty of Agriculture at Kilinochchi (300 Million)
  - Cultural Centre at Jaffna(1 Billion)
  - Restoration of Thiruketeswaram temple(310 Million)

## Northern & North Central Province

Northern Railway Project (252 km)

## North Western Province

- Completed**
- One VTC at Puttalam(63 Million)

## Western Province

- Completed**
- Railway Project (76 km) (USD 82.5 Million- LOC)
- Ongoing**
- Rabindra Hall at Sripalee College, Horana (20 Million)

Southern Railway Project (118 km)

## Southern Province

- Completed**
- Railway Project (118 km) (USD 82.5 Million- LOC)
  - 20 Nenashalas (E learning centers) (15 Million)
  - Handicraft Village at Hambantota (20 Million)
  - Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Center at Matara (250 Million)

## Sabaragamuwa Province

- Ongoing**
- Child Development Centers (15 Million)

## Eastern Province

- Completed**
- 40 boats + cold storage units for IDPs in Vaharai(110 Million)
  - 15 trishaws for war widows (22 Million)
  - Two VTCs at Batticaloa (325 Million)
  - 1260 computers & 218 printers for schools(156 Million)
  - Siddha Faculty at Trincomalee (105 Million)
  - 20 Nenashalas (E learning centers) (15 Million)
  - Five Rail Buses to connect Batticaloa and Trincomalee (72 Million)
  - SEWA Project in Batticaloa for training war affected women(200 Million)
  - Housing Project (5,000 houses) (6.4 Billion)

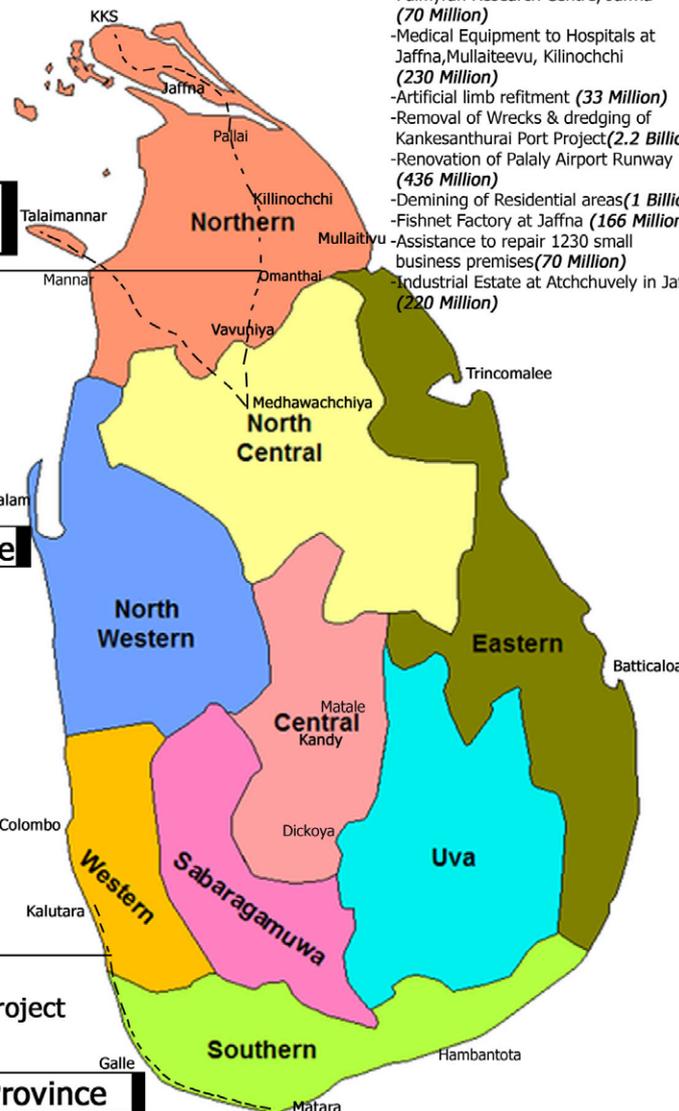
## Central Province

- Completed**
- Two VTCs at Nuwara Eliya (215 Million)
  - English Language Training Centre at Peradeniya (16 Million)
  - Installation of Buddha Statue at Sacred Tooth Relic temple, Kandy
  - Indian Gallery at the International Buddhist museum, Kandy. (30 Million)

- Ongoing**
- 150 Bed Hospital at Dickoya (1 Billion)
  - Child Development Centers (15 Million)
  - Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Center at Matale(88 Million)
  - Housing Project (3,000 houses) (3.5 Billion)
  - Training support for VTC Hattton (30 Million)

## Uva Province

- Ongoing**
- Housing Project (1,000 Houses) (1.5 Billion)
  - Child Development Centers (45 Million)



# MAJOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN SRI LANKA BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDER DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

## Resettlement & Shelter

### Completed

- 2.6 lakh family packs for IDPs (**1 Billion**)
- 10 MT roofing sheets for IDPs (**1.3 Billion**)
- 4 lakh cement bags for IDPs (**200 Million**)
- Demining of Residential areas in Northern Province (**1 Billion**)
- Indian Housing Pilot Project (1,000 houses) for IDPs (**1.2 Billion**)

### Ongoing

- Indian Housing Project (49,000 houses) for IDPs (Northern/Eastern Province) & Estate people (Central/Uva Province) (**USD 263 Million**)

## Health

### Completed

- Emergency Medical unit in Northern Province and supply of medicine to IDPs (**80 Million**)
- Medical Equipment for Teaching Hospitals at Jaffna and District Hospital Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi (**230 Million**)

### Ongoing

- 150 Bed Hospital at Dickoya (**1 Billion**)
- 200 bed ward complex at Vavuniya (**200 Million**)

## Livelihood & Employment

### Completed

- 95,000 starter agrl. packs for IDPs (**840 Million**)
- 500 tractors for agro centers (**780 Million**)
- 10,000 bicycles for IDPs (**67 Million**)
- 175 boats + fishing nets for IDP fishermen of Mannar (**71 Million**)
- 40 Boats + fishing nets + cold storage units for IDP fishermen of Vaharai (**110 Million**)
- Trishaws for war widows of Batticaloa and Ampara (**22 Million**)
- Artificial limb refitment (**33 Million**)
- Assistance to repair 1,230 small business premises in Kilinochchi & Mullaitivu (**70 Million**)

## Education & Research

### Completed

- Renovation of 79 schools in Kilinochchi & Mullaitivu (**188 Million**)
- 1260 computers & 218 printers for schools of Eastern Province (**156 Million**)
- Siddha Faculty at Trincomalee (**105 Million**)
- 40 Nenashalas (E learning centers) in Eastern & Southern Province (**30 Million**)
- Equipment for Palmyrah Research Centre, Jaffna (**70 Million**)
- Buses to educational institutions (**147 Million**)
- English Language Training Centre at Peradeniya (**16 Million**)
- Language Labs in each of the nine provinces (**84 Million**)

### Ongoing

- Faculty of Engineering at Kilinochchi (**300 Million**)
- Faculty of Agriculture at Kilinochchi (**300 Million**)
- Scholarships for students for higher education in Sri Lanka / India (**2.5 Billion**)
- Child Development Centers (**45 Million**)

## Women Empowerment

### Ongoing

- Empowering destitute women of Eastern Province towards sustainable livelihood (**200 Million**)

## Vocational Training

### Completed

- VTC at Puttalam (**63 Million**)
- VTC at Onthachimadam and Vanthramullai in Batticaloa (**325 Million**)
- VTC at Nuwara Eliya and Helboda in Nuwara Eliya district (**215 Million**)

### Ongoing

- Providing Teaching support to the Thondaman VTC at Hatton (**30 Million**)
- VTC at Jaffna (**270 Million**)

## Power

### Ongoing

- Sampur Power Plant (**USD 200 Million - LOC**)

## Industrial Development

### Completed

- Strengthening Fish net factory, Jaffna (**166 Million**)
- Industrial estate at Atchchuveley, Jaffna (**220 Million**)
- Handicraft Village at Hambantota (**40 Million**)

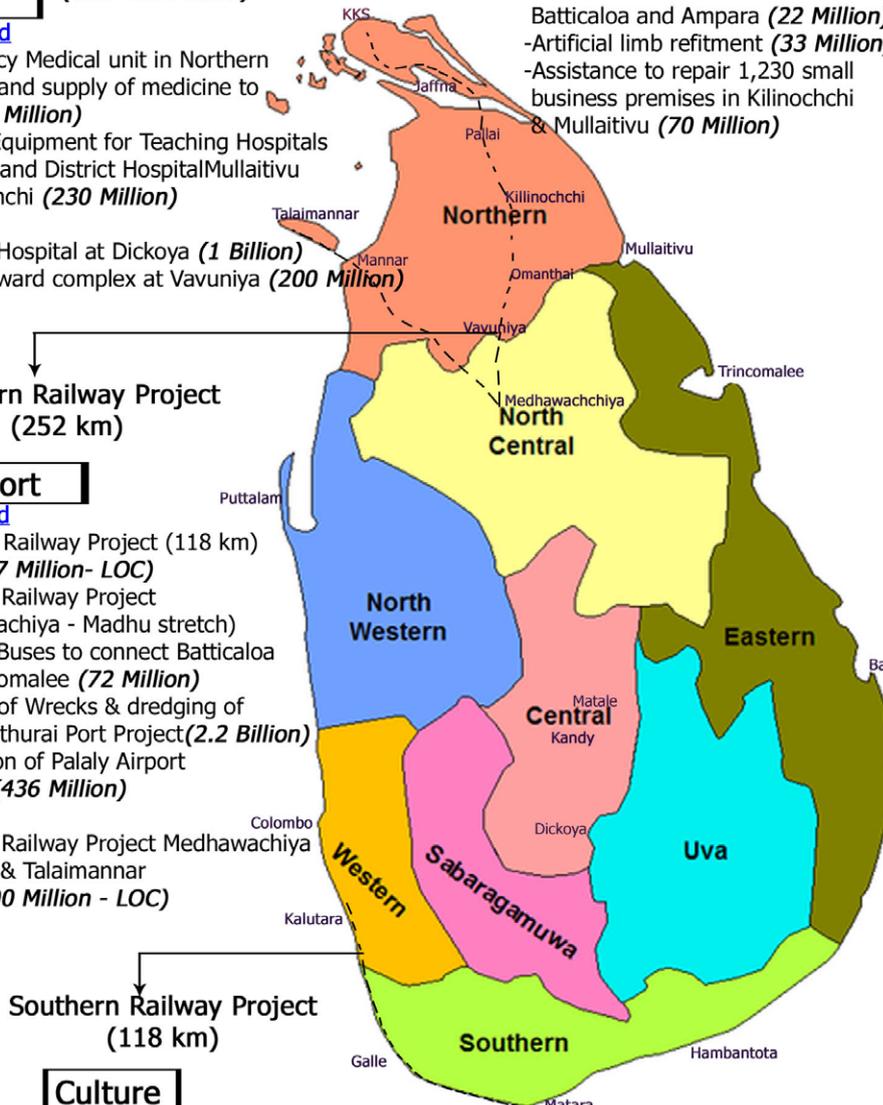
### Ongoing

- Handicraft Village at Jaffna (**20 Million**)

## Sports

### Ongoing

- Renovation of Duraiyappa stadium (**150 Million**)



## Transport

### Completed

- Southern Railway Project (118 km) (**USD 167 Million - LOC**)
- Northern Railway Project (Medhawachchiya - Madhu stretch)
- Five Rail Buses to connect Batticaloa and Trincomalee (**72 Million**)
- Removal of Wrecks & dredging of Kankesanthurai Port Project (**2.2 Billion**)
- Renovation of Palaly Airport Runway (**436 Million**)

### Ongoing

- Northern Railway Project Medhawachchiya with KKS & Talaimannar (**USD 800 Million - LOC**)

## Culture

### Completed

- Installation of Lord Buddha Statue at the Sacred Tooth Relic Temple, Kandy
- Indian Gallery at the International Buddhist museum, Kandy (**30 Million**)

### Ongoing

- Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Center at Matale (**88 Million**)
- Rabindra Hall at Sripalee College, Horana (**20 Million**)
- Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Center at Matara (**250 Million**)
- Cultural Centre at Jaffna (**1 Billion**)
- Restoration of Thiruketeswaram temple (**310 Million**)

## EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

In the immediate aftermath of the armed conflict, nearly 300,000 Tamil civilians of Sri Lanka sought refuge in camps for Internally Displaced People (IDPs). India, in consultation and in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Government, put in place a robust programme to provide emergency assistance to these people and bring a semblance of normalcy to their lives:

- India provided a total of 260,000 family packs for the IDPs during the conflict and post-conflict period. These packs, supplied in four instalments, included clothing, utensils, food items and personal hygiene items, among others. (US \$ 8 million)
- At the Sri Lankan Government's request, India supplied a total of 1,140,000 roofing sheets (10,500MT @ 12 sheets per family) for distribution to families resettled in their villages, to help them construct temporary shelters pending the full repair or reconstruction of permanent houses.
- Realising the importance of a proper shelter, the Government of India supplied 400,000 cement bags for distribution among the IDPs. This has benefited about 50,000 families, with each family getting 8 cement bags to repair their damaged houses. (US \$ 1.75 million)
- India supplied 95,000 starter-packs of agricultural tools for distribution among IDPs being resettled in their original habitation to enable them to immediately resume agricultural activities. (US \$ 2 million)
- India established emergency hospitals in the IDP camps, which treated over 50,000 IDPs and carried out over 3000 surgeries from March to September 2009. Medicines worth SLR 225 million were also supplied to Sri Lankan authorities.

These immediate steps helped mitigate the suffering of the IDPs whose lives had been shattered by the ravages of the armed conflict, and helped them look forward to a normal life at some point in the future.



## REBUILDING BROKEN HOMES: THE INDIAN HOUSING PROJECT

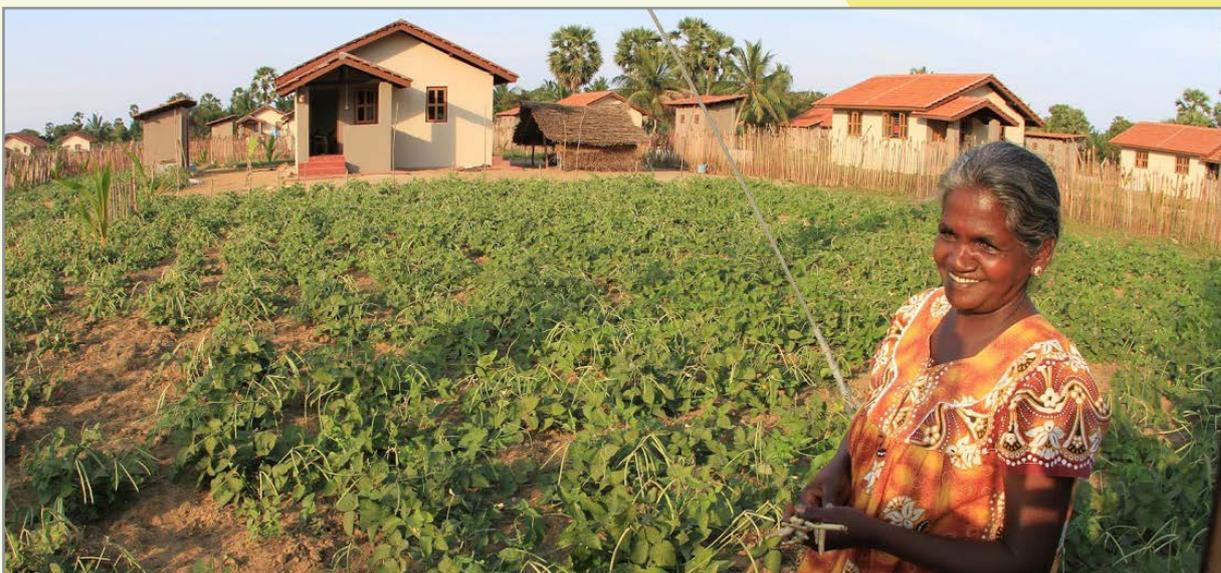


Aware of the enormity of housing needs in the conflict-affected areas, India devoted a lion's share of its overall resources for assistance in this sector. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, announced India's commitment to build 50,000 housing units during the State visit of the President of Sri Lanka H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, to India in June 2010. This commitment, as noted earlier, also formed part of the Joint Declaration issued in New Delhi during the visit. The Housing Project, with an overall commitment of over US\$ 270

million in grants, is the flagship project of India's assistance to Sri Lanka. It is perhaps the largest such project undertaken by India anywhere in the world.

The first stage was a pilot project for construction of 1,000 houses, with an outlay of over US\$ 10 million, launched in November 2010 during the visit of Hon'ble S.M. Krishna, then External Affairs Minister of India. The pilot project, executed under the 'agency-driven model' (houses built by contractors), covered several sites distributed in all five districts of the Northern Province – Jaffna, Killinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya. The widely-dispersed sites, several of which were covered by thick jungle, with poor road and electrical connectivity, required extensive demining and jungle clearance. The torrential rains during the monsoon season also interrupted work on the project. These challenges were successfully navigated and the first lot of completed houses was handed over to the beneficiaries during the subsequent visit of the then External Affairs Minister of India, Hon'ble S.M. Krishna in January 2012. The second lot of completed houses was handed over to the beneficiaries during the visit of the All-Party Parliamentary delegation, led by the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, in April 2012. The remaining houses were completed and handed over by Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Smt. Kumari Selja, in August 2012.

The housing units constructed under the Pilot Project were generally popular amongst the IDPs, as they were spacious, well-designed and constructed to good quality specifications. There were, however, difficulties arising from the standardized design, due to its inability to address individual preferences of beneficiaries in terms of the type of chimney, woodwork, location of toilet and kitchen in the house, height of internal partition walls between rooms, etc.





Taking various factors into account, including the wide dispersal in the location of lands belonging to the beneficiaries, the preferences expressed by the Government of Sri Lanka and the people on the ground, as well as the project objectives of contributing to local livelihood opportunities, it was decided to pursue an 'owner driven' approach to construct the bulk of the remaining houses.



The modalities for implementation of the second phase of the housing project were outlined in an MOU signed between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka. In phase-II, 43,000 houses are being built under the 'owner-driven model' in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. In phase-III, 4,000 houses will be built under the agency-driven model for estate workers in the Central/ Uva Provinces. In phase-IV, 2,000

houses will be built under the 'agency-driven model' for the most vulnerable sections of IDPs in the North and the East, who are unable to construct houses under the owner-driven model. These three phases involve a total grant assistance of US\$ 260 million.



The Government of India appointed four Implementing Agencies (IAs: UN-HABITAT, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in partnership with Sri Lanka Red Cross; National Housing Development Agency (NHDA) of the Government of Sri Lanka, and Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka) to facilitate the construction of houses under the owner-driven model. During 2013, 10,250 houses were successfully completed in the second phase of the project, exceeding the target of 10,000

houses set for the year. 16,000 more houses are expected to be completed during the course of 2014, and the remaining 17,000 houses will be completed during 2015.



The beneficiaries are selected through a transparent and norm-based process, on the basis of clearly-defined and objective criteria, in close consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka, and a public process of grievance redressal. The beneficiaries themselves undertake the construction/repair of their houses, with necessary technical assistance and support provided by the IAs. Funds are released directly by the High Commission of India into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in four instalments, based on certification of progress

of work. Keeping in view the rising the cost of inputs since the inception of the project, the High Commission of India had organized a workshop in October 2013, to introduce the Implementing Agencies and the beneficiaries to cost-reduction techniques at various stages of construction.



The third phase of the Housing Project, involving construction of 4,000 houses under the agency-driven model for the estate workers of the Central and Uva Provinces, will be taken up during the course of 2014 once the arrangements related to the release of land by the concerned plantation companies are in place and the requisite land preparation is completed. The Consultant for implementation of the third phase has already been selected by the Government of India. The fourth phase, which would involve the

construction of 2,000 houses under the agency-driven model, will be taken up in the Northern and Eastern Provinces during 2014-15.



## DEMINING: RECLAIMING SPACE FOR RESETTLEMENT

Following the end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, de-mining of the formerly conflict-ridden areas emerged as a major obstacle to the early return and resettlement of nearly 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons to their native habitations. The Government of India therefore saw resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs as a key priority, and embarked on a substantial campaign of assistance in this regard. Accordingly, starting in August 2009, India provided financial support for a project for de-mining, by deploying to Sri Lanka seven demining teams from two Indian NGOs, M/s. Sarvatra Technical Consultants and M/s. Horizon Assignment (India) Pvt. Ltd.



The project was aimed at providing Humanitarian Demining Assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka to create conditions in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka to enable the return of the IDPs to their homes and aid their resettlement. The idea was to clear a large extent of confirmed hazardous areas, especially in and around residential areas, to provide mine-free land to the IDPs returning to their original homes.



The Indian demining teams undertook mine-clearance in the affected areas by both mechanical and manual methods. The two Indian NGOs, between them, cleared an area of over 70 million sq. m. of mine-affected areas. The project provided opportunities to about 300 locals to gain employment as deminers with these Indian NGOs. It enabled commencement of other resettlement and development activities in the mine-cleared areas, thereby giving a boost to the revival of economic activities in these areas. The project also helped impart mine-risk education to the locals, with a view to reduce the risk of mine-related accidents.

To supplement this anti-mine action, two artificial limb-fitment camps were organised to address the needs of the victims of mines and other unexploded ordnances. The first one was held in Menik Farms in April 2010 and the second in Jaffna in October 2011.

## LIMB REFITMENT CAMP



Two 'Jaipur Foot' Artificial Limb Fitment Camps, fully funded by the Government of India, were organized by the Jaipur-based Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS). The first one was in March-April 2010 at Menik farm in Vavuniya district and the second was in September 2011 at the Divisional Hospital, Kondavil, Jaffna.

The camps served beneficiaries from across Sri Lanka with one of the world's best and cheapest artificial limbs, the famous "Jaipur Foot". The two camps were run by teams of 20 experts from BMVSS and provided services to nearly

2600 beneficiaries in all (1400 beneficiaries in the first camp and 1200 in the second), in terms of providing them prostheses (limbs), orthosis (calipers) and crutches. These camps, organized with assistance from the Sri Lankan Government, helped the beneficiaries regain their mobility, dignity, and in many cases, sustenance.

## THE GROUND BENEATH KRISHNAN'S FEET



KRISHNAN YOGESHWARAN, a skilled fish-trader from a village near Jaffna, should have listened to his friends. They told him those short-cuts he took through orchards could be dangerous. But Krishnan, always in a hurry to reach his shop before the others, was in no mood to listen.

It was during one of these hurried trips that he stepped on a land-mine. One of his legs had to be amputated. Krishnan's active life suddenly fell apart. He didn't know what to do. Then, from a few locals, he came to know of this Limb Refitment Camp being organized by an Indian NGO, and decided to give it a try. Soon enough, he was walking again, at the same brisk pace and through the same orchards. The land mines there have since been removed and deactivated by a team of professionals working for an Indian NGO.

Krishnan now reaches his shop right on time, everyday. His artificial limb, the innovative 'Jaipur Foot' from India, helps him lead a life that is as close to normal as possible. Business is good, he says. He also assures us with a wide smile that things can only get better from here on.

## FARMING AND FISHING: REVIVAL OF LIVELIHOODS



Agriculture and Fisheries were the means of livelihood most widely affected in the areas touched by the armed conflict. The Government of India, therefore, focussed its attention on these two sectors in the livelihood restoration phase, through a series of initiatives.

Apart from 95,000 agricultural starter-packs provided on an emergency basis to the IDPs to help them take advantage of the impending farming season, the Government of India also supplied 500 four-wheel tractors at a cost of USD 6 Million. These tractors, that came with four implements each - rotovator, tiller, cage-wheel and disk plough, were handed over to farmer organizations and Agrarian Service Centers in the Northern Province in November-December 2010. The farmers were also provided with seeds (5500 kgs of Green Gram and 43,000 kgs of black gram) for both the Maha and the Yala season. A total amount of 48,500 seed packs were procured and distributed in 2010-11, amounting to assistance worth INR 4,606,000/.



The Joint Declaration of 9 June 2010 envisages wide-ranging cooperation in the field of agriculture between India and Sri Lanka. A grant-funded project, already approved by the Sri Lankan cabinet, to help set up an Agriculture Faculty at the Kilinochchi campus of the Jaffna University, is also a part of this commitment. An MoU in the field of Agriculture was signed on 17 January 2012, under which the two sides shall promote development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing through joint activities, programmes, exchange of scientific materials, information and personnel.

Under a grant-assistance project, the Government of India provided vehicles and supplied laboratory equipment worth SLR 70 million to the Palmyrah Research Institute in Kaithady, Jaffna. This was meant to help to revive the palmyrah products industry in Jaffna District, which has over 3.5 million palmyrah trees, through expansion of research at the Institute. The project is expected to improve the production and productivity of palmyrah products in the Northern and Eastern Province, benefiting around sixty thousand families whose livelihoods depend on the palmyrah, directly or indirectly. The Institute is mandated to help the palmyrah farmers and handicraftsmen improve the quality of their produce/products and enable them to be marketed effectively, thereby generating better returns. The project is also expected to augment self-employment opportunities in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

In view of the extensive disruption caused by the armed conflict to fishing as a prime livelihood avenue in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka, India has undertaken several projects in this sector. The first of these involved supply of fishing boats, nets and other equipments like lagoon Oru, sea-going Oru, cool-rooms and freezer trucks to Fishermen's Cooperative Societies comprising IDPs in



the Vaharai area of the Eastern Province at a cost of US \$ 1 million. India also gifted 175 fishing boats with outboard motors and nets worth INR 30 million to fishermen in Mannar district. There is a proposal to undertake another similar project in Jaffna district. In addition, a project to supply equipment to revive and expand the Fishnet Factory at Gurunagar, Jaffna, at a cost of nearly SLR 152 million was completed in July 2013. The project will help increase the production of fishnets by 300% in the Northern Province and reduce costs by 25%, thereby directly benefiting the fishing community by meeting the requirement for nets of about 10,000 fishermen every year. It will also indirectly generate 25,000 man-days of employment.



The North Sea Fishnet Factory at Gurunagar, Jaffna, was upgraded with the supply of plant and machinery, entirely funded through grant- assistance by the Government of India to the tune of SLR 166 million (USD 1.32 million). The project involved supply of four fishnet making machines and fishnet stretching machines, besides setting up of a water purifier system, dye plant, etc. The upgraded factory started functioning in May 2013. Following the upgradation, production is expected to increase from the present level of 60 metric tonnes per year to 300 metric tonnes per year.



## HEALTHCARE: SAVING LIVES & REVIVING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE



India's assistance in the healthcare sector commenced even before the cessation of hostilities, when the Government of India set up emergency field hospitals at Pulmoddai, and later at Cheddikulam, Menik Farms, for a period of six months in 2009. These helped treat over 50,000 patients, including by performing nearly 3000 major and minor surgeries. The hospital also distributed free medicines and other supplies provided by India, at a cost of about SLR 70 million.

India followed up on its early action in the Health sector by assisting in the upgradation of medical facilities, especially in the worst-affected districts of the Northern Province, namely Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu.

India gifted medical equipment worth US \$ 1 million to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital in January 2011 to help set up an Intensive Care Unit, Operation Theatre and an Eye Ward. During the visit of the then External Affairs Minister of India, Shri S.M. Krishna, in January 2012, critical medical equipment to improve the standard of medical care and to obviate the need to refer a number of cases for treatment to Jaffna or to Colombo via ambulances, were handed over to the District General Hospital in Kilinochchi.

Similar equipment was also provided to the Mullaitivu District General Hospital. India's grant assistance for these two projects, valued at INR 5.31 crores (SLR 116.8 million), comprised supply of 28 types of medical equipment to the two hospitals, including equipment for the ICU, operation theatres, paediatric, obstetric and diagnostic units.



Another project, which is nearing completion, is to construct a 200-bed ward complex at the General Hospital Vavuniya, with Indian grant assistance valued at SLR 200 million. The new facility, which includes a four-storey ward complex to improve the existing infrastructure of the Hospital to meet the growing demand for better treatment facilities, is expected to be completed by August 2014. Through these projects, India's grant assistance has been

utilized to upgrade medical facilities at four of the five districts of the Northern Province i.e. Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya.



Another large project, for construction of a 150-bed hospital in Dickoya, near Hatton in the Central Province, is nearing completion. This entailed a grant assistance from the Government of India amounting to SLR 1200 million. HSCC (India) Ltd. is the project Management Consultant for the project. The hospital, which is expected to be commissioned by end-2014, will augment the facilities

in the existing Dickoya Base Hospital and provide upgraded health services to a large number of people living in Hatton, Dickoya, Norwood, Udamskeliya, Maskeliya, Bogawanthalawa, Kotagala, Wattawala, Ginigathane and in the 28 estates nearby. On completion, the Multi-specialty Hospital will have seven operation theatres and will provide services, inter alia, in the areas of General Medicine, Respiratory Disease, Dermatology, Venereology, Leprosy, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Burns Unit, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



## REPAIR & RENOVATION OF SCHOOLS

A number of schools in the Northern Province were damaged during the conflict period and had largely become defunct for many years. The Government of India undertook a project to repair 79 damaged schools in the three districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya, under a grant assistance of SLR 188 million. The project was conceived with the objective of assisting early restoration of educational facilities for the children of resettled IDPs by rehabilitating the basic educational infrastructure in the region. The project directly benefits a community comprising about 42,000 students and 2,400 teachers & Educational Officers. The first of these repaired schools was handed over to the Sri Lankan authorities by Shri. S M Krishna, then External Affairs Minister of India, during his visit to Kilinochchi on 18 January 2012. The project was completed ahead of schedule.



## TRANSPORTATION: PUTTING RAILWAYS BACK ON TRACK

Restoration of transportation links is the lifeline of economic revival in any region affected by conflict. Recognising the importance of this aspect, India provided a line of credit worth USD 800 million to improve the Railway Infrastructure in the Northern Province.

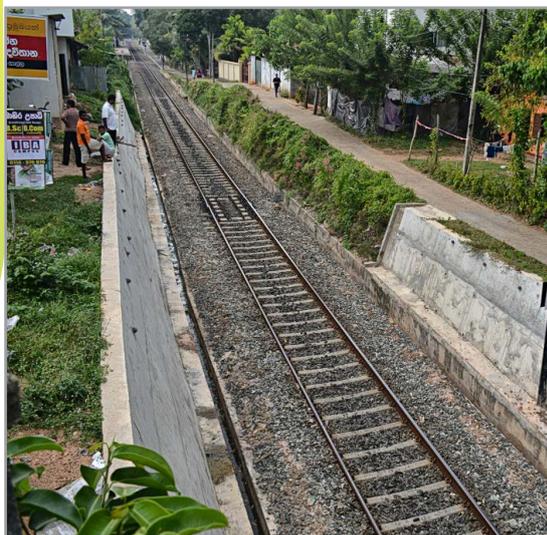


India's project to restore the Southern Railway Line, damaged in Tsunami of 2004, was completed in April 2012, ahead of schedule. The project was implemented under a highly concessional line of credit of US \$ 167.4 million provided by Government of India.

**The Medawachchiya to Madhu Road segment of the railway line was inaugurated on 14 May 2013**

**The Omanthai to Kilinochchi segment of the railway line was inaugurated on 14 September 2013**

**The Kilinochchi to Pallai segment of the railway line was inaugurated on 4 March 2014**



The Northern Railway Line Project, which would restore rail connectivity between Omanthai and Kankesanthurai, and also between Medawachchiya and Talaimannar, is also expected to be completed in 2014.



India's expectation is to see the Yaal Devi Express, which used to ply on this route and has already resumed services up to Pallai, reach Jaffna by the end of 2014. India remains committed to upgrading more railway lines and signalling systems in different parts of Sri Lanka, as part of its development partnership.



## RESTORATION OF KANKESANTHURAI PORT

Complementing its assistance in the railways sector, India has helped remove wrecks from the Kankesanthurai Harbour, located at the northern tip of Sri Lanka and the only commercial harbour in the entire Northern Province. The wreck removal, a fully Indian grant funded project, was completed in six stages at an overall cost of SLR 2.05 billion. Work on dredging and preliminary survey has also been completed.

The port was officially handed over to the Port Authorities on 6 May 2013. The Detailed Project Report for full development of the port as a commercial harbour, being finalized with the Sri



Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), will include hydrographical mapping and construction of break water facilities, berths and piers in the harbour. Efforts are also on to enhance sea-side connectivity by restoring historical links, including restarting the ferry service between Rameswaram and Talaimannar. For this purpose, India is helping reconstruct the pier at Talaimannar, as part of the Northern Railway Line Rehabilitation Project.

## RAILBUS: LOW-COST TRANSPORT REDEFINED



The 'Railbus', a bus that runs on rail tracks, is India's unique and innovative solution to the inadequate public road transport system in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

These buses run at a much lower cost than conventional commuter trains and thus provide a more affordable and convenient means of travel. India undertook a fully grant-funded project for the supply of five railbus units to run between Batticaloa and Trincomalee – all of which are operational at present.



## BUS TO CONNECT UNDERSERVED AREAS



India has contributed significantly to making available transport facilities in the rural hinterlands of Sri Lanka and enhancing their connectivity with the urban centres. A total of 85 buses were provided to the Eastern Provincial Council, Urban Councils of Jaffna and Vavunia and to a number of Social and Educational Institutions at a cost of INR 60.80 million, to connect remote hilly and outlying areas of the Central, Northern and Eastern provinces with the arterial highways, so as to enable easy movement of people from these areas.

## GIFTING OF 10,000 BICYCLES



The Government of India undertook a project, with grant assistance amounting to SLR 67 million, to donate 10,000 bicycles to resettled IDPs in the Northern Province (2,500 bicycles for IDPs in Kilinochchi, 2,500 in Mullaiteevu, 1,750 in Vavuniya, 1,750 in Mannar and 1,500 in Jaffna district), in order to aid the speedy revival of their livelihoods. The first batch of bicycles were distributed by the then External Affairs Minister of India, Shri. S M Krishna, during his visit to Jaffna on 18 January 2012.

The second batch was distributed during the visit of the all-Party Parliamentary delegation headed by the then Hon'ble Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, in April 2012. These cycles, though modest in cost, provide invaluable help to the villagers who need to traverse long distances everyday to fulfil their daily chores. They have indeed become a vehicle for returning to their vocations.



## REVIVAL OF LOCAL ECONOMIES

As explained in preceding sections, India has taken a number of initiatives for the revival of local economies in the North and the East, including the revival of the Atchchvely Industrial Zone, reviving the fishnet factory in Jaffna, supporting the Palmyrah Research Institute in Jaffna, supplying fishing equipment and outboard motors to fishermen in Mannar district and setting up a Handicrafts Village in Jaffna (apart from another one in the South, in Hambantota).



Another project was undertaken to provide assistance for the revival of 1,230 small businesses that were affected by the armed conflict, in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

This project was implemented in partnership with the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL), which carried out due diligence in terms of collecting data and identifying the individual beneficiaries.



The first batch of beneficiaries of this project were handed over the cheques for the assistance amount, during the visit to Jaffna of the then External Affairs Minister of India, Shri. Salman Khurshid in October 2013.



As part of another project, fifteen trishaws were distributed to war widows of Batticaloa and Ampara districts to assist them in reviving their livelihoods.



## REVIVAL OF ATCHUCHUEVELY INDUSTRIAL ZONE



The Atchchuevely Industrial Zone (AIZ) in Jaffna district is being rehabilitated under full grant assistance of the Government of India, with an estimated outlay of SLR 192 million (approx. US\$ 1.7 million). The Project is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development of the Government of Sri Lanka. The necessary technical expertise and project management services are provided by UNOPS. The objective of the Project is to assist potential investors to commence business ventures by providing the requisite infrastructure and utilities including access roads, internal roads, water supply system with water-treatment plant, power supply, sewerage and waste disposal system, etc.

The completion of the Project is expected to provide a boost to economic activity in the Jaffna Peninsula and generate local employment, both direct and indirect, for about 2,000 people. It is also expected to lead to a significant flow of investments to increase production capacities in the sectors of textiles, plastic and leather products, food processing, agro-based industries, oil and fibre products, etc., thereby enabling better utilisation of local resources. The project, which involves rehabilitation of 25 acres initially, was completed in June 2014.



## ENERGY: SAMPUR COAL POWER PROJECT

Yet another feather in the cap of India-Sri Lanka cooperation is the 500 MW Coal-based thermal power plant at Sampur (south of Trincomalee Bay), which, when completed will be the largest joint venture project between the two countries till date. The 50-50 agreement to set up the joint venture was signed between the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India and Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) on 6 September 2011, and the company has been named Trincomalee Power Company Ltd. (TPCL). The equity contribution of each side will be 15%, with the remaining 70% to be raised through loans. India has extended a line of credit amounting to USD 200 million, to support the equity contribution of CEB and to develop associated infrastructure such as building a jetty for coal handling and a transmission line from Sampur to Habarana. A 240 km-long 220 KV transmission line would be laid from Sampur to the Grid sub-station at Veyangoda to connect the Power Plant to the National Grid. TPCL will undertake the construction of the line from Sampur to Habarana, with the Habarana-Veyangoda segment being constructed with Japanese assistance. It has been estimated that the power plant would be linked to the National Grid in 2017.

All necessary agreements related to the Sampur Coal Power Project were signed on 7 October 2013, in the presence of Shri Salman Khurshid, then Minister for External Affairs of India and Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development of Sri Lanka. The Ministers of Power and Energy, External Affairs and Investment Promotion also witnessed the event on the Sri Lankan side.

Construction is slated to start during 2014. The Sampur Coal Power Plant, when fully operational, would add 500 MW to the National Grid. This is expected to stabilise the overall cost of electricity in Sri Lanka by substantially reducing the dependence on more expensive fuels and increasing supply to cater to the rising electricity demand driven by rapid development since the end of the armed conflict in May 2009.

Another related project under consideration is to link the electricity grids of India and Sri Lanka. The feasibility report is close to finalisation. The grid link will help ensure that any excess demand on either side, seasonal or otherwise, can be met by purchasing electricity from the other side, thereby creating a win-win scenario for both countries.

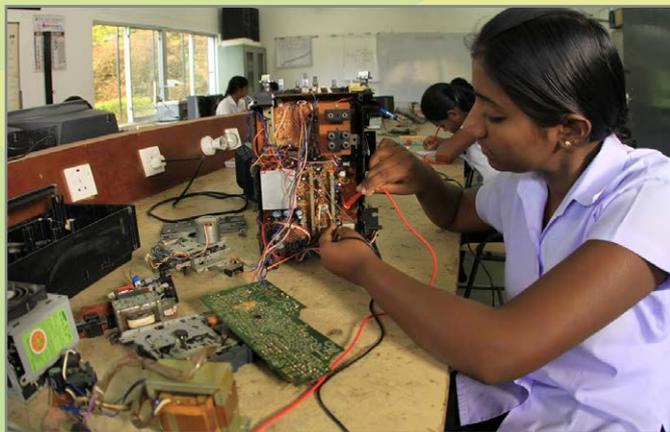


## EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT



### Rural Vocational Training Centres (VTCs):

As per the commitments made in the Joint Declaration issued during the visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to India in June 2010, India provided grant assistance amounting to SLR 680 million (approximately INR 245 million), to equip five rural Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) - at Hatton (Thondaman VTC), Putallam, Batticaloa (Vanthaaramullai and Onthachchimadam) & Nuwara Eliya - to impart vocational training in a variety of technical trades. India's assistance in this field is being undertaken to impart employment skills and build entrepreneurial capacity, with a view to promoting greater opportunities for self-employment.

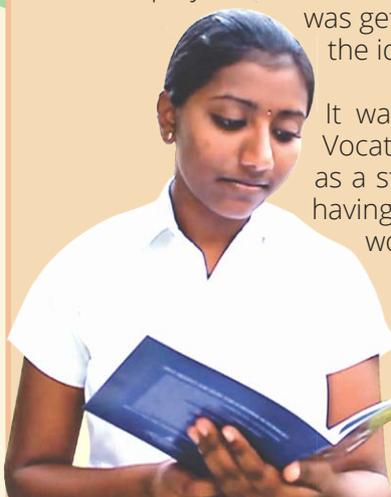


These VTCs, established with technical expertise provided by the Indian company HMT(International), provide training in a number of vocational trades such as plumbing, electrical work, refrigeration, air-conditioning, information technology, hardware and networking, automobiles,

### MANJULA STARTS SMILING AGAIN

G MORIN MANJULA, all of 19 years old, always wanted to move out of the regular routine and do something of her own. She comes from a family of plantation workers of Indian origin, from one of the many remote and underserved hamlets of Lanka's central province.

Everybody loved Manjula's smile when she was a baby. With youth came apprehensions, and the smile all but disappeared. Young and unsupported, her dreams of finding a suitable employment for herself almost died a premature death. Isolated within the village, she was getting crestfallen. Her friends and elders there wanted her to drop the idea of earning a livelihood, marry early and settle down.



It was at that juncture of her life she came to know of this new Vocational Training Centre at Nuwara Eliya. Once she joined the centre as a student of electronics and electrical repairs, life suddenly started having a whole new meaning for her. She now felt connected to a wider world, and saw herself having a pro-active role to play in that world.

Here, she made new and likeminded friends, who wanted to carve out their own destinies just like her. More than the training, the atmosphere transformed her. Today, she is a bundle of enthusiasm and confidence, a role model of sorts for other girls in her village. Manjula has started smiling again.

lathe-machining, carpentry, masonry, aluminium fabrication and agriculture. The ICT courses conducted at the VTCs have also proved popular. Apart from equipment, HMT(I) has provided books, computers and vehicles (buses and pick-up vans). HMT(I)'s mandate also covered training of master trainers and instructors and providing on-the-job training by Indian experts, to maximise the potential of these establishments.

## EMPOWERING WAR-AFFECTED WOMEN



In order to help rebuild the lives of the large number of war-widows and other war-affected women in the Eastern Province and assist them in taking care of their dependents, the Government of India decided to undertake a project specially focused on this target group. Accordingly, an Agreement for providing Technical Assistance and Implementation support for establishment of a Trade Facilitation Centre and a Community Learning Centre at Batticaloa, was signed on 31 May 2011 between the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Ahmedabad. As per this Agreement, the Government of India provided SLR 203 million as a technical grant.



The objective of the project is economic empowerment of these women by imparting employable livelihood skills, capacity-building among them in vocational trades and also providing them assistance in creating sustainable livelihood activities. The expectation is that these would contribute towards the overall improvement of socio-economic indicators in the Eastern Province. Based on the success of this approach in the Eastern Province, it is proposed to scale up the model for application to other areas of the country.

The project is specifically targeted at the empowerment of widows, by providing them technical assistance in seven carefully-selected vocational subjects. SEWA is the executing agency on behalf of the Government of India and the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs of Sri Lanka is the nodal agency on the Sri Lankan side. The programme provided for training forty war-affected/destitute women trainees from Batticaloa District as Master Trainers, under the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme in India. These women were trained in seven vocational subjects: (i) Textiles and Garments; (ii) Surface Ornamentation; (iii) Agro food processing; (iv) Computers; (v) Enterprise Development; (vi) Solar lanterns; and (vii) Roof rain water harvesting. In addition, fifty women at the grassroots underwent management training in India.

The trainers trained at SEWA under the ToT programme serve as the master trainers to train 800 trainees under the coordination, guidance and facilitation support from resource persons of SEWA. The trainees are also being imparted enterprise-development training. The skills acquired by these women have given them hope and have enabled them to look forward to a brighter future after the dark years of the armed conflict. The success of the project has already led to a proposal for expansion of the programme to the Akkaraipattu area in Ampara District, at an additional cost of SLR 4.5 million.

**Renovating and Upgrading 70 Creches in Plantation Areas:** India is providing grant assistance worth about LKR 40 million to another important project to repair, renovate and equip 70 Child Development Centres, or crèches, to enhance the quality of life of the families of workers in the plantation areas. This initiative is expected to enable both parents to contribute to the family income, with the assurance that their small children are taken care of in a safe and caring atmosphere during work hours. The importance of the project stems from its ability to empower women and make them equal partners with substantial say in running the family.

## KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP: EDUCATION AS THE KEY TO PROGRESS



Recognising the immense potential that exists in the two countries to tap knowledge as a key driver of economic and social advancement, the Joint Declaration issued during the State visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to India in June 2010, agreed that both countries should enhance links in the educational sector as a core component of their bilateral engagement. In this context, H.E. the Prime Minister of India and H.E. the President of Sri Lanka announced the launching of an “India-Sri Lanka Knowledge Initiative”. The elements of the Knowledge Initiative included expansion of India’s scholarship programme, India’s assistance to the Ten-year Presidential Initiative to steer Sri Lanka towards a Trilingual Society by 2020, setting up of the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) at the University of Colombo, India’s assistance to the President’s initiative on English and Information technology, and collaboration in the establishment of a research institute on agriculture in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

## EXPANSION OF THE INDIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Then External Affairs Minister of India, Shri. S.M. Krishna, during his visit to Sri Lanka in January 2012, announced a substantial expansion in the scholarships offered by Government of India to meritorious Sri Lankan students. Under this initiative, the number of scholarships and Self-Financed slots for Undergraduate/Masters/Ph.D Courses was increased from the earlier 113 slots to 270 slots per year. In addition, scholarship support to deserving students pursuing their GCE ‘A’ level and University degrees in Sri Lanka was expanded to cover about 500 students annually. The programme is fully funded by an Indian grant assistance amounting to SLR 2.5 billion over a period of three years, to implement various schemes. These scholarships cover the course fee, cost of books, boarding and lodging, plus a monthly stipend to the scholars.

During the June 2010 visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to India, the two leaders had agreed that India would expand its scholarship programme in Sri Lanka to assist scholars not only in regular undergraduate studies, but also to pursue higher research. Towards this end,



a new programme titled “Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme” has been added, under which 50 scholarships would be provided annually for Masters Degrees in the fields of Agriculture, Science and Engineering. These slots are in addition to the existing schemes such as Commonwealth programme, SAARC scholarship and the IOR-ARC scheme for courses in Masters and Doctorate degrees. This programme is expected to assist researchers, including scholars employed in Sri Lankan universities, to pursue Masters Degrees in some of the world-class institutes in India.



In order to share the benefits of India’s success story in the field of Information Technology (IT), a new scheme titled “Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme” has been initiated, to provide 25 slots every year for ‘Bachelor of Engineering’ courses in IT, in some of the top-ranked institutes in India. Meritorious students would gain not only from the experience of world-class faculty members, but would also get a chance to benefit from campus placements by some of the best companies recruiting students for jobs in India and abroad.

Slots under the “Scholarship Scheme for Sri Lankan Nationals”, which has been renamed the “Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme”, have been doubled to 120 per year. Under this scheme, students can pursue undergraduate courses in Engineering, Science, Business, Economics, Commerce and Humanities.

Slots under the ‘Self-Financing Scheme’ have also been doubled to over 40, and would now include seats for Medicine, Dental Science, Pharmacy and Engineering courses. Although these are seats offered under the ‘self-financing’ category, students selected under this scheme would be required to pay a fee of less than US\$ 1,000 per year, which is highly subsidised compared to the fees at institutes of comparable standing in India and elsewhere.

In addition, support to deserving Sri Lankan students pursuing their studies in local colleges and Universities has also been expanded substantially, by increasing the slots under the “Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme” by 50 percent. A total of 150 deserving students - six from each district - would be selected and monthly monetary support extended to them for a two-year duration, enabling them to complete the GCE ‘A’ level. Further, preferential treatment would also be accorded to Mahatma Gandhi scholars for higher studies in India.

The Corpus fund of the Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust (CEWET), established to support the education of poor students from the upcountry areas and largely financed by India for nearly 65 years, has been doubled. Over 350 students will be selected every year and paid a monthly stipend for a period of 2 to 5 years, to enable them to complete their GCE ‘A’ level or university degrees. The increased corpus will enable the Trust to further assist children from the plantation areas by providing them books, teaching aids and tuitions.



## CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES



The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs was an earnest attempt by India to share the fruits of its socio-economic development and technological achievement with fellow developing countries. The ITEC Programme was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet on 15 September 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who also served as the External Affairs Minister, was the main architect of the ITEC programme.

Under ITEC and its corollary SCAAP (Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme), 161 countries in Asia & the Pacific, Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean and East & Central Europe are invited to share in the Indian development experience. It has six components, viz. (i) Training (civilian and defence) in India of nominees from ITEC partner countries; (ii) Projects and project-related activities such as feasibility studies and consultancy services; (iii) Deputation of Indian experts abroad; (iv) Study tours; (v) Gifting/Donation of equipment; and (vi) Aid for Disaster Relief. The training programmes have contributed significantly to capacity-building and human resources development in many partner countries.

ITEC is the flagship programme of the Indian Government's technical cooperation effort, not only because of its wide geographical coverage but also for innovative forms of technical cooperation. It is demand-driven and response-oriented, and is focused essentially on addressing the needs of developing countries. The ITEC/SCAAP programme is thus a visible symbol of India's role and contribution to South-South Cooperation. ITEC is being constantly re-designed and refocused based on the evolving needs of India's partners including Sri Lanka, which is the one of topmost partner countries of ITEC.

As part of this programme, the Government of India (GoI) offers slots every year to ITEC/SCAAP partner countries for nominating their nationals for training in India. 8280 slots have been allocated to ITEC/SCAAP partner countries in 2012-13. Out of these, 150 slots have been offered to Sri Lanka for 2013-14 (up to 31st March 2014), which have been fully utilized.



In addition to the ITEC slots, the Government of India has also offered 40 slots to Sri Lanka during 2013-14 (up to 31st March 2014), which were also fully utilized for training in India under the Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) of the Colombo Plan. The TCS of the Colombo Plan was started with a view to providing technical assistance to neighbouring Colombo Plan countries. Through this Scheme, the Government of India provides comprehensive and integrated training to participants from member countries of the Colombo Plan in a number of areas, including IT, management, mass communication, finance, rural development, railways, remote sensing, parliamentary studies, public administration and management, banking and rural development.

As a part of its outreach activities, the High Commission of India organizes an annual get-together of the ITEC alumni and Sri Lankan students who studied in India as well as Sri Lanka under various scholarship schemes. This is usually done on a suitable day celebrated as ITEC Day or International Students Day.

## SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE FOR A “TRILINGUAL SRI LANKA”



Under an initiative of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, an ambitious 10-year plan to make Sri Lanka a trilingual nation by 2022 was launched in 2012, by declaring the year 2012 as the “Trilingual Year”. This Trilingual initiative aims to progressively make every Sri Lankan citizen knowledgeable in Sinhala, Tamil and English, setting the foundation for a truly trilingual society. On 7 October 2013, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding which provides for Indian Technical Assistance

in Support of the 10-year National Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka. The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), located in Mysore, was designated as the Technical Consultant for the Project.



## ENGLISH TRAINING AS AN ECONOMIC ENABLER

Based on a request received from the Government of Sri Lanka, the Government of India approved a Project to set up a Centre for English Language Training (CELT) at Peradeniya to train English teachers and students, under a grant assistance amounting to INR 6.5 million (SLR 13.65 million). The project involved setting up a 40-seat Language Lab with 41 computers for the trainees and the teacher, along with the latest English learning software recommended by EFLU and other hardware such as projectors etc. The Project mandate included training of 40 Master Trainers at the English



and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, which served as the technical consultant. 80 English teachers from Sri Lanka were also awarded scholarships for completing their training at EFLU.

As a result of the success of the project and the public response it generated, the Government of Sri Lanka made a request to set up such Language Labs across Sri Lanka.

## SETTING UP OF A THREE TIER ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING SYSTEM



India and Sri Lanka signed an MOU on 13th September 2014 for "Setting up of a Three-Tier English Language Training System in Sri Lanka", under which Government of India is providing equipment, software and latest sophisticated teaching aids for setting up a language laboratory of 30 computer units and other equipment in each of the nine provinces that would help to train teachers from

various schools and colleges in Sri Lanka. The language laboratories are to be set up at Jaffna, Polanaruwa, Ampara, Kandy, Kurunegala, Ratnapura, Badulla and Matara in the various Colleges of Education in different provinces. The first one at Gampaha was officially launched by Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development and H.E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India, at a function held at Kimbulgoda Maha Vidyalaya in Gampaha on 2 December 2013. The project is implemented under full grant assistance of the Government of India.

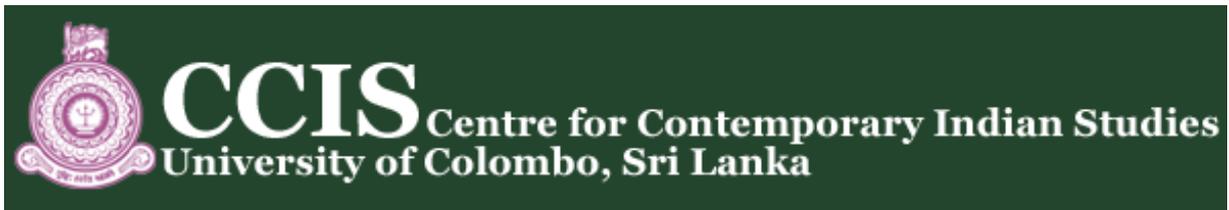
The objective of the project is to help enhance the English Language training infrastructure in Sri Lanka, raise the general level of proficiency in English language of various sections of society, impart training in the use of English language and familiarize English language teachers from schools, colleges and universities in Sri Lanka on recent trends in English language teaching and to upgrade their skills.



## SUPPORT TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The Government of India is providing assistance for the establishment of a Faculty of Engineering and a Faculty of Agriculture at the Killinochchi campus of the University of Jaffna, with a grant totalling LKR 600 million. India's assistance includes support for setting up the physical infrastructure as well as establishing partnerships with well-regarded institutions in their respective fields in India, to provide training for faculty members and explore arrangements for visiting faculty. Once completed, this is expected to substantially address the higher technical education requirements of students in the Northern Province in two crucial areas.

## CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY INDIAN STUDIES



The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS), University of Colombo became operational in 2012 consequent upon the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the High Commission of India in Colombo and the University of Colombo in July 2011. The aim of the Centre is to deepen the understanding of India amongst Sri Lankans and to emerge as a premier resource centre and academic hub for studies on contemporary India which will benefit Sri Lankan foreign policy makers, businessmen, academics and students.



In addition to the setting up and running costs for the first five years, the Government of India sponsors the visit of Indian Professors to the Centre; an annual scholarship for a student of the CCIS and an annual prize for a three week visit to India for a meritorious student of the Centre.

An expenditure of up to SLR 56.5 million has been committed for the Centre by the Government of India. The advisory board of CCIS is co-chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo and the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka and consists of distinguished academics. The Management Board and various committees oversee the day-to-day operations of the Centre.

Dr. A.K.Chattopadhyay of Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, was the 1st visiting Professor from India to CCIS (April to June 2012) and assisted in preparing the syllabus for a certificate course on Contemporary India. In 2012, Guest Lectures by the following distinguished speakers were organised : Prof T Ramakrishna, Professor of Law,



National Law School of India, Bangalore; Mr Garrett Field, PhD candidate, Wesleyan University; Dr Radha Chakravarty, University of Delhi; Ms Namita Gokhale, renowned Indian author; Prof. Sumit Ganguly, Professor of Political Science; Dr Neil DeVotta, Professor of Political Science, Wake Forest University, USA.



Dr Smruti S. Pattanaik, Research Fellow at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi was the short-term visiting Chair to CCIS from July to September 2013. 2013 saw a number of distinguished visitors to the Centre. Forums were conducted in February, July and December. A students' forum was started to further the interaction with students on a regular basis and to give a platform to discuss India-Sri Lanka relations. A number of activities are planned in the coming years to make CCIS a centre for excellence.

## E-MOTIVATING LEARNING



Gift of IT Equipment to Eastern Province: With the objective of improving the quality of education in the Eastern Province and to help bridge the digital divide, the Government of India provided 1260 computers and 218 laser printers, along with software and peripherals, to 487 schools in the Eastern Province. HCL, an Indian company, supplied the computers for distribution to these schools. The project was undertaken with a grant assistance amounting to SLR 160 million (approximately US\$ 1.5 million).

## SETTING UP OF NENASALAS

The Government of India helped set up 40 Nenashalas (e-learning centres) in Eastern, Western and Southern Sri Lanka during the period 2007-10, under a grant assistance amounting to SLR 30 million (INR 12.50 million). While India supplied the equipment for these e-learning centres, the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) from the Sri Lankan side provided connectivity, maintenance beyond the warranty period and training to the operators of the centres.

## SETTING UP OF COMPUTER LABORATORIES IN PLANTATION SCHOOLS



As parts of its efforts to help bridge the digital divide in Sri Lanka, the Government of India also undertook another fully grant-funded project for gifting of computers to schools in the Plantation areas, at a cost of SLR 18 million (approximately INR 7 million).

## DEVELOPING THE SIDDHA MEDICAL SYSTEM: TIME-TESTED TRADITIONS

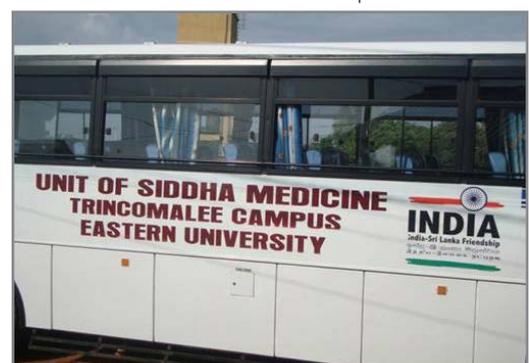


The traditional medicine systems of Ayurveda and Siddha are an important part of the common civilizational heritage of India and Sri Lanka. Over the years, there has been a continuous interaction and exchange of experiences and expertise in these areas. It is important to maintain these exchanges and to enhance them to advance research and development in the area of alternative medicine. Under a grant assistance amounting to

SLR 105 million, the Government of India helped expand the capacity of the Siddha Faculty of the Eastern University in Trincomalee, by providing laboratory equipment, computers, reference books, anatomical models and charts, a bus and a SUV.

Exchange of ideas and knowledge between professionals of the two countries in the field of Siddha/ Ayurveda is not new. The famous “Bandaranaike Memorial Research Institute” was set up on the recommendation of India’s noted Ayurvedic Physician Pandit Shiv Sharma. It was ceremonially declared open by India’s first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962.

India has thereafter taken several bilateral initiatives which include 10 scholarships offered to Sri Lanka by the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Government of India, under the BIMSTEC framework. The objective is to encourage more students from Sri Lanka to pursue an education in Siddha medical institutions and undertake scientific research to make it more people-friendly and enhance compatibility with modern-day medical systems and practices. Ten seats are also reserved for Sri Lankan nationals at National Homeopathy Institute (NIH),



Kolkatta, since 2007. Several Indian companies and experts participated in “Ayurveda Expo 2011” held in July 2011. Nearly 180 scholars and experts from India attended the International Conference on “Medicinal Plants and Herbal Products” hosted by University of Colombo in December 2011.

In addition, the two governments have identified a number of areas of potential cooperation in the field of Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy and Herbal Medicine. This includes exchange of experts, technical assistance, capacity-building, recognition of standards, preparation of a pharmacopoeia, joint research and exchange of information. An Intergovernmental Agreement for Cooperation in the field of Indigenous Medicine is under negotiation, which would serve as the basis for developing a work plan. The possibility of setting up an Indian Chair in the field of Homeopathy and Unani is also under discussion. As a result of these ongoing initiatives, there has been a substantially higher interest amongst students who want to take up Siddha Healthcare as a career option.

## CASE STUDY

### MITHURENDRAN DREAMS OF A HEALTHIER FUTURE

When RANASINGHE MITHURENDRAN joined an institute that specializes in the Siddha Healthcare system, it was just like any other career choice for him. It was at this institute, where he started learning more about the rich and vibrant history of this traditional medical system that Sri Lanka shares with India, that he started developing a sense of respect for it. Soon enough, that respect turned to love and a firm sense of commitment.



Mithurendran is now determined to play his part and contribute, through his research, towards earning greater recognition for the Siddha system amongst his people and help providing them affordable alternative medical care. He is now a fourth-year student in the Siddha College at the Eastern University in Trincomalee, and is keen to make the best possible use of the facilities that India has provided to this institution. Besides the physical infrastructure and the transfer of expertise, all the crucial equipment in the state-of-the-art lab has been provided by India.

## SHARED HERITAGE AND SHARED CULTURE

For two close neighbours with a shared history and civilizational links dating back several millennia, it is natural that cultural cooperation would be a very important aspect of the bilateral relationship. The advent of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BCE is linked with the arrival in Sri Lanka of Prince Mahendra (also known as Arahata Mahinda) and later of Princess Sanghamitra, the children of the great Indian Emperor Ashoka. The bonds forged since then have become stronger over the years.

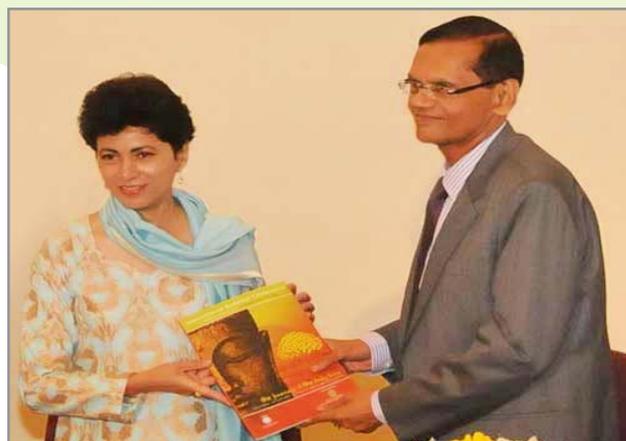
A number of events were organized in recent years to highlight the common bonds. In 2012, both countries jointly celebrated the 2600th year of the attainment of enlightenment by Lord Buddha



- Launch of a new Buddhist pilgrimage circuit train “Damba Diva Vandana” originating from Chennai and touching key Buddhist sites in Northern India;
- Dance-dramas, photographic exhibitions and screening of documentaries on Buddhism.
- The exposition of the Sacred Kapilavastu Relics in Sri Lanka, which was the grand finale of this series of activities.



- On the sidelines of the exposition, a Symposium on “Relic Worship: History, Archaeology and Religion” was also organized. At this event, a publication titled “The Journey of the Holy Tree” was released jointly by Hon’ble Kumari Selja, then Minister of Culture, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, and Hon’ble Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka.



- The Indian Gallery at the International Buddhist Museum, Sri Dalada Maligawa, was completed just in time for CHOGM and was thereafter formally inaugurated on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the High Commissioner. The Gallery highlights the shared heritage and close Buddhist links between India and Sri Lanka, even as it traces the spread of Buddhism from India to different parts of the World.



- Both Governments jointly commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda in 2013. The Government of Sri Lanka released a special commemorative stamp on the occasion.
- The two governments are slated to jointly celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Anagarika Dharmapala in 2014.
- Sri Lanka was the partner country for the 2014 Surajkund International Crafts Mela: a 15 day long extravaganza and the largest handicrafts exposition in the world. In 2014, 2 million visitors attended the event.



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As a demonstration of the Indian commitment to the handicrafts sector in Sri Lanka, the foundation stone for the Handicrafts Village at Hambantota was laid on 23 October 2013, which is on the verge of completion. The Handicrafts village in Hambantota is one of the many initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to promote livelihood opportunities in the conflict-affected areas as well as in other parts of Sri Lanka. A similar Handicrafts village is being set up in Jaffna in the coming months. The revival of employment opportunities and restoring livelihoods of the people has been an important priority of India's development assistance strategy for Sri Lanka.



## JAFFNA CULTURAL CENTRE

The Government of India is in the process of implementing a project for building a state-of-the-art Cultural Centre in Jaffna, at an estimated cost of SLR 1.2 billion. In order to arrive at a unique and iconic design for the Centre, a National Design Competition was conducted, in partnership with the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA). The design depicted below (foreground right), by Archt. Madura Prematilaka, won the first prize and will be used for the Centre.



The MOU for implementation of the project was signed by the High Commissioner of India, HE Mr. Y. K. Sinha of the Ministry of Economic Development, Dr. Nihal Jayathilaka in the presence of Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development of Sri Lanka on 10 June 2014.



The Centre will be built on a plot of land adjacent to the Jaffna Public Library (left). Once completed, the Cultural Centre and the adjoining water body – the Pullukulam (far right) – would form an integrated cultural space that can also accommodate open-air performances with the help of a floating stage. The Centre will comprise a theatre-style auditorium (with projection facilities) with a capacity of about 600 people, a multimedia library, exhibition and gallery space and a museum. It would also have an instructional wing, with facilities for conducting classes in vocal and instrumental music, dance and languages and a conference hall-cum-seminar room.

The Centre will provide the people of Jaffna a venue they can be proud of, to enjoy local and international cultural performances, and serve as a nerve centre for training, instructions and education in a variety of cultural disciplines. It will also create opportunities for networking and cooperation amongst artists and connoisseurs of art from all Sri Lankan communities, including Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese.

## MAHATMA GANDHI CENTRE IN MATALE



The Government of India is undertaking a project to construct a Mahatma Gandhi Centre at Matale, with grant assistance worth SLR 80 million (INR 3.5 crores), based on a proposal received from the Mahatma Gandhi Sabha, Matale, in April 2011. The choice of Matale as the location is due to the fact that Mahatma Gandhi had visited this town during his visit to Sri Lanka in 1927.

The Mahatma Gandhi Sabha was formed in 1948 immediately after Gandhiji's death to spread his ideals and message of universal peace and brotherhood. A Mahatma Gandhi Centre was constructed when the Matale

Municipal Council leased about 80 perches of land to the Sabha in 1963. During the 1983 riots, the Centre was completely damaged.

The reconstructed Centre is meant to serve as a community/cultural center to catalyse social harmony and cultural integration, based on the concept of Sabarmati Ashram. The project is expected to be completed by October 2014.

## RESTORATION OF THIRUKETHEESWARAM TEMPLE IN MANNAR



Thiruketheeswaram is a legendary Shiva temple in Mannar District, which is believed to have been the place where Ketu Bhagwan worshipped Lord Shiva (Eeswaran); hence the name Thiruketheeswaram. The temple has been the most venerated temple in the area for many centuries and has also been referred to in the hymns of the Saivite saints Thirugnana Sampanthar and Sundarar, from the 7-8 Century AD. This great temple was completely destroyed during Portuguese colonial rule in the 16th century and its stones were used to build the fort

at Mannar, the churches in the area and also the Hammershield Fort at Kayts. In the late 19th Century, the exact location of the destroyed temple was traced and restoration work started in the early part of the 20th century. The Thiruketheeswaram Temple Restoration Society took over the temple in 1956 and made several attempts to restore the temple to its earlier glory, but the process was interrupted by the armed conflict.



India's involvement in the restoration project was in pursuance of the Joint Declaration issued during the State visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to India in June 2010. The Declaration welcomed the proposal for the restoration of the Temple with the assistance of the Archaeological Survey of India and the College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the High Commission of India, Colombo, and the Thiruketheeswaram Temple Restoration Society (TTRS) in October 2011, laying

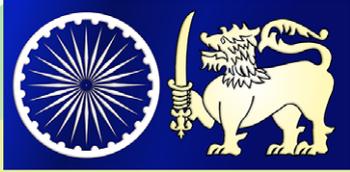
down the modalities for the restoration project, at an estimated cost of LKR 326 million (INR 130 million approx.) as grant-assistance from the Government of India. Smt. Kumari Selja, the Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Housing and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, launched the Project for Restoration of the Temple, during her visit to Sri Lanka on 20 August 2012.

The project consists of construction of three structures namely Mahamandapa, Prakara Mandapa and Vasantha Mandapa. The total area to be covered by these Mandapas is 11,370 sq.ft. The existing partial structures of the Mahamandapa are made of concrete, which will be demolished and reconstructed with stone pillars. The work has been divided into six phases of approximately 6 months each. The first phase of the work has been completed at Mamallapuram and the material, running into 21 containers, is expected to be shipped to Sri Lanka during the course of 2014 to be installed at the Thiruketheeswaram Temple.



## INDIA-SRI LANKA FOUNDATION

### INDIA - SRI LANKA



F O U N D A T I O N

The India-Sri Lanka Foundation (ISLF) started its journey in December 1998 as an intergovernmental initiative, on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka. The mandate of the ISLF is to foster India-Sri Lanka relations through the enhancement of economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation and to promote greater understanding between the people of the two countries.

The Foundation supports creative initiatives aimed at intensifying scientific, technical, educational and cultural cooperation. The specific focus of the Foundation pivots around bringing the youth and the civil society of both the nations within its sphere of understanding. To ensure this, the Foundation accords priority to supporting a number of student exchange programmes and activities at the school and university levels. It also promotes the pursuit of higher studies as well as research in both nations, besides supporting a variety of cultural performances and programmes.

Every year, it invites project proposals for funding support, in various areas of interest such as education, art & culture, archaeological studies, agricultural research, science & technology, information technology, health, development studies and gender studies. Under the above thrust areas, proposals are considered for research projects and other educational activities at recognised institutions of learning located in India and in Sri Lanka, visits and exchanges involving students, scholars, academics, artists, professionals and performing artistes, to participate in conferences/seminars, symposia, art exhibitions, film festivals, cultural events, training workshops, publication of research works on India-Sri Lanka relations in the specified fields and translating literary works in Indian languages to Sri Lankan languages, and vice-versa, and publishing them.

Some of its activities in the past year include:

- Funding the participation of 8 members of ESCO Rehab Sri Lanka at the “Sambhav Festival”, New Delhi;
- Organization of a three day cultural festival by eminent Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna, Leela Samson, Sudha Ragunathan, and A.K. Palanivel, in Jaffna from 11-13 September 2013 coinciding with the Annual Nallur Temple festival
- Supporting the Asian Film Centre to conduct the workshop on documentary and short film making with Mr. Hariharan, director of the Prasad Film and TV academy;
- Providing financial assistance to Western Province Handicrafts Development Foundation to publish a Crafts Map of Sri Lanka (soon to be launched);
- Financially supporting Dr. Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan of Aru Sri Art Theatre to organize the dance drama “Mekala”;
- Funding the travel to India of three delegates to the International Sufi Festival, Jaipur;
- Organizing, along with SEHER India, an India- Sri Lanka Artist’s Week/camp in Colombo;
- Organizing a performance by the renowned singer Ms. Sonam Kalra, to as a part of the celebration of 65th Republic Day of India and;

The India-Sri Lanka Foundation has been successful in implementing a large number of projects due to its fast and efficient mechanism of approvals through the regular meetings of the Board of Directors. It plays a catalytic role in supplementing various initiatives by the Governments of the two countries for strengthening people-to-people contacts and the bilateral relationship in general.

## NEW PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

Some important projects in the pipeline include the following:

- Renovation of the Duraipappah Stadium to give a fillip to sports activities in the Northern Province;
- Renovation of Rabindra Hall at Sripalee College, Horana, and the construction of Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium at Ruhunu University, Matara, to underline the close cultural links between India and Sri Lanka;
- Setting up an Agriculture and Engineering Faculty at Kilinochchi and a Vocational Training Centre in Northern Province and Supplying boats and fishing nets to fishermen of Mullaiteevu and Mullikulam, for livelihood restoration;
- Expansion of SEWA Project in Vanni region for the economic empowerment of war affected women;
- Renovation of 36 schools in Northern Province for assisting early restoration of educational facilities for children.

## HEALING SCARS AND BUILDING FAITH, IN PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION



India believes that the end of the armed conflict presents an unparalleled opportunity to build a better future for all the people of Sri Lanka by channelizing their creative energies.

We look forward to early progress towards reconciliation and a political settlement that addresses the political aspirations of all segments of the Sri Lankan population, including the Tamil population. Such issues need to be addressed in a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation. India will continue to support moves towards an early political settlement of the ethnic issue and other initiatives to build a caring society which ensures a life of justice, equality, dignity and self-respect to all its citizens.

The Government of India will stand should-to-shoulder with Sri Lanka in its endeavours towards this end, in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.







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