



### **Student exchange Programme.**

Allen House Public School, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P), India had organized a student exchange programme in association with Vidyarthi College, Kandy and ten Indian students of Allen house public school visited Sri Lanka in June 2017.



As part of a reciprocal exchange programme, a team of 10 students (in Grade 4/5) accompanied by the Principal, Vice Principal and two teachers from Vidyarthi College, Kandy visited India from 28 July to 2 August 2017. Allenhouse Public School provided the local hospitality for the visit.

The students from both the schools accompanied by their teachers visited the High Commission on 1 August 2017, and had an interaction with the High Commissioner and staff.

### **Indian Enterprenuers and Foreign Governments assistance for development projects in flood affected areas.**

In response to the request made by the H.E the President, some foreign Governments made donations to assist in the development projects in the flood affected areas through their accredited Missions based in New Delhi:

- Government of Fiji donated US\$ 25,000
- Government of Lithuania donated Euros 10,000
- Government of Hungary donated US\$ 15,000

Two trolley mounted flood control units have also been donated by the Kirloskar Brothers Limited of India to the Ministry of Disaster Management.

### **New Foreign Minister Tilak Marapana assumes office**

Minister of Development Assignments Tilak Marapana, assumed office as Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18 August 2017.



The Minister is a Member of Parliament appointed from the National list and had served as Minister of Law and Order, Prison Reforms from September 2015 to November 2015. Earlier he was the Minister of Defense (2001 – 2003) and Minister of Transport, Highways and Aviation (2002 – 2004). He is the only non-Presidential or Prime Ministerial holder of the portfolio of Defense. A lawyer by profession and a President's Counsel, he had served as a government prosecutor in the Attorney General's Department for twenty six years. He also served as Solicitor General and Attorney General.

### **Prasad Kariyawasam assumes office as New Foreign Secretary**

Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam former Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Washington assumed duties as Secretary, Ministry Foreign Affairs on 15th August 2017.





Mr. Kariyawasam joined the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in 1981. He held diplomatic assignments in Geneva, Riyadh, Washington, New York and New Delhi, and has served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York and Geneva and High Commissioner to India. He has been previously concurrently accredited as Ambassador / High Commissioner to Chile, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Jamaica, the Holy See, Bhutan and Afghanistan.

#### **Meeting with Indian dignitaries.**



The High Commissioner Chitrangane Wagiswara accompanied by the Counsellor Ms. Achini Perera had a meeting with Mr. Sugata Chandra Bose, Member of Lok Sabha of All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) from Jadavpur, West Bengal at his residence in Delhi on 02nd August 2017. During the meeting the High Commissioner mentioned the necessity of having closer interaction between parliamentarians of India and Sri Lanka and to have the India- Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Association with the aim to strengthen bilateral relations. During the meeting Minister Bose invited High Commissioner to visit Kolkata.



The High Commissioner paid a courtesy call on Mrs. Kanimozhi, the member of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party (Tamil Nadu) on 03rd August 2017. Minister Kanimozhi inquired about the present position of the Fisheries issue between Tamil Nadu Fishermen and Sri Lanka. She emphasized the importance of arriving at a concrete solution on the issue without affecting the livelihood of fishermen. Minister Kanimozhi invited High Commissioner to visit Tamil Nadu. The High Commissioner spoke of the concerns of the Sri Lanka fisherman and the environmental issues which need to be addressed. Reference was made to the Joint working Group which is a useful forum to discuss issues.

High Commissioner paid a call on Dr. Krishna Gupta Principal Residence Commissioner of the State of West Bengal, New Delhi. During the meeting, High Commissioner requested for the Resident Commissioner's assistance to meet with Mrs. Mamta Benerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal and other top dignitaries of West Bengal State Government during her forthcoming visit to Kolkata.

#### **Meeting with the Director General of the Indian Coast Guard**



The High Commissioner Chitrangane Wagiswara visited the Indian Coast Guard Headquarter and called on the Director General Indian Coast Guard Vice Admiral Rajendra Singh, on 23 August 2017. During the meeting,



they discussed the role of Coast Guard in India and Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner expressed thanks to the Director General and the Government of India for the transfer of "ICGS – Waruna" decommissioned ship to Sri Lanka Coast Guard which is to take place on 05th September 2017.

**Defence Service Command and Staff College Annual Visit to India.**

The delegation from the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) visited the Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in the sidelines of their annual visit to India.



**Tree Plantation Programme at the High Commission**



With the aim to improve the greenery of the Diplomatic enclave of New Delhi, a tree Plantation programme was organized by the New Delhi Municipal Council with the participation of Diplomatic Missions in New Delhi which commenced on 05th August 2017.

Mr. Naresh Kumar, Chairman of NDMC, together with the staff of the High Commission participated in the tree planting event held at the High Commission.

**Indo Sri Lanka Investment Forum in Kerala**



An Indo-Sri Lanka Investment Forum was organized by Kerala Association of Indo-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ISCCI) at Taj Gateway Hotel, Marine Drive, Kochi, on Thursday, 24th August 2017. It was attended by 107 business delegates from almost all districts of Kerala representing the industry sectors of tourism, education, apparel etc. Dr K Krishnakumar, Co-Chairman of ISCCI and former Union Minister was the Chief Guest at the Investment Forum.

**Government of Mauritius issue 60 days on arrival visa for Sri Lankans**

The Government of Mauritius amended the passport regulations so that Sri Lanka passport holders may obtain 60 days visa on arrival. Previously Sri Lankan nationals had to apply for a visa from Mauritius prior to travel.



## **Second Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cooperation in the Power Sector between India and Sri Lanka held in New Delhi**

The Second Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cooperation in the Power Sector between India and Sri Lanka was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 at the Ashok Hotel, New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Secretary Ministry of Power, Government of India and the Sri Lanka delegation was led by Dr B.M.S. Batagoda, Secretary Ministry of Power and Energy.

The JWG discussed the projects on developing 500MW LNG based power project at Kerawalapitiya as a Joint Venture Company between India, Sri Lanka and Japan, the development of 50 MW solar power project in Sampur, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Sri Lanka's participation at the Solar Summit in December 2017.

The third Working Group is scheduled for November 2017 in Colombo Sri Lanka.

### **Academic programmes**

Sri Lanka Judges Institution and the Judicial Service Commission of Sri Lanka, headed by His Lordship the Chief Justice had formulated a training programme for the Sri Lankan Judges in collaboration with the New Delhi Judicial Academy from 15-21 August in New Delhi, and, 18-24 August in Chandigarh.

Thirty judges headed by Justice A. Goonaratne, Judge of the Supreme Court, participated in the programme organized in New Delhi while thirty-three judges headed by Justice H.N.J.Perera Supreme Court Judge participated in the programme organized by the Judicial Academy of Chandigarh.

### **Trad Med -2017**

A Briefing Session for industrialists, policy makers and academics on the TradMed 2017 was held at the Sri Lanka High Commission on 28th August 2017. The meeting was co-chaired by the High Commissioner and by Prof. Ranil De Silva, the Co-Chair of the TradMed 2017.

Tred-Med 2017 is an Exhibition on Traditional Medicine will be held at Water's Edge Hotel during 23-25 November 2017.

The High Commission arranged a meeting for Prof. Ranil De Silva to meet with the focal point at the WHO-SEARO

office in New Delhi. During the meeting WHO officials conveyed their fullest support for the TradMed 2017 and confirmed their participation together with officials from the WHO Geneva Office. Prof. De Silva also met with the Officials of the Ministry of Ayush and briefed on the TradMed 2017 and together with the Sri Lanka High Commission Official, discussed the signing of the MoU on Traditional Medicine in the sidelines of the TradMed 2017, possible collaborations between India and Sri Lanka, as well as on the way forward aftermath of the signature of the MoU.



The High Commission staff and Prof. Ranil de Silva, participated at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Wellness India Expo 2017 held at the Pragathi Maidan, on 29th August 2017. Prof. De Silva briefed more than 100 interested businessmen in Ayurveda who were part of the Wellness India 2017, who have conveyed their interest in participating at the Sri Lanka event.

### **Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo**

The Second Indian Ocean Conference (IOC 2017) is being organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 31st August – 2nd September, 2017 by the India Foundation and partnered by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Institute of International & Strategic Studies (BIISS) and the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Singapore.

The theme of the conference is 'Peace, Progress & Prosperity'. Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka will be the Chair and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India will be the Vice-Chair of the Conference.

Delegates from, the US, Germany, China, Canada, France, Singapore, Israel, Italy, Mauritius, Norway, South Africa, Indonesia, etc., besides India and Sri Lanka have confirmed participation at the Conference.