

Standing with the people of Sri Lanka



Celebrating 75 glorious years of INDEPENDENCE

USD 2.2 Billion



Forex support

USD 55 Million



Fertilizer



Dry rations for the needy

USD 800 Million



Food and essentials

> 125 tons



Medicines

USD 700 Million



Fuel



Kerosene for fishermen

VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DR. S. JAISHANKAR TO SRI LANKA IN MARCH 2022



Smt. Droupadi Murmu
President of India



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



MESSAGE FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER

I convey warm greetings to my brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka as India celebrates her 75th Anniversary of Independence today. It is also a matter of great happiness that Sri Lanka as well is in the 75th year of its Independence.

Under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a series of initiatives and activities have been undertaken across Sri Lanka to mark this momentous occasion. Joint celebration of 75 years of Independence by India and Sri Lanka is one of the highlights of these celebrations.

Friends, guided by 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India keeps in her heart all the time the people of Sri Lanka and their well being. Unprecedented financial, economic and humanitarian assistance of close to USD 4 billion this year underscores our commitment to our brethren in Sri Lanka. India and her people rose to respond to various requirements of the Sri Lankan people in a prompt manner through our multi-pronged assistance.

Bilateral ties are evolving into newer areas. Eight documents were signed between the two Governments during the visit of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to Sri Lanka in March 2022. These documents cover a large canvas - from the next generation Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity Project to the USD 15 million grant for the promotion of Buddhist linkages, and to defence, among others. These are a testimony to the dynamism in our relationship.

India has been an active partner in catalyzing the economic recovery of Sri Lanka. Indian investments in mutually beneficial sectors such as ports, renewable energy, infrastructure etc will be instrumental in this through employment generation and stepped up economic activities.

Civilizational connect, shared heritage and abiding bonds between the people are the hallmark of India-Sri Lanka ties. Today, as we rapidly move forward on the path laid out by generations from antiquity, we also seek to strengthen these age-old linkages for posterity as well.

I once again convey my greetings to all Indians and our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka.

- Gopal Baglay

Documents signed during the visit

- ▶ MoU on implementation of grant assistance from India to promote Buddhist ties between India and Sri Lanka
- ▶ Exchange of notes on the amendment to Article IX of the MoU on construction of Jaffna Cultural Center
- ▶ MoU on implementation of Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) programme with GOI's grant assistance
- ▶ MoU for providing Maritime Rescue Coordination Center
- ▶ MoU on implementation of Hybrid Power Projects in three Islands off Jaffna
- ▶ MoU on cooperation in development of Fisheries Harbours in Sri Lanka
- ▶ MoU for the establishment of Modern Computer Labs and smart boards with customized curriculum software in 200 schools in Galle District
- ▶ MoU between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute.

India's multi-pronged support of around USD 4 billion to the people of Sri Lanka in 2022

“ India will continue to stand with the people of Sri Lanka and support democracy, stability and economic recovery in Sri Lanka. ”
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi



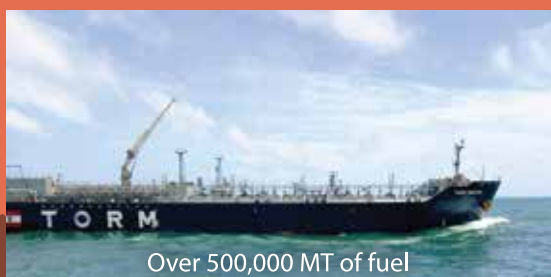
Medical supplies



Urea



Food



Over 500,000 MT of fuel

- Concessional loan of USD 1 billion for food, medicines and essential commodities.
- USD 500 million credit line for purchase of petroleum products.
- Line of Credit of USD 55 million for procurement of Urea Fertiliser.
- Deferment of dues of about USD 1.8 billion till June 2022 to be paid by CBSL to the Reserve Bank of India under the Asian Clearing Union framework.
- Currency swap of USD 400 million to strengthen the forex reserves.
- Donation of more than 26 tons of medicines to various entities across Sri Lanka.
- Distribution of dry rations among needy sections of the society.
- Kerosene for fishermen to sustain their livelihoods.
- Advocating for Sri Lanka in international forums



Kerosene



Rice, milk powder & medicine



Ministry of Finance @FinMinIndia
Union Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman met Sri Lanka Finance Minister Mr Ali Sabry on the sidelines of IMF-WB Spring Meetings, at Washington D.C., today, and discussed current economic situation and its approach towards addressing the prevailing challenges in Sri Lanka. (1/2)
Union Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman assured Sri Lanka that as a close friend and good neighbour, India will try to extend all possible cooperation and assistance to Sri Lanka. (2/2)
12:16 AM - Apr 19, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

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A FUTURISTIC PARTNERSHIP

Economic and Commercial linkages



Building bridges to facilitate business ties

India-Sri Lanka Partnership for Sustained Growth

Bilateral trade

- Sri Lanka's largest trading partner and third largest export destination in 2021.
- Annual bilateral merchandise trade amounted to about USD 5.45 billion.
- Substantial increase in trade since 2000, when the FTA came into force.
- More than 60% of Sri Lanka's exports use the benefits of FTA.
- Corresponding figure for India's exports is only about 5%.

Indian investments

- One of the largest contributors to FDI in Sri Lanka.
- Number of leading companies from India in diverse sectors have their presence in Sri Lanka.
- FDI from India is estimated to be more than USD 2.2 billion.
- More investments in the pipeline.

Towards a greener tomorrow (Solar Power Plant in Sampur)

- Cooperation in renewable energy sector is a priority area
- 100 MW Solar Power Plant
- Joint Venture and Shareholders' Agreement (JVSHA) between NTPC Limited from India and CEB



A business delegation led by Confederation of Indian Industries from several sectors interacted with officials and local business and industry representatives in Sri Lanka on 22 March 2022.



Augmenting cooperation in pharmaceuticals



The event held on 31 May 2022 was a platform for representatives from business and industry in the pharmaceutical sector to interact with senior officials including CBSL Governor and Treasury Secretary

Supporting economic ties for recovery and growth



The focused interaction was organised on 23 June 2022.

Indicators

Real GDP growth provisionally estimated to be 8.7% in 2021-22.
Real GDP growth for FY 2022-23 expected to be 7%, highest among major economies.
External debt of US\$ 614.9 billion is around 20% of the GDP.
Forex reserves at US\$ 574 billion in August 2022.



THE AGILE JUMBO: INDIAN ECONOMY

Drivers

- Rising Capex in the public sector.
- Disbursement of INR 1 trillion in interest-free Capex loans announced.
- Increase in government revenues expected.
- Fiscal deficit to GDP ratio likely to be unchanged from its budgeted level.
- Retail inflation of around 7% in June 2022.



Resilience

- Highest annual FDI inflows of US\$ 84.8 billion last year.
- Sustained momentum despite commodity price shocks.
- Growth of PMI manufacturing and services indices.
- Improvement of other indices in core industries production, industrial production and freight traffic.
- Gross Non-Performing Assets ratio for the banking sector declined to its lowest level in six years.



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Making a tangible impact on daily lives:

PEOPLE-CENTRIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Development projects carried out by India in Sri Lanka have people and their daily lives at its very heart. At an overall commitment of over USD 5 billion with around USD 600 million grants, these projects cut across diverse spheres such as large-scale infrastructure, connectivity, health, education, housing, and industrial development, among many others. Spread across the 25 districts of Sri Lanka, this key pillar of bilateral cooperation spurs the local economy as they rely mostly on Sri Lankan contractors and labour for their implementation.

With their dynamic working structures, these projects negotiate the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic well. Testifying to their evolving and demand-driven nature, a MOU on grant assistance for the next-generation Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity project was signed between the two countries in March 2022.

Overall, India has been associated with more than 85 grant projects in Sri Lanka. This includes the flagship Indian Housing Programme for the construction of 60,000 houses, nation-wide 1990 Suwaseriya Emergency Ambulance service, and the iconic Jaffna Cultural Center. State of the art Rabindranath Tagore auditorium in Ruhuna University and the first of its kind temperature-controlled warehouse in Dambulla are among other projects which attests to the breadth and versatility of India-Sri Lanka development partnership.



Homes for the homeless



Soft launch of state-of-the-art Jaffna Cultural Centre



Access to sweet water for half a million people



150-bed multifacility hospital at Dickoya



Saving precious lives nationwide



Temperature controlled cold storage warehouse in Dambulla



8 important documents were signed during External Affairs Minister's visit in March 2022



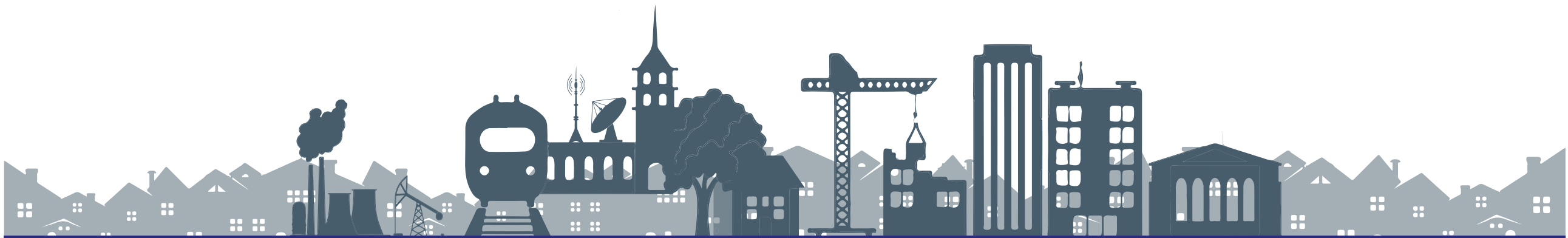
Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium, University of Ruhuna



Intercity train services between Mount Lavinia and Kankesanthurai flagged off in January 2022



Strengthening railway infrastructure: 160 coaches and 2 AC Diesel Multiple Units (AC DMUs) were provided to Sri Lanka in a year.



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DEFENCE



A PARTNERSHIP WITH MULTIPLE FACETS

The sturdy bilateral defence relationship is built on the foundation of close linkages between the two militaries. Commonalities on the security front guide the defence cooperation, which has a wide landscape, encompassing training, joint exercises, supply of military equipment and high level bilateral visits, among others. Annual dialogues are held at levels of National Security Advisor (NSA), Deputy NSA, Defence Secretary and Service Chiefs. Periodic bilateral goodwill visits by Navy and Coast Guard ships are also a striking feature of the bilateral defence partnership.



MILITARY EXERCISES

The 8th edition of India -Sri Lanka joint military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI commenced with the landing of 120 - strong Indian Army contingent onboard Indian Air Force IL-76 transport aircraft on 2 October 2021. Bilateral Naval exercise SLINEX off Vishakhapatnam was held from 07-10 March 2022.



BILATERAL PLATFORMS

The 5th NSA level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave was held on 9-10 March 2022 in Maldives followed by 6th Deputy NSA level meeting on 07-08 July 2022 at Kochi. The then Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army General MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC visited Sri Lanka from 12-16 October 2021 followed by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (South) Vice Admiral Anil Chawla, PVSM, AVSM, NM, VSM, ADC from 25-28 October 21.



HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

Supporting Sri Lanka's fight against COVID-19, Indian Naval Ship Shakti arrived in Colombo on 22 August 2021 with 100 tons (5 containers) of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) from Vishakhapatnam. Further, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ghrial was specially deployed for ensuring expeditious delivery of medical supplies to Sri Lanka in April-June 2022.

GEARING FOR TOMORROW

Towards enhancing the capability and capacity building of Sri Lankan Armed Forces, multiple MoUs and agreements were signed between Governments of India and Sri Lanka in March 2022. These include a 4000T Floating Dock for Sri Lanka Navy on gratis basis to enhance their ship repairing capability, two Dornier Aircrafts to Sri Lanka Air Force towards strengthening their Maritime security capabilities multifold and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre for Sri Lanka Navy. 750 vehicles (SUV/MUV) are also being given to Sri Lanka Police.



TRAINING

Training is an enduring pillar, with India being the largest provider of foreign training assistance to Sri Lankan Armed Forces. Overcoming the hurdles posed by Covid-19, participation in premier courses at reputed institutions in India continued.



MARITIME DOMAIN

Indian Naval Ship 'Nireekshak' (advanced diving support ship of Indian Navy), facilitated Mixed Gas Diving training for Sri Lanka Navy in February 2022 and five sailing vessels of Indian Navy (Mhadei, Tarini, Bulbul, Kadalpura and Hariyal) catering to ocean sailing training/ experience for Sri Lanka Navy in March 2022. Four ships of the Western Fleet (INS Brahmaputra, Talwar, Chennai and Teg) of Indian Navy visited Sri Lanka from 09-12 March 2022. Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship Suraksha participated in the Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-VIII) from 19-21 April 2022 in Goa towards strengthening coordinated efforts for preserving and protecting Marine Environment.



ENHANCING OPERATIONAL READINESS

INS Sharda arrived with the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) embarked onboard for training of Sri Lanka Air Force Pilots and to execute shipborne helicopter operations for Sri Lanka Naval Ships from 23-29 March 2022. SLNS Sagara spares were provided on grant basis. Further, in order to ensure operational readiness of AN32, two propellers are being gifted by Indian Air Force to Sri Lanka Air Force.

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Connect between people across generations

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

Jataka Tales Audio Book in Sinhala



Marking 75th anniversary of India's Independence, the Audio Book containing 50 Jataka Tales was launched at the Ruwanweli Maha Seya premises in Anuradhapura on the sacred Posen Poya on 14 June 2022. Tales selected under the theme of 'Good Advice' primarily caters to the Visually impaired. The first Audio Book was offered to the Venerable Maha Sangha. This unique initiative was the joint collaboration between SVCC and the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS), University of Colombo.



Cricket, a shared passion: Tour of the Indian Women's cricket team to Sri Lanka

International Day of Yoga

The 8th International Day of Yoga was organized in collaboration with Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs at the iconic Independence Square on 21 June 2022 in Colombo. Themed 'Yoga for Humanity', the mega event was held under the gracious presence of H.E Ranil Wickremesinghe, several Ministers, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries. Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts from all over the country took part in the event. The event was a part of the 'Guardian Ring' which connected Yoga events from all over the world to highlight the unifying power of Yoga. A series of other programmes were organized throughout the month of June in the run up to the grand event on 21 June 2022.

DID YOU KNOW?



The United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga on 11 December 2014. The resolution was passed by the highest number of votes ever recorded for any General Assembly resolution.



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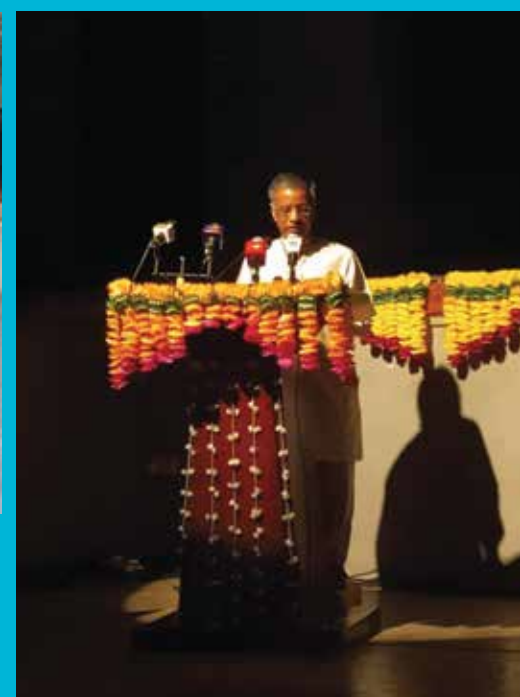
Kerosene for fishermen

International Quiz on Buddhism and Buddhist Heritage

The nation-wide quiz competition which was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the State Ministry of Dhamma School, Pirivena & Bhikku Education of Sri Lanka covered about 800 Pirivenas and witnessed the participation of around 6000 candidates. The 3-round competition offered the grand prize of five-day sponsored tour of the Buddhist circuit of India to the winners.



The bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled at the Sri Palee Campus of the University of Colombo at a special ceremony to mark the 100th year of arrival of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Tagore to Sri Lanka. Gurudev Tagore visited Sri Lanka three times in 1922, 1928, and 1934 and foundation of "Sri Palee" was laid during his third visit.



Launching a special 'Hindi Proficiency Course' for Sri Lanka Police personnel on World Hindi Day, 10 January, 2022.



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE

A bridge that connects.

- Indian music
- Dance classes
- Cultural festivals
- Lectures
- Seminars
- Exhibitions
- Workshops
- Dhamma discourses

Two way flow of people



- India is the largest source of tourists for Sri Lanka.
- 56,268 Indian tourists visited Sri Lanka in 2021, and around 69,000 so far in 2022.
- Around 20% of all tourists arrivals in Sri Lanka are from India.
- 38,054 visas were issued to Sri Lankans during the period between 1st Jan 2022 and 31st July 2022.

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme

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

Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme

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

AYUSH scholarships

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

Taking care of the next generation:

Scholarships for Sri Lankan students



Scholarship for Children of Estate Workers

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

Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme

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

Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme

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

Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship

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

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

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EQUIPPING FOR THE FUTURE: CAPACITY BUILDING



ITEC

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

Sri Lanka is among the most important ITEC partner countries and 402 fully-funded slots are offered every year to Sri Lankan Government personnel and other nationals for short term training programs towards enhancing their skill-set. The courses are spread over a multitude of sectors such as Management & Leadership, International Trade, Tourism, Textiles, Renewable Energy, Petroleum & Hydrocarbon, IT, English language etc. The Programme draws an enthusiastic response in Sri Lanka every year and 415 participants from Sri Lanka attended various e-ITEC programs last year.

A highlight has been the five customized capacity building training courses for educational administrators, officials, curriculum developers and school heads by the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTR) Chennai for 200 Sri Lankan officials.

Inaugural edition of the innovative Young Leaders' Neighbourhood-First Fellowship Programme at the prestigious St. Stephen's College was attended by seven young participants from Sri Lanka.

The inaugural edition of the Gen Next Democracy Network Programme to mark 75 years of India's Independence was attended by Hon'ble MPs Jeevan Thondaman, and Kavinda Jayawardena, former Chairman of the Weligama Urban Council, Rehan Jayawickrema and Member of the Colombo Municipal Council, Ms. Gayathri Wickramasinghe. The delegation visited various places in India during the week-long programme from November 25- December 2, 2021.



ITEC Day Celebration-2021



Inaugural ceremony of the St. Stephen's Young Leaders' Fellowship Programme



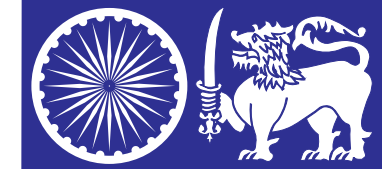
Science, Technology and Innovation Policy
21-28 June 2022.



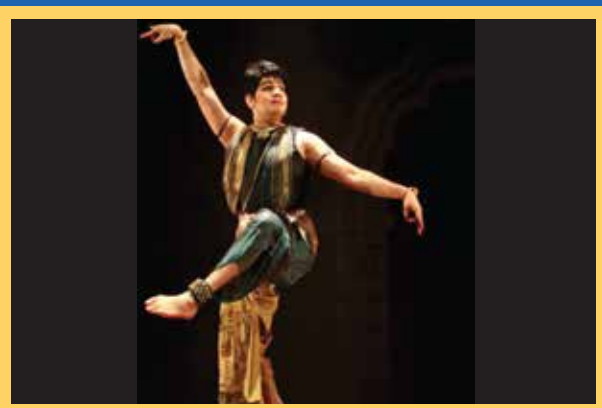
Effective Strategies for Resource Management of Educational Institutes
03-14 February 2020

Strengthening people to people connect: INDIA-SRI LANKA FOUNDATION

INDIA - SRI LANKA



FOUNDATION



A dance theatre, "Parama Padam – Life's Game of Snakes and Ladders" by Mohanapriyan Thavarajah (2022)



Institutionalizing "Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Gold Medal" with Sri Palee Campus for the student securing highest marks (2021)



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



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



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

Since its inception in 1998 as an inter-governmental initiative, the India - Sri Lanka Foundation (ISLF) has been continuously fostering ties between the two countries through economic, education, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. As a result, the ISLF has been instrumental in establishing greater people to people contacts.

The specific focus of the ISLF pivots around supporting creative initiatives and bringing together the youth and the civil societies of the two countries. Till date, the Foundation has funded more than 300 projects worth SLR.150 million and currently 22 projects in the areas of research, art & culture, social work, science and technology etc. are in progress. The ISLF has supported youth exchange programmes and has also promoted the pursuit of higher studies as well as research, besides supporting a variety of cultural programmes.

Recently, ISLF established the Guru Dev Rabindranath Tagore Gold Medal for the best student in Sri Palee campus of Colombo University. With its need-based approach, the Foundation extended financial assistance of half a million rupees to the Sinidu Foundation in support of their efforts to meet sanitary needs of underprivileged women in Sri Lanka. Donation of 300 white canes, scholarships for 50 students, and 100 radios for visually-impaired citizens are some of the other initiatives undertaken by ISLF.

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OUR Activities AROUND Sri Lanka

