



# Sri Lanka High Commission in India News Bulletin

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### Sri Lanka High Commission celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ceylon Tea

Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi organized the Global Ceylon Tea Party to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Ceylon tea, on 06th July 2017 at 5.00 p.m. at the High Commission premises. Ms. Rita Teotia, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry was the Chief Guest at the event. The Tea party was arranged under the patronage of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Tea Board and the Ceylon Chambers of Commerce.



The inaugural speech was delivered by High Commissioner Chitranganee Wagiswara who spoke on the history of the tea industry, the common British heritage of India and Sri Lanka and the tea industry, the

unique global recognition of Ceylon tea and, the importance of tea as a health drink.

The Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia in her speech, emphasized that there could be cooperation on the tea sector between India & Sri Lanka and the need to work together with global regulatory bodies on some of the tea regulatory issues on global standards.

Minister Counsellor (Commercial) did a comprehensive presentation on the history of tea plantation in Sri Lanka, and on the varieties of tea and introduced the seven prime tea growing regions and the variations due to the climatic conditions. He also referred to the standard & the quality of tea and the uniqueness of Ceylon tea which is maintained by the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

Country Manager of M/s. Dilmah Tea demonstrated a tea tasting session. Dr. Ritu Chattwal, founder of M/s. Beyond Passe Ltd, distributor of M/s. Vintage Ceylon Teas Limited made a demonstration on "How to make a good cup of tea". Two short video films sent by the Sri Lanka Tea Board were screened.

Approximately one hundred visitors participated in the event including Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic Corps from major tea importing countries, officials from the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and representatives from trade chambers, tea importers & other businessman and journalists. Following the formal event guests were invited to sample refreshments with Sri Lanka Tea.

### Visit of Deputy Health Minister Hon. Faizal Cassim to WHO, India.

Hon. Faizal Cassim Deputy Minister of Health along with Mrs. S.Rifaya Faiza , Private Secretary to the Hon. Deputy Minister and Dr. Alan Ludowyke Director/International Health of the Ministry of Health, visited New Delhi to participate at the High Level

Preparatory Meeting for the Seventieth Session of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia and Tenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management (SPPDM) which was held at the WHO regional office in New Delhi from 10th to 14th July 2017.

### **Tribute to Prof. Saman Kelegama.**

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) in Delhi, jointly organized an event to pay tribute to late Dr. Saman Kelegama, former Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (Sri Lanka) (IPS). The event was held at Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 11th July 2017.



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS Dr. Nagesh Kumar of UNESCAP who is now based in Bangkok Prof. Deepak Nayyar of SACEPS, Prof. Muchkund Dubey, Former Foreign Secretary of India and President Council for Social

Development, and the High Commissioner Chitrangane Wagiswara addressed the gathering. Speakers conveyed their condolences to the Government of Sri Lanka, the IPS & the family of Saman Kelegama.

In this event special mention was made on the South Asia Economic Summit and South Asia Economic Journal which were two initiatives taken by Prof. Saman Kelegama.

Prof. Deepak Nayyar of SACEPS mentioned that Prof. Kelegama contributed his knowledge as a institution builder. He said that "he put the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in the world map. Although he was a Sri Lankan citizen, he was also a citizen of South Asia and a citizen of the global South."

The High Commissioner who was a special invitee thanked the organizers for hosting the event and mentioned that Prof. Saman Kelegama was an academic, an adviser and a representative of the Government of Sri Lanka in various fora. The links he established with the private sector, in Sri Lanka & internationally is well known and recognized. His demise is an irreparable loss for Sri Lanka.

### **Handing Ceremony of first Advanced Offshore Petrol Vessel "Sayurala" at Goa Shipyard**



The handing over ceremony of first Advanced Offshore Petrol Vessel (AOPV) was held at Goa shipyard on 22nd July 2017. High Commissioner Chitrangane Wagiswara attended the event as a guest of honour and Chief of Staff of Sri Lanka Navy, Rear Admiral SS Ranasinghe

along with three officials from Sri Lanka Navy and Commodore Prasanna Hewage , Defence Advisor of the Sri Lanka High Commission, were also present at the ceremony.

This newly built naval ship is 105 meter long and it is the largest state of the art new vessel (2,400- ton displacement) being inducted into Sri Lankan Naval fleet. The Sri Lanka Navy will commission the AOPV, its largest warship on 02 August 2017, three months ahead schedule. Such patrol vessels carry out several roles including fleet support operations, maritime surveillance, offshore installation and escorting high value ships.

#### **Courtesy calls on Indian dignitaries.**

The High Commissioner Chitranganee Wagiswara accompanied by Ms. Achini Perera, Counsellor had a meeting with Supriya Sadanand Sule , Member of the Lok Sabha of National Congress Party from Maharashtra at her residence on 26th July 2017. During the meeting the High Commissioner mentioned the need to have closer interaction between the two parliaments and to have the India- Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Association with the aim to strengthen bilateral relations at a high political level.

Ms. Sadanand mentioned that she has visited Sri Lanka several times and that she is keen to have closer ties between the two countries. The MP was interested to be briefed on the health and education services in Sri Lanka. Ms. Sadanand is a member of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, and member of Consultative Committee of Ministry of Finance Cooperate Affairs.

#### **Hon. Ram Nath Kovind has been appointed as new President of India.**

Hon. Ram Nath Kovind, former Governor of Bihar, was elected as the 14th President of India.

Hon. Ram Nath Kovind served as the 35th Governor of Bihar from 2015 to 2017 and was a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from 1994 to 2006. He was a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Hon. Kovind is the second Dalit to be elected to the post of President.

Hon. Kovind assumed office on 25 July 2017. In the speech made by the President on his assumption of office as President of India he stated that;

“We need to sculpt a robust, high growth economy, an educated, ethical and shared community, and an egalitarian society, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji. These are integral to our sense of humanism. This is the India of our dreams, an India that will provide equality of opportunities. This will be the India of the 21st century.”

#### **Foreign Governments donate funds for development projects in flood affected areas.**

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

- Slovenian Government donated 30,000 Euros through IFRC
- Government of Cyprus donated 5000 Euros
- New Zealand Government donated 200,000 New Zealand dollars through ICRC
- Czech Republic allocated 100,000 Us \$ for rehabilitation of Nilwala Teachers Training College.

#### **Three New Delhi based Ambassadors presented credentials to H.E the president.**

Three New Delhi based Ambassadors, who are concurrently accredited to Sri Lanka, presented their credentials to H.E the President on 28th of June 2017.

- Mr.Nejmeddine Lakhali- Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia
- Mr.Jose Ramon Baranano Fernandez – Ambassador of Spain
- Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili- Ambassador of Georgia

After the presentation of credentials the Ambassadors paid courtesy calls on Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake and Foreign Secretary, Esala Weerakoon.

### **Medical Professionals from overseas assisting the flood affected Sri Lankans in Kalutara and Matara District**

Seventeen medical professionals of Sri Lankan origin who are members of the Global Tamil Forum (GTF) from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Norway, the United States, France, Bahrain and Germany conducted medical camps for the public in flood affected areas.

They have worked in partnership with the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, and the local doctors of the area.. This camp was conducted from 2nd to 6th July in the Kalutara and in the Matara districts from 7th July to 10th July.

Approximately 780 patients were given medical, dental and ophthalmological treatment, which included in children's homes and orphanage. 300 pairs of reading glasses and sunglasses were also gifted to the people by the doctors.

### **World Food India- 2017, 3-5<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Vigyan Bhavan, Convention Centre, New Delhi**

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) of the Government of India will be organizing the World Food India 2017, in New Delhi from 3-5<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The Ministry has already reached out to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce inviting Sri Lanka's participation at the World Food India 2017.

World Food India 2017 is a mega international food summit primarily aimed to showcase the vast investment opportunities available in India for all food processing players including food processors, technology and equipment manufacturing and suppliers, logistics players, cold chain operators as well as the food retailers.

This would provide a platform to interact with potential investors, suppliers, buyers and also to identify joint venture partners related to Food Processing Industry.

The High Commissioner and Minister (Commercial) attended the event organized by the MOFPI on 26th July 2017 for the Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of leading food processing and food retailing countries

Chaired by the Minister of Food Processing Industries, to enlighten the investment opportunities available in India in the food processing sector, particularly with reference to the Governments initiative of announcing 100% FDI in food products produced and manufactured in India.

### **Seven Sri Lankan students admitted to the South Asian University.**

For the Academic year 2016/2017, Seven Sri Lankan students gained admissions to follow Masters Degree programmes at the South Asian University (SAU) in New Delhi.

The South Asian University was established in 2010 by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The students will be following courses in Sociology, International Relations and Computer Science at the University.

### **Staff changes at the High Commission**

Mr. Sumedha Ponnampereuma ,Minister Counsellor/ Commerce of the High Commission has been cross posted to Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington, as the Minister Counsellor from 10 July 2017, Ms. Upekkha Samarasekara Minister (Commerce) who was attached to the Embassy in Washington, assumed duties at the High Commission, New Delhi on 17 July 2017.