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Visit of Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to New Delhi, 22nd – 24th November 2017

The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe was on a working visit to New Delhi from 22nd – 24th November 2017.

During his visit the Prime Minister attended the Inaugural Session of the '5th Global Conference on Cyber Space: 2017' at the premises of the Hotel Pullman Aero city, New Delhi. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi was the Chief Guest at the event.

Addressing the Inaugural Session Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said that, cyber space is the most crucial mode of transmitting information and knowledge today. He also emphasized that the Cyber space has become a key source of upgrading human lives, human resources and social transformation. He said that the time has come to focus on establishing a framework for an ethical cyber space.

Representatives from 135 countries participated at the GCCS this year and more than 2800 viewers from worldwide participated live at the GCCS.



During the visit, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe had a luncheon meeting with the Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 23rd November 2017. The two leaders reviewed the progress of the projects that have been agreed upon and the implementation that needs to be accelerated.



Prime Minister also paid a courtesy call on President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapathi Bhawan in New Delhi. On behalf of the President of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe extended his warm congratulations and best wishes to President Kovind on his assumption of duties as the President of India. President Kovind stated that Prime Minister Wickremesinghe's leadership has contributed profoundly to the present status of the close relations between the two countries and extended his best wishes for the prosperity of Sri Lanka. This was the first meeting between the two leaders after President Kovind was sworn in the post in July 2017.

The Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj called on Prime Minister Wickremesinghe at the hotel Taj Palace. At the meeting the two dignitaries discussed the necessary steps required to strengthen the outstanding relationship between the two countries.



During the visit the Prime Minister also met with Smt. Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian National Congress , accompanied by Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India, Shri Rahul Gandhi, Vice President of the Indian National Congress and Shri Anand Sharma of the Rajya Sabha.



Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe, the Minister of Law and Order of Sri Lanka, Sagala Rathnayake, Saman Ekanayake, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Chitrangane Wagiswara, High Commissioner, Mr. Lenagala, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India , Saman Athaudahetti, Additional Secretary/Media at the Prime Minister's Office were included to the Prime Ministers delegation to New Delhi.

Sri Lanka Delegation at the World Food India 2017 held from 3-5th November 2017 in New Delhi

A delegation led by the Minister of Industry & Commerce of Sri Lanka, Rishad Bathiudeen attended the World Food India (WFI) 2017, inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3rd November 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.



The three day event was organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries of India in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) under the theme of 'Transforming the Food Economy'.

Germany, Japan and Denmark were the Partner Countries of the World Food India 2017. More than 800 global companies representing 22 Countries & domestic companies participated in this first ever mega Food Processing Trade Fair held in New Delhi from 3-5th November 2017.

Minister Rishad Bathiudeen accompanied by the High Commissioner Chitrangane Wagiswara graced the inauguration of the World Food India 2017 held at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

The USI National Security Seminar

The USI National Security Seminar was held on 03rd December at the USI on the theme "From Contest to Cooperation : A Vision for Shared Prosperity in the Indo - Pacific Region". Sri Lanka delegates participated at the Conference.

The conference on 'Connecting the Bay of Bengal: India, Japan, and Regional Cooperation'

The conference on the theme "Connecting the Bay of Bengal: India, Japan, and Regional Cooperation" organized by Carnegie India and the India Development Foundation in collaboration with the government of Japan, was held in New Delhi in the first week of November.

This seminar reviewed Indo-Japanese regional economic and security cooperation and identified new possibilities

in two areas – regional connectivity corridors and maritime security in the Bay of Bengal. The initial theme focused on sustainable development of trans-border regional infrastructure. The latter subject focused on the regional maritime cooperation in the Bay of Bengal. The conference commenced with a closed-door breakfast meeting/discussion with the speakers and ambassadors of the region based in New Delhi.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner for India, Chithrangane Wagiswara, Sumith Nakandala, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Admiral Dr. Jayanath Colombage participated in this discussion. Carnegie India Director Dr. C Raja Mohan moderated the session with Japanese Ambassador for India Kenji Hiramatsu and Sumith Nakandala delivering opening remarks. The inaugural session was addressed by Dr S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary of India, who spoke on India's view point on the Bay of Bengal region and the importance of Japan-India relations.

The 138th International Training Programme on Audit of State Owned Enterprises.

Two Sri Lankans from the Auditor General's Department and from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka participated at the 138th International Training Programme on "Audit of State Owned Enterprises" which was held from 23rd October to 17th November 2017 at International Centre For Information Systems and Audit, Noida.

This year the theme country of the above programme was Sri Lanka and the High Commissioner addressed the participant on India- Sri Lanka relations. The programme discussed governance and audit issues. The two Sri Lankan participants made presentations on the mandate of Audit Department in Sri Lanka including the practice and other milestones related to "Audit of State owned enterprises."

Know India programme

The Ministry of External Affairs invited 40 Indian Diaspora Youth in the age group of 18 to 26 for the 43rd 'Know India Programme held on 22nd November 2017 in New Delhi. The objective of this programme was to acquaint the Diaspora Youth with various facets of Indian Society and culture.

These young Indian origin delegates were from Fiji, Guyana, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, & Trinidad & Tobago.

The National Cricket Team of Sri Lanka on a tour in India.



The national cricket team of Sri Lanka is in New Delhi for the third and final test match. During their visit the High Commission hosted a dinner reception for the visiting national Cricket team headed by the Manager, Asanka Gurusinghe and the team Captain Dinesh Chandimal.

Opening the dinner reception, the High Commissioner in her remarks stated that unity, team spirit and sportsmanship provide an inspiration to the youth of the country and said that the game is an unifying factor in a multi-cultural country.

Several political figures such as Dr. Udit Raj, MP Lok Sabha and Vijay Jolly, former MP, a few diplomats from cricket playing nations, journalists from the print media and academics and members of the business community as well as Sri Lankans living in New Delhi were present at the reception.

The 15 member Sri Lankan Cricket team will play three test matches, three ODIs and three T20Is. The ODI series will begin from 10th December and the first match will be played in Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamshala.

49 Sri Lankan students hosted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

Forty nine Sri Lankan delegates/students visited New Delhi from 5 to 10 November 2017, for a study-tour. The students have been conferred the 'President Medal', in Sri Lanka. Teachers-in-Charge of Environmental Pioneer Programme (EPP) and other officials of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) were included in the delegation.

The objective of the study tour was to provide the delegates, first-hand experience on solutions-driven environmental practices through class-room interactions and field visits in India. During the tour the Sri Lankan students visited the Ministry of Energy, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Rashtrapati Bhavan, Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Burari Construction and Demolition (C and D) Facility and the Taj Mahal (for cultural reasons).

The visiting group and the organizers were invited for an interaction at the High Commission which was followed by a luncheon.

New Zealand to open its High Commission in Colombo next year.

New Zealand has decided to open its High Commission in Sri Lanka. At present, 44 countries maintain their diplomatic missions in Sri Lanka, while 89 New Delhi-based Ambassadors and High Commissioners are concurrently accredited to Sri Lanka. Ms Joanna Kempkers, New Delhi-based New Zealand High Commissioner to India and concurrently accredited to Sri Lanka, had stated that they are looking for suitable accommodation to open their diplomatic mission in Colombo. The exercise may take some time, and New Zealand may open their High Commission in late 2018, or by early 2019. New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully announced on March 24, 2017 that his country will open a High Commission in Colombo. "Establishing a High Commission in Colombo is a sign of New Zealand's

commitment to strengthening the relationship between our countries" Mc Cully had said.

Sri Lanka wins the title of Favourite Emerging Destination at Conde Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards 2017



Sri Lanka won the award for " Favourite Emerging Destination" at the Seventh edition of Conde Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards hosted by the Conde Nast Traveller at the hotel Andaz in Delhi on 27th November 2017. The awards ceremony was attended by selected invitees comprising industry leaders from the hospitality, travel and airlines; policy makers and government agencies.

The Readers' Travel Awards, chosen through a readers' voting process spanning two months sans any nominations, recognized the best in the travel industry across hotels, destinations, airlines, spas, websites, app, cruise lines and more.

The annual Conde Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards has set the benchmark in the hospitality and travel industry year on year, since its inception in 1989 in the United States of America.

Minister Commercial Ms. Upekkha Samarasinghe of the Sri Lanka High Commission accepted the award at the event.

Staff Changes in the High Commission

Mr. Prasanna Priyadarshana , Attache Administration left New Delhi on completion of his tenure of duty at the High Commission.

He has been succeeded by Mr. Nilantha Madhawa Patirana who has been designated as Attache Protocol.